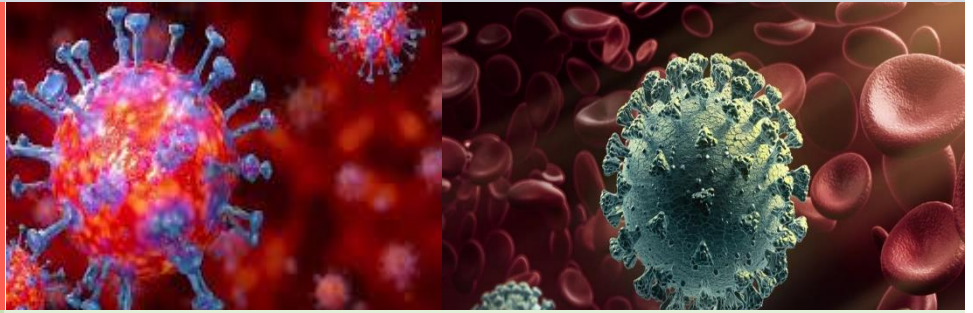


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 56



Issue: 10 - 12 July, 2021

.....About Newsletter

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

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

Newspapers Covered:

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

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Coronavirus: a fourth wave

Source: [Dr Rana Jawad Asghar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

When the Covid-19 pandemic started, many newly discovered epidemiologists and mathematical modelers predicted that once a Covid case enters a country, it will infect the population exponentially, killing millions, until the population reaches herd immunity. These prophets of fear were loved by the media, and it was challenging to see the otherwise professionals of repute in other disciplines makin.....[more >>](#)

Reinventing the Wheel: Importance of Teleschool initiative in Pakistan

Source: [Shahzeb Naeem](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

Ever since the pandemic struck, I've been assisting kids of my helping staff on how to operate a mobile tablet that my staff was able to procure in order to take online classes. This made me think regarding the issue of education access particularly during the pandemic and what has been our state's response towards it. The carnage and destruction wrought by the pandemic resulted i.....[more >>](#)

The Delta concern

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

THE spread of the highly transmissible Delta variant in the country has sparked fears of a looming disaster. NCOC chair Asad Umar this weekwarnedthat artificial intelligence models indicate "clear signs" that Pakistan is experiencing its fourth wave. The positivity ratio in Islamabad this weekjumped to 7pc. The national positivity ratio was under 4pc as of yesterday, but given the rat.....[more >>](#)

Excellence in times of a pandemic

Source: [Talib S Karim](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

The pandemic brought to the fore several challenges for educational institutes. One such looming challenge was to conduct regular classes on campus. With the government's standard operating procedures (SOPs) and social distancing measures in effect, educational institutes had to resort to online education. The situation presented several limitations. First, schools and colleges, especially f.....[more >>](#)

Dangerous Rise

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

This has become a pattern. The government of Pakistan imposes strict restrictions to prevent the spread of coronavirus and for a period we see a dramatic drop. But then the rules are relaxed by only a slight degree, and we see an exponential rise in cases. On Friday, the positivity rate for Islamabad alone was over seven percent. The average positivity rate across Pakistan stood at almost four per.....[more >>](#)

Future of the Covid-19 pandemic

Source: [Dr Muhammad Nauman Zahid](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

"When will this pandemic end?" We have been asking this question since the last few months but still, there is no answer. Although there are chances that Covid-19 will become a mild infection, we may not see a future free of the coronavirus according to the scientists of infectious diseases of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. There are very few examples in history when an.....[more >>](#)

National News

AJK

PRCS, AJK govt launch 'Corona Free Kashmir Initiative'

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-07-10

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society in collaboration with Health Department of Azad Jammu & Kashmir has launched "Corona Free Kashmir" Initiative under which public will be vaccinated through mobile vaccination units in different districts of the AJK. An inaugural ceremony of the initiative was held at Kashmir House here on Friday. The ceremony was attended by President AJK Sardar M.....[more >>](#)

Balochistan

Fourth wave of Covid to be 'devastating'

Source: [Mohammad Zafar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

QUETTA: A Balochistan government spokesperson on Sunday said the fourth wave of Covid-19 would be more devastating than the previous ones as the coronavirus rate was recorded 9.43 per cent in the province a day earlier. He noted the authorities would enforce newly announced restrictions strictly. "The business centres will be closed by 10 pm, while markets selling non-essential items will b.....[more >>](#)

Smart lockdown enforced in Balochistan

Source: [PPI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

QUETTA: Liaquat Shahwani, Spokesperson for provincial government has said that smart lockdown in the Balochistan had been enforced to contain the spread of novel corona virus. Addressing a press conference at officers club here on Sunday, Shahwani said that cases of novel coronavirus had increased in the neighbouring countries which might affect the people, hence, preventive and precautionary.....[more >>](#)

Islamabad

PM lauds NCOC, Ehsaas team, SBP for effective response to Covid

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan has congratulated the National Command and Operation Centre, Ehsaas Team and State Bank of Pakistan for effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In a tweet on Wednesday, he also thanked God Almighty for His mercy during difficult times. The Prime Minister also shared Economist Magazine's normalcy index which declares Pakistan amongst the best per.....[more >>](#)

Air travel ban for unvaccinated people introduced

Source: [Faiza Ilyas | Aamir Yasin | Imran Ayub](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

- Job interviews, elective surgeries linked to inoculation certificates in Sindh
- Minister says fourth wave has started
- Sindh PMA opposes restrictions
- NCOC reports 25 deaths, over 1,737 cases

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) and Sindh government on Friday imposed further curbs on unvaccinated people to prevent the spread of Co.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 positivity jumps to 7.1pc in Islamabad

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

ISLAMABAD: The capital saw an increase in the Covid-19 positivity ratio as it jumped to 7.1pc on Friday whereas the Delta variant has also been detected in patients who were diagnosed with the disease. Additional Deputy Commissioner (East) Babar Sahib Din when contacted, confirmed that the Delta variant was traced among positive cases, however, the total number of people who contracted this varia.....[more >>](#)

NCOC recommends banning air travel for unvaccinated

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar Friday said there are clear early signs of the fourth Covid-19 wave starting in Pakistan, due to poor compliance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and the spread of 'delta' variant. Umar, who is also federal minister for planning and development took to Twitter and said he already had warned two we.....

[more >>](#)

Asad confirms 'clear signs' of 4th virus wave in Pakistan

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

Federal Minister warns of shutting down indoor dining if owners do not ensure SOPs compliance | Unvaccinated people will not be allowed to travel by air from August 1 | 'Extremely dangerous' Delta variant reaches Pakistan: NCOC ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister Asad Umar who also leads the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) said Friday that there were clear signs of a f.....

[more >>](#)

Health authorities confirm detection of delta variant in capital

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

ISLAMABAD - The health authorities have confirmed the presence of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) delta variant in the capital, The Nation learnt on Friday. Meanwhile, scientists said that in the current situation when the virus sequencing is changing rapidly, the available vaccines' efficacy duration will likely remain effective for over two months only. As the virus positivity ratio in t.....

[more >>](#)

Threefold rise in cases as people throw caution to wind

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

ISLAMABAD: With a threefold increase in number of people being tested positive for the deadly coronavirus disease everyday in less than three weeks, health experts believe the reopening of businesses and tourism sector is responsible for the resurge in cases and urge the government to announce a lockdown so that Eidul Azha is celebrated with the observance of strict health-rela.....

[more >>](#)

Over 20% people aged 50 and above administered at least one vaccine dose: Asad Umar

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

Planning Minister Asad Umar on Sunday said 20.6pc of people above the age of 50 inPakistanhave been administered at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose. The head of theNational Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) – never centre of the country's pandemic response – elaborated that there are 20.7 million people in the country who are 50 years of age or older, and out of those, 5.6 milli.....

[more >>](#)

NIH says Pakistan earned \$10m from CanSino phase 3 trials

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

Major General Aamer Ikram revealed that Pakistan earned a whopping \$10mn from conducting phase 3 trials of the Chinese vaccine CanSino. The head of the National Institute of Health (NIH) was speaking at a function in the city where he disclosed that many countries wanted to hold their phase 3 trials in Pakistan. "These experiments can bring millions of dollars into Paistan," he said.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan reports over 1,700 Covid cases for third straight day

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Saturday recorded 1,828 new Covid-19 cases — the highest since June 4, when the number stood at 1,923. It also marked the third consecutive day when the country reported more than 1,700 cases in a single day. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 48,134 tests were conducted during the last 24-hour period out of which 1828 returned positiv.....

[more >>](#)

Over 40pc COVID-19 beds at PIMS filled

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

ISLAMABAD -Over 40 per cent beds allocated for novel coronavirus (COVID-19) patients at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) have been filled with the infected patients, The Nation learnt on Saturday. According to the COVID-19 registration data available with The Nation, 43 COVID-19 positive patients were admitted in different COVID-19 wards at PIMS till July 09, 2021. The hospital

[more >>](#)

Delta variant sets alarm bells ringing in Pakistan

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-07-11

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said Friday that there are clear early signs of fourth wave of coronavirus pandemic in Pakistan, which the artificial intelligence models had suggested earlier. In a tweet, the federal minister said that two weeks back he had tweeted that country's artificial intelligence models were showing possible emergence of f.....

[more >>](#)

Tally of covid-19 infected health workers climbs to 16,660

Source: [inp](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-07-10

As many as 16,660 healthcare workers have got infected while battling the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan. According to sources at the Ministry of National Health, so far 9,960 doctors, 2,374 nurses and 4,326 other staff of hospitals have contracted the coronavirus. While battling the deadly outbreak of COVID-19 in the country 164 healthcare workers have lost their lives, the sources said. Over.....

[more >>](#)

IMC Vaccinates Workforce Against Covid-19

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-07-10

Indus Motor Company (IMC) in collaboration with the Government has initiated the Covid-19 Vaccination Drive for its workforce of 4,000 regular and contract employees. The vaccination process was completed over a period of four days. The Company's Chief Executive, Ali Jamali shared that: "The Corona virus pandemic has completely changed the country's social fabric, bringing with i.....

[more >>](#)

11 more healthcare workers infected with covid-19

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-07-11

At least 11 more healthcare workers were infected in the last 24 hours while battling the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan, soaring the total of infected health professionals to 16,671. In 24 hours six more doctors and five other hospital staff were infected with coronavirus, sources said. So far 9,966 doctors, 2,374 nurses and 4,331 other staff of hospitals have contracted coronavirus. 306 infecte.....

[more >>](#)

Covid positivity rate nearing 4% in Pakistan; 35 more lives lost

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-07-11

Pakistan's daily coronavirus case load stayed over 1,500 for the fourth consecutive day after the country reported 1,828 new cases on Saturday. Another 35 people died of coronavirus in the country on Saturday, pushing the national death tally since the pandemic started to 22,555. Latest data issued by the National Command and Operation Centre Saturday showed that after 48,134 tests were con.....

[more >>](#)

SOPs tightened for tourists amid virus surge

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD: While the highest number of new Covid-19 cases since June 2 has been reported and situation may worsen by Eidul Azha, head of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Asad Umar has said that in Pakistan 27 million people, over the age of 50, are the most vulnerable to serious effects of the infection but only 20 per cent of them have received at least one shot of vaccine. The N.....

[more >>](#)

Smart lockdowns to be enforced as Islamabad sees uptick in Covid-19 positivity rate

Source: [Ikram Junaidi | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD: As the Covid-19 positivity rate in the federal capital surpassed 8pc, the district administration on Sunday decided to impose smart lockdowns in high-risk areas. Besides, it also sealed a number of businesses and two educational institutions. "We have sealed an academy and a school as there were more than three cases in each of them. Now we are going to impose a smart lockdown i.....

[more >>](#)

National Covid positivity ratio crosses 4%

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD: The national Covid positivity ratio on Sunday rose to 4.09 per cent with the federal government announcing strict measures against violators of standard operating procedures (SOPs) in the wake of the Delta variant fuelling the fourth wave of the virus across the country. Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar urged the citizens aged 50 years and above to

[more >>](#)

AJK, Northern Areas; Vaccination certificate a must for hotel bookings

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday has initiated special measures to strictly implement SOPs in all high risk sectors and made vaccination certificate mandatory for tourists' hotel bookings in AJK and Northern Areas. The NCOC taking serious note of deadly Covid-19 virus strains prevailing in the country, also violations of standard operating procedures.....

[more >>](#)

Citizens asked to strictly observe Covid-19 SOPs

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination on Sunday asked the citizens to strictly follow Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in offices and markets to prevent the disease in the wake of an increase in the number of infections in the country. According to an official of the ministry, people were flouting Covid-19 standard operating procedures.....

[more >>](#)

60 years, above urged to get vaccinated

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative, Asad Umar urged 60 years and above to get vaccinated as corona cases resurged, fearing further wave of corona virus. The Minister, who is also heading National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) tweeted that "Pakistan has 2 crore 72 lakh people who are 50 years or older. This age group is most vulnerable to serious h.....

[more >>](#)

Only 20pc of above 50 years receive vaccine: Umar

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Sunday urged the citizens aged 50 years or above to get vaccinated to make themselves safe from the Covid-19 pandemic. In his tweet, the minister said Pakistan had 27.2 million people who were 50 years or older. "This age group is the most vulnerable to serious health effect of Covid," he added.

[more >>](#)

Better safe than sorry

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

It turns out, just as feared, that decision-makers at the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) were a little too hasty in lifting most Covid-19 restrictions because people rushed to restaurants, shrines, weddings, etc., like bees to honey and the positivity ratio shot right past a thousand cases a day once again in just a few days. Now they are threatening to re-impose lockdowns if the nu.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccination certificate declared mandatory for travelers

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

Centre directs provinces to ensure strict implementation of SOPs | Over 20pc people aged 50 and above administered at least one vaccine dose: Asad ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre said Sunday that special measures were initiated to strictly implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in all high risk sectors to prevent spread of COVID-19. The NCOC has taken seri.....

[more >>](#)

Unrest in Afghanistan, virus surge threaten Pakistan's economy: President Alvi

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi said Sunday that unrest in Afghanistan and possibility of rising Covid cases threatens Pakistan's emerging economy. In a tweet, he said that Pakistan hopes that Taliban and their countrymen find peace and healing. The President urged the nation to be careful during Eid and adhere to the SOPs, including wearing of masks, maintaining distance and washing h.....

[more >>](#)

2 educational institutions sealed to prevent community spread of Covid-19 in capital

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD - The Islamabad district administration has sealed the premises of two educational institutions in the capital so as to prevent community spread of the Covid-19 virus. The sealed institutions include Islamabad Model School for Boys (IMCB) F-8/3 and KIPS Academy PWD, Islamabad. Two separate notifications were issued by District Magistrate Islamabad to this effect on Sunday. The Distr.....

[more >>](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Detection of new Covid variants worries KP health department

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

PESHAWAR: Health department detected five cases of Covid-19 variants of United Kingdom, South Africa and India origins as two more persons passed away due to coronavirus and 153 new cases were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday. The health department will also start immunisation of the Pakistanis, who remained stranded in Afghanistan, on Friday (today). "We have detected three case.....

[more >>](#)

Masks mandatory for travelling in BRT

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

PESHAWAR - The management of the Trans Peshawar has decided to make wearing of masks as mandatory in travelling BRT for the safety of the citizens, Spokesman Trans Peshawar told APP here on Friday. He said, for ensuring safety to the citizens, the decision was taken to make wearing of masks mandatory in travelling BRT on different routes. He urged the citizens to wear masks taking care of the.....

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Only vaccinated people allowed to attend wedding functions

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

ESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Friday decided to allow only vaccinated people to attend wedding functions and indoor dining. The decision was taken in a meeting of officials of the provincial home and tribal affairs department and representatives of restaurants and wedding halls association, which discussed the implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to contain Covid.....

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Traders assure help to make vaccination drive a success

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

LAKKI MARWAT - All shopkeepers and transporters unions in Lakki Marwat have joined hands with the district administration to raise awareness about vaccination against COVID-19 and pursue people to get vaccine jabs. Deputy Commissioner Iqbal Husain has directed the administration officials to seek support from business and transport communities to make vaccination drive a success. In this con.....

[more >>](#)

KP health dept scaling up contact tracing of Covid patients

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

PESHAWAR: The health department is scaling up contact tracing of Covid-19 patients after rise in the number of cases in other provinces as three more died of the pandemic and 150 fresh patients were diagnosed with the virus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday. "National Command and Operation Centre has asked the provinces including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to enhance testing of suspected people, espe.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab

'Fourth wave' of Covid-19: Slow vaccination, flawed screening at airports expose Punjab to new dangers

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

LAHORE: The Punjab government is facing multiple issues like a slow pace of vaccination and lack of proper screening of passengers at the airports in the wake of looming threats of the fourth wave of the Covid-19. Punjab Health Services Director General Haroon Jahangir directed the district health authorities to focus on the business sector to ward off the fourth wave of the coronavirus. Saying[more >>](#)

Covid-19 pandemic; COAS thanks Chinese envoy for 'unwavering' support

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa Friday thanked the Chinese ambassador Nong Rong for unwavering support, extended to Pakistan during the testing times of pandemic. The Chinese ambassador called on the COAS here at GHQ, said an Inter Services Public Relations news release. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation, bilatera.....[more >>](#)

Commissioner for strict implementation of SOPs to avoid 4th wave of Covid-19

Source: [Ch Ashraf](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

BAHAWALPUR - Bahawalpur Commissioner Capt (Retd) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal has said that the strict implementation of Coronavirus SOPs was absolutely essential for preventing the fourth wave of coronavirus. He said, positive cases would be increased if we wouldn't follow SOPs. In a message, he said, if the rate of positive cases increases then smart lockdown would be imposed again. He requested t.....[more >>](#)

Usman Buzdar for SOPs implementation in letter and spirit

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that strict implementation of the Covid-19 SOPs was necessary to avert expected fourth wave of the pandemic. In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that the ratio of Covid-19 positive cases could increase due to carelessness and non-implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs). "If the coronavirus positivity[more >>](#)

Surge in Delta variant cases put authorities on high alert

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

LAHORE: Delta variant cases in Rawalpindi and Lahore has spread alarm among the health authorities, which has called for strict implementation of Corona SOPs at markets, parks, restaurants, wedding halls and other public places besides speeding up corona virus vaccination drive. Out of total 240 fresh virus cases reported across Punjab during the last 24 hours, 120 cases and three fatalities[more >>](#)

Punjab govt to observe week of implementation of SOPs till 18th

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

LAHORE: Following the directions of the National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) to contain the spread of corona virus on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, the Punjab government has decided to observe a week of implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and vaccination till July 18. The home department has set up a provincial control room for monitoring and directions have bee.....[more >>](#)

Coronavirus SOPs violators to be sent behind bars

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

FAISALABAD - Deputy Commissioner (DC) Muhammad Ali has issued directions for strict implementation of coronavirus SOPs and said that violators should be put behind bars for 24 hours. A spokesman of local administration said on Saturday that the DC had also directed the subordinate officers as well as Assistant Commissioners (ACs) to ensure strict implementation of coronavirus SOPs in their respect.....

[more >>](#)

Govt to observe SOPs implementation week ahead of Eid

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

LAHORE - Following the guidelines of National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) to contain spread of coronavirus, the Punjab government will observe a week for the implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and Covid-19 vaccination till July 18 in wake of Eidul Azha. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Provincial Health Minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid and the Punjab chief.....

[more >>](#)

67 COVID-19 patients reported in Pindi including 5 infected with delta variant

Source: [Israr Ahmad](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

rawalpindi-As many as 67 Covid-19 positive patients including five persons infected with delta variant landed in the hospitals on Saturday while a person died and 18 patients got discharged from the hospital after recovery during last 24 hours. As more delta variant patients were detected in Rawalpindi, District Administration launched safety measures to avoid further spread of the disease a.....

[more >>](#)

FINCA Microfinance Bank launches free vaccination drive for employees

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

LAHORE PR - FINCA Microfinance Bank Ltd launched a free vaccination drive for its employees at its Lahore head office, in collaboration with Health Department, Govt of Punjab. The one-day vaccination drive took place on 8th July 2021 under the leadership of the bank's CEO, Jahanzeb Khan along with rest of the management team. FINCA is taking various steps to make vaccine more accessible to i.....

[more >>](#)

Citizens asked to follow SOPs while visiting cattle markets

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

RAWALPINDI: The Livestock Department Rawalpindi has issued a Covid-19 advisory for citizens visiting cattle markets to purchase sacrificial animals ahead of Eidul Azha. The advisory has urged people to maintain a distance of at least six feet in cattle markets, adding, masks and gloves must be worn and no more than two members of a family should visit the market. Hands must be cleaned frequently.....

[more >>](#)

292 new cases, four more Covid deaths in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

LAHORE: Punjab has recorded 292 Covid-19 cases and four related deaths during the last 24 hours. As per the data released by the health authorities on Sunday, the province's infection tally now stands at 348,085, and the death toll climbed to 10,819. Meanwhile, 17,062 Covid tests were conducted in different cities of the province during the last 24 hours. During the same period, three peo.....

[more >>](#)

Corona vaccination camp set up at city bus terminal

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

FAISALABAD - Deputy Commissioner (DC) Muhammad Ali has established a corona vaccination camp at city bus terminal to facilitate travelers and commuters. He directed the In-charge City Terminal Asim Elyas to monitor the vaccination process at the camp and ensure provision of necessary facilities there. He also asked the transporters and travelers to benefit from the vaccination camp. Meanwhile.....

[more >>](#)

Corona claims four more lives; 292 new cases reported in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

LAHORE - Coronavirus claimed four more lives while 292 new cases were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) here on Sunday, death toll reached 10,819 while total cases 348,085 and recoveries 328,767 in the province. As per the data provided by the P&SHD, currently 8,49.....

[more >>](#)

20 more Delta variant cases reported in Rawalpindi

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

Rawalpindi - In an alarming development, around 20 cases of Delta variant were reported during the last 24 hours in the district, said a hand-out issued here Sunday. The district administration warned the residents that the 4th wave of COVID-19 spread was more dangerous as compared to the previous ones and people were advised to get themselves vaccinated at the earliest to avoid further spread.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh

Fourth Covid wave;Sindh makes vaccine certificate mandatory for public spaces, OPDs

Source: [NNI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

KARACHI: Ahead of the potential fourth Covid wave that is feared to rage across the province, the Sindh Health ministry has on Friday made it mandatory to furnish vaccine certificates for every individual in order to attend any public space including going for OPDs and operations. The Sindh health director said people with no vaccine certificates will not be allowed OPD service or medical pro.....

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Sindh makes vaccine certificate mandatory to enter public spaces, OPDs

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

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COVID claims 17 more lives

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-10

KARACHI - As many as 17 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,583 and 1,046 new cases emerged when 15,391 tests were conducted. This he stated Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Friday. He added that 17 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,583 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Murad.....

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Fear of fourth Covid wave rattles market

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-07-11

KARACHI: A turbulent week at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) finally came to an end as lack of triggers and limited investor interest took toll on the benchmark KSE-100 index, which fell 123 points or 0.3% to close the week at 47,563.45 during the week ended July 9, 2021. Trading kicked off Monday on a bearish note. Political tensions following a rally of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM).....

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Covid-19 claims 16 more lives, infects 1,091 others

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-07-11

KARACHI: As many as 16 more patients of Corona virus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,599 and 1,091 new cases emerged when 16,929 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Saturday. He added that 16 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,599 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.

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IMC vaccinates workforce against Covid-19

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-07-11

KARACHI PR - Indus Motor Company (IMC), in collaboration with the government, has initiated the COVID-19 vaccination drive for its workforce of 4,000 regular and contract employees. The vaccination process was completed over a period of four days. The company's Chief Executive, Ali Jamali shared that: "The coronavirus pandemic has completely changed the country's social fabr.....

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COVID claims 16 more lives

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-07-11

KARACHI - As many as 16 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,599 and 1,091 new cases emerged when 16,929 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Saturday. He added that 16 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,599 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.

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Commissioner urges people to continue wearing facemasks

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-07-11

SUKKUR - Commissioner Sukkur Shafique Mahesar on Saturday said that strict implementation of the COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) was necessary to avert expected fourth wave of the pandemic. Talking to a delegation, he said the ratio of COVID-19 positive cases could increase due to carelessness and non-implementation of the SOPs. He urged people to continue wearing facemasks and obser.....

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Sindh reports 1,118 new Covid-19 cases

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-07-12

KARACHI: At least eight more patients of Covid-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 5,607 and 1,118 new cases emerged when 15,998 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He added that 8 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 5,607 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.

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DG Health contradicts reports about not providing treatment to non-vaccinated people

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

HYDERABAD - The Director General (DG) Health, Dr Irshad Memon on Sunday said the Health Department Sindh was putting all resources in to provide immunological cover to every individual living in the province from COVID-19 pandemic. While clarifying the media reports appeared in a section of media regarding provision of OPD services and elective surgeries to COVID vaccinated people, the DG Health s.....

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Police ask public transporters to stop providing facilities to unvaccinated people

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-12

HYDERABAD - The police on Sunday asked the public transport owners to stop providing the facilities to the people who had not been vaccinated against the coronavirus. At a meeting, the secretary regional transport authority Waheed Pahnwar, SP Traffic Alhaaj Mukhtiar Solangi gave 15 days to the transporters for implementation of the directives, the police spokesperson informed. He said the SSP Hyd.....

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International News

Countries News

Post-Covid; Delta puts brakes on return to normality

Source: [AFP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-07-11

PARIS: Nations across the globe hit new pandemic highs and reimposed Covid-19 restrictions on Saturday as the highly contagious Delta variant forced governments to put the brakes on plans to return to normality. The highly transmissible Delta variant, first detected in India, is sweeping the globe as countries race to inoculate their populations to ward off fresh outbreaks and allow for econo.....

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SDPI Engagements

A Report launch

Current revenue footing bill of rising pensions to be unsustainable

Source: [Mehtab Haider](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-07-10

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's pension bill has gone up by 92 percent at the federal level while it ballooned in the range of 78 to 113 percent among the four provinces during the last five years, indicating that this monster was increasing at a supersonic speed, making it unsustainable. "Both nominal and real pension burdens have seen an increasing trend. The amount of federal pension has i.....

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Consultation Gathering

Parliamentarians agree on climate actions to counter challenges

Source: [Shahzad Paracha](#), [Pakistan Today](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD: The parliamentarians of Pakistan hailing from all leading political parties have agreed on undertaking climate actions based on long-term sustainable approach to counter emerging challenges and threats from climate change including in the areas of food, water and energy security. Speaking at a consultation gathering on 'Impacts of Climate change across different sector of Pakista.....

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Parliamentarians For Undertaking Climate Actions To Counter Emerging Challenges

Source: [APP](#), [UrduPoint](#), 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 12th Jul, 2021) : The parliamentarians hailing from all leading political parties have agreed for undertaking climate actions based on long-term sustainable approach to counter emerging challenges of climate change including in the areas of food, water and energy security. Speaking at a consultation gathering on 'Impacts of Climate change across

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Researchers Articles

Not a formula budget

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-07-11

Looking at the ruckus in the National Assembly at the start of the budget session, many had thought that the government would find it extremely difficult to get the Finance Bill 2021-22 passed. However, the finance minister addressed the opposition's concerns by withdrawing almost all the controversial budget proposals: powers of the FBR to arrest tax evaders, tax on medical bills reimbursement.....

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Time to rethink economic governance

Source: [Dr Sajid Amin Javed](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-07-11

Broadly speaking, economic governance is a process of decision making that affects economic activities. In many studies it refers to capability in government to achieve stable economic conditions. Evidence, in general, suggests that economic governance has a positive impact on economic performance and development through improved economic efficiency and macroeconomic stabilisation. Poor economic g.....[more >>](#)

Quitting tobacco through therapy

Source: [Syed Ali Wasif Naqvi And Syeda Aneeqa Hassan, The News, International](#) , 2021-07-11

Tobacco took the world by storm for almost 100 years. Multi-national tobacco industries have grown into powerful giants capable of dictating policies to the governments, especially in the low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs). Pakistan has been a signatory to the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) since 2005. The treaty calls for policies that c.....

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Gwadar gateway of rapid growth

Source: [Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-07-12

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar, once a backward and destitute area, is emerging as a hub of connectivity and development. Multiple studies have established that after the completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route, Gwadar will be one of the most competitive connectivity hubs in the region and beyond. China, the Middle East, North Africa and many Western countries will be the major beneficia.....

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SDPI's Related News

Current revenue footing bill of rising pensions to be unsustainable

Source: [Mehtab Haider, The News, International](#) , 2021-07-10

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's pension bill has gone up by 92 percent at the federal level while it ballooned in the range of 78 to 113 percent among the four provinces during the last five years, indicating that this monster was increasing at a supersonic speed, making it unsustainable. "Both nominal and real pension burdens have seen an increasing trend. The amount of federal pension has i.....

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