.....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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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

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Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,
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<td>For the last several weeks, I have been having a never-ending discussion with a domestic staff who is nearly 70 years’ old and is refusing to get vaccinated. All my reasons have failed but his repertoire of arguments keeps expanding. We have been over the fact that while death is predetermined as per our faith, it can be argued both ways. If it indeed is predetermined, then he really doesn’t...</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>It is the worst of times, the season of darkness and the winter of despair. It is the ghastly world of disease and death. A time when an unknown enemy has gripped the world and ravaged it with merciless ferocity. There is flicker of irony and a touch of bitterness as the devastation sees no end, and has ushered in unrelenting social chaos and economic instability. In this time of adversity, Covid....</td>
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<td>Should the Olympics in July in Tokyo go ahead as planned? This is a question that is doing the rounds all through the sporting world, and especially in Japan. The public in Japan, with one survey showing that 70 percent of the Japanese oppose the games, are angry that they could be put at risk when thousands of athletes and officials as well as media persons descend on the Japanese capital. While .....</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The opposition is divided on accepting the invitation of the government for attending second two-day general conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (PAECO) starting here today (Tuesday). The parliamentary sources told The News on Monday that the assembly will also be addressed by President Arif Alvi and the invitation has been extended to all .....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defeated by data</td>
<td>Rafia Zakaria, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-06-02</td>
<td>2021-06-02</td>
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<td>RECENTLY, as India’s battle against Covid-19 raged on, the New York Times published a damning report regarding the death and disease statistics that India was offering up as ‘official’ figures. According to the NYT article, various statistical models revealed that the Indian government was vastly undercounting the numbers of the dead and diseased. Official Indian figures had listed 26.....</td>
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<td>We heard repeatedly that children – who tend to escape the more severe symptoms of COVID-19 – have had to sacrifice the education to which they are entitled. The school shutdowns are part of public efforts to help protect the health and save the lives of their families, friends, teachers and those in their communities. It is a trade-off students usually made willingly, but at a loss n.....</td>
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Covid and politics
The coronavirus pandemic and politics have often clashed with each other in various parts of the world. We have seen this in the US and in other countries in Europe and Australia, as well as countries closer to home. We now see it in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, where the Assembly completes its term on July 29, with the constitution of the territory stating that a new poll must be held within 90 days. ......
more >>

PakVac launched
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
THE news on the vaccine front in the country is adding to a cautious optimism that the worst of the third wave is over, or at least it is headed in that direction. Tuesday saw the inauguration of an antisera processing plant and the launch of 120,000 doses of PakVac produced locally from the Cansino vaccine concentrate under the fill-finish operation, which is the final step in the overall manufacturi.....
more >>

PakVac rollout
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
In a bid to inoculate a significant portion of the population amid a lethal, third wave of the pandemic, Pakistan has begun rolling out its first locally-processed coronavirus vaccine. This PakVac vaccine has been developed with considerable help from China’s state-run pharmaceutical company CanSino. Their CanSino Bio vaccine is being imported in a concentrated form — and formulated, ste.....
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The secrets of authority
We have a curious attitude towards how to deal with matters involving citizens of our state. As an example, laboratories in Punjab are asking for a doctor's prescription for the Covid antibodies test. This is a curious requirement. Surely every person should have the right to know about the status of their own health, and whether a vaccine has produced the desired result, so they know how saf.....
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Obstacles to recovery
Before Covid-19, Roma communities in Europe were already struggling on the margins of society. The pandemic, however, transformed our situation into a humanitarian catastrophe. Life is now harder and harsher for Roma in Europe than ever before. Many Roma children who were able to attend school before the pandemic have regressed significantly during lockdown – they were not able to participat.....
more >>

IMF, World Bank prioritize vaccine access to end pandemic
Source: Delphine Touitou, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-04
After kicking their massive lending powers into overdrive to help the nations hardest hit by Covid-19 last year, the IMF and the World Bank are now focusing on getting vaccines to poor countries to keep the pandemic from derailing the global economic recovery. Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva is spearheading a $50 billion joint effort with the World He.....
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<td>Patently Needed</td>
<td>Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-03</td>
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<td>The halo effect</td>
<td>Sakib Sherani, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-04</td>
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<td>ILO’s job concerns</td>
<td>Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-04</td>
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<td>Vaccine equality</td>
<td>Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-04</td>
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The WTO’s Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) binds its members to guarantee IP protection which in some ways can be harmful to public health, in the sense that twenty-year patents and safeguards are often granted for copyrights, trade secrets, and industrial designs. In the midst of a global pandemic, which has halted numerous economies and has a devas......

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THE National Accounts Committee has provided a provisional estimate for overall growth in the economy for the outgoing fiscal year. At 3.94 per cent, the estimate has surprised everyone, especially given the difficult context for the economy in 2020-21 with the lingering effects of stabilisation and the full-blown impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The growth estimate has sparked a spirited debate .....

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THE Greek myths were initially propagated in an oral-poetic tradition, most likely by Minoan and Mycenaean singers, starting in the 18th century BC; eventually, the myths of the heroes of the Trojan War and its aftermath became part of the oral tradition of Homer’s epic poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey. Now comes a pandemic where a non-living entity, a virus, has erupted out of nowhere and .....

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EDUCATION and learning have suffered substantial, and in some ways permanent, setbacks in Pakistan during the pandemic. Schools were intermittently closed due to rising cases and ensuing restrictions, and though private, high fee-paying schools managed to take teaching online so students were not totally left behind, public and low fee-paying schools missed out in a huge way. For these schools, di......

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The annual report of the International Labour Organisation on the global unemployment situation as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic has not come as a surprise considering the prolonged continuation of the deadly Covid-19. The report says the pandemic caused large-scale loss of jobs throwing more than 100 million workers into poverty. It does not specifically mention the region-wise situat.....

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Four major international organisations – the World Health Organisation (WHO), World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) – have called on world leaders to make a “new commitment” to the more equal distribution of vaccines to combat the Covid pandemic. In an article in The Washington Post, the respective heads of these organisations.....

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<td>Good job but don’t let the guard down</td>
<td>BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-04</td>
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<td>It was catastrophic two weeks post Eid last year, as Pakistan’s Covid cases and positivity rate touched all-time highs. Around Eid this year, the third wave was just gaining momentum, and many had feared a repeat of last year. Then came the extended holidays with varying degree of success. But that did work wonders, as Pakistan seems to have bent the third wave. The numbers are encourag.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Covid-19: false god of test positivity</td>
<td>Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-06</td>
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<td>The Covid-19 pandemic has brought a lot of problems for all of us. But on a personal level it has solved one problem for me — I don’t have to painstakingly explain what I do for a living. I still remember that on a flight in the US when someone came to know that I am studying epidemiology, he was happy to know that he was sitting next to a ‘skin doctor’. People invariably lin.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Vaccination strategy</td>
<td>EDITORIAL, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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<td>As countries around the world are discovering, vaccination may finally be the only way to get through the pandemic that has disrupted so much of life across the globe. Pakistan is among the countries currently engaged in giving out vaccines to its people and attempting to ensure maximum uptake. However, so far, just about one percent of the population has been vaccinated. And governments are now t.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>People’s vaccine</td>
<td>Linda Mcquaig, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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<td>Given the scope and urgency of the looming crisis in February 2020, hundreds of global health experts and researchers converged for two intense days at the Geneva headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) where they drew up extensive plans for pooling global scientific knowledge in order to expedite the quest for a vaccine. Their plan amounted to a bold rejection of the usual pharmaceut.....</td>
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<td>Deathly Slow</td>
<td>Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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<td>By all accounts, it seems almost impossible that the Punjab government will reach its inoculation target of vaccinating at least 67 million people by the end of the year 2021. In March, Pakistan started non-emergency use of the vaccination for COVID-19, with 500,000 doses of Sinopharm from China and 17 million COVID-19 vaccine doses from the United Kingdom. More than two months have passed and Pun.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Drastic vaccine step</td>
<td>Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-06</td>
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<td>THE Sindh government’s decision to make Covid-19 vaccinations mandatory and to block the salaries of government employees who are not inoculated is indeed a drastic measure, as admitted by the province’s chief minister himself. The announcement has come as the country battles the third wave of the coronavirus with a vaccination rollout which this far has covered 3.7m individuals with one.....</td>
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<td><strong>Tourism and pandemic</strong></td>
<td>Editorial, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em>, 2021-06-06</td>
<td>2021-06-06</td>
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<td>The prolonged coronavirus pandemic has affected all spheres of life. Besides</td>
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<td>causing illness, deaths, panic and fear, it has inflicted serious economic</td>
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<td>harm on nearly all countries of the world. Among the worst affected is the</td>
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<td>tourism sector as tourism is basically a social activity. Shutdowns and curbs</td>
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<td>to prevent Covid-19 from spreading have kept people away from tourist spots.</td>
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<td>Like other parts o.....</td>
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<td>The federal government’s announcement to reopen educational institutions and a</td>
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<td>new formula for giving examinations for secondary and intermediate classes</td>
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<td>has drawn mixed reactions from students, parents and teachers. While most</td>
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<td>students seem pleased with only having to be examined in elective subjects, some</td>
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<td>of them want to answer only multiple choice questions. There is another group</td>
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<td>of students.....</td>
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<td>“Mindfulness” is a hot topic in mental health circles these days. Originally</td>
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<td>associated with Buddhism (although it is by no means a ‘Buddhist’ concept),</td>
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<td>the idea itself is deceptively simple: paying attention to the present</td>
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<td>moment (without judgment). In actual practice, it is quite challenging. The</td>
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<td>human brain is hardwired to calculate and assess what to do by constantly</td>
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<td>co.....</td>
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<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>Dosing Off</strong></td>
<td>Editorial, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-06-09</td>
<td>2021-06-09</td>
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<td>Amidst the encouraging news that Pakistan reported the lowest number of</td>
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<td>positive cases on Monday since March 8, a report revealed that around</td>
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<td>300,000 individuals who received the first dose never returned to receive</td>
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<td>the second jab of the Covid-19 vaccine. This revelation is of serious</td>
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<td>concern that needs to be dealt with the utmost of urgency as it could undo</td>
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<td>a lot of the effort the government has .....</td>
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<td>Punishment it was. Punishment it will be. Pandemic was almost a revenge</td>
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<td>of nature on human arrogance. As the World Environment Day on 5th of June</td>
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<td>states “Make peace with nature”, that is the essence of the pandemic. Viruses</td>
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<td>are Zoonotic diseases transferred from animals to humans. With man-making</td>
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<td>encroachments on the natural habitat, animals will retaliate in human</td>
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<td>habitat. This virus .....</td>
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<td><strong>When the West works from home</strong></td>
<td>Rafia Zakaria, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-06-09</td>
<td>2021-06-09</td>
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<tr>
<td>AS more and more of the Western world gets vaccinated, the predictions</td>
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<td>about the post-Covid-19 world are being tested against reality. In the early</td>
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<td>days of the pandemic, when a lot of the Western world was hit hard by the</td>
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<td>virus and when there was practically no way in sight to fight off the virus,</td>
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<td>most employers sent their white-collar workers home from office. Working</td>
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<td>from home was the only way t.....</td>
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Corona vaccine and public perceptions
Source: Syed Hamamd Raza Bukhari, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-09
The coronavirus, firstly reported from China, took the whole world into its grasp and destroyed the global economy. The emergency was declared throughout the world and governments became busy to protect their people from this dangerous virus which at that time was incurable. The whole world was helpless in front of this pandemic. They are unable to understand that how they can control the dan.....
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Covid-19 and local immunization strategy
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
Vaccination is key in controlling the spread of the COVID-19 that is ravaging the world. Getting all people vaccinated is an ideal situation, which might never see daylight in developing economies and low-income countries. Not only there are bottlenecks in obtaining the vaccine for all amid very serious supply issues, but there are also other issues like vaccine hesitancy and huge numbers of anti-.....
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Covid-19 vaccination
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-11
Vaccination progress is beginning to show a sizeable fall in Covid-19 positivity rate. Whereas during the current wave of the pandemic the highest positivity ratio was recorded at 10.1 percent on April 19; last Tuesday it was 2.95 percent. That though is no reason for complacency. In fact, many people are still resistant to vaccination. It is good to note that the National Command and Operation Ce.....
more >>

Hidden impact of Covid-19
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-11
The third Covid wave has, thankfully, saved Pakistan from the worst so far. The inoculation drive is gradually gaining pace, as vaccine supply is able to easily cater to the growing demand. The government’s top functionaries continue to take credit (some of which are deserved) on avoiding a catastrophic disaster such as the one that befell neighbouring India over the past two months. But one.....
more >>

What China’s poverty reduction experience means to the world
Earlier this year, China declared the eradication of extreme poverty. For anyone trying to assess what it means to the country, it would be useful to look at what persistent penury has done to some of its population. Even just 30 years ago, in desert-covered villages of northwest China, it was not unusual for brothers from the same family to share just one pair of pants. Some villagers lived insi.....
more >>

Expanding Vaccination
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-11
In an initiative to ensure that all government employees be fully vaccinated by the end of the month, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) announced on Wednesday that coronavirus vaccines will be mandatory for all public and private sector employees. This is a good step since there is an imperative need to increase the country’s vaccination rate. Pakistan has administered at.....
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‘Devastating’ and ‘cataclysmic’!
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-06

Speakers at the International Labour Organisation’s (ILO’s) annual International Labour Conference (ILC) minced few words the other day, and rightly so, as they warned that already the Covid-19 pandemic’s impact on the “world of work” was about four times worse than the 2008 financial crisis. Something that much worse than the once-in-a-lifetime Great Recession of a d.....

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National News

AJK

AJK President pays tribute to Covid-19 frontline warriors
Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-06-01
Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan on Monday paid rich tribute to the front-line warriors including officials of the State health department for their excellent performance. “Our doctors, nurses, and paramedics in the fields deserve our appreciation for their courageous role during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,” he said. Describing COVID-19 as an unprecedented.....more >>

Against NCOC advice: AJK going ahead with polls before July 29
ISLAMABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission (AJKEC) is going to issue the poll schedule for general elections to the AJK Legislative Assembly within a week. “The final decision will be taken by the AJK Election Commissioner and the members of the AJKEC,” a senior AJKEC official told The News from Muzaffarabad. He wished not to be named. He said the AJKEC has not so far .....more >>

Alvi chair online interfaith harmony moot on corona
MUZAFFARABAD: The Federal Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Wednesday convened a video conference chaired by President Dr Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e- Sadr, Islamabad, which was attended by governors of provinces, AJK President and leading Ulema and Mushaikhs from all provinces. AJK President Sardar Masood Khan and the Ulema attended the conference from Aiwan-e-Sadr Muzaffarabad.....more >>

Balochistan

Balochistan CM calls for more vaccine doses
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-01
QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal on Monday called for providing more doses of vaccine for the province, as part of efforts to get all people vaccinated against the coronavirus. The CM said this while attending a meeting of the National Coordination Committee presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan via a video link. Taking stock of the current situation of contagion in Balochista.....more >>

Gilgit Baltistan

Govt urged to set up Covid vaccination centre at PTDC hotel
Source: The Newspaper's correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-05
CHITRAL: On the request of Lower Chitral district administration, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has approached the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) managing director to allow use of its hotel in Chitral as mass corona vaccination centre (MCVC). In a letter written by the KP department of tourism, a copy of which is available with this correspondent, it is stated that Lower Chit.....more >>
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<td>Six more fall prey to Covid-19 in Islamabad, Rawalpindi</td>
<td>Aamir Yasin</td>
<td>Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
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<td>ECC green-lights Rs20b for Chinese vaccine</td>
<td>Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-01</td>
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<td>Pakistan launches locally made anti-Covid vaccine ‘PakVac’</td>
<td>News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-01</td>
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<td>Vaccine procurement for June; $130m approved by ECC</td>
<td>Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-02</td>
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<td>‘Massive’ vaccination drive to be launched: Umar</td>
<td>Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-01</td>
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<td>Covid-19; Umar compares Pak, India mortality rates</td>
<td>INP, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-01</td>
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Combating corona: Rs20b set aside to buy vaccines
ISLAMABAD/ KARACHI: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Monday approved a supplementary grant of $130 million equivalent to Rs20 billion for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for procurement of vaccine to cope with COVID-19 pandemic. This year a target has been set to vaccinate 70 million people. Top official sources confirmed to The News that it is expecte.....

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NHA starts vaccination of staff
Islamabad:National Highway Authority (NHA) has started vaccination of its employees and their families to curtail spread of COVID-19. To this effect, about 100 employees and their family members were vaccinated here on Monday at NHA head office, said a news release. The Welfare Section of National Highway Authority has asked its employees to avail the facility and get them vaccinated at the earlie.....

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More casualties reported in Islamabad, Rawalpindi
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
ISLAMABAD: Two Covid-19 patients died in Islamabad and three in the Rawalpindi district while 101 people were found infected in the twin cities. The federal capital reported 62 and the garrison city 39 new cases on Tuesday.Officials of the capital administration said the death toll from the virus in the capital had reached 762. The two deaths were reported in the age group of 40-49 and 50-59. Bot.....

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80pc satisfied with services at G-9 vaccination centre
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
ISLAMABAD: Around 80 per cent of citizens vaccinated at the medical centre of the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) in G-9 Markaz have expressed satisfaction over the services provided to them there. The centre, which is established by the Capital Development Authority (CDA), has four counters where sometimes over 1,000 people are vaccinated a day. “As we face a severe shortage of staff.....

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COVID-19 impact: Willingness to get vaccine doubled in the last 10 months
ISLAMABAD: Six in ten Pakistanis have suffered a reduction in their income during the Covid-19 pandemic; sixty-two percent of the respondents said their household income had declined; 11pc stated it had increased while 28pc experienced no change. These were the findings of a survey conducted by Ipsos. The survey revealed that only one in six Pakistanis considered the current pace of vaccination t.....

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Homemade ‘PakVac’ launched to boost vaccination
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
ISLAMABAD: In a major boost to the government’s coronavirus vaccination campaign, authorities rolled out the homemade Covid-19 vaccine ‘PakVac’ on Tuesday, a week after successfullydevelopingit with the help of China’s CanSino Bio. Simultaneously, with the ‘PakVac’ launch, a special Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight airlifted 500,000 doses of Sinoph.....

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Covid-19; Lowest positivity rate reported in three months
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Tuesday, reported 1,771 new coronavirus cases by conducting 47,633 tests across the country with a positivity ratio of 3.71 percent. This is the lowest positivity rate in three months and the lowest number of cases after March 9, 2021. According to official data, following 40 deaths reported in the past 24 hours in Punjab, the ..... more >>

Locally finished PakVac vaccine launched
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
ISLAMABAD - The National Institute of Health (NIH) on Tuesday formally launched PakVac novel coronavirus vaccine finished locally with the collaboration of China. The formal launching ceremony of the vaccine was attended by Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) Dr. Faisal Sultan, China’s Ambassador to Pakist..... more >>

Haj pilgrims, overseas students and workers to be prioritised for Pfizer jabs: Asad Umar
Source: Dawn.com, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
Federal Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Minister Asad Umar said on Thursday that citizens intending to go for Haj this year, those working abroad on work visas issued by countries that did not recognise vaccination certificates of Chinese vaccines and students planning to go to educational institutions in such countries within a month would be given priority for the administration of..... more >>

Covid-19 claims another five lives
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
ISLAMABAD: Five people lost their lives to Covid-19 in Islamabad and Rawalpindi district whereas 137 new cases were reported on Wednesday. Positivity ratio in the capital stood at 2.2pc and 424 people reportedly recovered from the disease. Officials of the capital administration said that the death of a female patient, in the age group of 70-79 was reported. She was a resident of Koral, they adde..... more >>

Farrukh foresees EU-like ECO countries block
ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Wednesday praised National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser and Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri for successfully organizing the second general conference of Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO) amid the Coronavirus pandemic. The minister called on all the regional countries to chalk out a joint str..... more >>
Friday sermon; Ulema to urge people to get vaccinated: president
Source: Naveed Butt, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
ISLAMABAD: Presid-ent Dr Arif Alvi said that on the coming Jumatul Mubarik (June 4), Ulema in their sermons will specially urge the people to get vaccinated to protect from Covid-19 pandemic. He said that Ulema would continue to make such announcements in their sermons. The president expressed these views, while addressing an important consultative meeting of esteemed Ulema and Mashaikh.....

Q1 and Q2 of 2020. Lockdowns accounted for POL items’ shortage: Ogra
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-04
ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat that shortage of petroleum products in the country between the first and second quarter of 2020 mainly occurred due to the unprecedented and uncertain situation that was created as a result of world over lockdowns due to the Covid-19. However, the Ogra had taken acti.....

Masses urged to get vaccinated for controlling pandemic
Islamabad: The Ulema and Mashaikh on Wednesday expressed their satisfaction over the composition of corona vaccine registered in Pakistan and endorsed the view of health experts, calling for vaccination to check the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. “The protection of lives and health of masses is one of the objectives of religion and Shariah. Since corona is an epidemic, making arrangem.....

Shafqat recovers from COVID
Islamabad: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood on Wednesday announced his recovery from the novel coronavirus. “By the grace of Allah, I have fully recovered (from COVID-19). My latest two tests are negative,” he wrote on his official Twitter account. On May 25, the education minister had formally disclosed that he was diagnosed with coronavirus, a.....

‘Misinformation causing unacceptability towards vaccination’
Islamabad: In order to promote parliamentary partnerships for regional integration and to accelerate working on global agenda in times of the ongoing pandemic, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat of the National Assembly of Pakistan hosted a panel discussion titled ‘Impact of COVID-19 on the Implementation of SDGs in the Region’ here on Wednesday. The session of the .....

NCOC sets target to vaccinate 70m people by Dec
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) has set a target to vaccinate 70 million people by the end of this year. “All federating units have been taken on board to enhance their vaccination capacity for which the federal government will provide necessary assistance. Federating units have also been asked to engage the private sector including business community, media, relig.....
Pakistan reports less than 2,000 Covid cases for 2nd day
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has reported less than 2,000 coronavirus cases for the second day in a row on Wednesday, suggesting that the cases are on the decline. During the last 24 hours, the country recorded 1,843 cases and 80 deaths, compared to 1,771 cases and 71 deaths a day earlier. According to the officials, 47,183 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours while the positivity rate remained 3.90 ......
more >>

PPEs being given to provinces to deal with corona: NDMA
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
ISLAMABAD - National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Tuesday said that personal protection and other medical equipment were continuously being provided to provinces to deal with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. The NDMA in a statement said that it was providing safety equipment to all provinces to deal with corona. During last two months, 466 ventilators had been provided t.....
more >>

70pc staff in schools, colleges vaccinated: FDE
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-04
ISLAMABAD: Over 70 teaching and non-teaching staff in Federal Directorate of Education (FDE)-run schools and colleges have been vaccinated against Covid-19 after the Ministry of Federal Education directed the educational institutions to submit the certificates by June 11. An official of the FDE said 70.2pc teaching and non-teaching staff in the institutions had been vaccinated. A report has also ..... more >>

3.2m lost jobs due to Covid-19
Source: Rizwan Bhatti, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-04
KARACHI: Along with over 3 million employment loss, around 6.7 million employees experienced a fall in their income due to Covid-19 and imposition of lockdown across the country. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) second quarterly report, in an interview-based survey of 6,000 households, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) ascertained the impact of Covid-19 at national and prov..... more >>

$250m spent on vaccine procurement: Umar
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-04
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar Thursday said the government, so far has spent around $250 million to procure Covid vaccines. Taking to Twitter the minister said “The acceleration of vaccination drive in the country is being made possible by huge investment by the federal government,” he said, adding that “so far the procurement of vaccine has r..... more >>

Covid-19: 92 deaths reported nationwide
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-04
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Thursday, reported 2,028 new coronavirus cases by conducting 51,523 tests across the country with a positivity ratio of 3.93 percent. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country over the past 24 hours also reported 92 nationwide deaths taking the countrywide death toll to 21,022, since pandemic outbreak on February 28, 2020. The NCOC sa..... more >>
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<tr>
<td><strong>People to get certificates on first jab</strong></td>
<td>News Desk, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-06-04</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Citizens who have received the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine and are aspiring to travel abroad can now get the coronavirus vaccination certificate. The National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) on Thursday approved issuing certificates for partial vaccination — and now the people seeking to travel out of the country can obtain them. The certificate will be issued thr.....</td>
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<td><strong>Pakistan’s Covid-19 death toll crosses 21,000 mark</strong></td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-04</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - Covid-19 deaths have crossed the 21,000 mark in the country after 92 more deaths were reported during the last 24 hours. Punjab reported the highest number of deaths with 48 casualties, followed by 22 in Sindh. Thedecathолнow stands at 21,022. According to the official data provided by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), about 51,523 tests were conducted in the las.....</td>
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<td><strong>Covid-19 positivity stands at 2.1pc in Islamabad</strong></td>
<td>Aamir Yasin</td>
<td>Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: With the positivity ratio of Covid-19 cases now at 2.1pc and recoveries of 577 patients reported, 94 new cases surfaced in the capital on Friday. Three people succumbed to the disease in Rawalpindi district while 25 tested positive. Health authorities have recommended to impose a smart lockdown in seven areas of the garrison city where cases have been surfacing over the past few days,.....</td>
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<td><strong>Only 24pc staff of private schools vaccinated in Islamabad</strong></td>
<td>Kashif Abbasi, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Educational institutions in Islamabad will be opened on a staggered basis from Monday as the positivity ratio of Covid-19 cases has significantly dropped in the city, however, so far only 24pc staff of private schools has reportedly been vaccinated. According to data released by the Ministry of Education on Friday, 76pc teaching and non-teaching staff of private schools is still non-va.....</td>
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<td><strong>Intending pilgrims to get Pfizer shots: Asad</strong></td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-04</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Asad Umar inaugurated a Covid vaccination centre at Centaurus shopping mall in the federal capital on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that with the start of vaccination centres in different public places, the burden on hospitals would be shared and more people would be able to get the vaccine. He stated that.....</td>
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<td><strong>Covid-19 positivity rate drops to 3.58pc</strong></td>
<td>Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 positivity rate in Pakistan has dropped to 3.58 percent, which is the lowest since February 27, when it was recorded at 3.2 percent. According to latest statistics provided by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), on Thursday 52,859 coronavirus tests were carried out and 1,893 positive cases were recorded at a positivity rate of 3.58 percent. The NCOC .....</td>
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**Over 7.9m Covid-19 vaccine doses administered: Farrukh**


ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib Friday said more than 7.9 million doses of the coronavirus vaccines had been administered in the country due to extensive efforts of the federal government. Responding to undue criticism of Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on policy responses of the federal government to Covid-19, he said the ox.....

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**Pakistan reports lowest corona positivity rate in three months**


ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported its lowest coronavirus positivity rate in three months at 3.58% on Friday, according to the latest stats provided by the National Command and Operation Centre. The last lowest COVID-19 positivity rate reported by the country was on February 28 at 3.02 percent. As many as 83 people lost their lives to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, according to NCOC's daily cor.....

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**Pakistan reports lowest Covid-19 positivity rate in three months**

Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-06-05

Pakistan on Friday reported its lowest coronavirus positivity rate in three months, at 3.58%, according to the latest stats provided by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The last lowest Covid-19 positivity rate reported by the country was on February 28, at 3.02%. The national tally of total active Covid-19 cases was recorded at 51,478 on Friday, as 1,893 more people tested posit.....

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**Pakistan lauds US for ‘timely’ COVID-19 relief assistance**

Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-06-05

Pakistan on Friday lauded the relief assistance provided by the United States to overcome the COVID-19 situation. “This timely gesture is part of the continued assistance that the US has provided to Pakistan to support our Covid relief and prevention efforts,” the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in response to media queries. Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said, “The Governme.....

**more >>**

**Ashrafi for religious scholars proactive role to combat anti COVID vaccine propaganda**

Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-06-06

Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony Maulana Tahir Ashrafi Friday urged the prayer leaders to convince the people to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlighting the significance of a mosque as a platform, he requested the religious scholars to combat the disinformation and propaganda against the COVID vaccination especially during the sermon of Friday pr.....

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**Pakistan’s Covid-19 positivity rate falls to lowest level in 3 months**

Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-05

ISLAMABAD - As the Covid-19 cases are on the decline, the country’s Covid-19 positivity rate also fell to the lowest level in three months on Friday. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 52,859 Coronavirus tests were conducted across the country in the last 24 hours on Thursday of which 1,893 came back positive, suggesting a positivity rate of 3.58 percent &mda.....

**more >>**
Pakistan receives US emergency supplies for Covid fight
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
Critical health supplies airlifted by the United States, through US Agency for International Development (USAID), arrived on Saturday to help save lives, stop the spread of Covid-19, and meet the urgent health needs of the country. The airlift to Pakistan contributes critically needed and requested emergency medical supplies, including personal protective equipment, pulse oximeters, and other sup.....
more >>

132 Covid-19 cases reported in Islamabad, Pindi
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
ISLAMABAD: The federal capital reported 86 new cases of Covid-19 with the positivity rate of 2.58 per cent on Saturday. Officials of the capital administration said 3,331 tests were conducted in the city in the last 24 hours. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Zaem Zia said the health office traced 583 contacts of the 94 cases reported on Friday. Out of the total, samples were collected from 391 ..... more >>

PM 'personally looking into' Chinese vaccine issue with Saudi Arabia, other countries: Rashid
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said on Sunday that Prime Minister Imran Khan was personally handling the matter related to Sinopharm vaccine's non-acceptance in Saudi Arabia and some other countries in the Middle East. "[The PM] has also told the cabinet that he is in touch with the [Middle Eastern] countries concerned in this regard," Rashid said. The minister's r..... more >>

Active Covid cases fall below 50,000
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
ISLAMABAD: The number of active Covid cases fell below 50,000 for first time in more than two months, as the positivity rate stated below 4% for the fourth consecutive day, showing a visible sign of a waning third wave of coronavirus, according to official data. The national tally of active cases reached 48,937 – the level last seen on March 31 – as 1,923 more people tested positive ..... more >>

Districts with low positivity rates; All educational institutions to reopen from tomorrow
Source: NNI, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
ISLAMABAD: All educational institutes in districts with low positivity ratio of Covid-19 cases will reopen from June 7 (Monday), the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Saturday. However, it said, academic activities will remain suspended in districts where coronavirus positivity rate is still high. Educational institutions are required to implement the coronavirus SOPs ..... more >>

Positivity ratio continues to fall steadily: Dr Faisal
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Faisal Sultan on Saturday said that the national Covid-19 positivity ratio continued to fall steadily and the average stands at less than 4 percent. "I'm pleased to share that the 3rd wave has gone down steadily," Dr Faisal said while sharing updates on disease spread, v..... more >>
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<tr>
<td><strong>More doses of vaccines reach Islamabad</strong></td>
<td>INP, <em>Business Recorder, Islamabad</em>, 2021-06-06</td>
<td>2021-06-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: One million more doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been flown in from China, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Saturday. The shipment arrived in Islamabad on board a special Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight, it said. The NCOC said another 11 million doses of China’s Sinovac, CanSino and Sinopharm vaccines will be brought to Pakistan this ......</td>
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| **Coronavirus cases continue to fall, says Dr Faisal Sultan**         | Tahir Niaz, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-06-06                       | 2021-06-06 |
| ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) Dr Faisal Sultan, in a weekly round up on COVID-19 pandemic situation, on Saturday said that COVID-19 national positivity ratio continued to fall steadily and average stood at 4 percent. The Ministry of NHS, in a statement, quoted Dr. Faisal Sultan as saying that 47,000 to 55,000 tests were conducted per ...... | more >> |

| ISLAMABAD - The government has not fully utilised the Prime Minister’s Relief-cum-Economic Support Package to absorb covid-related shock with almost 30 per cent of the funds remained unutilised. Prime Minister Imran Khan in March last year had announced a stimulus package worth about Rs 1.2 trillion aimed at supporting the economy in absorbing the adverse impacts of the pandemic. However, th...... | more >> |

| **Campuses in districts with low virus rate to reopen tomorrow**      | Correspondent, *The News, International*, 2021-06-06                    | 2021-06-06 |
| ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Saturday said that a review of opening of education sector was carried out and it was decided that all educational institutes would reopen in districts with low disease prevalence from Monday, June 7 on staggered basis. The forum also said that a special PIA flight carrying one million Sinopharm doses had also reached the federal capital..... | more >> |

| **Third wave steadily declining, says Dr Faisal**                    | Shahina Maqbool, *The News, International*, 2021-06-06                 | 2021-06-06 |
| Islamad : The third wave of COVID-19 has steadily declined. As many as 47,000 to 55,000 tests per day were performed this week, with the national positivity ratio falling steadily to an average of less than 4%. However, as expected, the third wave in Sindh began a bit later than the rest of the federating units, with the positivity ratio in the province still fluctuating between 6-7%. The PM&rs...... | more >> |

| **A day without corona death in twin cities**                        | Muhammad Qasim, *The News, International*, 2021-06-06                  | 2021-06-06 |
| Rawalpindi : The population in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district witnessed a day without reporting of death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 on Saturday after over three months though 126 new patients have been reported from the region in the last 24 hours showing the outbreak is still intact. It is alarming that in the last 24 hours, the positivity rate of COVID-19 has been...... | more >> |
In-person classes for 1 to 8 resume tomorrow
Islamabad: The students of grades 1-8 will return to their government and private schools in the federal capital for in-person learning tomorrow (Monday). The staggered resumption of in-person classes comes on the permission of the country’s coronavirus nerve centre, National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), over a tangible decline in the virus incidence. The schools are already holdi......
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Japan to relax travel advisory for Pakistan
Islamabad : Seeing Pakistan’s extensive crackdown on terrorism pay off, Japan says it will soften travel advisory for the South Asian country. “Pakistan has made impressive strides in addressing internal security threats, especially terrorism, over the years, so it’s now safe for tourists. In this light, we [Japan] are reviewing security guidelines about travelling to Pakistan a.....
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Educational activities back on track
KARACHI/ISLAMABAD: Educational activities have been restored across the country from today (Monday). While COVID-19 restrictions have also been relaxed for trade activities in Sindh. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, while presiding over the meeting of Provincial Task Force on coronavirus on Sunday at CM House, has allowed shopkeepers to continue with their business activities from 5 am t.....
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‘Paradigm shift required to safeguard rights of children’
Islamabad : Child Rights Movement (CRM) organised two-day consultation with civil society organizations and child rights advocates on United Nations Convention on Child Rights Alternate Report. This event was organised in the wake of Pakistan’s Submission of 6th periodic state report to UNCRC Committee. Khalil Ahmed, Programme Manager SPARC and Ambreen Zehra Naqvi, National Coordinator CRM .....
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Imran, Johnson discuss Afghan peace, COVID
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday held a telephonic conversation with the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and exchanged views on the current trajectory of bilateral relations, the Afghan peace process, COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. Imran impressed upon the UK to revisit the decision of placing Pakistan on the Red List of travel ban countries. He thanked Prime Minister Boris.....
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Corona positive cases on decline, stand at 3.02pc
ISLAMABAD: The corona positive cases is declining consistently across the country as it stood at 3.02 percent during last 24 hours. The national tally on Monday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 47,376 with 1,490 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,820 people recovered from the disease. Fifty-eight corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 55 of whom were under trea.....
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ANTI-POLIO drive: Over 33m children to be immunised
Islamabad: Targeting over 33 million children, a sub-national polio immunisation campaign teed off in 124 districts of Pakistan on Monday, with 223,000 frontline workers participating in the campaign. The campaign is being conducted in 33 districts of Balochistan, 35 districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, 20 districts of Punjab, 30 districts of Sindh, two districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as well as.....
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No COVID-19 death from twin cities, 81 new cases
Rawalpindi: No death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has been reported in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district from where as many as 1,744 patients have already lost their lives due to the illness. Meanwhile, another 81 patients have been reported from the region in the last 24 hours taking tally to 106,225. The number of patients being tested positive fr.....
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WHO’s regional chief launches multiple health facilities in Islamabad
Islamabad: The Regional Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari inaugurated two COVID-19 vaccination centres, a laboratory for infectious disease testing, a nutrition stabilization centre for children, and a refurbished gymnasium to combat Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) here on the first day of his week-long visit to Pakistan. WHO Repre.....
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Vaccination centre for business community opens
Islamabad: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) and Shifa International Hospital has opened a vaccination centre in its premises here Monday for the vaccination of the business community, their families and employees. The ICCI is the first Chamber of the country to set up a vaccination centre in its premises for it.....
more >>

Covid shutdown: Protestors demand reopening of Torkham border for resumption of economic activity
Source: Ahmad Nabi, Daily Times, 2021-06-07
Laborers in Torkham on Sunday held a protest demonstration for the reopening of Torkham border and resumption of economic activity, at Landi Kotal Bazaar. It is worth mentioning here that the government suspended Pak-Afghan sharing border, Torkham, for universal crossing on 05,May,2021 due to the spread of corona disease. The protest rally organized at Bacha Khan Chowk, main Landi Kotal Bazaar un.....
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Ministry releases details of spending under Covid relief package
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-06-08
The Ministry of Finance has released details on the designed Rs1,240 billion Covid relief fund the government had announced last year as a stimulus to offset the probable damages of the coronavirus pandemic. Out of the announced stimulus package, which was was part of the fiscal year 2019-20, the government released Rs875 billion or 70 percent of the total stimulus in various sectors of the econom.....
more >>
Covid positivity rate drops to 3.02pc; 58 more die  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-06-08  
The number of daily coronavirus cases continues to decline, with 1,490 people testing positive for the infection in the last 24 hours, as per data issued from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday. The positivity rate dropped to 3.02 percent as 49,285 samples were tested during the last 24 hours out of which 1,490 remained positive. According to the NCOC, 58 more people lost ......

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Coronavirus positivity ratio drops to 3.02pc  
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-08  
ISLAMABAD: The national coronavirus positivity ratio has dropped to 3.02 percent in Pakistan as the country conducted 49,285 tests of which 1,490 returned positive, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. According to the NCOC Covid-19 data released here on Monday, in the past 24 hours, 58 Covid-19 patients have also lost their lives taking the nationwide death tally to 21,323......

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Pakistan reports 1,383 new coronavirus cases in one day  
Source: Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-08  
Pakistan has reported 53 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 935,013. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 21,376 on Tuesday. According to the latest figures issued by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 1,383 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Pakistan has conducted 46,882 tests in t......

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Govt issues guidelines for Pfizer vaccine recipients  
Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-06-09  
The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination on Tuesday issued interim guidelines for Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine’s storage, handling, administration and safe disposal along with recommendations for vaccine recipients. Sharing details of the guidelines an official of the ministry said that the vaccines are an important part of strategies to curtail the devastating Covi.....

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Covid positivity rate drops to 3.02pc  
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-08  
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan’s Covid-19 positivity rate has dropped to 3.02 percent with lowest number of fresh coronavirus cases reported during the last three months. According to the latest data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country reported 1,490 new cases during the last 24 hours with 58 deaths due to the infection. The number is the lowest since February 202.....

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2.5 m children to be vaccinated in anti-polio drive  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-08  
ISLAMABAD - A five-day anti-polio campaign was kicked off on Monday in 33 districts of Balochistan in which children below the age of five years will be vaccinated to secure a polio free future for every child. Parliamentary Secretary Balochistan for Information Bushra Rind said that at least 2.5 million children up to five years of age would be vaccinated against the crippling disease during.....

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Chinese vaccines; PM personally looking matter of non-acceptance: Rashid
Source: Zulfiqar Ahmad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-07
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Sunday that Prime Minister Imran Khan is personally looking after the matter of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries which are not accepting the certificate of Chinese corona virus vaccines. Talking to journalists here, he said that the prime minister had told the cabinet that he was in talks with leaders of the Gulf countr....

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Pakistan administers 10 millionth Covid vaccine dose
Source: Dawn.com, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-09
Pakistan administered the 10 millionth Covid-19 vaccine dose on Wednesday, with Federal Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Minister Asad Umar announcing that the authorities aimed to inoculate 70 million people by the end of this year. Speaking at a ceremony held to mark the deliverance of the 10 millionth dose, Umar said around seven million people had been administered vaccine doses.....

more >>

Govt allocates $1bn for vaccine procurement
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
ISLAMABAD: Giving approval to allocation of $1 billion for vaccine procurement on Tuesday, Planning Minister Asad Umar said the National Economic Council (NEC) of the cabinet had decided to frequently hold its meetings every year for evaluation of not only the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) but also the provincial Annual Development Plans (ADPs) to ensure effective utilisation.....

more >>

Islamabad sees lowest number of cases since Oct 12
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-09
ISLAMABAD: One death from Covid-19 and 40 new cases were reported in the capital on Tuesday. This was the lowest number of cases on a single day since October 12 when 35 people were found infected. Officials of the capital administration said with one more death the toll increased to 766. The deceased was a woman and resident of Bhara Kahu. During the last 24 hours, 3,033 tests were conducted an.....

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Pakistan reaches 10m Covid-19 vaccination milestone
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-09
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan administered its milestone 10 millionth anti-Covid vaccine on Wednesday at a ceremony held at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). NCOC chief Asad Umar, Federal Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry and NCOC Chief Coordinator Lt Gen Hamud Uz Zaman participated in the event. Addressing a media briefing, Umar said the country had come a long way in its anti-Covid.....

more >>

Coronavirus positivity rate drops below 3pc, says NCOC
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-09
ISLAMABAD: Coronavirus positivity ratio in Pakistan has dropped below three percent after February 14, 2021 as the country reported 1,383 Covid-19 cases after 46,882 tests were conducted countrywide. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 53 coronavirus patients lost their lives across the country in the past 24 hours taking the national death tally to 21,376, while t.....

more >>
388 Covid patients detected after landing in Pakistan
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-09
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was informed on Tuesday that a comprehensive mechanism deployed at the country’s airports has effectively detected 388 Covid positive patients upon landing in Pakistan. It was further informed that the airports in the country were receiving 27 flights per day at an average with more than 4500 passengers; approximately 172 pers.....
more >>

Positivity ratio continues to drop in Islamabad, Rawalpindi
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad and Rawalpindi district are witnessing a decline in the positivity rate of Covid-19 cases as 65 people tested positive in the capital against 4,370 tests conducted whereas 28 were diagnosed with the disease in Pindi against 1,164 tests conducted in the last 24 hours. The positivity rate in Islamabad was 1.4pc and 1.8pc in Pindi. On Wednesday, 151 patients also recovered, offi.....
more >>

Employees at IIA vaccinated against Covid-19
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
ISLAMABAD: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Wednesday held second round of Covid-19 vaccination at the Islamabad International Airport (IIA). CAA officials, staff of different airlines, Airport Security Force officials, ground handling agencies staff and other agencies employees were vaccinated against the virus. The CAA said the arrangement for administering CanSino vaccine was made at visitor.....
more >>

1,118 corona cases reported countrywide with positivity ratio of 2.54pc
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday, reported 1,118 Covid-19 cases after 43,900 tests were conducted countrywide with a positivity ratio of 2.54 percent, which is lowest in months. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country over the past 24 hours also reported 77 deaths taking the nationwide coronavirus death tally to 21,453since the pandemic outbreak in February .....
more >>

Anti-Covid vaccination obligatory for public sector employees; NCOC announces NPIs relaxation from 15th
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday announced relaxations in non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI), enforced to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic along with country-wide mass vaccination campaign. The NCOC session chaired by Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, co-chaired by National Coordinator Lieutenant Gen.....
more >>

‘2021 Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan’ launched
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
ISLAMABAD: The “2021 Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)” was launched, on Wednesday, at a joint event hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations in Pakistan. Geographically, the Humanitarian Response Plan focuses on 81 prioritized districts. The life-saving response activities called for in this Plan amount to US$ 332 million including food secur.....
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anti-Covid vaccination obligatory for all employees</td>
<td>Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on</td>
<td>way, from two days a week to one day. Choice of the day will be the</td>
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<td>PTDC starts Covid-related training programme for tour guides,</td>
<td>Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, co-chaired</td>
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<td>restaurant managements</td>
<td>by National Coordinator Lt Gen Hamood uz Zaman here. The forum took a</td>
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<td>ECC commits to provide $1.1 billion for procurement of Covid-19 vaccine</td>
<td>Imran Ali Kundi, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lockdowns rendered 20.7m workers jobless</td>
<td>Bakhtawar Mian, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan lags behind regional nations in health indicators</td>
<td>Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
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Source: The Nation, Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday decided to relax the restriction on business closure from two days a week to one day. Choice of the day will be the discretion of federating units. An NCOC session was chaired by Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, co-chaired by National Coordinator Lt Gen Hamood uz Zaman here. The forum took a co....

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PTDC has begun a special virus-related training programme for local tour operators, hotel and restaurant managements for promoting responsible tourism activities after long gap of Covid lockdown. This initiative will help us projecting a soft, peaceful and Corona-secure tou.....

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ISLAMABAD - The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Thursday has expressed the government’s commitment to provide $1.1 billion for procurement of Covid-19 vaccine for achieving the vaccination target (minimum 45 million and maximum 65 million) till December 2021 Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Fayyaz Ahmed Tarin, chaired the meeting of the ECC. The .....

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ISLAMABAD: The spread of Covid-19 has severely affected employment conditions in the country and the closure of economic activities due to imposition of lockdowns has rendered an estimated 20.71 million workers jobless. According to the Economic Survey 2020-21, prior to Covid-19, the working population was 55.7 million. During the pandemic, this number declined to 35.04 million which indicates th.....

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ISLAMABAD: Countries in the region are far ahead of Pakistan in terms of health indicators and even Afghanistan is ahead of it, according to the Economic Survey of Pakistan. It said the Covid-19 pandemic had tested the country’s health infrastructure and identified needs for more investment in the sector, especially to improve diagnostic facilities, disease surveillance, prevention and spre.....

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### PIA cuts fare for vaccinated senior citizens
Source: Mohammad Asghar, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-06-11
RAWALPINDI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced a 10pc reduction in domestic flight fares for senior citizens who have been vaccinated against Covid-19. A PIA spokesman said senior citizens (50 years and above) can get the discount on domestic flights after showing their Covid-19 vaccination certificate issued by Nadra. He said the reduced fare will be applicable immediately. [more >>](#)

### NCOC to step up vaccination drives in AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-06-11
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar said on Friday that the federal government will be setting up large vaccination centres in the Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) and Azad Jammu & Kashmir regions in order to step up the vaccination process. Umar stated that the federal government would set up large vaccination centres and form mobile vaccination teams to ensure popu..... [more >>](#)

### Covid incurred heavy economic losses on Pakistan
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan suffered economic losses due to the Covid-19 pandemic which was truly a ‘black swan’ event, according to the Economic Survey 2020-21. Detailing the impact of Covid-19 on socioeconomic situation of Pakistan, the Survey report said that in the initial days of lockdown in March 2020, the Pakistan stock market lost on average 1500 points daily. The losses in the s..... [more >>](#)

### 76 more deaths, 1,303 new Covid-19 cases reported
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-06-11
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Thursday reported 76 more deaths due to the coronavirus infection and 1,303 new positive cases. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 41,824 tests were conducted in a day and the positivity ratio remained 3.1 percent. The NCOC said that during the last 24 hours, most deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Sindh. Out of 76 deaths during the last 24 ho..... [more >>](#)

### NHA arranges Sinovac vaccination for employees, families
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-06-11
ISLAMABAD - In order to control spread of coronavirus, National Highway Authority has undertaken steps for providing vaccine to its employees and their families. To this effect, about 250 employees and their family members were administered Sinovac vaccine at NHA head office. This process of corona vaccine will also be continued in the future. The objective of such steps is to further the eff..... [more >>](#)
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

43rd BOG meeting: Authorities asked to complete ongoing uplift projects at MMC
PESHAWAR: Board of Governors (BoG) have reviewed progress made on various ongoing uplift projects in Mardan Medical Complex (MMC) and directed the early completion the schemes to provide improved healthcare facilities to patients. The BoG stressed the need for the completion of the under-construction library and the installation of elevators at Gynae, Medical and Surgical wards. The board directed.....
more >>

Mass corona vaccination to be intensified: Dr Kazim
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
Peshawar - Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Kazim Niaz on Tuesday said that mass corona vaccination would be further intensified in the province so that maximum population could be protected from COVID-19. Presiding over a high-level meeting about ongoing mass corona vaccination campaign here, he directed health department to take steps to launch vaccination campaign at larger scale. He .....
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Task force formed to expedite Covid vaccination
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-04
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has constituted Covid-19 Provincial Task Force to expedite vaccination as positivity and incidence of coronavirus continue to decline in the high-risk districts of the province. A health department report showed that 12 people passed away due to the pandemic and 295 new patients were recorded in the province on Thursday. According to it, total deaths du.....
more >>

Dirty oxygen cylinders spread black fungus
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-05
PESHAWAR: Black fungus has been spreading through the use of unhygienic oxygen cylinders in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) hospitals which pose yet another threat alongside the deadly Covid-19 infection. A group of doctors working at the ENT Department at Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) has written a letter to the Board of Governors (BoG) KTH informing them about the newly emerged threat. An offic.....
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‘Indian, S African variants detected in KP’
PESHAWAR: The Indian and South African variants of the novel coronavirus have been detected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the provincial health department confirmed Friday. According to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Secretary Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah, the Indian variant of the coronavirus was confirmed in a patient. Meanwhile, two patients who tested positive for the virus were found to be infected with.....
more >>

Over 50 coronavirus vaccination centres planned in Mansehra
Source: The Newspaper’s correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
MANSEHRA: The district administration has administered coronavirus vaccine to over 44,000 people in Mansehra. “Among the vaccinated residents, 4,000 are teachers,” deputy commissioner Dr Qasim Ali Khan told reporters after inaugurating a mass vaccination centre in a library near the New Circuit House here on Saturday. He said two of the three proposed centres for tourist vaccination .....
Karak elders announce boycott of vaccination
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
KARAK: A body of elders on Saturday announced to boycott the anti-polio campaign starting from June 7 over the power and gas outages in the Karak city. The announcement was made at a meeting of the city committee with its president Noor Ahmad Khan in the chair. The meeting also opposed the decision of shifting some areas of Karak southern union council from city’s feeder-II to the jail fe.....
more >>

Universities reopen across KP today amid staff protest
PESHAWAR: Universities across the province are formally to reopen today but academic and non-academic activities will remain suspended owing to employees’ protest and boycott as the government apparently is in no mode to take notice of the situation and ensure physical resumption of education process after a long break caused by corona pandemic. The pandemic has already left adverse effects.....
more >>

LG staff, families to get vaccinated against COVID
PESHAWAR: As per the directives of the KP government, the Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Department of the KP government has directed all employees to get themselves and families vaccinated this month. An official handout said all offices of the department have been ordered to initiate the mandatory vaccination of the staff and families. Each office has nominated a focal person.....
more >>

Govt employees in KP to be given timeline to get vaccinated against Covid
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-09
PESHAWAR: As the Covid-19 cases and mortalities continue to decline, the provincial government has decided to speed up vaccination and give timeline to the public servants to get inoculated besides scaling up public awareness regarding significance of shots against the virus. Health officials said that making vaccination mandatory for employees of the all departments was also part of the strategy.....
more >>

DTS, KITE organise workshops on corona SOPs
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
Peshawar - Special training workshops on implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and safety measures against COVID-19 and raising awareness about the pandemic among the stake holders and revival of tourism in the province are being organised at various districts of the province simultaneously. The Directorate of Tourist Services (DTS), a wing of the Tourism Department, and the .....
more >>

Covid positivity rate drops below 5pc in high-risk areas
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-11
PESHAWAR: The positivity level of Covid-19 has dropped below 5 five per cent in all high-risk districts including Peshawar amid plan by the health department to ensure strict compliance with standard operating procedures in the hard-hit areas to prevent outbreak of the pandemic again. Overall Covid-19 positivity level of swabs from suspected people has dropped to 2.2 per cent in Khyber Pakhtunkhw.....
more >>
## Punjab

### Vaccination certificate must for travel to GB

**Source:** Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-06-01

**RAWALPINDI:** The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued a new travel advisory for Gilgit-Baltistan and Skardu bound travelers. According to the advisory, the travelers above the age of 50 would only be permitted to board aircraft after they have a valid vaccination certificate. The aim to issue a fresh Covid-19 advisory for passengers was to ensure safe tourism in Pakistan subject to observanc.....

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### Vaccine shortage hits inoculation

**Source:** A Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-06-01

**RAHIM YAR KHAN:** The HH Sheikh Khalifa School of Allied Health Sciences Institute lacks the vaccine for those waiting for their second jab. The issue surfaced for a second time after a month when Sinofarm vaccine was short for three days at the centre during last month. But after the interference of Deputy Commissioner Dr Khuram Shehzad, the district health authority took up the matter with the hi.....

*more >*

### No Covid death in city

**Source:** Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-06-01

**LAHORE:** The Covid death toll reached 10,000 after 17 more patients died of the virus in Punjab during the last 24 hours. It is first time that Lahore which was sharing over 40 per cent of the total deaths of the virus since the pandemic hit Punjab in March last year reported no casualty. The Covid update released on Monday said a total 4,075 patients died of the virus in Punjab. According to th.....

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### Corona positivity rate remains 2.77pc in Punjab

**Source:** Recorder Report, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-06-01

**LAHORE:** Out of 22,109 Covid-19 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 613 fresh virus cases and 17 fatalities were reported across Punjab taking the provincial tally of cases to 339,686 and death toll to 9999 with overall positivity rate of 2.77%. With the recovery of 755 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients in the province has reached 309,488. On the other hand, 1,919 cor.....

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### COVID-19 claims 6 more lives, 97 new cases from twin cities

**Source:** Muhammad Qasim, *The News, International*, 2021-06-01

**Rawalpindi:** Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 is continuing to claim significant number of lives from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district as in the last one week, as many as 31 patients have died of the illness from the region while 1100 new patients have been tested positive in the last seven days. In the last 24 hours, the virus claimed six more lives from ICT and Rawalpindi taking d.....

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### Vaccination certificate made mandatory

**Source:** Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-06-02

**RAWALPINDI:** The Civil Aviation Authority has revised guidelines regarding air travel to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), making the Covid-19 vaccination certificate mandatory for passengers over the age of 30 years. “No boarding will be allowed to passengers over the age of 30 years without the Covid-19 vaccination certificate,” the revised guidelines said. However, boarding may be allowed to .....
Several vaccination centres in Pindi facing Sinopharm vaccine shortage
Source: Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
RAWALPINDI: As vaccination drives across the country continue amid the third wave of Covid-19, a shortage of the Sinopharm vaccine has been reported in several vaccination centres of Rawalpindi. Mohammad Rafiq, 45, a resident of Yousaq Colony, visited the vaccination centre established at Jan Marriage Hall on Chaudhry Bostan Khan Road for the second dose of Sinopharm but he was told to visit the ..... more >>

40 more die of Covid in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times, 2021-06-02
LAHORE: With Covid positivity rate dropped to 3.7 in Punjab and 1.6 in Lahore during the last 24 hours, respectively, the virus claimed the lives of 40 more patients across the province. Of the new deaths, 15 took place in Lahore. The death toll in Punjab reached 10,039 while 4,090 in the provincial capital. As per the Covid update released on Tuesday, the total number of the infections reached ..... more >>

5 more die of corona, 98 new cases reported
Rawalpindi: As many as 98 new patients have been reported positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district while five more patients have died of the illness from the region taking the death toll to 1,729. It is, however, alarming that the positivity rate of COVID-19 from the Rawalpindi district has once again jumped to over ..... more >>

Punjab vaccinates record 180,000 against COVID-19 in a day
Source: Inp, Daily Times, 2021-06-01
Punjab has set a new record of most vaccinations in a day after 1,8000 people received COVID jabs over the past 24 hours. According to the Primary and Secondary Health Department Punjab, the process of vaccination has been geared up on the directions of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC). As many as 1,80000 people received COVID jabs on Sunday, setting a new record of most vaccinat.... more >>

Over 3.9m people vaccinated so far; 40 more die of Covid-19 in Punjab
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
LAHORE: With 40 more coronavirus deaths reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours, the province’s death toll has crossed the 10,000 mark and now stands at 10,039. Out of 40 deaths, 15 were reported from Lahore, seven from Rawalpindi, six from Multan, four from D G Khan, three from Sargodha, two each from Faisalabad and Muzaffargarh and one from Rahim Yar Khan taking the death toll in ..... more >>

Covid positivity rate drops to 2pc
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
LAHORE: The Covid positivity rate dropped to its lowest two per cent in Punjab on Wednesday. Meanwhile, death toll in Punjab reached 10,084 after 45 more patients died of the virus during the last 24 hours. Of them, 14 breathed their last in Lahore. A spokesperson for the health department said 447 more people tested positive for the virus, taking the total number of confirmed cases to 340,557 i..... more >>
Three more vaccination centres set up in City
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
LAHORE - The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Wednesday established three more vaccination centres in provincial metropolis. The new vaccination centres have been set up at Fountain House, State Bank of Pakistan and PEL Factory. P&SHD Secretary Sarah Aslam said that the objective of the vaccination centres was to facilitate senior citizens. She said, "More than 5,000 people.....
more >>

‘Record number of vaccination centres set up in Punjab’
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
LAHORE - Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SH) Secretary Sarah Aslam on Tuesday said that Punjab government had set up a record number of vaccination centres in the province during last two month. According to P&SH spokesperson here, the Secretary said that daily target set up by the Nation Command Operation Center (NCOC) would soon be achieved. She said that Punjab had.....
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District health authority quarantines 1,187 suspected COVID-19 patients
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
RAWALPINDI - The district health authority in collaboration with departments concerned has quarantined 1,187 suspected COVID-19 patients in the district. According to the data, shared by the district health authority here on Tuesday, the number of total positive cases has reached 26,295 including 24,288 from Rawalpindi and 2007 from other districts after the addition of 39 more positive cases.....
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Punjab likely to miss vaccination target
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-04
LAHORE: Pace of the Covid vaccination drive is ‘dead slow’ in Punjab as the government is vaccinating 51,667 people daily on average against adult population of 0.42m, a daily target set by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to inoculate all 67m ‘eligible’ people by the end of December. The provincial government had started Covid vaccination in the first week.....
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Punjab reports 48 more fatalities, 432 fresh virus cases
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-04
LAHORE: Despite cut in the number of fresh coronavirus cases, there is no let up in causalities on account of Covid-19 as 48 more coronavirus deaths were reported across Punjab during the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 10,132. Out of 48 deaths, 10 were reported from Lahore, 8 from Faisalabad, 5 from Rawalpindi, 4 each from Muzaffargarh and Rahim Yar Khan, 3 each from Bahawalpur and D ..... 
more >>

Grade 1 to 19; Punjab cabinet approves 25pc special allowance for over 721,000 employees
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-04
LAHORE: The Punjab Cabinet in its 44th meeting with Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar in the chair approved a 25 percent special allowance for more than 721,000 provincial employees of grade 1 to 19 from June 01, 2021. The cabinet also approved Rs 7.10 billion for free medical facilities to the residents of DG Khan and Sahiwal divisions under the first phase of the universal health insurance.....
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<th>Article Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 die of corona from Rawalpindi</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-06-04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covid claims 52 more lives in Punjab</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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<td>Vaccination at all teaching hospitals from 7th</td>
<td>Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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<td>3 perish to corona in Pindi, no life loss in Islamabad</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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<td>Chinese medical team reaches Pakistan for CPEC project</td>
<td>Inp, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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<td>677 vaccination centers made functional to expedite Covid eradication campaign</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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Rawalpindi: As many as 120 new patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while the virus has claimed another three lives from the region, all from Rawalpindi district that has taken death toll from the region to 1,737. It is important that the positivity rate of COVID-19 from Rawalpindi remai.....

Covid claims 52 more people in Punjab during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 10,184. The total number of infections reached 341,390 after 401 more people tested positive for the virus during the same period. Of them, 173 were reported from Lahore while others from Sahiwal, Jhang, Bahawalnagar, Khushab, Sialkot, Chiniot, Sargodha, Khanewal, Nankana Sahib, H.....

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to establish Covid vaccination centres in all 27 teaching hospitals of the province in order to vaccinate a target population of 67m by the end of 2021. The centres will remain open 24 hours to administer vaccines to people above 18. The decision was made in the light of the recommendations of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The Punjab.....

Rawalpindi : In the last 24 hours, as many as three patients suffering from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Rawalpindi district died of the illness while the virus did not claim any life from Islamabad Capital Territory on the second consecutive day. A total of 116 new patients have been reported from the twin cities in the last 24 hours taking the tally to 105,916 while the death of another t.....

A Chinese medical team has been sent to Pakistan to serve the work staff and construction of Karot Hydropower Project, under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). According to Gwadar Pro, the team consists of one doctor-in-charge of the Critical Care Medicine and five nurses, which was the third one sent by the First People's Hospital in Yichang, Hubei Province. All .....
### 57 more die from Covid, 399 new cases in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-06-06
LAHORE: With 57 more Covid-related deaths during the last 24 hours, the total number of casualties reached 10,241 in Punjab. Of these, 12 patients died in the provincial capital, where the death toll has risen to 4,148. Similarly, the total number of the infections in Punjab reached 341,789, after 399 more people tested positive for the virus during the last 24 hours. In Punjab 119 cases were r.....

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### Forestation, curbs on pollutants bear fruit
Source: Asif Mehmood/Afzal Talib, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-06-06
LAHORE: Planting of urban forests, transferring brick kilns to zigzag design and banning the burning of crop residues has significantly reduced air pollution in Punjab. Under the Air Quality Index (AQI) Initiative, Lahore ranks 22nd in the list of the world's most polluted cities. The AQI in Lahore was recorded as 78 on Saturday. The highest air pollution in the city was recorded near America....

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### PU vaccination centre inaugurated
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-06-06
LAHORE: Lahore Commissioner Muhammad Usman has inaugurated a vaccination centre set up at Punjab University (PU) Student Teacher Centre in order to provide maximum facilitation to the citizens to get vaccinated. PU Vice Chancellor Niaz Ahmed, Pro VC Dr Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, Director Students Affairs Dr Muhammad Shafiq, faculty members, officials, employees and others we.....

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### PML-N for making corona relief package report public
LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab President Rana Sanaullah has announced to activate the party at district level to spread out the party’s narrative of giving respect to vote and ensuring supremacy of the Constitution. Talking to media here at the PML-N Secretariat, Rana criticized the PTI government for its tall claims, inaptness and multiplying the problems of the pe.....

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### 677 corona vaccination centres set up across province
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-06-06
LAHORE - On the direction of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar, 677 corona vaccination centres have been set up across the province and Central Vaccination Centres in every district are operational 24 hours a day. He said that the number of corona vaccination centres is being increased in Lahore and other parts of the province to accommodate maximum citizens on daily basis. He said that be.....

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### Hesitation to get vaccinated must be addressed: GCU VC
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-06-06
LAHORE - Coronavirus vaccination is safe, but hesitation exists in our people, especially the youth, that is a threat to public health and it needs to be addressed through effective communication strategies. This was stated by Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi, the Vice- Chancellor of Government College University (GCU) Lahore on Saturday. He was addressing students at the second day of special Coronavirus Vac.....
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<tr>
<td>Govt making full efforts to keep people safe from COVID-19: Commissioner</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-06</td>
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<td>LAHORE - Commissioner Lahore Capt (retired), Muhammad Usman inaugurated a COVID-19 vaccination centre at the Punjab University’s Student Teacher Centre here on Saturday. Punjab University Vice- Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed, Pro-VC Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar, Registrar Dr Muhammad Khalid Khan, Director Students Affairs Prof Dr Muhammad Shafiq, faculty members, officials, employees and others we.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents asked to adopt Covid-19 SOPs forever</td>
<td>APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-06</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi- Commissioner Rawalpindi Syed Gulzar Hussain Shah Saturday asked the residents to adopt COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures forever as it has changed our daily lifestyle since its spread. Chairing a meeting to review anti-Covid arrangements, he said though COVID-19 cases had witnessed a sharp reduction due to timely measures taken by the government, there is a need to remain aler.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Covid situation is improving in Punjab: minister</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-08</td>
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<td>LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Dr Yasmin Rashid says the coronavirus situation is improving in the province and the positivity rate has fallen down to two per cent. Speaking at a press conference on the coronavirus pandemic situation at 90 Shahrah-i-Quaid-e-Azam on Sunday, she said the coronavirus positive cases had considerably decreased in the province including Lahore but the positivity ra.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>No ‘haram’ content in vaccine: Ashrafi</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-08</td>
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<td>LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Religious Harmony Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi says coronavirus vaccination is lawful as there’s nothing ‘haram’ or unlawful ingredient in the drug. Talking to the media here on Sunday, Hafiz Ashrafi said getting vaccinated against Covid-19 is lawful and there is no truth in the claims that the vaccine contained anything ‘haram’.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>‘Lukewarm response to Covid vaccination facility’</td>
<td>The Newspaper’s correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-07</td>
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<td>SAHIWAL: Around 225,000 people have been vaccinated in the Sahiwal division having a population of seven million, says Director Health Services Sadiq Saleem. Speaking to the media persons during his visit to various vaccination centres, he claimed that 17 centres with separate spaces for men and women were being operated in the division. The centre at the DHQ teaching hospital was providing the f.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 more perish to corona, 102 cases reported in a day</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International, 2021-06-07</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi : As many as four patients suffering from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have died of the disease in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district while 102 new patients have been reported positive for the illness from the twin cities. To date, a total of 106,144 confirmed patients have been reported from the region of which 1744 have lost their lives due to.....</td>
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<td>Round the clock vaccination starts at allied hospitals</td>
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<td>AFP, The News, International</td>
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<td>17 new Covid cases reported in Faisalabad</td>
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<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>Commissioner urges parents to brief children about coronavirus SOPs</td>
<td>Commissioner urges parents to brief children about coronavirus SOPs</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>Punjab sees less than 2pc coronavirus cases: Dr Yasmin</td>
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<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioner inaugurates vaccination centre at RCCI</td>
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<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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DC asks students to work hard, follow corona SOPs
Source: Ch Ashraf, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-06-08
Bahawalpur - Due to reduction in corona cases, educational activities have resumed in various institutions. Deputy Commissioner Irfan Ali Kathia visited Government Girls Higher Secondary School Satellite Town. He welcomed the students in various institutes. Chief Executive Officer Education Zahoor Ahmad Chauhan, Principal, teachers and administrative officers of the Education Department were......
more >>

First Drive-Through vaccination centre established
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-06-08
LAHORE - District government Lahore has established Pakistan's first drive-through vaccination centre at Nishter Park Sports Complex, Lahore. Upholding the legacy of contributing to the national causes as a responsible corporate citizen, The Bank of Punjab has provided complete infrastructure support for the project. This first of its kind facility in Pakistan was jointly inaugurated by.....
more >>

Vaccination centre inaugurates at Arfa Tech Park
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-06-08
LAHORE - On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, a Covid-19 Vaccination Centre has been set up at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP) for the employees of Punjab Information Technology Board(PITB), tenants firms of the building and their families. Punjab IT & Higher Education Minister Raja Yassir Humayun Sarfraz along with Commissioner Lahore Captain (Retired) Muh.....
more >>

Covid positivity ratio declines in Punjab: minister
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2021-06-07
LAHORE, Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said here on Sunday that positivity ratio in Punjab has declined to less than 2 percent as a result of stricter lockdowns around Eidul-Fitr. While addressing a press conference here at the 90 Shahrai-i-Fatima Jinnah, the Health Minister said that people must not be misled by rumours about vaccines on Social Media. She said only in Khanewal a.....
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Covid positivity ratio declines in Punjab: minister
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2021-06-07
LAHORE, Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said here on Sunday that positivity ratio in Punjab has declined to less than 2 percent as a result of stricter lockdowns around Eidul-Fitr. While addressing a press conference here at the 90 Shahrai-i-Fatima Jinnah, the Health Minister said that people must not be misled by rumours about vaccines on Social Media. She said only in Khanewal a.....
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Covid claims 35 more lives in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad , 2021-06-09
LAHORE: The Covid death toll reached 10,349 after 35 more patients died of the virus during the last 24 across the province. Punjab also reported 307 new infections during the same period, taking the total number of positive cases to 342,805 so far. Of them, 107 were reported from the provincial capital which has been reporting most of the deaths and positive cases since the outbreak of the disea.....
more >>
**No shortage of vaccine in Punjab: Health Minister**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-06-09
LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid reviewed vaccine stock status and the pace of vaccination at Civil Secretariat here on Tuesday. Chief Secretary Punjab, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Secretaries of P&SHD and SH&ME Department and top military and civil officials were present whereas Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners joined via video link. The Health Minister sai.....
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**Plaints of Nadra immunisation certificates go viral**
Source: Asif Chaudhry, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-06-10
LAHORE: The cumbersome process of data entry and a lack of coordination between the health ministry and Nadra has led to numerous complaints of non-issuance of immunisation certificates to the citizens who have received double doses of the Covid vaccination in Punjab. Many complaints are also surfacing that Nadra’s website — National Immunization Management System (NIMS) — has r.....
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**Punjab mulls measures over mandatory immunization**
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-06-10
LAHORE - Punjab has prepared proposals for mandatory immunization in the province. The proposals were tabled during a meeting chaired by Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid at the Civil Secretariat here on Wednesday. Present in the meeting were Chief Secretary Punjab, Additional Chief Secretary, Secretaries of Primary and Secondary Health Department and Specialized Healthcare and Medical Educa.....
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**CAA organises 2nd round of walkthrough Covid-19 vaccination at Islamabad airport**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-06-10
Rawalpindi - Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) on Wednesday organised the 2nd Round of Walkthrough COVID-19 Corona Vaccination camp at the Islamabad International Airport Islamabad (IIAP). The arrangement for the first dose of CanSino Vaccine was made at visitors’ Gallery, [Level-II]. The vaccination process started at 11am. Airport Manager (APM) Adnan Khan also paid a visit to.....
more >>

**Punjab govt decides to block SIM cards of people refusing vaccines**
The Punjab government on Thursday decided to block the SIM cards of people refusing to get vaccinated against the coronavirus, an official said. The step was among several decisions taken by the provincial government to control the spread of Covid-19 and speed up the vaccination process, including opening walk-in vaccination for all adults from June 12. “Final decision has been taken to blo.....
more >>

**No forced vaccination plans: ministry**
ISLAMABAD: While around 300,000 doses of vaccines are being administered daily and number of cases is continuously decreasing across the country, over 70 per cent ventilators and the oxygenated beds allocated for Covid-19 patients are vacant. The Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) has denied rumours that the government would “forcibly” administer the vaccine and plans were und.....
more >>
Get vaccinated to avoid SIM blocking
Source: Imran Gabol, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-11
LAHORE: The Punjab government on Thursday decided to get blocked SIMs (subscriber identity modules) of those citizens not getting jabbed for Covid-19 vaccine. The Primary and Secondary Health Department will approach Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) to share the data on those avoiding the vaccines to block their SIMs. A senior health department official, on condition of anonymity, tol.... more >>

Soft lockdown to remain enforced in Punjab till 30th
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-11
LAHORE: The Punjab government on Thursday extended lockdown with slight changes to curb the coronavirus till June 30. The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department issued a notification that from June 15 to 30, markets would operate till 8pm in the province and only vaccinated people would be allowed to enter shrines while those under 30 years of age cannot enter shrines. However, public and p..... more >>

COVID-19 claims 76 lives, infects 1,303 more people
RAWALPINDI: The national tally on Thursday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 44,236 with 1,303 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,978 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Seventy-six corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 67 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and nine out of the hospitals in their respective quarantines or h..... more >>

2,99,675 corona patients recovered
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-11
LAHORE - As many as 624 patients returned home after defeating Covid-19 on Thursday, taking the number of recovered patients to 2,99,675. Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department Secretary Nabeel Awan said that out of 7,583 beds reserved for Covid-19 in all public sector hospitals, 6,459 were unoccupied. In Lahore, out of 1,635 reserved beds, 1,358 are vacant. In Isolation Wards, 3,..... more >>

Sindh

Over 1.3m people given Covid-19 vaccine in Sindh, PA told
Source: Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-01
KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly was informed on Monday that so far over 1.3 million people had been given either the first dose or both doses of Covid-19 vaccination across the province. Responding to a calling-attention notice moved by Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan lawmaker Rana Ansar, parliamentary secretary for health Qasim Soomro said that 964,000 people had been administered the first dose, ..... more >>

Four more travellers test positive for Indian Covid-19 variant
Source: Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-01
KARACHI: The Sindh health authorities confirmed on Monday four cases of the Indian variant of coronavirus, taking the total number of such cases in the country to five. All patients had returned to Pakistan from Gulf countries and tested positive at Karachi airport. Three of them had come from Iraq while another arrived from Muscat, Oman. “One of them hails from Ghotki and the rest from th..... more >>
Sindh’s private school staff directed to get vaccinated within a week
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-01
KARACHI: The staffers working at Sindh's privately-owned schools were directed on Tuesday to get vaccinated within a week's time in view of fresh directives from the provincial government. "As per [the] directives issued by the Government of Sindh, the staff working (teaching & non-teaching) in privately managed schools in Sindh are hereby directed to get themselves vaccinated wi.....
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Mobile Covid-19 vaccination units launched
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-01
KARACHI: The Pakistan Red Crescent-Sindh (PRC), in collaboration with the provincial health department and National Command Operation Centre (NCOC), opened two mobile vaccination units for Covid-19 in the city. The units were established on Monday at the Dolmen and Lucky One malls. In a recent meeting of NCOC in Karachi, the Sindh branch of the PRC volunteered its services to the government in o.....
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Sindh reports four cases of Indian Covid-19 variant
Source: NNI, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-01
KARACHI: Four confirmed cases of a coronavirus variant first identified in India have been reported in Sindh, Parliamentary Secretary on Health Qasim Soomro revealed on Monday. “All the patients have been quarantined in Karachi and contact tracing has begun,” he said. “They came back to Pakistan from multiple Gulf countries and tested positive at the airport,” Soomro s.....
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Noisy protest in Sindh Assembly as opposition not allowed to question govt’s Covid-19 measures
Source: Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
KARACHI: Yet another private members’ day in the Sindh Assembly was marred by chaos and uproar during a strong protest lodged by the members of three major opposition parties on Tuesday. This seems to have become a regular practice as the house witnesses hooliganism and ruckus on the private members’ days with little or no business on the agenda being taken up, depriving the oppositio.....
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KE vaccination centres
Source: From the Newspaper, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-03
KARACHI: K-Electric has launched its first Covid-19 vaccination centre on its own premises in collaboration with the government of Sindh, offering coverage to employees and eligible dependents as well, says a statement. Officials from the health ministry visited the facility on Monday with KE leadership and were given an update on the progress of the employee vaccination programme. The fully equ.....
more >>

Vaccine procurement not a piece of cake
Source: Mohammad Bilal Tahir, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-02
KARACHI: Pakistan is one of the developing countries striving to vaccinate its dense population of over 220 million to prevent from contracting the deadly Covid-19 pandemic. The government with its limited budget is purchasing consignments of vaccine from various countries, on the one hand, while it made an effort to produce an indigenous vaccine, on the other hand. However, the effectiveness.....
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<td>Schools to remain closed until Covid-19 cases drop: Sindh health minister</td>
<td>Dawn.com, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sindh CM orders finance ministry to stop salaries of govt employees who refuse Covid-19 vaccines</td>
<td>Imtiaz Ali, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-03</td>
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<td>PTI backs city traders’ demand for ease of Covid restrictions</td>
<td>Imran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-03</td>
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<td>COVID claims 22 more lives</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-03</td>
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<td>COVID claims 12 more lives</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sindh declares vaccination mandatory for all</td>
<td>Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-04</td>
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**Health minister asks people not to be misled by anti-vaccine propaganda**  
**Source:** Faiza Ilyas, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-06-04  
KARACHI: Expressing concern over the coronavirus situation in the province, Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho at a press conference held on Thursday in the Sindh Assembly’s auditorium said that there had been no decline in Covid-19 cases and a major barrier to the vaccination drive against the disease was the misinformation about the vaccines being used for inoculation. Accompanie.....

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**Sindh to block salary for unvaccinated employees**  
**Source:** Recorder Report, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-06-04  
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday declared Covid-19 vaccination mandatory for every citizen of the province and ordered that the salaries of non-vaccinated government officials should be stopped from July. He stated this while residing over a meeting of the provincial task force on coronavirus at the CM House. "We have to secure our citizens by taking so.....

[more >>](#)

**Minister for vaccination of industrial workers**  
**Source:** Recorder Report, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-06-04  
KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Industries & Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharijo advised the industrialists of North Karachi Industrial Area to ensure maximum number of their workers to be vaccinated on priority basis to control the Covid-19 pandemic and adopt a strategy in factories that will make it necessary for workers to be vaccinated for making Sindh Covid-free province. He was speaking at Capta.....

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**Sindh to stop salaries of unvaccinated staff**  
KARACHI: The Sindh government has announced to stop salaries of government employees who have not yet got themselves vaccinated against COVID-19 from July. Taking a policy decision, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, during a meeting, directed the chief secretary to give the current month of June to all the government/ semi-government/ local government employees for getting themselves vacc.....

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**SBP bullish on growth, sees downside risks from lockdown**  
**Source:** Erum Zaidi, *The News, International*, 2021-06-04  
KARACHI: The central bank has revised up its growth forecast to 2 to 3 percent for the current fiscal year on reviving large scale manufacturing and better wheat output prospects, but it sees downside risks stemming from a potential COVID-associated lockdown. "With half of FY21 now passed, the recovery in economic activity is becoming more visible," the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) sa.....

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**Saudi envoy to take up Chinese vaccines issue with authorities**  
**Source:** Tahir Siddiqui, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-06-05  
KARACHI: Saudi Arabia’s Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki has assured Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah that he will take up with the Saudi authorities the issue of approval of Chinese Covid-19 vaccines to enable Haj pilgrims from Pakistan to visit Saudi Arabia, it emerged on Friday. Official sources said the request for vaccines approval was made by the chief minister.....

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<td>Punjab governor fumes over medical checkup at Karachi Airport</td>
<td>Inp, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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<td>COVID claims 16 more lives</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-06-05</td>
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KARACHI: The Saudi Arabian government has assured Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah of approving Chinese coronavirus vaccines so that Pakistanis could go to the Kingdom for the purpose of Hajj and Umrah. The development came on Friday as the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah had a meeting with the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan, Nawaf Saeed A Al Malkiy, along with the Consul Gene.....

KARACHI: Meezan Bank has launched a free COVID-19 vaccination drive for its employees and their family members in collaboration with the Government of Sindh. The vaccination camp kicked off on June 2nd, 2021 at the Bank’s Head Office in Karachi under the leadership of Irfan Siddiqui, Founding President & CEO Meezan Bank along with the Bank’s senior management team. The drive was pe.....

KARACHI: Meezan Bank has launched a free COVID-19 vaccination drive for its employees and their family members in collaboration with the Sindh government, a statement said on Friday. The vaccination camp kicked off at the bank’s head office in Karachi under the leadership of Irfan Siddiqui, founding president and CEO of Meezan Bank, along with the senior management team, it added. The drive.....

Punjab Governor Ch. Muhammad Sarwar fumed when the corona desk staff at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi stopped him for rapid antigen test when the governor landed there after his return from a US visit via the UK on Friday. The Punjab governor expressed his displeasure when Dr Inam Bhatti of the corona test staff at Jinnah International Airport stopped him and asked him to undergo medical .....

Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi has said the emergence of Covid-19 has shown how disastrous consequences of ecosystem loss could be as by shrinking natural habitat for animals, we may have created ideal conditions for pathogens including coronavirus to spread. The Naval Chief made these remarks in his message on World Environment Day which is celebrated on 5th of June .....
Vaccination centre for police personnel to work round-the-clock
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-05
KARACHI - In view of the shift-wise duties of police officers and personnel in different conditions, the Security and Emergency Services Division has started 24-hour vaccination for police officers and personnel at Expo Centre, Karachi. On the directives of Additional IGP Karachi Imran Yaqoob Minhas and under the supervision of DIGP Security and Emergency Services Division Maqsood Ahmed, 16 s.....

Sindh makes vaccinations mandatory for traders, extends business hours till 8pm
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
KARACHI: The Sindh government announced extending business hourstill 8pm from Monday (June 7), saying all shops will have to maintain a vaccination certificate of the staff. “It will be mandatory upon all staff of shops to get vaccinated,” said Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah following a meeting of the Corona taskforce today (Sunday). Murad added that the vaccination certificates of.....

Sindh govt to formulate biosaline agriculture plan
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
HYDERABAD: Government of Sindh to provide 80 percent subsidy on the high-efficiency irrigation system to farmers across Sindh and biosaline agriculture to be adopted as an official agriculture practice to combating the water scarcity problems in the province. This was announced by Abdul Rahim Soomro, Secretary of Agriculture during a one day conference on Biosaline Agriculture in Arid Areas .....

COVID claims 11 more lives
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-06
KARACHI - As many as 11 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,116 and 722 new cases emerged when 13,536 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Saturday. He added that 11 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,116 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah sa.....

Expo Centre vaccination experience
Source: Mohammad Asim Rehman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-07
After taking into consideration all the information, disinformation and misinformation, we decided to go for the jab and head the walk-in coronavirus vaccination centre set up in the Expo Centre Karachi by the Sindh government, which is being run 24 hours a day. Obviously, nobody wants to stand in long queues in these hot summer days, so we chose after 12 midnight’s time and a working day t.....

20 Covid deaths
Source: APP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-07
KARACHI: As many as 20 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,136 while 756 new cases emerged when 14,369 tests were conducted in Sindh. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement on Sunday. The latest deaths lifted the death toll to 5,136 that constituted 1.6 per cent death rate. .....
Anti-Covid vaccine safe for pregnant women
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-08
KARACHI: Instead of harming the babies, as rumored by some, the anti-Covid jab administered to pregnant women would only positively effect through the supply of anti-bodies to the infants via breastfeeding mothers. This was stated by the health experts at a seminar held at Dow University of Health Sciences on Monday. The event was organized by the DUHS to clear out misconceptions and rumors.....

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SBP buoys up economy amid Covid pandemic
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-08
KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, Mian Zahid Hussain has said the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) buoyed the sinking economy amid Covid pandemic. Governor SBP Reza Baqir should take more steps to boost the economy and push up the growth rate to five percent by the next fiscal, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that.....

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COVID claims 20 more lives
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-07
KARACHI - As many as 20 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,136 while 756 new cases emerged when 14,369 tests were conducted in Sindh. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Sunday. He added that 20 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,136 that constituted 1.6 percent death.....

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CM Murad inaugurates vaccination centre at Expo Hall-3
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-09
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday morning inaugurated COVID Vaccination Centre at Expo Centre Hall-3. He was accompanied by Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister Information Nasir Shah, Advisor Law Murtaza Wahab. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that his government had started vaccination drive on February 3, 2021 all over Sindh. “Ti.....

more >>

COVID-19 vaccination centre set up at SSUET
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-08
KARACHI - COVID-19 Vaccination Centre has been set up at the Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) in collaboration with Sindh Health Department, which would provide free-of-charge vaccination to the teaching and non-teaching staff and students of SSUET. Appreciating the support of Sindh government, Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Vali Uddin said that the teachers, administr.....

more >>

Markets in Sindh to remain open till 8pm
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-07
KARACHI: Sindh government has decided to relax some Covid-19 related restrictions, and allowed shopkeepers to continue their business activities from 5am to 8pm from Monday (today). Also, the provincial government has decided to open educational institutions from Class-IX and above with 50 percent attendance from Monday. It allowed the restaurants to offer outdoor dining service till 12pm fro.....

more >>
**Covid-19 claims 20 more lives in Sindh**  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-07  
KARACHI: As many as 20 more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,136 and 756 new cases emerged when 14,369 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He added that 20 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,136 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. .....  
more >>

**Over 1.3m people vaccinated across Sindh, claims CM**  
Source: Muhammad Shafa, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-07  
KARACHI: Over 1.3 million people including some 90 percent of frontline healthcare workers and 75 percent policemen have so far been vaccinated in Sindh province. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah informed this while inaugurating a Covid-19 Vaccination Centre at Expo Centre Hall-3 here on Sunday morning. CM said that his government had started vaccination drive on February 3, 2021.....  
more >>

**PPL Covid-19 vaccination drive kicks off in Karachi**  
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-09  
KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) kicked-off an in-house Covid-19 vaccination drive to immunize employees, dependents and contract staff at its head office in Karachi in coordination with District Health Officer, South, MD & CEO Moin Raza Khan on June 7. Over 200 company and contract employees received the single dose CanSinoBio vaccine administered by PPL medical staff during the.....  
more >>

**No respite in Sindh as COVID kills 20 more**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-09  
KARACHI: As many as 20 more patients of coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 5,164 and 575 new cases emerged when 12,660 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Tuesday. He added that 20 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,164 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.....  
more >>

**Coronavirus claims 19 more lives, infects 628 others**  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-10  
KARACHI: As many as 19 more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,183 and 628 new cases emerged when 13,972 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Wednesday. He added that 19 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,183 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. .....  
more >>

**PPL Covid-19 vaccination drive kicks off**  
Source: Press Release, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-10  
KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) kicked off an in-house Covid-19 vaccination drive to immunise employees, dependents and contract staff at its head office in Karachi in coordination with District Health Officer, South. MD & CEO Moin Raza Khan inaugurated the PPL vaccination centre in Karachi on June 7. Over 200 company and contract employees received the single dose CanSinoBio vaccine.....  
more >>
JS Bank, Sindh govt partner to launch Covid-19 vaccinations
Source: Press Release, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
KARACHI - In collaboration with the government of Sindh, District Commissioner South Irshad Ali Sundar, and District Health Officer Doctor Raj Kumar, JS Bank lived up to its commitment of caring for the health and safety of its people through the launch of a vaccination drive for team members and their families. The three-day vaccination drive is taking place at JS Bank’s head office at Shah.....
more >>

19 more COVID patients die in Sindh
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
KARACHI - As many as 19 more patients of coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 5,183 and 628 new cases emerged when 13,972 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Wednesday. He added that 19 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,183 that constituted 1.6 percent dea.....
more >>

Covid-19: Vaccination centres have to be erected all over the country: BMG
KARACHI: The leadership of Businessmen Group (BMG) and Office Bearers of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) has emphasised the need that Covid-19 vaccination centres have to be raised all over the country while the possibility of setting up emergency medical camps at all commercial markets and residential localities of not just Karachi but the entire country must also be taken into ..... more >>

Covid-19 claims 13 more lives, infects 675 others
KARACHI: As many as 13 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,196 and 675 new cases emerged when 13,245 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that 13 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,196 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. ..... more >>
# International News

## Countries News

### Turkey imposes quarantine for travellers from Pakistan, other countries
**Source:** Anadolu Agency, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-01

ANKARA: Turkey has announced new travel restrictions for passengers entering the country in a bid to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Under the new measure by the official authorities, passengers departing from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, South Africa, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka will be quarantined for 14 days in locations determined by the governorships, according to a.....more >>

### Global organisations issue call for vaccine equality
**Source:** AFP, The News, International, 2021-06-02

Washington: World leaders must make a "new commitment" to a more equal distribution of coronavirus vaccines to bring the pandemic under control, the heads of four major global organisations said on Tuesday. Their joint rallying cry comes as concerns rise that vaccine inequality between wealthy and poor nations is further complicating and prolonging a pandemic that has killed more than 3.....more >>

### WHO approves China's Sinovac Covid jab
**Source:** AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-02

GENEVA: The World Health Organization on Tuesday approved the Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use - the second Chinese jab to receive the WHO's green light. The UN health agency signed off on the two-dose vaccine, which is already being deployed in several countries around the world. "WHO today validated the Sinovac-CoronaVac Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use," it .....more >>

### PIA special plane airlifts batch of Sinopharm vaccine from China
**Source:** APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-02

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) special plane airlifted a batch of 500,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine from the Beijing Capital International Airport to Islamabad on Tuesday. Another plane of the national flag carrier will transport another batch of 500,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine procured from China to Pakistan on Wednesday morning, Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for C.....more >>

### Pandemic plunges 100m more workers into poverty: UN
**Source:** AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-03

GENEVA: The pandemic has pushed over 100 million more workers into poverty, the UN said Wednesday, after working hours plummeted and access to good quality jobs evaporated. In a report, the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) cautioned that the labour market crisis created by the pandemic was far from over, with employment not expected to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels until .....more >>

### Vitamin D deficiency may cause severe COVID-19 infection: study
**Source:** news report, The News, International, 2021-06-03

ABU DHABI: A UAE study has found a "strong correlation" between vitamin D deficiency and the severity of COVID-19 infections, foreign media reported on Wednesday. The Department of Health, Abu Dhabi, is now encouraging the community to boost their vitamin D levels. The study of 522 UAE COVID-19 patients found that 59 per cent of those with vitamin D deficiency showed more severe symptom.....more >>
### Pandemic plunges 100m more workers into poverty: UN

**Source:** AFP, *The News, International*, 2021-06-03  
**Geneva:** The Covid-19 pandemic has pushed more than 100 million more workers into poverty, the UN said on Wednesday, after working hours plummeted and access to good-quality jobs evaporated. And the labour market crisis created by the pandemic was far from over, the UN’s International Labour Organization warned in a report. Employment was not expected to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels un.....

*more >>*

### IMF, World Bank prioritise vaccine access to end pandemic

**Source:** AFP, *The News, International*, 2021-06-03  
**Washington:** After kicking their massive lending powers into overdrive to help the nations hardest hit by Covid-19 last year, the IMF and the World Bank are now focusing on getting vaccines to poor countries to keep the pandemic from derailing the global economic recovery. Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva is spearheading a $50 billion joint effort with the .....  

*more >>*

### US to send 13m vaccines to South Asia, other regions

**Source:** Anwar Iqbal, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-06-04  
**Washington:** President Joe Biden announced on Thursday that the United States would dispatch seven million Covid-19 vaccines to South and Southeast Asia to help regional governments overcome the pandemic. India, however, will get its share from another tranche of six million vaccines kept aside for the countries experiencing surges, the White House said. Pakistan and Bangladesh will get thei.....

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### IMF agrees to expedite transit of Covid-19 vaccines, related goods

**Source:** Reuters, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-06-06  
**Melbourne:** Ministers from Asia-Pacific trade group APEC on Saturday agreed to expedite the transit of COVID-19 vaccines and related goods, but stopped short of agreeing to remove tariffs on them. Prior to the start of the meeting, host New Zealand wanted APEC’s 21 members to agree on “best practices guidelines” on the movement of vaccines and related medical products across bord.....

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### Lioness dies of COVID-19 in India

**Chennai:** A total of nine lions have tested positive for coronavirus at a zoo near Chennai in India. The source of the infection remains unclear, foreign media reported. A 9-year-old lioness by the name of Neela has died in an Indian zoo from coronavirus, officials at the Arignar Anna zoological park said. The state-run zoo, located just outside Chennai, said Neela passed away from COVID-19 on Thu.....

*more >>*
Delhi, Mumbai ease lockdown as India Covid numbers fall
NEW DELHI: Markets and shopping malls in New Delhi will be allowed to reopen from Monday in a further easing of the Covid-19 lockdown, the chief minister said as infections fall in major Indian cities after weeks of restrictions. Delhi Metro will also resume services at 50 percent capacity, the city's chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday. Markets and malls will operate on altern.....
more >>

G7 strikes historic agreement on taxing multinationals
London: Finance ministers from wealthy G7 nations on Saturday pledged to commit to a global minimum corporate tax of at least 15 percent, rallying behind a US-backed plan. "We... commit to a global minimum tax of at least 15 percent on a country by country basis," said a statement at the conclusion of their London meeting. The G7 hopes to reach a final agreement at the July gathering o.....
more >>

British PM Johnson to urge G7 to vaccinate world by end of 2022; ‘Delta variant 40 percent more transmissible’
LONDON: The Delta variant of the coronavirus is estimated to be 40 percent more transmissible than the Alpha variant that caused the last wave of infections in the UK, Britain’s health minister said Sunday. But people who have received two doses of vaccine, should be equally protected against either variant, he added. "That figure, around 40 percent more transmissible, is indeed the la.....
more >>

Spain opens borders to all vaccinated travellers
MALAGA, Spain: Spain opened its borders to vaccinated travellers from all over the world on Monday, hoping an influx of visitors will revitalise an all-important tourism sector that has been battered by the coronavirus pandemic. The opening kicks off what many are hoping will be a busy summer tourism season in Europe as vaccine rates pick-up across the continent. On Monday morning, with the mercu.....
more >>

N-weapons spending swelled $1.4 bn amid pandemic
GENEVA: Even as the pandemic raged and economies around the world were devastated, nuclear-armed countries last year increased spending on atomic weapon arsenals by 1.4 billion dollars, campaigners said on Monday. In a fresh report, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) detailed how the world’s nine nuclear-armed states continued to swell their spending on such weapon.....
more >>

Iran cleric who founded Hezbollah dies of COVID-19
TEHRAN/NEW DELHI: Ali Akbar Mohtashamipour, a Shia cleric, who as Iran's ambassador to Syria, helped found Hezbollah and lost his right hand to a book bombing reportedly carried out by Israel, died on Monday of the coronavirus. He was 74. A close ally of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Mohtashamipour formed alliances with Muslim militant groups across the Mideast i.....
more >>
Abu Dhabi to impose tougher Covid rules for unvaccinated; Vaccination in Europe ‘far from sufficient’, says WHO
Copenhagen: The World Health Organisation (WHO) warned on Thursday that vaccination rates in Europe were still far off what was needed to stop a virus resurgence and called on countries to maintain protective measures. According to the organisation, 30 percent of people have received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine and 17 percent have been fully vaccinated in the WHO’s European Regi.....
more >>

WHO chief hails ‘historic’ agreement to strengthen organisation
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2021-06-01
World Health Organization members agreed Monday to strengthen the global body at the heart of the pandemic response and give it a more secure financial base from which to tackle future health crises. Many of the details of the concrete measures had to be left to a future date, as members continue to debate how much power to cede to the UN body. But WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus hailed the.....
more >>

Nearly 200,000 Palestinians need health aid after Gaza conflict: WHO
CAIRO: The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Wednesday warned of “staggering health needs” in the occupied Palestinian Territories after last month’s conflict between Israel and Islamist group Hamas. "WHO is scaling up its response to provide health aid for almost 200,000 people in need across the occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)," which includes the West Bank, WH.....
more >>

US sends medical supplies to Pakistan to combat Covid
WASHINGTON: The United States has airlifted emergency medical supplies to Pakistan to help save lives and stop the spread of coronavirus and continue to meet the urgent health needs across South Asia, according to an official announcement here on Thursday. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) said in a press release that the flight will bring 1,200 pulse oximeters, and 340,000 pie.....
more >>

Africa not ready for imminent third virus wave: WHO
Santiago: Chile on Thursday became the latest country to limit use of the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, linked to rare blood clots, when a 31-year-old man developed thrombosis after being immunised. Pending further investigation and as a "preventative and proactive measure," the shot will in future be administered only to people 45 and over, the health ministry of the South American .....
more >>

US airlifts medical supplies to Pakistan, other countries
Source: Anwar Iqbal, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-05
WASHINGTON: The US government has airlifted emergency medical supplies to Pakistan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka to stop the spread of Covid-19, the State Department said on Friday. The supplies, managed by the US Agency for International Development, are part of a programme to “help save lives” by meeting urgent health needs across South Asia, the State Depa.....
G7 to donate 1 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses to poorer countries
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-11
British Prime Minister Boris Johnson expects the Group of Seven to agree to donate 1 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses to poorer countries during its summit starting on Friday, and help inoculate the world by the end of next year. Just hours after U.S. President Joe Biden vowed to supercharge the battle against the coronavirus with a donation of 500 million Pfizershots, Johnson said Britain would gi.....
# SDPI Engagements

## Researchers Articles

**Pakistan strives for financial instrument for nature based solutions**  
Source: Zahra Khalid, [Pakistan Observer](https://www.pakistanobserver.com), 2021-06-05  
Full text not available ....[more >>](#)

**World Environment Day 2021: Mangroves Protection saves nature, boost economism**  
Source: Dr Shafqat Munir, [Pakistan Observer](https://www.pakistanobserver.com), 2021-06-05  
Full text not available.....[more >>](#)

**Marine Ecosystems Restoration vital for people, species and plants**  
Source: Salman Danish, [Pakistan Observer](https://www.pakistanobserver.com), 2021-06-05  
Full text not available .....[more >>](#)

**Restoring the ecosystem**  
Source: Dr Abid Qayyum Suleri, [The News, Islamabad](https://www.thenews.com.pk), 2021-06-05  
Back in 1987, ‘Our common future’, also known as the Brundtland Report, proposed the three main pillars of sustainable development: economic growth, environmental protection, and social equality. A group of deniers, including former US president Donald Trump, challenge the need for coexistence in harmony with nature. They ridiculed the scientific evidence and doubts that ecosystems .....[more >>](#)

## Webinar News

**Govt intends to ensure ease of doing business in energy sector: Farooqi**  
Source: [News Desk](https://www.pakistanobserver.com), [Pakistan Observer](https://www.pakistanobserver.com), 2021-06-02  
Chairman, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), Mr Tauseef H Farooqi, has said that the Renewable Energy (RE) portfolio of Pakistan can be improved by including Hydro power generation in renewable energy mix. The potential of RE in coastal areas of Karachi is lower as compared to Jhimpir and Gharo and adding RE projects based on lesser irradiance or wind speed will make them more .....[more >>](#)

**Despite challenges, govt ensured food security in country through robust measures: Imam**  
Source: [News Desk](https://www.pakistanobserver.com), [Pakistan Observer](https://www.pakistanobserver.com), 2021-06-02  
Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam has said that despite unprecedented challenges Pakistan has faced during the last two years, the threats to food security were responded with robust actions by the government at every level. He said that during the time of Covid-19, locust attack was another major challenge. However, through collaborative efforts, we reduc.....[more >>](#)

**Food security ensured in the country through robust measures despite bottlenecks: Syed Fakhar Imam**  
Source: Tariq Ullah Wardak, [Daily Times](https://www.dailytimes.com.pk), 2021-06-02  
The Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam expressed at a webinar held that despite the numerous challenges Pakistan has faced during the last two years, the threats to food security were responded with robust actions by the government at every level. During the time of Covid-19, locust attacks were a major challenge. However, through collaborative efforts,.....[more >>](#)
### DESPITE CHALLENGES GOVERNMENT ENSURED FOOD SECURITY IN COUNTRY: FAKHAR IMAM

Source: DNA News, DNA News, 2021-06-02

The Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam expressed at a webinar held that despite the numerous challenges Pakistan has faced during the last two years, the threats to food security were responded with robust actions by the government at every level. During the time of Covid-19, locust attacks were a major challenge. However, through collaborative efforts, more >>

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### DESPITE CHALLENGES GOVERNMENT ENSURED FOOD SECURITY IN COUNTRY: FAKHAR IMAM

Source: DNA, Centreline.com, 2021-06-01

ISLAMABAD, JUN 1 /DNA/ – The Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam, despite unprecedented challenges Pakistan has faced during the last two years, the threats to food security were responded with robust actions by the government at every level. During the time of Covid-19, locust attack was another major challenge. However, through collaborative efforts, more >>

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### Speakers Discuss Pakistan's Challenges On Climate Change Front

Source: APP, UrduPoint, 2021-06-03

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 2nd Jun, 2021 ) :Speakers at an online roundtable discussion on Wednesday identified the climate change-related challenges faced by Pakistan and suggested remedial measures to tackle their negative impacts on environment. The conference titled “Climate Change as Non-Traditional Security Challenge: Relevance for Pakistan” was jointly o more >>

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### ‘Govt focusing on nature-based solutions for ecosystem restoration’


LAHORE: A seminar on financing arrangements for ecosystem restoration in Pakistan was held at GC University Lahore here on Wednesday under Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in connection with World Environment Day 2021. Addressing the seminar via video link, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam said that the government was focusing on nature based more >>

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### Ecosystem restoration in Pakistan: Experts discuss financing arrangements

Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-03

LAHORE: A seminar on ‘Financing arrangements for ecosystem restoration in Pakistan’ was held here at the GC University Lahore under the auspices of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in connection with the World Environment Day 2021. Addressing the seminar via video link, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Mr. Malik Amin Aslam said that the government w more >>

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### CGSS, HSF ORGANIZE ONLINE DISCUSSION ON “CLIMATE CHANGE AS NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGE: RELEVANCE FOR PAKISTAN”

Source: DNA News, DNA News, 2021-06-02

ISLAMABAD, JUN 2 – Online Roundtable Discussion on “Climate Change as Non-Traditional Security Challenge: Relevance for Pakistan” was held. It was jointly organized by Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad and Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Pakistan. Mr. ShakeelRamay Advisor, Asian Institute of Ecosystem Restoration and Development, Consultant SDPI & M more >>
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<th>Title</th>
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<td>CGSS, HSF Organize on line discussion on “Climate Change as Non-Traditional Security Challenge: Relevance for Pakistan”</td>
<td>DNA, Centreline.com, 2021-06-02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Change as Non-Traditional Security Challenge: Relevance for Pakistan</td>
<td>News Desk, Voice of East, 2021-06-02</td>
<td>Mr. Shakeel Ramay Advisor, Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, Consultant SDPI &amp; Member board of Advisors, CGSS, commenced the session with opening remarks. Dr. Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Pakistan gave the welcome remarks. He welcomed all the participants and distinguished panelists. Dr. Kudella highlighted that on 5thJune 2021, Pa.....</td>
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<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International, 2021-06-04</td>
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Online Workshop News

Japan Appreciates IDE-JETRO, SPDI for Holding First-ever Online Workshop
Source: APP, Urdu Point, 2021-06-02
ISLAMABAD, Jun 1 (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 1st Jun, 2021): The Embassy of Japan has welcomed and appreciated its Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO) and Pakistan's Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) for holding the first-ever online workshop last week (May26) that provided a platform to experts of both the sides to deliberate on different topics. The wo.....

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JAPANESE ENVOY STRESSES ENHANCED THINK-TANK ACTIVITY
Source: Mahnoor Ansar, DNA News, 2021-06-02
ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Japan has welcomed that the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO) in Japan and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Pakistan held the first online workshop on May 26, 2021. Starting from the opening remarks and mutual introductions by FUKAO Kyoji, the President of IDE-JETRO and Abid Q Suleri, the Executive Director of SDPI, experts from both sid.....

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SDPI's Related News

"Food security ensured through robust measures"
Islamabad : Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam has said that despite unprecedented challenges Pakistan has faced during the last two years, the threats to food security were responded with robust actions by the government at every level. Mr. Imam was speaking at a Webinar on “Ensuring food security amid Covid-19 through ecosystem restoration” org.....more >>

Pakistan offers cheapest cigarette prices in South Asia: study
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-05
ISLAMABAD: Cigarette prices are the cheapest in Pakistan when compared with other countries in the South Asian region, said a study by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). The study titled: "Estimating the price elasticity for cigarette and chewed tobacco in Pakistan: evidence from micro-level data," asked the policymakers to increase tax on tobacco products to make it out.....more >>

"Govt lacks robust strategy for expanding tax base"
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-06-08
ISLAMABAD: The government lacks a robust strategy for expanding the tax base, which could make the attainment of tax collection target for next year challenging, experts noted, on Monday as they warned against overburdening the existing taxpayers. “The government does not appear to be having any out of the box ideas for expanding tax base,” analyst Hussain Haider said at a pre-bud.....more >>
Experts warn govt of overburdening tax payers in upcoming budget
Source: Imran Ali Kundi, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-06-08
IMF programme leaves little bandwidth for FBR to focus on other sectors that have been out of tax net ISLAMABAD
- Government lacks a robust strategy for expanding the tax base, which could make the attainment of tax collection target for next year challenging, experts noted on Monday as they warned against overburdening the existing tax payers. “The government does not appear to be h......more >>

Govt without out of box ideas on widening tax base: experts
Source: Web Desk, Daily Times, 2021-06-08
Government lacks a robust strategy for expanding the tax base, which could make the attainment of tax collection target for next year challenging, experts noted on Monday as they warned against overburdening the existing taxpayers. “The government does not appear to be having any out of the box ideas for expanding tax base,” analyst Hussain Haider said at a pre-budget discussion hosted......more >>

Why Pakistan should widen its tax base
Source: Bilal Hussain, Samaa tv, 2021-06-07
Experts have warned the government against overburdening the existing taxpayers as they claim it lacks a robust strategy for expanding the tax base in the next budget, adding that attaining the tax collection target for next year will be a challenging task. “The government does not appear to have any out-of-the-box ideas for expanding tax base,” analyst Hussain Haider said during a pr......more >>

Tax target for next year challenging without base widening, say experts
Islamabad: Government lacks a robust strategy for expanding the tax base, which could make the attainment of tax collection target for next year challenging, experts noted on Monday as they warned against overburdening the existing tax payers. “The government does not appear to be having any out of the box ideas for expanding tax base,” analyst Hussain Haider said at a pre-budget dis......more >>

Govt to revive Karachi’s three sewage treatment plants
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-06-10
KARACHI: Government of Sindh will make three sewage treatment plants in Karachi functional to safely discharge wastewater of the city into the sea, said CM’s Adviser on Environment Murtaza Wahab on Wednesday. “With resumption of sewage treatment facilities, the load of water pollution on our marine environment will be greatly reduced,” Wahab said speaking at a ceremony held to mark W......more >>
Special Seminar

‘Ecosystem being restored through afforestation’
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-06-04

PESHAWAR: Speakers at a seminar on ‘Sustainable Forest Ecosystem Management in Pakistan’ said that the country has entered a new era of terrestrial ecosystem restoration due to massive afforestation programmes. A statement issued here said the event was organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). more >>