E-Newsletter on COVID-19

Vol. 02, No, 64-67

Issue: 7-20 August, 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

Covid travel notes
Source: Abbas Nasir, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
AS Covid-19 mass vaccination hovers around the 60 per cent mark of the fully vaccinated population in most of Europe, its impact on serious illness, hospitalisation, mortality and public confidence is visible compared to the summer of 2020. Last summer, resort towns and beaches were more or less deserted with regional lockdowns being enforced in many countries and neither EU nationals nor their o.....more >>

Pandemic diplomacy
Source: Huma Yusuf, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
THERE is dismay that Pakistan has not been removed from the UK’s travel ‘red list’, even though India has. Some say it’s the science: Pakistan’s Covid-19 infection rates are increasing, and its vaccination rates are lower than its neighbour’s. Many believe it’s the politics: India offers more inducements to a post-Brexit UK. Either way, the example highlig.....more >>

Discrimination at its worst
Source: Kamal Siddiqi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
Britons of Pakistani origin as well as Pakistanis with links to the UK are sorely disappointed by the UK government’s decision to keep Pakistan on the Red list for Covid travel restrictions while moving India from Red to Amber. Many say that the removal of India from the Red list, alongside no change in status for countries like Turkey and Pakistan, reeks of bad faith and discrimination. Pak.....more >>

Economic lessons taught by Covid-19 pandemic
Source: Syed Haris Ahmed, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
KARACHI: The post-pandemic world is filled with uncertainties. Who knows when a new variant of the novel coronavirus would hit and where? And who can predict precisely how a new wave of Covid-19 would affect national, regional and international economies? It seems a new world is emerging. Economic development patterns are changing. Economic growth models are changing. And, consequently economic .....more >>

Umrah pilgrimage
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
Saudi Arabia’s announcement to re-open the Holy Sites for pilgrimage is a blessing. The pestering pandemic had barred worshipers from travelling for Umrah, as only a bare-minimum of locals were allowed the pilgrimage. Now all those in possession of authorised Covid-19 vaccination certificates can apply for pilgrimage. Sinopharm or Sinovac vaccines have been named formally, and the pilgrims a.....more >>

Togetherness
Source: Dr Khaqan Hassan Najeeb, The News, International, 2021-08-10
As Pakistanis, our fates are bound together. Those of us who aspire to drive public policy have a shared responsibility to carry everyone along. Pakistan’s 74th independence anniversary is an opportune time to reiterate the thought of togetherness as a core value for moving forward. However, just defining good values is never enough; the nation must define operationally viable opportunities.....more >>
500 days of NCOC
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2021-08-10
The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) thoroughly deserved the rich tributes showered upon it by the prime minister, president and the army chief for having completed 500 days of work on August 8. Prime Minister Imran Khan very rightly called it the “linchpin” of Pakistan’s coronavirus response strategy because without its meticulous data collection and attention to de.....
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Red list
As sports should have nothing to do with politics, the same applies to decisions based on science. The Covid-19 pandemic is a global issue, and all countries are trying to manage this challenge not in view of political considerations but purely with the help of medical and scientific data. The UK appears to have developed a certain political preference while deciding about its red list that bars t.....
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200 million and counting
Source: correspondent, Daily Times, 2021-08-08
With global coronavirus cases crossing the important 200 million barrier and the Delta variant “spreading at the speed of light”, as authorities in Australia described it when justifying their latest string of lockdowns, it is now clear that hopes of the international vaccination drive bringing the pandemic to an end by the end of the year were overblown. We are now in that part of thi.....
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House help as heroes of Covid vaccination drive
Source: Rafay Mahmood, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-11
Since the government decided to cancel sims and cut salaries there is a renewed interest in getting the jab that would have otherwise ‘killed you’ within two years. Karachi’s biggest vaccination facilities are now flooded with people, standing in queues for more than half a day to find immunity against the government’s bid to make communication and life impossible. A stroll.....
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Countering Refusals
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-11
In the midst of a terrifying fourth wave, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) issued directives that prevent unvaccinated people from travelling on trains starting October 1. Taking this step was inevitable considering the vaccine hesitancy that is prevalent in the country, along with a complete lack of adherence to social distancing measures. Our rush to revert back to normalcy may j.....
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Poor State of Education
Source: Sajad Jatoi, Daily Times, 2021-08-11
The Covid wave, among other things, has affected our education system badly, most of which already was in a state of shambles. Educational institutions have been shut down various times during Covid outbreak. Thus, it is imperative examine the sorry state of education in Pakistan. Despite the fact that education is indispensable for social development, increased awareness and robust economy, our .....
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Vaccinating trans-persons
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
Now people are getting themselves inoculated against Covid-19 in large numbers overcoming hesitancy about coronavirus vaccine, but doubts and fears still prevail among transgender people due to the surgical process they had to undergo for their condition, high prevalence of hepatitis C and other diseases that carry social stigma. They are avoiding going to vaccination centres for fear the vaccine.....
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A matter of trust
Around the world, we continue to hear stories of people who refuse to get themselves vaccinated against Covid-19, despite measures taken to demand certificates of vaccination in order to travel, in order to enter restaurants, or to carry out other activities, which we once considered normal. The problem also continues in Pakistan, which has so far been able to vaccinate barely two percent of its.....
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Tunisia’s crisis
In Tunisia, decades of poor governance and lack of investment in the healthcare system have led to the terrible reality where any health emergency can quickly turn into an unmanageable situation. The persistent political instability in the country – which had three presidents and eight prime ministers since the 2011 revolution – has made it difficult to implement long term, sustainable.....
more >>

‘Red list’ discrepancies
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-13
Pakistan’s rejoinder to the UK on retaining it on the ‘Red List’ of travel advisory is worth studying. Despite Pakistan’s better pandemic dealing and a dipping infection graph, as compared to other countries in the region, the UK believes that travellers from Pakistan should be quarantined and placed in higher alert category. Dr Faisal Sultan, the PM’s special assista.....
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Super spreader events
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2021-08-13
Planning minister and head of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) Asad Umar has revealed the bad news that the AJK election acted as a super spreader event and that the positivity ratio in the area since then has hovered around the 25-30 percent mark. He’s also said that he warned about this before, and asked for a postponement for at least a couple of months. But that advice w.....
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Pfizer, Moderna seen reaping billions from Covid-19 vaccine booster
Source: Michael Erman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-14
Drugmakers Pfizer Inc, BioNTech and Moderna Inc are expected to reap billions of dollars from Covid-19 booster shots in a market that could rival the $6 billion in annual sales for flu vaccines for years to come, analysts and healthcare investors say. For several months, the companies have said they expect that fully inoculated people will need an extra dose of their vaccines to maintain prot.....
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Geo-economics and national prosperity: The way forward is challenging yet achievable
Source: Dr Sadia Khanum, The News, International, 2021-08-14
The world has gone through a series of watershed moments in the last few years, clearly reshaping contemporary politics among nations. The new war theatre between states is the global financial markets and unlike traditional warfare tactics and strategies, nations applying the proxies of commercial contracts to create their monopoly over other competitors. The global pandemic has compelled the sta.....
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Global issues: Challenges and opportunities for Pakistan
As Independence Day is approaching once again it is time to reminisce on the struggles that led to the birth of our motherland. Pakistan has always been a victim of peaks and valleys with experiencing coup d’Ztat four times without any bloodshed. The country did not have a stable constitution for twenty-six years since its inception. Not to forget the number of times the head of state has m.....
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Humanity havoc
Source: Durr-E-Shahwar Siddiqui, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-16
This year till date, various concerns regarding availability, affordability, quality and prescribing of medicines aroused one after the other which only added fears in the minds of people. It is time to prioritise humanity putting aside all the conflicts, demands and rigidity in the Covid-19 pandemic scenario when aids are provided in the form of vaccines from country to country irrespective of r.....
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Covid resurge and Punjab
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-16
The Punjab government seems prepared to deal with the situation arising from the increasing cases of coronavirus in the province. Now the positivity ratio of Covid-19 in the province is 6.1% while it stands at 8.2% in the provincial capital. The health department maintains that they are making all efforts to contain the spread of the contagion. It is focused on ensuring the availability of beds in.....
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Corrective Actions
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-16
The fact that 41.4 million people in Pakistan have successfully gotten themselves vaccinated is the only source of comfort in the face of a raging fourth wave. However, there are still factions that dubiously eye the vaccine and have refrained from getting themselves vaccinated. For this, the government released its Pak Covid-19 Vaccination Pass app which will authenticate the vaccination status of.....
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The future is digital
The global pandemic outbreak, followed by restricted movement of people and goods, compelled companies to instantly delve into innovative digital solutions by adopting tech-driven business and social practices. As a result, the world after 2020 has become more digitally enabled. In a tele-everything world, people have shifted towards the digital more than ever, from e-commerce, to teleconferencing.....
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One year later
We hear a lot lately about the US billionaires increasing their wealth by more than $1 trillion over the past year, as Covid precipitated the most severe recession since the 1930s of the real economy over the past year—from the spring quarter of 2020 last year through the spring quarter 2021. Over the same period, however, US stock markets surged to record levels. This past week in early Au.....

more >>

Paras, the Rock!
Source: Huzaima Bukhari, Daily Times, 2021-08-14
You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you”? John Bunyan. Paras is an Indian mythological golden rock, which turns every metal into gold after coming in contact with it, but remains just a rock itself. Believing the veracity of this myth, many have wandered far and wide in its search, but all in vain, yet there seems no end in seeking something.....

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Chaos on the Roads
Source: Iftekhar Khan, Daily Times, 2021-08-14
If we count the number of deaths caused by Corona Virus since its outbreak, and the number of deaths by road accidents during the same period, the latter will surpass the former. The difference between the two calamities is that deaths by road accidents are treated as a routine matter, while deaths by the Virus seem alarming. In 2019, the reported deaths by road accidents throughout the country w.....

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Health experts ask citizens to strictly observe Covid SOPs
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-08-16
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 delta variant cases in the country. According to an official of the ministry, people were flouting Covid standard operating procedures that are.....

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Cuomo, Trump and Covid – Strange Links
Source: Harlan Ullman, Daily Times, 2021-08-17
Linking New York’s embattled and now former governor, Andrew Cuomo, Donald Trump, Covid and today’s American politics may sound a bridge too far. But there certainly is one. It is history. No matter how deplorable the governor’s conduct may have been in harassing some eleven women, it does not share the same history with the behavior of Donald Trump, comparing the misdemeanors w......

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Covid-19 tally of active cases crosses 88,000
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-08-17
The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 88,588 the highest during fourth wave of pandemic on Monday with 3,669 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,218 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Seventy-two corona patients died during past 24 hours, 62 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and nine of them perished in their respect.....

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Mounting Covid-19 cases
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-18
That Pakistan recorded more than 100 Covid-19-related deaths in a single day for the first time in three months goes to show that the fight against the pandemic isn't exactly going according to plan. Planning minister and head of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) Asad Umar lays the blame on the campaign for the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) election, which drew feverish crowds.....
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Technological adoption
Source: Muhammad Yasir, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-18
The vaccination drive against fighting Covid-19 is being administered in full swing across the country as the number of citizens having received doses surged over 1 million, increasing on a daily basis in Pakistan, which is a good sign for the future. Long queues are visible as a large number of citizens rush to various hospitals and vaccination centres amid fear of the deadly pandemic which .....
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Risk Allowance
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-18
The government is taking steps to ensure timely health-risk allowance to clinical and non-clinical employees of the health facilities by law. In a briefing of the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services (NHS), Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Monday assured a parliamentary committee that the health-risk allowance will be paid to 12,0.....
more >>

Fall of Kabul and Covid-19 pandemic
Source: Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
Just days back, US President Joe Biden was confident enough to say that Kabul will not fall after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. In a speech, he said that Afghanistan now has 300,000-strong army, far superiorly equipped than the 70,000 Taliban. A week back, Ashraf Ghani, the Afghan president now on the run, expressed the same confidence even when one after another provincial capitals were fal.....
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Freedom
Of the many ideas that loom large in the American psyche, the notion of freedom is close to the top. We hear too often utterances such as “we are a free country,” or “we are free to choose”. Not only do Americans believe they are a free country, but the implication is that others are not or at least not as free, liberal democracies of the world included. It is worth reflec.....
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Anti-vaxxers and Covid-19
You’d think that the whole world could unite against a deadly virus. Covid-19 has already sickened over 200 million people around the world and killed over 4 million. It has now mutated into more contagious forms that threaten to plunge the globe into another spin cycle of lockdown. Avoiding global catastrophe from the more infectious delta variant of Covid-19 doesn't require a huge c.....
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## National News

### Balochistan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Measures taken to stop virus spread at border crossings: PM’s aide</strong></td>
<td>Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-07</td>
<td>2021-08-07</td>
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<td>QUETTA - Prime Minister’s Advisor on Health Dr Faisal Sultan said Friday that the process of vaccination was in full swing as more than one million people were being vaccinated against COVID-19 every day. Talking to media persons here, he said it was a positive sign for controlling the virus in the country. Dr Faisal was accompanied by Balochistan Parliamentary Secretary for Health Dr R.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>Vaccination at Quetta hospital put off due to fake certificates</strong></td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-08</td>
<td>2021-08-08</td>
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<td>QUETTA: The Balochistan Health Department has stopped the vaccination of Covid-19 at the Civil Hospital Quetta after detecting irregularities in the registration process. The Balochistan Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department ordered the Civil Hospital Quetta medical superintendent to suspend the vaccination process immediately. Talking to The Express Tribune, a health department official said.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>54 more tests positive for corona in Balochistan</strong></td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-13</td>
<td>2021-08-13</td>
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<td>QUETTA - About 54 new coronavirus patients were tested positive while number of total confirmed patients surged to 30468 in Balochistan on Thursday. According to media coordinator provincial Health Directorate Cell Balochistan Dr Muhammad Wasim Baig, at least 979717 people were screened for the virus till August 12 out of which 54 more were reported positive. As many as 29409 affected patients hav.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>Balochistan reports 25 more COVID cases</strong></td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-16</td>
<td>2021-08-16</td>
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<td>QUETTA - About 25 new coronavirus patients were tested positive in Balochistan while number of total confirmed patients surged to 30,652 in the province on Sunday. According to media coordinator Provincial Health Directorate Cell Balochistan Dr Muhammad Wasim Baig, at least 989,124 people were screened for the virus till August 15 out of which 25 more were reported positive. As many as 29,600 affe.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>Balochistan reports 53 more COVID positive patients</strong></td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-18</td>
<td>2021-08-18</td>
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<td>QUETTA - About 53 new coronavirus patients were tested positive in Balochistan while number of total confirmed patients surged to 30,753 in the province on Tuesday. According to media coordinator Provincial Health Directorate Cell Balochistan Dr Muhammad Wasim Baig, at least 992,564 people were screened for the virus till August 17 out of which 53 more were reported positive. As many as 29,75.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Passengers barred from travelling to Dubai</td>
<td>Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-07</td>
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<td>RAWALPINDI: Due to revised Covid-19 guidelines issued by the United Arab Emirates, a significant number of passengers travelling from Pakistan to Dubai have been denied boarding from Pakistan for not having negative rapid PCR test conducted within four hours before departure of flights. The negative rapid PCR test conducted within four hours prior to departure of a flight for Dubai has been ..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Still on the red list</td>
<td>Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-07</td>
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<td>THE UK’s decision to keep Pakistan on its travel red list has come as a blow to citizens. Not only do many feel despondent about being unable to travel to and from the UK, there is also a growing sense that the decision to keep Pakistan on the red list while India moved to the amber list is rooted more in politics than in science. The announcement came as a shock to British Pakistanis, as th..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Four Covid-19 casualties in Islamabad, Pindi</td>
<td>Munawer Azeem</td>
<td>Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: As many as four people succumbed to Covid-19 in Islamabad and Rawalpindi district on Friday as 672 people tested positive in the region Positivity rate in the capital was recorded at 10.6pc, the capital administration officials said, adding that the deaths were reported in the age groups of 60-69 and 90 and above. Both were male patients, residents of Lohi Bher and Jhangi Syedan. There..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Students below 18 travelling abroad allowed Moderna vaccine</td>
<td>Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-07</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Students below the age of 18 who are intending to travel abroad have been allowed to get Moderna vaccine. On the other hand, former Senate chairman Mian Raza Rabbani condemned the United Kingdom’s decision to keep Pakistan on the Covid-19 red list and removing India and several other countries from it. In a tweet, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday said: &amp;..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Country fares well despite Covid hurdles</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-07</td>
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<td>LAHORE: Pakistan is on the path of economic recovery and it has managed to perform well despite the hurdles arising from the Covid-19 pandemic due to government’s prudent economic policies and the measures taken to enhance ease of doing business, said President Arif Alvi. Speaking to the business community and diplomats on Friday, he said that the government designed policies with the aim ..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>ADB approves $500m loan to buy vaccines</td>
<td>Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-07</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank on Friday approved a $500 million loan to procure coronavirus vaccines, as the government has finally decided to disclose the Chinese vaccine price to the international lenders to secure more loans. The Manila-based lender approved the loan to support Pakistan’s National Deployment and Vaccination Plan by purchasing and delivering an estimated 39.8 mil..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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PIA airlifts 2m Sinopharm doses from China
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
Three aircraft of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) airlifted a fresh batch of two million doses of Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine from Beijing, China to Pakistan, said the airline’s Country Manager for China Qadir Bux Sangi on Saturday. Bux added that another batch of 1.5 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, purchased by Pakistan from Chinese company CanSino, would be brought to the country.....

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4,745 new Covid-19 infections reported with 8.18pc positivity ratio
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Friday, reported 4,745 new Covid-19 infections after 57,981 coronavirus tests were conducted with a positivity ratio of 8.18 percent, taking the nationwide cases tally to 1,058,405 since the pandemic outbreak, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. According to the NCOC, during the past 24 hours, 67 coronavirus deaths were also reported in the country, tak.....

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Govt has not yet approved booster shot of Covid-19 vaccine
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan has not approved booster shot of Covid-19 vaccine as yet for the citizens as the country is battling the fourth wave of the coronavirus and has hardly managed to vaccinate about 15 percent of the population. According to government officials, health experts and pharma industry sources, had the government allowed private sector to import Covid-19 vaccine, ..... more >>

Country reports 67 new virus deaths in a day
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
ISLAMABAD - The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases on Friday was recorded 79,992, the highest during fourth wave of pandemic with 4,745 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,095 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Sixty-seven corona patients died during past 24 hours, 60 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and seven of them perishe.....

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Islamabad reports highest number of Covid-19 cases since April 28
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
ISLAMABAD - The capital on Friday morning reported 452 new Coronavirus cases — the highest number of cases since April 28 with 509 cases. The city also reported two Coronavirus-related deaths over the past 24 hours. The total number of infections in the city has now increased to 89,569 while the death toll from the disease now stands at 809. Meanwhile, Azad Jammu and Kashmir reported 308.....

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Airlines told to set up PCR testing counters
Source: Tahir Siddiqui | Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: As hundreds of passengers weredened boarding passes to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for failing to present rapid polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test results, the national health services ministry requested airlines to set up their testing counters at airports. Moreover, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been urged to take up the matter with the UAE government so ..... more >>
IHC suspends biometric attendance after staffers test Covid-19 positive
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has exempted its employees and litigants from marking their attendance through biometric system as about 50 IHC staffers have tested Covid-19 positive since Eidul Azha. The officials found infected belonged to various departments, with some posted to courtrooms where they interacted with the judges and public. After some staffers were found infected, the.... more >>

Medical Relief
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a $500 million loan for vaccine procurement, easing the financial pressure of the immunisation campaign on the government. If our goal is to vaccinate each member of the population, this will definitely bring us closer. It is this kind of monetary compensation that the government should seek for improving the conditions of hospitals as well. There is no de..... more >>

Centre reports 95 virus deaths, highest amid 4th wave
Source: Tahir Amin / Abdullah Zafar, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
Indian Delta variant of COVID19 is at peak in Karachi, NCOC told ISLAMABAD/KARACHI - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Saturday decided that the lockdown announced by the Sindh government would be lifted from tomorrow and stringent NPIs issued by the NCOC for 13 top cities with high disease prevalence including Karachi and Hyderabad will be enforced. A joint session of the N..... more >>

Nadra arranges vaccination certificates countrywide
Source: Imran Mukhtar, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
ISLAMABAD - The National Database and Registrations Authority (NADRA) has expanded its operations to issue Covid-19 vaccination certificates to the citizens across the country in a move to avoid rush at its centres in the wake of increasing positivity rate of the deadly virus in the country. A spokesperson of the authority said on Saturday that all NADRA e-Sahulat centres and mobile registration c..... more >>

Around 54pc of eligible population in Islamabad vaccinated
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
ISLAMABAD -Around 54% of the eligible population in the capital has been vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine leading to reducing the admission burden on hospitals, The Nation learnt on Saturday. A senior official of the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) informed The Nation that around 1.4 million persons in the capital are eligible for vaccination and nearly 790,000 have been fully ..... more >>

Weekly positivity ratio in Islamabad, Rawalpindi hits double figure
Source: Ikram Junaidi | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
ISLAMABAD: As many as 626 people got infected with Covid-19 in the capital and Rawalpindi on Sunday, with the weekly positivity rate in both districts reaching double figures. However, no casualty was reported. Islamabad saw 400 people getting infected in a single day while Rawalpindi district reported 226. According to the capital’s health department, 4,875 samples were collected on Satur..... more >>
Another 680,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine arrive
ISLAMABAD: Another consignment of vaccines has reached Pakistan from China as the country continues to battle the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases due to the fourth wave of the pandemic. According to health department sources, another consignment, containing 680,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine has arrived in the country today. A special Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane carrying 0.68 mi.....
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WB asks Pakistan to speed up power sector reforms
ISLAMABAD: The World Bank (WB) has asked Pakistan to accelerate the pace of power sector reforms in order to achieve a higher economic growth and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Bank Vice President for South Asia, Hartwig Schafer, concluded on Sunday a week-long visit to Pakistan to discuss the country’s development priorities and how the bank could continue to supp.....
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NCOC completes 500 days with fairly heartening results
LAHORE: Established on March 27, 2020 to fight coronavirus in Pakistan, or about a month after the first Covid-19 case was identified in Pakistan, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has now completed its 500 days in office with fairly heartening results coming forth under its supervision. The NCOC had become operational immediately at a time when there were 1,400 odd coronavirus case.....
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Another 680,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine arrive
ISLAMABAD: Another consignment of vaccines has reached Pakistan from China as the country continues to battle the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases due to the fourth wave of the pandemic. According to health department sources, another consignment, containing 680,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine has arrived in the country today. A special Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane carrying 0.68 mi.....
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Sindh govt lifts corona restrictions today
KARACHI: The Sindh Home Department, on the directives from government of Sindh, has lifted restrictions from different commodities and businesses by also extending timings of businesses till 8pm. While, the Sindh government has decided to keep shut the educational institutions in the province including government and privately run schools, colleges, and universities till August 19, 2021 in view o.....
more >>

Mazari censures UK govt for retaining Pakistan on red list
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2021-08-09
Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari on Monday criticised the British government for retaining Pakistan on its red list calling the measure ‘ridiculous’. The British government placed Pakistan and India on the red list on April 2 and 19, respectively. However, in an updated list, the government announced that India, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE would be moved to the amber list from August 8. A day.....
more >>
500 days of NCOC: President, PM, COAS, ministers praise NCOC’s work
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Arif Alvi, and Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, along with other federal ministers, have paid tribute to the National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) for its efforts against COVID-19. August 8 marks 500 days since the NCOC was formed to synergise and articulate a unified national effort against COVID-19, reported Geo News. Prime Minister Imr.....
more >>

Corona claims 3 more lives, 636 new cases reported in twin cities
Islamabad: In the last 24 hours, as many as three more patients suffering from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory died of the illness while the virus did not claim any life from Rawalpindi district however another 636 patients were reported from the twin cities and the positivity rate of COVID-19 remained much higher in the region. The average positivity rate of COVID.....
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Achievements against Covid made possible by efforts of NCOC: Fawad
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-08-09
Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Sunday said that achievements against coronavirus had been made possible due to the tireless efforts and interest of the National Command and Control Center (NCOC) for which its entire team deserved the credit. In a congratulatory statement on completion of 500 days of establishment of the NCOC, the Minister said that the.....
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Farrukh lauds NCOC’s ‘unified endeavour’ against Covid
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-08-09
Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib Sunday lauded the role of National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) for creating national unity that eventually lead country to fight against coronavirus pandemic with efficacy. In a tweet, he said on the completion of 500 days of NCOC a documentary portraying the ‘Unified Endeavor’ displayed by the nation against COV.....
more >>

500 days of NCOC: PM, president, COAS hail efforts against Covid-19
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-08-09
Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Arif Alvi, and Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, along with other federal ministers, have paid tribute to the National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) for its efforts against Covid-19. August 8 marks 500 days since the NCOC was formed to synergise and articulate a unified national effort against Covid-19. To celebrate the occasion, the Inter-Services Pub.....
more >>

National tally of Covid-19 cases crosses 82,070
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active Covid-19 cases was recorded 82,076, the highest during fourth wave of pandemic on Sunday with 4,455 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 2,148 people recovering from the disease during the last 24 hours. Sixty-eight corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 64 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and four of them pe.....
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**COAS says NCOC remains pivotal to Pakistan’s riposte against COVID-19**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-09

ISLAMABAD - Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Sunday lauded the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) for its efforts to contain the deadly contagion. He said that the NCOC has remained pivotal to the country’s response against Covid-19. “NCOC has remained pivotal to Pakistan’s riposte against COVID-19. It symbolises optimised national response in adver.....

**Country reports 4,455 new Covid-19 cases, 68 deaths**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-09

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Sunday morning reported a coronavirus positivity rate above 8 percent as Covid-19 cases continue to rise across the country. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said that 4,455 people tested positive for the virus on Saturday out of 55,002 who were tested for the infection. This brought the coronavirus positivity ratio to 8.09 percent. As per data from the.....

**Unvaccinated people face train travel ban from Oct 1**
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-10

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday decided to prohibit unvaccinated people from travelling on trains from Oct 1 and called on the provinces to ensure that standard operating procedures (SOPs) were followed during Muharram. On the other hand, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has announced that the people whose second dose .....

**Four patients die of Covid-19 in Pindi, Islamabad**
Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-10

ISLAMABAD: Four more people lost their lives to Covid-19 in the capital and Rawalpindi district on Monday. As many as 277 people were diagnosed with the disease in both districts whereas positivity rate in Islamabad was 5.08pc. Officials of the capital administration said the deceased were male and female patients in the 70-79 age bracket and resided in G-9 and G-7, respectively. During the last.....

**Covid-19 positive lawyer stirs panic in court**
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-10

ISLAMABAD: A Covid-19 positive lawyer’s appearance before Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) led to suspension of the court’s proceedings briefly. Advocate Zubair Jarral rose to the rostrum upon his turn and disclosed that he had tested positive for Covid-19. Expressing displeasure over his appearance in the court the judge asked him to stay at home un.....

**Teams to check vaccination proof in Punjab schools**
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-10

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Monday announced closing the schools that fail to present vaccination certificates of their teachers and other staff after Aug 22. The Punjab School Education Department has made coronavirus vaccination compulsory for the teachers, administration, and other staff members of all the public and private schools. The officials who do not get themselves vaccinated till.....
4,040 more test positive as corona cases surge; 53 patients die; most of deaths occur in Sindh, KP; national positivity ratio 7.54pc
ISLAMABAD: The national tally of active COVID-19 cases was Monday recorded 83,298, which was the highest during the fourth wave of pandemic. During the 24 hours, 4,040 more people tested positive and 2,765 recovered, reports APP. Fifty-three corona patients died during the 24 hours out of whom 50 were under treatment in hospitals and three in their respective quarantines or homes, according to th.....
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USAID provides one million rapid diagnostic test kits
Islamabad: The United States, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), mobilised an airlift of COVID-19 Antigen rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) that arrived in Pakistan to help efficient diagnosis of COVID-19, and enable the country to respond to urgent health needs. The donation was formally received by Special Assistant to Prime Minister, Dr. Faisal Sultan in a ceremony at Isla.....
more >>

Govt plans supply boost to tame commodity prices
Islamabad: State planners on Monday renewed their pledge to step up monitoring of commodity prices by cranking up supplies through vigorous import of many basic commodities. “The government will flood the markets with necessary commodities to bridge the supply and demand gap where needed to check price hike,” said a statement issued after the meeting of National Price Monitoring Commi.....
more >>

Vaccine a must for train travel from Oct 1
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
ISLAMABAD: The government announced on Monday further measures to contain the spread of the fourth wave of coronavirus, while more international aid continued to pour in, as the number of active cases hit the highest level since the first week of May. The NCOC, which serves as the synchronised national effort against the pandemic, considered measures to be taken in view of the arrival of Muharra.....
more >>

Sindh govt approves private pharma to refill Sputnik
Source: Tufail Ahmed, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
KARACHI: In a bizarre move, the provincial health department has approved a private pharmaceutical company to refill, repackage, and label Sputnik-V for re-export and local sale. It is being said that the Russian vaccine will be produced and distributed in collaboration with the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS); after fulfilling all legal rules, regulations and codal formalities. The Kara.....
more >>

Covid: Pakistan slams UK for retaining it on travel ‘red list’
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-08-10
Federal Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari on Monday criticised the United Kingdom for its ‘feeble excuse’ of retaining Pakistan on its travel ‘red list’, saying that they never asked Pakistan for data related to the country’s coronavirus situation to review their decision. In a sharply-worded tweet, Mazari said the UK government is dominated by ‘Indophiles&r.....
more >>
Pakistan sees ‘slow decline’ in daily Covid-19 numbers
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-08-10
Pakistan has been recording a slow decline in its daily Covid-19 cases over the last three days, with 4,040 fresh infections reported on Monday, according to data released by the National Command and Operation Centre. Though there is a small downward trend in daily numbers, the active cases continue to increase with the latest figure recorded at 83,298. Fifty-three patients died on Monday, 50 of ..... more >>

KE donates IT equipment to help fight against Covid
Source: Press Release, Daily Times, 2021-08-10
Committed to supporting the fight against COVID-19, K-Electric donated IT equipment including desktop computers and printers to the Sindh Government's Health Department for use at Pakistan’s largest vaccination center located at Expo Center, Karachi. The equipment will support the staff present at the Expo Center by quickening the registration times for individuals seeking vaccination..... more >>

Nadra to launch process for verification of NICs
Source: Tahir Amin, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
ISLAMABAD: National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) Chairman Tariq Malik Monday said that they would launch a process for verification of national identity cards as the Nadra is being restructured and previous policies would be reviewed. This, he said, while briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Interior, which met with Mohsin Aziz in the chair. The committee met to discu..... more >>

Vaccination mandatory for train travel
Source: Imran Mukhtar, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday banned travelling of unvaccinated passengers through rail from October 01 in a move to contain further spread of Covid-19. The decision was taken in a meeting of NCOC chaired by Minister for Planning Assad Umar. The NCOC in an announcement said that only those passengers vaccinated of Covid-19 will be allowed to travel by ..... more >>

Agriculture credit disbursement remains resilient despite Covid-19 challenges
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
ISLAMABAD - Credit disbursement to agriculture sector increased to Rs 1,366 billion in fiscal year 2020-21, witnessing a growth of 12 per cent over FY2019-20, despite the ongoing challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic and climate change. The disbursement is collective effort of 49 financial institutions which managed to achieve together 91 per cent of their assigned target of Rs1,500 billion ..... more >>

NCOC issues Covid-19 SOPs for Muharram majalis, processions
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
The National Command and Operation Centre (NOCOC) has issued the standard operating procedures (SOPs) to contain the spread of coronavirus inmujalisand processions during the month of Muharram. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the NCOC directed the organisers to ensure compliance with the Covid-19 SOPs, including maintaining social distancing, mask wearing and thermal screening of the participants w..... more >>
China lists Pakistan as 'priority', pledges $100m to COVAX
Source: News Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
LAHORE: China has listed Pakistan as its priority as Beijing pledged $100 million to COVAX -- a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines -- for distributing vaccines to developing countries, said China's Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Tuesday. Pakistan has so far received 5.5 million doses of the Moderna vaccine and 2.4 million doses of AstraZeneca along with over 1.....

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Decision to keep Pakistan on red list based on 'data and science': UK
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
The British High Commission in Pakistan on Monday said that the decision to keep the country on the red list, under the coronavirus travel restrictions, was based on data and science. The British government placed Pakistan and India on the red list on April 2 and 19, respectively. However, in an updated list, the government announced that India, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE would be moved to the am.....

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Corona up with 95 deaths after 90 days
KARACHI/ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases on Saturday was recorded at 79,837, the highest during the fourth wave of the pandemic, with 4,720 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 4,780 people recovering from the disease. Ninety-five corona patients died during the last 24 hours, 85 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and 10 of them perished in .....

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Over 150,000 people get COVID-19 vaccine daily
KARACHI: The newly-appointed Karachi Metropolitan Corporation administrator, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, has expressed pleasure at the fact that 150,000 people in Karachi consistently got the coronavirus vaccine daily between Thursday and Saturday. Wahab, who also acts as the spokesman for the Sindh government, inaugurated on Saturday the drive-through vaccination facility at the Afghan Ground in Fe.....

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Twin cities log five more corona deaths, 682 new cases
Islamabad: Number of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 cases from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district is registering a sharp increase making the situation much alarming as in the last 24 hours, another 682 patients have been tested positive for the infection while the virus has claimed another five lives from the region taking the death toll from the twin cities to 1,858. In the las.....

more >>

NCOC announces to lift Sindh lockdown
Source: correspondent, Daily Times, 2021-08-08
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday announced that the lockdown imposed by the Sindh government will be lifted from Monday (tomorrow). A statement was issued by the NCOC following a joint session chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, and attended by Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, Special Assistant to Prime Minister.....

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<td>NCOC announces to lift Sindh lockdown</td>
<td>correspondent, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-08-08</td>
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<td>The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday announced that the lockdown imposed by the Sindh government will be lifted from Monday (tomorrow). A statement was issued by the NCOC following a joint session chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, and attended by Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, Special Assistant to Prime Minister.....</td>
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<td>Two million Covid-19 vaccine doses arrive from China</td>
<td>APP, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-08-08</td>
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<td>Three special planes of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) airlifted a fresh batch of two million doses of Sinopharm vaccines from the Beijing Capital Airport to Pakistan amid the fourth wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Three flights of the national flag carrier, PK-6856, PK-6857, and PK-6858 have transported consignments of two million doses of the Chinese-made Sinopharm vaccines to Pakistan fr.....</td>
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<td>Another five lose lives to Covid-19 in Islamabad</td>
<td>Munawer Azem</td>
<td>Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Islamabad and Rawalpindi districts continued to see an upward trend in daily Covid-19 cases as 807 people were found infected by the virus and five succumbed to it on Tuesday. Positivity ratio in the capital was 10.6pc. Officials of the capital administration said deaths of three male patients (50-59) were reported while the other two, a male and female patient, were from the 70-79 ag.....</td>
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<td>Corona cases continue to rise</td>
<td>App, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-08-11</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The COVID-19 cases recorded persistent rise on Tuesday countrywide with 3,884 more people testing positive and 2,669 recovering during the last 24 hours. The number of total active cases stood at 84,427. According to APP, 86 corona patients died during the 24 hours, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). There were 4,530 infected patients under treatment in cr.....</td>
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<td>Strict action to be taken against face mask violators: CTO</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-11</td>
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<td>RAWALPINDI: In an effort to ensure implementation of the Covid-19 protocol, Rawalpindi’s chief traffic officer (CTO) has ordered harsh measures against individuals who do not use face masks while travelling. Those found without masks when riding a motorcycle or driving a car will now be issued a challan. However, because passengers are crowded into public transportation and other gatherings.....</td>
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<td>Verbal clash between govt, opposition averted in NA</td>
<td>Muhammad Anis, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-08-11</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: A verbal clash between the government and the opposition members in the National Assembly (NA) was averted on Tuesday after a PMLN parliamentarian called the incumbent regime as ‘thieve’ while mentioning alleged corruption in COVID-19 fund. Former deputy speaker Murtaza Javed Abbasi, while speaking on a point of order, accused government of embezzlement of Rs3 billion in CO.....</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Tuesday said that</td>
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<td>a corona ward has been set up at the Holy Family Hospital (HFH)</td>
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<td>with modern facilities to deal with the rising number of corona</td>
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<td>patients. During visit to HFH to inspect the facilities being</td>
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<td>provided to the COVID-19 patients, the minister said that it was</td>
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<td>the utmost effort of the government to provide best healthcare</td>
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<td>facilities to t...</td>
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| **Nationwide Covid-19 deaths cross 24,000 mark**                     | Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-11           |                |
| ISLAMABAD: The nationwide Covid-19 deaths Tuesday crossed 24,000    |                                                        |                |
| mark and reached 24,004 as the country reported 86 Covid-19 deaths  |                                                        |                |
| in the past 24 hours. According to the National Command and         |                                                        |                |
| Operation Centre (NCOC), the country over the past 24 hours also    |                                                        |                |
| registered 3,884 new Covid-19 cases taking the national tally to     |                                                        |                |
| 1,075,044, since the pandemic outbreak. The country also reported 2... |                                                        |                |
| more >>                                                              |                                                        |                |

| **Pakistan reports 4,856 new coronavirus cases in one day**          | Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-11                          |                |
| Pakistan has recorded 81 more COVID-19 deaths during the past 24     |                                                        |                |
| hours, pushing the country’s overall death toll to 24,085, said     |                                                        |                |
| the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC). The NCOC said    |                                                        |                |
| that the country’s number of overall confirmed cases has risen to   |                                                        |                |
| 1,080,360 after the emergence of 4,856 new infections. Overall 972,098 |                                                        |                |
| have recovered from the pandemic, adding that the po.....            |                                                        |                |
| more >>                                                              |                                                        |                |

| **Centre pushes for Covid precautions in Muharram gatherings**       | Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-11                 |                |
| ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on     |                                                        |                |
| Tuesday issued special instructions for managing Muharram-ul-Harram  |                                                        |                |
| activities with proper COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) |                                                        |                |
| to contain disease spread. The Forum issued these instructions      |                                                        |                |
| keeping in view the recommendations of the Ulema (scholars)       |                                                        |                |
| concerned regarding Muharram. The NCOC guidelines underlined that  |                                                        |                |
| all g.....                                                          |                                                        |                |
| more >>                                                              |                                                        |                |

| **Scientists fear institutes fail to contribute genetic epidemiology data of Covid** | Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-11                     |                |
| ISLAMABAD - As Pakistan remains on the travel ban red list of the   |                                                        |                |
| British government, scientists here on Tuesday feared that         |                                                        |                |
| institutions responsible for research on COVID-19 in the country    |                                                        |                |
| have failed to contribute significant scientific data related to    |                                                        |                |
| genetic epidemiology of the virus in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the       |                                                        |                |
| Director General (DG) Ministry of National Health Services (NHS)   |                                                        |                |
| Dr. Rana Moha.....                                                  |                                                        |                |
| more >>                                                              |                                                        |                |

| **DHO seals 2 colleges after confirmation of COVID-19 cases**       | Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-11                 |                |
| ISLAMABAD - The District Health Office (DHO) on Tuesday sealed    |                                                        |                |
| two government sector educational institutes after confirmation of  |                                                        |                |
| novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases there. According to the details  |                                                        |                |
| issued, the DHO has written a letter to the district administration |                                                        |                |
| to seal the institutions after confirmation of COVID-19 cases. The   |                                                        |                |
| cases have been reported from Islamabad Model College for Girls .....|                                                        |                |
| more >>                                                              |                                                        |                |
DHO seals 2 colleges after confirmation of COVID-19 cases
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-11
ISLAMABAD - The District Health Office (DHO) on Tuesday sealed two government sector educational institutes after confirmation of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases there. According to the details issued, the DHO has written a letter to the district administration to seal the institutions after confirmation of COVID-19 cases. The cases have been reported from Islamabad Model College for Girls ..... more >>

Islamabad reports highest number of cases since April 22
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-11
ISLAMABAD - Islamabad has reported 557 new Coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours the highest number of cases since April 22 with 617 cases. The region also reported five Coronavirus-related fatalities over the past 24 hours. The total number of infections has now increased to 91,217 while the death toll in the city from the disease now stands at 821. Meanwhile, Azad Jammu and Kashmir reported 219 ..... more >>

Duration between two doses reduced to 28 days
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday decided to reduce the maximum duration for the second dose from 42 to 28 days after getting assurance from Gavi that around six million doses of Covid-19 vaccine were likely to arrive in a week. It also decided to permit only fully vaccinated people to travel by air from Sept 1 onwards and keep vaccination centres open on In..... more >>

Covid claims 86 more lives as active cases cross 84,000
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2021-08-11
The national tally of COVID-19 cases recorded persistent rise on Tuesday with 84,427 total active cases with 3,884 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,669 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Eighty-six corona patients have died during past 24 hours, including both under treatment in the hospitals and those in their respective quarantines or homes, accord..... more >>

Over 100 Covid-19 hotspots sealed in Rawalpindi
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
ISLAMABAD: As the twin cities continue to see a rise in the daily count of Covid-19 cases and deaths, the district administration imposed smart lockdowns in 128 hotspot areas in Rawalpindi district. Besides, two educational institutions in the capital were sealed after the virus was detected in staff and students. As many as 748 people were diagnosed with Covid-19 on Wednesday with five people d..... more >>

Red List: Pakistan points out discrepancies in UK’s decision
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2021-08-12
Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has written a letter to British Health Secretary Sajid Javid, comparing Pakistan’s pandemic statistics with those of other countries in the region and pointing out ‘obvious discrepancies’ that highlight the better situation here. The Pakistani government’s response came following an uproar over UK’s deci..... more >>
Commissioner takes action against SOPs violators
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-08-12
Commissioner Rawalpindi Gulzar Hussain Shah has expressed his grave concern over the recent spike in coronavirus cases in Rawalpindi and vowed to take strict action against the violators of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). He was chairing a high-level meeting with the assistant and deputy commissioners and other concerned authorities of Rawalpindi district here on Wednesday. The meeting was....
more >>

New 5-year programme for Pak to focus on structural reforms, health, education: World Bank
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-08-12
The World Bank Group is preparing its new 5-year program of support for Pakistan, the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for 2022-2026, with special focus on structural reforms, health, education, promoting climate friendly future, inclusive growth, and good governance. During a week-long visit of the World Bank Vice President for South Asia Hartwig Schafer to Pakistan, which concluded on Sunday.....
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Pakistan reaches milestone of administrating 40m Covid-19 jabs
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Thursday said Pakistan had reached the milestone of administrating 40 million Covid-19 vaccine doses. "The last crore (10 million) took only 9 working days to administer," the minister added in a tweet. "Let's vaccinate and make Pakistan safe from this disease." On August 3, it was reported that Pakistan.....
more >>

Covid vaccination certificate must for air travel after Sept 10: NCOC
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday decided that complete Covid-19 vaccination certificates would become mandatory for air travel after September 10. The nerve centre of Pakistan's virus response also took a major decision to speed up vaccination process across the country. The forum announced that the partial vaccination certificate would become inval.....
more >>

Air travel; Vaccination certificate a must after Sept 10
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Wednesday announced no citizen will be allowed air travel after September 10 without complete coronavirus vaccination certificates. The decision in this regard was taken in a meeting of the NCOC, which was held here under the NCOC chief Asad Umar and was attended by other relevant officials to discuss and review ongoing Covid-19 situ.....
more >>

4,856 new cases, 81 deaths reported in a single day
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan continues battling the coronavirus as fourth wave of the pandemic has been raging the country with more cases and deaths. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the deadly virus contracted 4,856 more people during the last 24 hours as the country also reported 81 more deaths. According to the latest figures that appeared on the NCOC dashboard on Wednesday.....
more >>
Pakistan proposes UK ways to ensure air travellers’ health
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) Dr. Faisal Sultan has written a letter to his British counterpart on retaining Pakistan in the British travelling Red List and proposed a three-pronged approach to ensure health security of the travellers, The Nation learnt on Wednesday. Dr. Faisal Sultan in his letter to the Secretary of State for Health.....

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PIMS closes OPDs of 2 departments, deploys staff at COVID-19 wards
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital Management Committee has decided to close the Outpatients Departments (OPDs) of two of its departments and deploy its staff at the COVID-19 wards to make them fully operational. The meeting held here under the chairmanship of Dean Federal Medical Teaching Institute (FMTI) Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj decided that the OPDs of dermatology and.....

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ICG F-6/2 sealed after detection of 8 corona cases
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
Islamabad - The District Health Office (DHO) on Wednesday asked the district administration to seal another public sector college after confirmation of multiple COVID-19 cases there. The DHO asked the district administration to close the Islamabad College for Girls F-6/2 after detection of eight COVID-19 cases there. The letter written by the DHO to the Deputy Commissioner office said that it has .....

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Unvaccinated persons more susceptible to Delta variant
ISLAMABAD: Unvaccinated people are many times more vulnerable to the Delta variant of the Coronavirus that causes Covid-19 compared to fully vaccinated persons. Leading medical experts say the Indian variant is far more transmissible than other strains. “In my opinion, the Delta variant has over 100 times more transmissibility as against the previous variants,” renowned pulmonologist .....

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Keeping Pakistan on red list: Dr Faisal ‘exposes’ UK claims about science, data
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan government has responded to the UK government's reasons for keeping the former on its travel red list in a detailed letter written by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan. The letter was shared Wednesday by Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari on Twitter, saying that the table in Dr Sultan's letter "exposes" claim.....

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Nine IAF personnel refuse to get vaccinated against COVID-19
ISLAMABAD: Nine personnel of the Indian Air Force (IAF) have refused to get vaccinated against coronavirus and they have been served show-cause notices. One corporal of the IAF has been sacked from service for failing to respond the notice. The Indian government has told the Gujarat high court that vaccination has been made a service condition in the Air Force. The Indian government did not give.....

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15 more localities in Islamabad sealed as Covid-19 cases surge
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-13
ISLAMABAD: As the number of cases and the positivity rate increased gradually, 15 more localities of Islamabad along with a school were sealed to prevent further spread of the virus. In the district of Rawalpindi, 50 per cent of the population aged 18 years and above has been vaccinated against Covid-19 while a campaign is underway at the union council level to achieve the target of 70pc. Deputy.....

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102 die of Covid-19 in a single day
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-13
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Thursday reported highest number of Covid-19 deaths of the fourth coronavirus wave as 102 deaths were recorded in the country over the past 24 hours, which is also the highest toll in the past three months. According to the Covid-19 data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), nationwide 4,934 more Covid-19 infections were recorded on Wednesday taking.....

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Corona claims record 102 lives in three months
ISLAMABAD: The national tally of deaths from the COVID-19 has risen to record 102 in the last three months with 4,934 more people testing positive and 3,376 recovering from the disease during the 24 hours. The number of total active cases stood at 86,217 which is the highest during the fourth wave of pandemic. Of 102 patients who died during the 24 hours, 98 were under treatment in hospitals and t.....

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Worst COVID SOPs violations come from politicians: Asad
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Thursday said during last one year, the worst violation of the COVID Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) came from the politicians. “Two weeks back Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was threatening to hold prime minister and ministers accountable if COVID spreads further in Karachi and now Pakistan Democratic Movement (.....

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IMF to disburse $2.77b corona fund by 23rd: Tarin
ISLAMABAD: Despite ‘questions’ raised by the IMF over the much-hyped Kamyab Pakistan Program (KPP) for disbursement of Rs1.6 trillion loans, Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin said on Thursday that the government would not “step back” from launching this programme meant for helping the poor. He also announced good news that the IMF would disburse $2.77 billion unconditional.....

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10m Covid-19 vaccine doses to arrive by Aug 22
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-08-13
Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will run eight special flights to airlift 10 million doses of anti-Covid-19 vaccines from China to Pakistan between August 12 to August 22 to help ensure the government’s ongoing prevention and control drive against Covid-19 pandemic. A couple of flights of the national flag carrier will leave Beijing Capital Airport today with anti Covid-19 vaccines pr.....

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<tr>
<td><strong>NCOC reports highest single-day virus deaths</strong></td>
<td>Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Thursday reported 102 deaths from the coronavirus in the last 24 hours. This is the first time the country reported more than 100 deaths since May 20, when the same number of fatalities were recorded. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 59,397 tests were conducted during this period and 4,934 came back positive. The total number of cases has .....</td>
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<td><strong>Islamabad reports 561 Corona cases, 2 deaths</strong></td>
<td>Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-13</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - Islamabad on Thursday morning reported 561 Coronavirus cases – the highest number of cases since April 22 when the city had recorded 617 cases. The region also reported two coronavirus-related fatalities over the past 24 hours. The total number of infections has now increased to 92,233 while the death toll from the disease now stands at 824. Meanwhile, Azad Jammu and Kashmir repo.....</td>
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<td><strong>OGDCL forms mobile Covid vaccination teams</strong></td>
<td>Source: Press Release, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-13</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has formed vaccination teams in all four provinces of the country. These teams will visit door-to-door, especially in rural &amp; remote areas, to spread awareness regarding the pandemic and importance of vaccination. The vaccination teams will vaccinate the public at their doorstep. According to NCOC directives, OGDCL management has.....</td>
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<td><strong>Sui Northern’s mobile vaccination drive kicks off; over 9,000 vaccinated</strong></td>
<td>Source: Press Release, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-13</td>
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<td>LAHORE - In light of the directives from National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Sui Northern Gas has launched its mobile vaccination campaign. During the campaign, more than 9,000 people have been vaccinated so far. It is pertinent to mention that Prime Minister of Pakistan formally approved the national vaccination campaign on May 31 following which NCOC requested state owned enterprises (.....</td>
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<td><strong>Rapid PCR testing begins at airports across Pakistan</strong></td>
<td>Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-13</td>
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<td>Owing to difficulties being faced by UAE-bound passengers, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said on Friday said that the counters for conducting rapid polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests for Covid-19 have become functional at all international airports of the country. According to Express News, a spokesman for the authority said that the services of UAE-accredited Pakistani labs have been made.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>Ministry refuses to share Covid funds’ details with Senate body</strong></td>
<td>Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-14</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) on Friday refused to share details of Covid-19 vaccine-related funds with a parliamentary committee in front of the media. The ministry suggested to the Senate Standing Committee on NHS to hold an in-camera meeting in which details of the spending on Covid-19 would be provided. However, Senator Bahramand Tangi, who belongs to the PPP, obj.....</td>
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### Another five succumb to Covid-19
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-08-14

ISLAMABAD: Five more people lost their lives to Covid-19 whereas 762 people were found infected in the federal capital and Rawalpindi district on Friday. Positivity rate in the capital was recorded at 9.8pc and 9.7pc in Rawalpindi district. Officials of the capital administration said all deceased were male patients. During the last 24 hours, 5,416 tests were conducted in the capital, they said.

[more >>](#)

### 4,619 new Covid-19 cases, 79 deaths countrywide
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-08-14

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Friday reported 4,619 new Covid-19 cases and 79 coronavirus related deaths taking the countrywide case tally to 1,89,913 and death toll to 24,266 since the pandemic outbreak. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), in the past 24 hours nationwide 3,937 recoveries of coronavirus patients were reported taking the national recoveries tally to 979,411.

[more >>](#)

### Pakistan reports 79 more Covid-related deaths
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-08-14

ISLAMABAD - As many as 79 more deaths due to coronavirus infection were reported in the country during the past 24 hours. On the other hand, 4,619 new positive cases were reported in the country. According to the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 59,504 tests were conducted on Thursday and the positivity ratio remained 7.76 percent. The death toll due to the pandemic has now reached 24....

[more >>](#)

### App launched to identify fake certificates of vaccination
Source: Ikram Junaidi, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-08-15

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday revised the international travel list and included 15 countries in category C as Pakistan reels under the fourth wave of Covid-19 pandemic. On the other hand, Pak Covid-19 Vaccination Pass App has been launched, which will help identify fake vaccination certificates and facilitate inoculated people. According to data, 4,343 .....

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### Rawalpindi, Islamabad report five more casualties from Covid-19
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-08-15

ISLAMABAD: Three more patients succumbed to Covid-19 and 571 people were found infected with the virus in the capital on Saturday. This was the highest number of cases on a single day since April 23. Moreover, two persons died of the virus and 156 people tested positive in the district of Rawalpindi. Officials of the capital administration said two women in the age group of 50-59 and 60-69 and a....

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### Twin cities worst hit by 4th Covid wave

Islamabad:Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district can be termed as one of the worst-hit region of the country by the fourth wave of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak as during the last two weeks, nearly 12 to 15 per cent of all confirmed patients being reported from Pakistan are from the twin cities that contain less than 3.5 per cent of the country’s population. In the las....

[more >>](#)
NCOC places 15 countries in Category C
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday placed 15 countries in Category C list based on the rapid spread of the epidemic, increasing positive cases on a daily basis and low vaccination rates. The NCOC meeting took detailed stock of current situation of coronavirus pandemic around the world. The following countries were placed in Category C based on rampant disease ..... more >>

Another 5 die of COVID-19, 715 cases in twin cities
Islamabad: The fourth wave of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak has been continuously hitting population in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district much harder as compared to other parts of the country as in the last five days, as many as 3757 new patients have been tested positive for the illness along with 23 deaths. The average number of patients being tested positive per day..... more >>

Earnings to lift stocks if Covid cases fall
Stocks are likely to track a slew of corporate results next week as well as signs of recovery, but a ramp-up in virus cases could prove a drag, traders said. Arif Habib Limited, a brokerage house, said they anticipate the market to be positive next week, given the expectation of strong results in the ongoing result season. Meanwhile, concerns over the Covid-19 variant outbreak might keep investo..... more >>

Rapid spread, low vaccination; NCOC places 15 countries in Category C
Source: APP, Bretton Woods Observer, London, 2021-08-15
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Saturday placed 15 countries in Category C list based on the rapid spread of the epidemic, increasing positive cases on a daily basis and low vaccination rates. The NCOC meeting took detailed stock of current situation of Coronavirus pandemic around the world. The following countries were placed in Category C based on rampant di...... more >>

COVID-19 claims 2 more lives, 156 new cases surface in 24 hours in Rawalpindi
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-15
RAWALPINDI - The novel coronavirus has claimed another two lives while 156 new patients have been diagnosed with the infection in the district in the last 24 hours, with144 belonged to Rawalpindi and 12 from other districts. According to the daily situation report issued by the District Corona Management Centre on Saturday, among the new cases, 21 belonged to Rawal Town, 24 from Potohar town, 33 f..... more >>

Faisal Mosque, Daman-i-Koh closed to curb Covid-19 spread in Islamabad
Source: Ikram Junaid | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-16
ISLAMABAD: With the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in Islamabad and the Rawalpindi district, the capital administration decided to close Faisal Mosque and Daman-i-Koh for visitors in a bid to curb the spread of the virus. One patient died in Rawalpindi district whereas 581 people were diagnosed with the disease in both areas. Positivity in the capital was recorded at 9.2pc while that in Rawalpin..... more >>
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<td>Vaccination programme to continue till end of 2021: Nausheen Hamid</td>
<td>APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-16</td>
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<td>26 more Covid-19 patients die: Murad</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-16</td>
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<td>Pakistan reports decline in Covid-19 cases</td>
<td>Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-16</td>
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<td>Faisal Mosque, road leading to Monal closed fearing Covid-19 spread</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-16</td>
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<td>COVID claims 67 more lives, 3,711 fresh cases emerge</td>
<td>INP, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-08-16</td>
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<td>Passengers fly to UAE after Rapid PCR tests</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-16</td>
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People coming from Afghanistan to be tested for Covid
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-17

ISLAMABAD: As there is a high level of uncertainty in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover of Kabul and there is a chance of influx of a large number of Afghan migrants into Pakistan, the country’s health authorities have decided to make arrangements for testing every person entering Pakistan from the war-torn country for Covid-19 and sending those found infected with the virus to quarantine.....

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Covid-19 testing facilities set up at airports for UAE-bound passengers
Source: Munawer Azeem | Mohammad Asghar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-17

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has established rapid polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing facilities at eight major airports in different cities including Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Faisalabad, Quetta and Sialkot for passengers travelling to United Arab Emirates (UAE). On the other hand, six people passed away after losing their battle against Covid-1.....

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Over 10m doses fly in to boost vaccine coffers
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-17

ISLAMABAD: In a major boost to the national vaccine coffers, Pakistan has received more than 10 million doses from China, including 6.1 million Sinopharm jabs delivered under the United Nations’ COVAX arrangements, officials have said. The large shipments of the vaccine doses have arrived in the country over the past three days, the official said. Overall, the consignments comprised 8.1 mill.....

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Country reports 3,669 new cases, 72 deaths
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-17

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Monday recorded around 3,669 fresh cases of coronavirus and 72 deaths in the last 24 hours. A total of 24,478 patients have succumbed to the virus in the country so far. Moreover, 2,218 recoveries were also recorded, taking the total number of recoveries so far reported in the country to 989,013. According to the latest data released by the National Command and Operati.....

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11 more die of Corona, as 509 new cases reported in KP
Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-18

PESHAWAR - As many as eleven more people died of Coronavirus while 509 new positive cases were reported from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during last 24 hours. According to health department’s updates on Monday, with eleven more deaths, total tally reached to 4679 while the total number of number of active and overall Corona cases to 7076 and 153134 respectively. During the same period 338 pati.....

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Rapid PCR testing facilities installed at 8 major airports
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-17

ISLAMABAD - The UAE government on Monday has allowed selected categories with additional requirement of PCR Test 48 hours before departure and Rapid PCR four hours prior departure for travel to UAE from Pakistan. On the directions of Director General (DG) Civil Aviation Authority Khaqan Murtaza, the requirement of Rapid PCR was given due consideration and testing facilities have been installed.....

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1200 HCWs to be awarded COVID-19 risk allowance next week, NA informed  
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-17  
ISLAMABAD - National Assembly (NA) Standing Committee on National Health Services (NHS) was informed on Monday that all 1200 healthcare workers (HCWs) will be awarded health COVID-19 risk allowance in next week. A meeting of the standing committee on NHS was held here under the Chairmanship of Member National Assembly (MNA) Khalid Hussain Magsi. The committee was apprised by the Ministry abo.....

Highest toll during four; 3,669 fresh Covid-19 cases, 72 new deaths countrywide: NCOCth wave  
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-17  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recorded 3,669 more Covid-19 infections and 72 coronavirus deaths in the past 24 hours taking the national case tally to 1.102 million and death toll to 24,478 since the outbreak of the coronavirus. Latest Covid-19 figures released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), here on Monday, revealed that 2,218 Covid-19 infected people have recovered in the pas.....

3 die of COVID-19 in ICT, 451 cases from twin cities  
Islamabad: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another three lives from Islamabad Capital Territory in the last 24 hours taking death toll from the federal capital to 834 though no death due to COVID-19 has been reported from Rawalpindi district on Monday from where as many as 1,059 patients have already lost their lives due to the illness. Data collected by 'The News' on Monday .....  

Rapid PCR tests start at Islamabad Airport  
Islamabad: The Islamabad International Airport (IIAI) has started facility to conduct rapid PCR tests for UAE-bound passengers, an official of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), said on Monday. The passengers, carrying passport and tickets, of UAE bound flights could avail PCR test at airport within one and a half hour. The Islamabad International Airport, with the cooperation of authen.....

Corona kills 67 more people countrywide  
ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: The national tally of active COVID-19 cases was Friday recorded 79,992 with 4,745 more people testing positive and 2,095 people recovering during the 24 hours. According to APP, 67 corona patients have died during the 24 hours out of which 60 were under treatment in hospitals and seven in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the Nation.....

Five succumb to Covid-19 in Islamabad, Rawalpindi  
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-18  
ISLAMABAD: As many as five people - most of them elderly patients - lost their lives to Covid-19 in Islamabad and Rawalpindi districts whereas 423 people were diagnosed with the disease. The capital's positivity was recorded at 7.4pc, a slight decline from 9.1pc reported the day before whereas Pindi's positivity was 12.8pc. The deceased were identified as Mohammad Imtiaz, 60, resident.....
Fake vaccination certificates
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-18
The NCOC and NADRA have jointly developed an app to help people and officials identify fake coronavirus vaccination certificates. The app, named Pak Covid-19 Vaccination Pass App, will instantly confirm whether an inoculation certificate is genuine or fake. This will largely facilitate all, especially those travelling by air. The government has announced that partial vaccination will not be allowe.....
more >>

Vaccine centres stay open today
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-18
ISLAMABD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has decided to continue the Covid-19 vaccination process on Wednesday (today), the 9th of Muharram, reversing its decision of closure on both days of Ashura holidays, sources have said. The NCOC had announced earlier that the vaccination would be suspended on 9th and 10th of Muharram on account of Youm-e-Ashur. However, it decided on Tues.....
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95 Covid-19 deaths, 3,221 new virus infections countrywide: NCOC
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-18
ISLAMABD: Pakistan has recorded 95 Covid-19 deaths over the past 24 hours, which is the second highest death tally in a single day during the fourth coronavirus wave, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. According to the NCOC, in the past 24 hours, countrywide a total 3,221 Covid-19 infections were detected by carrying out 48,181 tests with a positivity ratio of 6.6 percent.....
more >>

Pakistan reports 3,221 new infections, 95 more deaths
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-18
ISLAMABAD - The 4th wave of Coronavirus pandemic continues to claim more lives and contract more people in Pakistan as during the last 24 hours, 3,221 new Coronavirus cases were reported, besides 95 fatalities due to virus. According to the latest figures that appeared on the National Coronavirus Dashboard of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 95 more people died of the virus w.....
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Organisers amend procession timings to curb Covid spread
Source: Kalbe Ali, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
ISLAMABAD: Amid harsh weather conditions and strict Covid-19 warnings, organisers of G-6 Markazi Imambargah changed the timings of the main Muharram 9 procession. The capital administration had requested the organisers to ensure that the procession culminated at its designated point at around 10pm. The managing committee of the G-6 Imambargah acknowledged the concerns of the administration and d.....
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Two passengers test Covid positive
Source: Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
FAISALABAD: Two passengers were barred from boarding a UAE-bound flight after they tested positive in the rapid PSR test on Wednesday. Saddar Assistant Commissioner Umer Maqbool said the administration had conducted the rapid tests at the airport and detected that two passengers were suffering from Covid-19. He said Usman Jan of Bannu and Abdul Nasir from Dera Ghazi Khan were shifted to the DHQ .....
Sindh defers its plan to import vaccines as centre boosts supply
Source: Imran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
KARACHI: The Sindh government has put on hold its plan to import vaccines amid improved supplies from the centre and multiple unsolved issues between the provincial and federal governments which were crucial to complete the process, officials and sources said on Wednesday. They said the Sindh government's plan to buy the single-dose vaccine developed by CanSino Biologics Inc to boost this p.....

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National situation; NCOC reports 3,974 fresh Covid-19 cases, 66 new deaths
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recorded 3,974 fresh covid-19 infections and 66 covid-19 deaths over the past 24 hours, National Command and Operation Centre said. According to NCOC in past 24 hours countrywide a total 3,974 covid-19 infections were detected by carrying out 67,460 tests with a positivity ratio of 6.91 percent. After the 66 new covid-19 deaths the national tally of coronavirus deaths .....

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95 more lose life battling corona
ISLAMABAD: The national tally of active COVID-19 cases was Tuesday recorded 87,423 — the highest during the fourth wave of pandemic, with 3,221 more people testing positive and 4,291 recovering during the 24 hours. Ninety-five corona patients died during the 24 hours, according to an announcement made by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths occurred in Punja.....

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5 COVID-19 deaths, 407 cases from twin cities
Rawalpindi: As many as five more patients suffering from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district have died of the illness in the last 24 hours while 407 new patients have been tested positive from the region that shows that the fourth wave of COVID-19 outbreak is much intense in this region of the country. The positivity rate of COVID-19 recorded in.....

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Pakistan reports 3,974 new Covid-19 cases, 66 deaths
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Wednesday morning reported 3,974 new cases of Coronavirus, taking the tally for confirmed cases to 1,109,274. At least 66 fatalities were also reported during the said period. A total of 24,639 patients have succumbed to the virus in the country so far. Moreover, 3,122 recoveries were also reported in a day, taking the total recoveries to 996,426. According to the Nati.....

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NCOC reports 3,239 coronavirus cases in single day
Source: Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
COVID-19 has claimed 70 more lives during the past 24 hours, taking the country's overall death toll to 24,783. The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) said that the country's number of overall confirmed cases has risen to 17,115,272 after the emergence of 3,239 new infections. Overall 1,002,430 have recovered from the pandemic, adding that the positivity rate of infecti.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Lockdown for two consecutive days opposed
Source: The Newspaper's correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
KOHAT: The Kohat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has criticised the decision of the administration to implement lockdown for two consecutive days and demanded a gap of one day so as to avoid rush of people in the bazaars on the following day. It said that the administration in its official notification had mentioned that the order had been issued after consultations with the business comm. ....
more >>

16 more lose life to Covid amid seven cases of Delta variant in KP
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
PESHAWAR: Sixteen people, including a medical doctor, died of coronavirus and 521 people were infected with the virus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday with Swabi district recording seven cases of Delta variant. According to a health department report, three deaths were reported in Peshawar, Swat and Dera Ismail districts each and two in Abbottabad and Bannu districts each and one in Kohat, Harip.....
more >>

Schools closed in 5 Mansehra UCs after surge in virus cases
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
MANSEHRA: The district administration ordered closure of over a hundred government and private schools in five union councils (UCs) of Mansehra on Sunday following abrupt spike in coronavirus cases. The affected union councils include Baffa, Tarangri Sabir Shah, Sand-i-Sar, Attershisha and Balakot. "All public and private schools in these five union councils will remain closed for 10 days ..... 
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Covid-19 pandemic: No government check as private schools fleecing parents
PESHAWAR: The private schools are fleecing the parents of students by charging heavy fees despite the closure of educational institutions from time to time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The government and the private schools regulatory authority have been unable to act as true regulators. According to statistics available on the official website of the Private Schools Regulatory Authority (PSRA).....
more >>

Doctor loses battle to Covid-19 in Abbottabad
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
Another doctor lost his life on Sunday due to Covid19 at a private hospital in Abbottabad, taking the number of deaths of doctors to 69 in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). According to details, Ayub Teaching Hospital (ATH) Pathology Deputy Director Dr Ahsanul Haq tested positive three days ago and was later admitted to ATH in a critical condition where he was put on a ventilator. However, he could not ..... 
more >>

Traders ignore lockdown calls in parts of Peshawar
Source: Shahzaib Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
PESHAWAR: Following the Covid-19 related standard operating procedures (SOPs) in the provincial metropolis remain a distant dream despite the fact that the entire country has been gripped by the fourth wave of the pandemic. Although shops remained closed in Saddar and University Road areas of the city Sunday, traders at the city proper and other parts largely ignored the call for lockdown and kept.....
more >>
Peshawar hospitals record surge in corona patients
PESHAWAR: Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) Peshawar has recorded a surge in the number of coronavirus patients as the hospital’s spokesman, Muhammad Asim said on Monday that 171 such patients were under treatment of which 19 were at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). He said 400-bed have been reserved for coronavirus patients at LRH adding the number of such patients were on gradual increase at the ..... more >>

Body to monitor SOPs in transport sectors
PESHAWAR: The Home and Tribal Affairs Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Saturday formed a Monitoring Committees at the district level to implement SOPs in the transport section. A statement issued by the Home Department and Tribal Affairs said that the committee includes a representative of the relevant Additional Deputy Commissioner, Secretary RTA, DSP Traffic, and TMA. ..... more >>

Hoteliers slam illegal raids, fines in Naran
MANSEHRA: The hoteliers in Kaghan valley on Saturday threatened to stage protests if the Kaghan Development Authority didn’t halt illegal raids on eateries in Naran. “Prime Minister Imran Khan in his meeting with us during a recent visit had lauded efforts of the hoteliers for providing better services to tourists and strictly following coronavirus standard operating procedures. Howe..... more >>

68 held for violating Corona SOPs
PESHAWAR: The district administration Peshawar on Saturday arrested 68 persons from bazaars and bus stations across the district over violation of official standard operating procedures (SOPs) against Coronavirus. On the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Khalid Mahmood, the officers of district administration inspected bazaars in Hayatabad, Kohat Road, Dalazak Road, GT Road, Univer..... more >>

Another doctor dies of Covid in KP
PESHAWAR: Another senior doctor died of Covid-19 on Saturday taking the tally of doctors falling victim to coronavirus since last year 69 in Khyber Pakthunkwa. According to Provincial Doctors Association (PDA) in a statement said that a total of 107 doctors including health workers so far had died of coronavirus in the province. The statement said that Deputy Director Medical Services Pathology..... more >>

Rising cases in KP: Wards being vacated to accommodate corona patients
PESHAWAR: An alarming rise in coronavirus cases and fatalities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have prompted the authorities to squeezing other services in the public sector hospitals to accommodate patients of the viral infection. The government and health experts had already warned the public of the repercussions of the 4th wave and urged people to get themselves vaccinated against the fatal disease. The ..... more >>
KP govt imposes ban on indoor weddings
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-11
PESHAWAR - The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has imposed a ban on indoor weddings after rising number of COVID-19 cases. The decision was taken to comply with NCOC directives which contained instructions and restrictions for high disease prevalence cities of Peshawar and Abbottabad. A notification issued by Home and Tribal Affairs Department said that there will be complete ban on indoor wed.....
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Traders discuss corona SOPs with Commissioner Peshawar
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-11
Peshawar - President Traders’ Alliance Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mujeeb-ur-Rehman along with traders’ representatives on Tuesday called on Commissioner Peshawar Riaz Mehsud and congratulated him over assuming his new official responsibilities. The delegation members discussed matters pertaining to implementation of SOPs by the traders and vaccination to avert lockdown which according to.....
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TB patients spooked by Covid-19 crisis
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
PESHAWAR: The registration process of the multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis (TB) patients has been severally hampered due to the Covid-19 emergency as most of the TB patients are afraid to get themselves registered. Experts fear this would eventually result in a massive surge of multidrug-resistant TB in the province which will be much more difficult and expensive to control. Official sources to.....
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40% of Peshawar, Mansehra vaccinated Inoculation process paced up after NCOC order
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-13
PESHAWAR: Two districts in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) have achieved 40 per cent Covid-19 vaccination target successfully. Official sources told The Express Tribune that in Peshawar district 41 per cent of the population had been vaccinated while in Mansehra district it had reached 42 per cent. "The National Command and Control Center (NCCC) had set a 40 per cent vaccination target for all t.....
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Covid positivity soars past 7% in K-P
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-15
PESHAWAR: There has been a rapid increase in the number Covid-19 cases across Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa as the positivity ratio has reached an alarming 7.1 per cent. Two days ago it was 4.5 percent. Upper Chitral district remains on the top with 30 per cent positivity ratio, followed by Mardan with 20 percent. Similarly, the day to day positivity ratio of 19 per cent has been recorded in Abbotabad, 18 ..... 
more >>

26 shops sealed over Covid SOP violation
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-16
SHANGLA: Assistant commissioner, Bisham tehsil, Mohammad Younas has sealed 26 shops and registered cases against the shopkeepers for violating the standard operating procedure (SOP) and lockdown imposed by the government to contain coronavirus. During a visit, Mr Younas and his team found that the shops had been kept open in Bisham city in violation of the government orders of lockdown. The AC o.....
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Increase in virus positivity rate worries govt
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-16
PESHAWAR: The government is concerned about increase in ratio of Covid-19 infection in Peshawar division and is scaling up vaccination in Mohmand and Khyber districts to cope with the latest wave of the pandemic. As Peshawar's tally of mortalities due to Covid-19 swelled to 2,255 with eight deaths on Sunday, Divisional Commissioner Riaz Khan Mehsud said that they focused on the capital city.....

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Corona positivity ratio stands at 7pc in KP
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-16
Peshawar - The coronavirus positivity ratio increased from 2 percent to 7 percent after the fourth wave of the pandemic in the province, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department statistics revealed here on Sunday. The rate of corona positivity ratio in Battagram district recorded at 27 percent, the highest in the province during last 24 hours. The daily positive rate in Lower Dir is 24 percent, A.....

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Covid impedes stats on other diseases
Source: Umer Farooq, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-17
PESHAWAR: Covid-19 has remained the primary focus of the healthcare system for the past 1.5 years, pushing alleviation of other diseases and medical concerns to the backseat. In the meanwhile, however, it appears that ailments which had been brushed aside have now started manifesting into graver threats, landing the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa into yet another quandary. Now beginni.....

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Widespread virus cases alarm KP health officials
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-18
PESHAWAR: Seventeen people died of coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as health officials expressed concerns over the widespread active cases, which could spread the infection further. Infectivity level of the virus also surged to 13.6 per cent in Abbottabad and 13.5 per cent in Peshawar on Tuesday. Positivity in Peshawar and Abbottabad was recorded 12 per cent and 9.3 per cent respectively a day .....

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770 fresh Covid-19 cases, 18 new deaths reported in KPK
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
PESHAWAR: Corona virus disease (Covid-19) claimed 18 more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as news were on constant increase in the province and 770 more cases have been reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during last 24 hours, confirms Health Department on Wednesday. According to Health Department officials 702 cases were reported on Tuesday and 17 persons were died while 509 cases and 11 deaths were .....

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Corona claims 18 more lives in KP
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
PESHAWAR - Coronavirus claimed 18 more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as 770 new cases were reported in the province during last 24 hours, according to corona updates shared by KP Health Department here on Wednesday. With 18 more deaths, the total tally from the disease has climbed to 4714 while with 770 new cases the total number of active cases in the province reached 7016. During the same pe.....

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257 more covid positive cases surface in Pindi
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Commissioner Syed Gulzar Hussain Shah said no negligence would be tolerated in following the standard operating procedures (SOPs) aimed at controlling the fourth deadly wave of coronavirus pandemic. Talking to the media, he said the delta variant was more transmissible and badly affected the human’s respiratory system. The commissioner asked the residents to get thems.....

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19 more succumb to coronavirus
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
LAHORE - The coronavirus pandemic claimed 19 more lives and 964 new cases were reported in the province during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) here on Friday, the death toll has reached 11,139 and the number of total cases is 361,458. As many as 334,599 patients have recovered from the disease so.....

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Islamabad once again reports highest Covid-19 cases since April 23
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
RAWALPINDI: As many as 524 people tested positive for Covid-19, the highest since April 23, as the virus claimed three lives in Rawalpindi district and two in Islamabad on Saturday. As the positivity rate in Rawalpindi surged to 13pc, Rawalpindi Medical University (RMU) established two new intensive care units (ICUs) at the Holy Family Hospital (HFH) and Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) and allocate.....

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Educational institutions will remain open
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
LAHORE: Punjab government on Saturday turned down the suggestion of the health department to close the educational institutions in the province because of increasing coronavirus cases during the pandemic’s fourth wave. The health department had asked the government to rethink its decision to reopen the educational institutions in Punjab because the coronavirus cases were increasing. Howeve.....

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40% of population to get jabs by 14th
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
LAHORE: In the wake of the fourth wave of coronavirus, civil and military administrations have vowed to take strict measures to rein in the spread of disease and set a target to vaccinate 40% of the population in five major cities of Punjab by 14 August. The decision was made in the Punjab Apex Committee meeting which met at the Chief Minister’s Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by PunjabC.....

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No let-up in coronavirus spread; Punjab health dept suggests strict enforcement of SOPs
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
LAHORE: While there is no let up in the spread of coronavirus, the Punjab health department has formulated fresh recommendations for strict enforcement of Coronavirus SOPs in the districts of Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan and Faisalabad, as all variants of coronavirus including Indian Delta variant have been found in the current samples of Covid-19 patients. In the wake of surge in coronavirus c.....

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31 more die as coronavirus onslaught continues unabated
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
LAHORE - The coronavirus claimed 31 more lives and 1099 new cases were reported in the province during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) here on Saturday, the death toll has reached 11,170 and the number of total cases is 362,557. A total of 334,807 patients have recovered so far. As per data ..... more >>

Top civil, military brass review law, order and steps to curtail Covid
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
LAHORE - A meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee (PAC) was held under the chairmanship of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar at the CM's Office on Saturday. Corps Commander Lahore Lt-Gen Abdul Aziz, General Officer Commanding 10 Division Maj Gen Aniqur Rehman Malik, DG Rangers Punjab Maj General Amir Majeed, Provincial Law Minister Basharat Raja, Provincial Health Mini..... more >>

Punjab reports 22 Covid fatalities, 1,087 fresh cases
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
LAHORE: Punjab has reported 1,087 Covid-19 cases and 22 deaths during the last 24 hours. The province’s infection tally has risen to 363,644 and the death toll climbed to 11,194. As many as 20,609 coronavirus tests were conducted in the province. Seven people died in Lahore while 22 total deaths were reported. During the last 24 hours, 471 people tested positive in Lahore, 236 in Rawalpin..... more >>

Punjab bans indoor gatherings in districts with high Covid positivity rate
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
LAHORE: The Punjab government has imposed a complete ban on indoor weddings and other social gatherings in districts with high disease prevalence in a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus. The health department said in a notification issued late Sunday that only outdoor weddings will be allowed with maximum 300 guests under strict Covid-19 SOPs and “there shall be a complete ban on indo..... more >>

UHS survey to analyse vaccination trends
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
LAHORE: The University of Health Sciences on Monday launched a public survey to analyse various trends in vaccination against Covid. “Whether one received multiple jabs of the same vaccine or mix-and-match, the PolyVac Tracker invites individuals (particularly the vaccinated ones) to partake in the simple anonymous survey aimed at recording and sharing self-reported vaccination and post-vac..... more >>

4 COVID-19 deaths, 253 cases from twin cities
Rawalpindi: Number of patients diagnosed with coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district has dropped down to a great extent in the last 24 hours with reports of 253 new cases from the twin cities in a day and four deaths caused by the virus. It is important that in the last one week, the average number of patients reported per day from the region was ove..... more >>
### Punjab imposes smart lockdown in selective districts
Source: INP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
LAHORE: Punjab government on Monday imposed smart lockdown in selective districts to control the fourth outbreak of coronavirus. According to details, permission to hold outdoor marriages with 300 guests and implementation on standard operating procedures (SOPs) has been allowed. All the indoor events including religious and cultural have been banned. On the other hand, Pakistan has....

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### Pakistan gets 1m Covid antigen rapid test kits from USA
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
LAHORE - The United States (US) government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), donated one million COVID-19 antigen rapid diagnostic tests on Monday to help Pakistan diagnose the coronavirus and respond to urgent health needs. These new rapid diagnostic tests detect infection in minutes and greatly enhance real-time monitoring, enabling health officials to quickly id.....

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### Covid containment at edu institutions underway
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
LAHORE - The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Punjab Monday installed hand-washing stations and hand-sanitizing machines at the Government College University (GCU), Lahore for students and faculty members. PRCS Punjab Chairman Justice (retd) Sheikh Ahmed Farooq handed over the sanitizers and antiseptic items to Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi at a ceremony in the university where the.....

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### Punjab Apex Committee lauds govt steps to contain Covid pandemic
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2021-08-08
A meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee (PAC) was held under the chairmanship of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar at the CM's Office Saturday. The meeting was also attended by Corps Commander Lahore Lt. Gen. Muhammad Abdul Aziz, General Officer Commanding 10 Division Major General Muhammad Aniq-ur-Rehman Malik, DG Rangers Punjab Major General Muhammad Amir Majeed, Provincial Law .....

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### Punjab reports highest 38 Covid deaths in a day
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-11
LAHORE: Punjab reported 38 Covid deaths during the last 24 hours; so far the highest figure in a day during the fourth wave of the coronavirus pandemic, bringing the toll to 11,237 across the province. Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Sara Aslam on Tuesday warned that the infection was spreading fast with every passing day and that the virus’ positivity rate in Punjab r.....

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### 5 die of COVID-19 in ICT, 784 cases from twin cities
Rawalpindi: As many as five more patients suffering from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory have died of the illness in the last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 1,870 while another 784 patients have been tested positive from the twin cities showing that the fourth wave of COVID-19 outbreak has become much intense in terms of both morbidity and mortality i.....

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### Over 20.4m people vaccinated in Punjab so far
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
LAHORE: While the vaccination drive against coronavirus is under way at fast pace across the province, over 20.4 million people have so far been vaccinated in Punjab, it has been learnt. Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Sarah Aslam stated that a record number of people are vaccinated in Punjab on daily basis. Currently, as many as 662 vaccination centers are in operation.....

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### Anti-dengue drive underway in city
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-11
LAHORE - An anti-dengue drive, initiated by the district administration, is being carried out at various points in the provincial capital currently. Assistant Commissioner City Fizan Ahmed Tuesday visited union council (UC) 71, where he inspected the staff working in streets for indoor dengue surveillance. He checked the attendance and performance of the anti-dengue squad, deputed on field du.....

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### Chief secretary among Covid patients
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
LAHORE: As many as 1,230 people tested positive for Covid-19 during the last 24 hours (Wednesday) across the province. Punjab Chief Secretary Jawad Rafiq Malik also tested positive. He was attending a high-profile meeting of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and several parliamentarians in Bahawalpur on Wednesday when the lab report confirmed the infection. As soon as the Sa.....

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### Corona positivity rate surges to 6.19pc in Punjab
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
LAHORE: While the overall Corona positivity rate in Punjab surged to 6.19%, the provincial health department is eyeing a target of 600,000 vaccinations daily amid door to door vaccination in the five districts of the province. In Punjab, over 1000 new infections were reported for the fifth consecutive day, as out of 19842 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 1230 fresh infections and 17 .....

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### 4 persons die of coronavirus in Rawalpindi
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-12
Rawalpindi-Four people died of COVID-19 in different hospitals in the city here on Wednesday, informed sources. Similarly, the district administration has imposed smart lockdown in 28 hotspot areas of the city till August 19, 2021, they said. According to sources, as many as four people died of coronavirus. They said some 293 people contracted Covid-19 virus in Rawalpindi district while 164 .....

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### 28 areas in Rawalpindi identified as hot spots
Rawalpindi: The Rawalpindi District Administration in consultation with medical teams, district police, and trade bodies of the city forwarded the request to the Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Care (SP&SHC) for the imposition of temporary lockdown in 28 areas of the district under section 144 (06). In a letter written to SP&SHC, the Deputy Commissioner office had identified 28 ar.....

[more >>](#)
Twin cities log 5 more deaths, 728 new cases  
Rawalpindi: Number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district has been registering a tremendous increase as in the last two days, as many as 1,512 new patients have been reported from the twin cities making an average of 756 cases per day is well over sixteen times the average number of patients reported per day fro.....  
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Drive-through vaccination facility set up in Pindi  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-13  
RAWALPINDI: The district administration on Thursday established a drive-through Covid-19 vaccination facility at Allama Iqbal Park in collaboration with Wilson’s Pharmaceuticals to facilitate the people in getting vaccination. Deputy Commissioner Aamir Aqiq Khan inaugurated the facility. Senior district administration officials, Wilson’s Pharmaceuticals Director Yasir Ghouri and Fais.....  
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Covid claims 36 more lives in Punjab  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-13  
LAHORE: Punjab reported 36 Covid deaths and 1,141 new cases of the virus during the last 24 hours. Of the new positive cases, 585 were reported in Lahore, 110 in Rawalpindi, 72 in Faisalabad, 39 in Sialkot, 69 in Multan, 29 each in Gujrat and Gujranwala, 28 in Rahim Yar Khan and 22 in Bahawalpur. The total number of deaths in Punjab is now 11,209 and positive cases 368,195, according to the Covi.....  
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‘China has provided 35m doses of vaccines to Pakistan’  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-13  
LAHORE: The participants in a webinar on 70 years of Pakistan-China Friendship have expressed the need to enhance economic, social, educational and strategic cooperation by developing people-to-people contact between the two countries. Ambassador Nong Rong said China and Pakistan were celebrating the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties and they should pay tribute to those who have contributed to .....  
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First drive-through covid centre set up in Pindi  
Source: Jamil Mirza, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-13  
RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Deputy Commissioner Amir Aqiq Khan on Thursday inaugurated the first drive-through COVID-19 vaccination centre in the district. The facility has been set up at Allama Iqbal Park, Benazir Bhutto Road. Talking to the media, he said that to vaccinate a maximum number of people, the district administration had adopted a policy to facilitate people who want to benefit from the n.....  
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Punjab reports 1,141 Covid-19 fresh infections, 36 deaths  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-13  
LAHORE: Despite Covid-19 vaccination on large scale, there is no let up in the spread of coronavirus in Punjab, as out of out of 19773 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 1141 fresh infections and 36 fatalities were reported in the province taking the tally of cases to 368,195 and death toll to 11292. Out of 36 deaths reported during the last 24 hours, 17 were reported in Lahore, 10 in .....  
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37 shops sealed for SOPs violations
Rawalpindi: Rawalpindi District Administration on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Aamir Aqiq Khan has sealed 37 shops, four snooker clubs and arrested 11 persons for violating coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Punjab government. According to district administration spokesman, the administration under the supervision of DC conducted raids in different.....

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3 COVID-19 deaths, 787 new cases reported in twin cities
Islamabad: As many as 787 new patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district that is the highest number of cases reported in a day from the twin cities after April 23. The virus has claimed another three lives from the twin cities taking death toll from the region to 1878 while to date, a total of.....

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Over 1.4m people vaccinated in Faisalabad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-13
FAISALABAD - As many as 1,421,790 people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Faisalabad district. District Health Officer Dr. Ataul Mun‘im said on Thursday that 1,149,401 citizens had been given the first dose while 225,365 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 28,387 health workers were also given the first dose while 18,637 received the second dose .....

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Covid positivity ratio 8.2pc in Lahore
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-14
LAHORE: As many as 17 more Covid patients died during the last 24 hours in Punjab, taking the tally to 11,305 across the province so far. Similarly, total number of infections reached 369,358 in Punjab after 1,163 more people tested positive for the virus during the same period. According to the Covid update released here on Friday, Lahore reported maximum 564 new positive cases followed by Rawa.....

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LAHORE: As many as 17 more Covid patients died during the last 24 hours in Punjab, taking the tally to 11,305 across the province so far. Similarly, total number of infections reached 369,358 in Punjab after 1,163 more people tested positive for the virus during the same period. According to the Covid update released here on Friday, Lahore reported maximum 564 new positive cases followed by Rawa.....

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Covid patient commits suicide at Mayo Hospital in Lahore
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-14
LAHORE: A young Covid-19 patient allegedly committed suicide in the Covid ward of the Mayo Hospital here on Friday. The patient slit his throat with a knife at the North Medical Ward of the hospital after remaining unattended during his prolonged isolation. The massive bleeding led to his immediate death, a senior official said. The administration called police who also investigated the incident.....

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Hospitals told to keep ventilators available
Source: Anadolu Agency, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-14
LAHORE: In view of the worsening Covid-19 situation, the Punjab health department has started reviewing the facilities available for the patients in the province. The department is reportedly focusing on ensuring the availability of ventilators in all government hospitals. According to a spokesman for Punjab Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department, there are 697 ventilators in hosp.....
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Pakistani philanthropist wins UN ‘Champions for Change’ award
Source: Asif Mehmood, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-14
LAHORE: Pakistani social entrepreneur and philanthropist Zain Asrar Hassan has been honoured with the United Nations ‘Champions for Change’ award for helping deserving people during the coronavirus pandemic. Zain participated in the global competition held between the participants of 39 countries and bagged the prestigious award on the occasion of Pakistan’s 75th Independence Day. He is.....
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Covid infectivity rate increasing at alarming level in major cities of Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-15
LAHORE: With 1,247 new Covid infections and 22 deaths reported during the last 24 hours in Punjab, the infectivity rate is increasing in major cities of the province at an alarming level. According to the official data, Rawalpindi is at the top among others where the positivity rate has increased to 12.5, followed by Lahore 9.8, Faisalabad 5.9 and Multan 5.6. Health officials and medical experts.....
more >

Doctor says vaccination saved him from severity of infection
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-15
LAHORE: Former King Edward Medical University Vice Chancellor and Covid coordinator of the Punjab government Prof Asad Aslam Khan says Canadian doctors have declared the vaccine used in Pakistan safe and effective to reduce severity of infection. Prof Aslam who has been dealing the Covid outbreak in Punjab since March 2020 caught virus twice -- first in Lahore and then in Canada recently after he.....
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Coronavirus situation in Punjab: No let-up in spread as overall positivity rate reaches 6.15pc
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-15
LAHORE: While there is no let up in the spread of coronavirus, the overall positivity rate of virus in the province reached to 6.15 percent while this rate soared to 15 percent and 9 percent in Rawalpindi and Lahore, respectively, during the last 24 hours. Out of 20194 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 1242 fresh infections and 22 fatalities were reported in the province taking the ta.....
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Corona updates: 1,006 positive cases, 18 deaths
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-16
LAHORE: Punjab reported 1,006 coronavirus cases on Sunday, down from 1,241 detected a day earlier, taking the provincial total to 371,605. The province also confirmed 18 more fatalities due to the Covid-19 complications, taking the death toll to 11,347. In view of the increased coronavirus cases, Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SHD) Secretary Sara Aslam has issued special SOPs for variou.....
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RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi district administration sealed 179 shops, six snooker clubs and as many restaurants during the last seven days and arrested 11 people for violation of coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the Punjab government. According to a spokesperson, the district administration also imposed fines amounting to Rs331,000 on the violators. He said that the city tr.....

FAISALABAD - As many as 59 people were tested positive for COVID-19 in the district during the last 24 hours. According to health department spokesperson, 1,815 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector labs during the same period. He said that total active cases in Faisalabad district reached 834 while recoveries 20,961. He said that 339 beds were allocated at the Allied.....

LAHORE - The coronavirus has claimed 18 more lives while 1006 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, the death toll due to the pandemic reached up to 11,345 and a total number of cases recorded 371,606 while 339,381 patients had been reco.....

Rawalpindi - Rawalpindi District Administration, on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Amir Aqiq Khan, sealed 179 shops, six snooker clubs, and restaurants during last seven days and arrested 11 over violation of coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Punjab government. According to a district administration spokesman, the administration also imposed fine.....

Rawalpindi - As many as 28,251 vaccine doses were administered in the past 24 hours, the total district tally of coronavirus vaccination reached 1,685,810 here on Sunday. According to fresh data released by the District Health Authority, 38,760 health workers while 1,648,050 other people including senior citizens have received their dose so far. The report said that the district health autho.....

Rawalpindi: As many as 572 new patients were reported positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district while the virus claimed another two lives from the region taking the death toll to 1,890. The situation is much alarming as the average positivity rate of COVID-19 from the twin cities has been around 10 to 12 per cent for .....
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<td>Sher Ali Khalit, <em>The News, International</em></td>
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<td>Govt devises corona vaccination plan for Muharram processions</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em></td>
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<td>Saadia Salahuddin, <em>The News, International</em></td>
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<td>Delta onslaught goes on unabated, says minister</td>
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<td>2021-08-18</td>
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<td>NCOC nod sought to reopen shrines</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2021-08-18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Punjab govt seeks NCOC nod for students vaccination between 16 to 18 years**

Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-08-18

LAHORE - The Punjab government has decided to send recommendations to the National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) for reopening closed shrines under SOPs in four major cities. At the outset of the fourth wave of coronavirus, Punjab Auqaf department's 189 shrines in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Multan were closed in the light of the NCOC guidelines. The decision was taken dur.....

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**Positivity ratio falls in Islamabad**

Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-08-19

RAWALPINDI: Though the capital saw a decline in Covid-19 positivity rate on Wednesday, 312 more cases emerged with two elderly patients losing their lives in Rawalpindi district. Islamabad’s positivity ratio was recorded at 5.8pc. The deceased were identified as Begum Bibi, 69, resident of Chak Beli Khan, who was brought to Fauji Foundation Hospital and Tahira Tasleem, 63, from Raja Akram .....  

more >>

**63pc of Jhelum’s population vaccinated**

Source: The Newspaper's correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-08-19

GUJAR KHAN: Jhelum has topped the list of districts of Punjab where most people have been vaccinated against Covid-19. According to details, 63pc residents of district Jhelum above 18 years of age have been vaccinated. When contacted, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Health Dr Waseem Iqbal said that 745,817 people are the target population for vaccination in district Jhelum; of them, 467,411 have b.....

more >>

**Punjab plans to vaccinate students between 16 and 18 years**


LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to send recommendations to the National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) for reopening the closed shrines under SOPs in four major cities that had been closed at the outset of the fourth wave of Coronavirus. The Punjab Auqaf Department had closed 189 shrines in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Multan in the light of the NCOC guidelines. The decision.....

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**22 more Covid deaths reported in Punjab**

Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-08-19

LAHORE: As many as 1,198 new Covid positive cases and 22 deaths were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours. The positivity rate of the virus was recorded 11 per cent in Rawalpindi, 8.9 per cent in Multan and 8.8 per cent in Lahore. Overall percentage of the virus in Punjab reached 5.8pc, according to the Covid update released by the Punjab Health Department here on Wednesday. Punjab Healt.....

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**2 die of COVID-19 from Pindi, 479 cases in twin cities**


Rawalpindi: As many as 479 new patients were tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while the virus claimed another two lives from the region, all from Rawalpindi district that has taken death toll from the twin cities to 1,900. Data collected by ‘The News’ on Wednesday has revealed that the total .....  

more >>
1198 fresh cases, 22 new deaths; Over 23.5m people vaccinated in Punjab so far
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
LAHORE: While there is steady rise in Covid-19 cases related to Delta variant in the fourth wave, the overall positivity rate of coronavirus reached to 5.76%, as out of 20766 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 1198 fresh infections and 22 fatalities were reported in the province taking the tally of cases to 374,916 and death toll to 11434. Out of 22 deaths reported during the last 24 h.....
more >>

Govt taking drastic measures to combat COVID-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-19
LAHORE - Secretary Specialized Healthcare (SSH) Punjab Sara Aslam has said that the department had made sufficient arrangements in view of COVID-19 as out of total 6518 beds reserved in all government hospitals for coronavirus patients, 4659 were lying vacant. Chairing a meeting here on Wednesday, she said, as many as 319068 coronavirus patients had recovered in public sector hospitals under ..... more >>

Sindh

Vaccination drive
Source: From the Newspaper, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
KARACHI: Careem, in collaboration with the government of Sindh, arranged a Covid-19 vaccination camp for its colleagues, captains, their families and other residents of the workplace at its Karachi and Islamabad offices, says a statement. Zeeshan Hasib Baig, country general manager, Careem Pakistan, stated, “We are extremely grateful to the respective government offices for collaborating wi..... more >>

Two doctors die of Covid
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
KARACHI: Two doctors died of Covid in Karachi on Friday, said officials. Dr Nisar Ali Shah, former senior medico-legal officer of Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi passed away on Friday due to Covid, according to his doctor friends. He was doing private practice in Gulistan-i-Jauhar after retirement. He was also known as a poet, short-story writer and activist with leftist leanings. Dr Qaise..... more >>

Karachi’s positivity ratio down 3pc as fourth Covid wave grips AJK, other regions
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday said the number of active Covid-19 cases are now on a downward trend in the province, particularly in the provincial capital of Karachi where the positivity ratio has decreased to 21 per cent. In a joint meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), theSindhCM said the port city had a positivity ratio of 24 per cent, but it has n..... more >>

Are lockdowns the answer to Karachi’s air pollution?
Source: Tufail Ahmed, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
KARACHI: A fluke triggered by theSindhgovernment’s rigorous efforts to curb the viral threat is projected to reduce Karachi’s air pollution by almost 40 per cent. If the lockdown persists, the megacity’s air quality, which is currently deemed unhealthy for sensitive groups as per IQ Air, could in all likelihood take a turn for the better in the coming days. The estimate is base..... more >>
Teacher conducting survey on Covid vaccinations attacked
Source: Z Ali, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
HYDERABAD: A teacher accompanying a polio team was assaulted in Qasimabad area on Thursday. The documents the teacher was carrying regarding a survey of the population, which has received or not received Covid-19 vaccination were snatched from him. The incident provoked a reaction from the Government Secondary Teachers Association (GSTA), which has already voiced concern on the employment of gove..... more >>

COVID kills 42 more in Sindh
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
KARACHI - As many as 42 more patients of coronavirus died overnight, lifting the death toll to 6,168 and 2,170 new cases emerged when 18,223 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Friday. He added that 42 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives, lifting the death toll to 6,168 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah ..... more >>

NCOC decides to lift Covid-19 lockdown in Sindh from Monday
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-07
ISLAMABAD/ KARACHI: Despite a significantly high number of active Covid-19 cases in the province fuelled by the more contagious Delta variant, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday decided to lift the lockdown in Sindh, imposed last week to stem the spread of the coronavirus, from Monday. This emerged during the meeting of the NCOC in Karachi presided over by its chief, Fe..... more >>

Whose lockdown is it anyway?
Source: Peerzada Salman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
KARACHI: Yes, the fourth wave of coronavirus is lethal. Yes, we need to be extra careful to protect ourselves from its deadly effects. Yes, hospitals need not be overcrowded. That can only happen when we, the people, follow the health guidelines religiously — wear a mask, no matter what; keep a safe, six-foot distance from one another. Yes lockdown worked when the pandemic first hit our coun..... more >>

Wahab says record 231,000 people vaccinated in single day in Karachi
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
KARACHI: City Administrator Barrister Murtaza Wahab, who is also the provincial government's spokesman and chief minister's law adviser, said on Saturday that it was “unprecedented” that more than 200,000 people got vaccinated in a single day in the city. “Thanks to Allah, the Almighty, the [Covid-19] situation has improved due to the lockdown in Karachi," he s..... more >>

SIM block warning proved to be game-changer: Wahab
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
KARACHI: The warning to block cellular SIMs of people who do not get vaccinated against the novel coronavirus disease helped convince millions of people to get inoculated, said Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab on Saturday. "A new notification regarding lockdown in Karachi will be issued tomorrow in which special relief is given to the citizens; however, some restrictions will remain,"..... more >>
Sindh lockdown to be lifted on 9th: NCOC
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
ISLAMABAD/ KARACHI: The National Command and Operation Centre on Covid-19 on Saturday announced that the lockdown announced by the Sindh government in the province would be lifted from August 9 as the country recorded 95 coronavirus-related deaths over the past 24 hours — the highest since May 20 when 102 were reported. In a joint session held in Karachi, it was also decided that non-pharmaceutical.....
more >>

Delta variant hits Karachi the most
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
KARACHI: Pakistan is currently experiencing the fourth wave of Covid-19 on an upward trajectory. The Indian Delta variant has hit Karachi the most. This emerged in the National Command and Operations Center (NOC) meeting hosted by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah here at the CM House Saturday. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister Asad Umar, Lt Gen Hamood-uz-Zaman, Special Assistant.....
more >>

Decision of turning off SIM cards proves to be game changer: Wahab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
‘People should take this epidemic seriously and vaccinate their entire families’ KARACHI - Administrator Karachi, Sindh Government Spokesman and CM Advisor on Law Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Saturday said that a new notification regarding lockdown in Karachi will be issued on Sunday (today) in which special relief will be given to the citizens; however, some restrictions will rem.....
more >>

Sindh relaxes Covid-19 restrictions on NCOC’s advice
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-08
KARACHI: The government of Sindh, on the advice of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), relaxed the Covid-19 restrictions put in place to stem the spread of coronavirus amid the fourth wave of the pandemic fuelled by the more contagious Delta variant of the virus. A notification issued on Sunday by the provincial home department said that markets and business activities can continue.....
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Sindh govt lifts corona restrictions today
KARACHI: The Sindh Home Department, on the directives from government of Sindh, has lifted restrictions from different commodities and businesses by also extending timings of businesses till 8pm. While, the Sindh government has decided to keep shut the educational institutions in the province including government and privately run schools, colleges, and universities till August 19, 2021 in view o.....
more >>

Sindh schools to remain closed
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
KARACHI: Educational institutions in Sindh will remain closed till August 19 in light of increasing coronavirus infections, announced Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah on Sunday. However, intermediate exams across the province will resume from August 10 (tomorrow), he added. Addressing a press conference, Shah, who took charge of the department last week replacing now Information, La.....
more >>
Sindh announces relaxed Covid-19 curbs from today
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-08-09
The Sindh government, bringing an end to a nine-day lockdown, on Sunday announced revised Covid-19 restrictions for the province as the country battles fourth wave of the pandemic, a private TV channel reported. The new restrictions are set to take effect on Monday, August 9, and will last till August 31. Under the revised curbs, market and business activities may continue till 8pm. This include.....
more >>

Sindh records 1,655 new cases of Covid-19
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
KARACHI: As many as 26 more patients of Covid-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 6,215 and 1,655 new cases emerged when 17,625 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He added that 26 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 6,215 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. S.....
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Sindh govt’s priority to vaccinate maximum numbers of people: minister
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
HYDERABAD: The Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro Sunday said that the first priority of the Sindh government was to vaccinate the people against Covid-19 in maximum possible numbers therefore effective steps were being taken in this regard by the Sindh Government. While talking to media persons during his visit to mass vaccination centre near Niaz Stadium, he informed that three hundre.....
more >>

Schools to remain closed till 19th
Source: Mohammad Bilal Tahir, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-09
Karachi: The Sindh Government on Sunday eased the Covid-19 restrictions in Karachi after, as per estimates, 23 percents of citizens have been inoculated. Businesses, marriage halls, restaurants, public transport, and offices in the province will remain open on Monday (today) after eight days of lockdown amid spike in the Covid-19 cases. According to a notification issued from the provinc.....
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Pandemic plunges families into food poverty in world’s rich economies
When last year's pandemic forced Mariassunta Seccia and her husband Rodolfo to leave their jobs, they struggled to pay for food, rent and bills. “It didn’t take long for all the money to run out,” said Seccia, 36, who worked as a cleaner at a Milan hotel while her husband sold fruit at a market stall. “When our children opened the fridge and they couldn’t even.....
more >>

Citizens throng markets as ‘game-changer’ lockdown lifted
Source: Sameer Mandhro, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-08-10
KARACHI: Markets, shopping plazas and thoroughfares were crowded on Monday as the metropolis awakened from a nine-day slumber. Coronavirus vaccination centres (CVCs), which had witnessed an influx of citizens during the 'partial lockdown' imposed by the Sindh government, remained vacant after Covid curbs were relaxed. “The virus [appears to have] left the city within a few hours,”.....
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<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
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<td>Agri credit disbursement reaches Rs1.366trn despite Covid-19 challenges</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
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<td>AKRA, foodpanda set up Covid-19 vaccination centre in Karachi</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
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<td>Meezan, Sindh govt launch Covid-19 drive-through vaccination centre</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>9 health workers die due to COVID-19 in two weeks</td>
<td>M. Waqar Bhatti, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-08-11</td>
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<td>Stigma slows vaccinations among transpersons</td>
<td>Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-11</td>
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Flagrant violation of social distancing continues
Source: Aamir Khan, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-08-12
KARACHI: After having to cower into a paralysing lockdown the past week, the country’s financial hub has now started springing back into its bustling routine. Starting Monday, malls and parks are once again abuzz with people, weddings are back in order, gyms have opened their doors to vaccinated members and various other congregational activities are no longer policed by batons. However, ..... more >>

Pandemic claims another 41 lives in Sindh
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-08-12
KARACHI: Another 41 people succumbed to the coronavirus in Sindh, which reported over 2,100 new cases on Wednesday. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House, 2,145 new cases emerged when 19,978 samples were tested for the contagion. The provincial pandemic tally and death toll rose to 406,092 and 6,316, respectively, with the recent cases, said Chief Minister Syed Murad A..... more >>

2,145 fresh Covid-19 cases, 41 deaths reported in Sindh
KARACHI: As many as 41 more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 6,316 and 2,145 new cases emerged when 19,978 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Wednesday. He added that 41 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 6,316 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. ..... more >>

WHO lauds Sindh’s efforts against coronavirus: CM Murad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-08-13
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that his government under the guidelines of World Health Organization (WHO) is making all-out efforts to contain the fourth wave of COVID-19 in the province. He said this during his meeting with WHO Representative/Head of Mission Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala here on Thursday at CM House. The meeting was attended by Health Minister D..... more >>

90pc Covid-19 patients being hospitalised are unvaccinated, says health minister
Source: Faiza Ilyas, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-08-14
KARACHI: Ninety per cent of the patients who are being hospitalised with Covid-19 complications in the province are unvaccinated. This shows the need for mass vaccination, a target being actively pursued by the provincial government. It hopes to inoculate half of the province’s population by the end of next month. This was stated by Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho while speaking..... more >>

Keeping the spirit of patriotism going
Source: Yusra Salim, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-08-14
KARACHI: Like everything else, the display spirit, passion and fervor that marked celebrations of our national days has been affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic. But while most of us still keep up that spirit and celebrate in a more scaled down manner, it is perhaps those whose livelihood depended upon festivities that have been worst impacted. Amid the closing down of educational instit..... more >>
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<td>‘Sindh on track to meet Covid vaccination target’</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>KARACHI: Sindh is on track to have 40 per cent of its adult population vaccinated by month-end, meeting the inoculation target set by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Speaking to the media after inaugurating a drive-through vaccination unit on the premises of the National Stadium on Friday, Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho said that to overcome the pandemic at least 70 to 8.</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Transgenders to get single-dose vaccine in Sindh</td>
<td>INP, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-14</td>
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<td>KARACHI: The Sindh health department has decided to administer the Covid-19 vaccine to the transgender community. They will be administered single-dose vaccine. Sources said on Friday that the Sindh health department in its endeavour to slow down the spread of coronavirus has decided to inoculate the members of transgender community. They will be administered the single-dose vaccine. They do</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>KARACHI: On the recommendations of transplant surgeons and infectious diseases experts, health authorities in Pakistan are considering to ‘allow a booster dose of Covid-19 vaccines’ for immune-comprised people including those who had an organ transplant, HIV and cancer patients, and people taking high-doses of steroids or other immunosuppressive drugs, officials said on Saturday. They</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>HBL, govt of Sindh launch Covid-19 drive-through vaccination facility</td>
<td>Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>KARACHI: HBL in collaboration with the Government of Sindh inaugurated a Covid-19 drive-through vaccination facility at the National Stadium Karachi. The facility will be operational from 10 AM to 10 PM daily and citizens will be able to avail this drive-through facility, free of charge. The vaccination is being undertaken by the Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) team. Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Mi</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID claims 29 more lives in Sindh</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>KARACHI - As many as 29 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 6,413 and 1,188 new cases emerged when 15,288 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Saturday. He added that 29 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 6,413 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr Sh</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Covid-19 vaccines ‘theft’ case transferred to anti-corruption court</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-08-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>KARACHI: A local court has transferred to the anti-corruption court a case pertaining to alleged theft of Covid-19 vaccines from government stocks and illegally administering them to people at their homes against “service fee” in Karachi. Retired Major Amanullah Sultan, owner of M/s Sultan Madad Private Limited; his employee Mohammed Ali; and district superintendent vaccination Tahira.</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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# Panhandlers duck vaccination campaigns

**Source:** Aamir Khan, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-08-17

KARACHI: Beggars are common in megacities, particularly those in the global south and those grappling with widespread urban poverty. In Karachi, they are a segment of its burgeoning 20 million population that is ever present and all seeing but given their lack of social capital, often invisible to eyes that draft policies. According to estimates from the 2017 census, Pakistan is home to over 25 .....  

[more >>](#)

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# Schools in Sindh to reopen on Monday

**Source:** Ikram Junaidi, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-08-18

- Main vaccination centres to remain open today  
- 10m doses of Pfizer vaccine expected in two weeks

ISLAMABAD: While the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday decided to keep main Covid-19 vaccination centers open on 9th of Muharram (today), schools in Sindh would reopen with 50 per cent attendance from Aug 23. The vaccination centers will remain closed on Ashura da.....  

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# Mobility, dependency hinder women’s access to Covid jabs

**Source:** Aamir Khan, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-08-18

KARACHI: As the province battles its fourth and most rapid pandemic wave, the government’s anti-coronavirus campaign appears to have fallen short in its efforts to reach all segments of society. Stay-at-home women from middle and low-income neighborhoods are less likely to be vaccinated against the coronavirus due to various factors like lack of mobility and information and dependency. The.....  

[more >>](#)

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# Schools to open next week

**Source:** Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-08-18

KARACHI: Schools across the province will resume on-campus educational activities from August 23 (Monday), said Sindh Education Minister Sardar Ali Shah on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference after a meeting of the steering committee, the minister said that a decision has been made to continue educational activities but schools may only open if 100 per cent of their teachers and staff are vacci.....  

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# Schools to open next week

**Source:** Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-08-18

KARACHI: Schools across the province will resume on-campus educational activities from August 23 (Monday), said Sindh Education Minister Sardar Ali Shah on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference after a meeting of the steering committee, the minister said that a decision has been made to continue educational activities but schools may only open if 100 per cent of their teachers and staff are vacci.....  

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# COVID claims 22 more lives in Sindh

**Source:** Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-08-18

KARACHI - As many as 22 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 6,497 and 1,471 new cases emerged when 17,822 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Tuesday. He added that 22 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 6,497 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. M.....  

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<td>No safe days this week, urge traders</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em></td>
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<td>PPL kicks off COVID-19 vaccination drive</td>
<td>Press Release, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2021-08-19</td>
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<td>32 more died of COVID in Sindh</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2021-08-19</td>
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KARACHI: The Pakistan's healthcare community is in a state of shock and extremely upset with the government for ignoring the sacrifices of hundreds of doctors, paramedics and nurses and pharmacists, in the announcement of Pakistan's civil and military awards, despite putting their lives at risk while serving during the COVID-19 pandemic, as names of only two healthcare professionals we.....

KARACHI: Small traders in Karachi have urged the Sindh government to allow commercial activity on Friday and Sunday this week given the two-day Ashura holiday. Markets and commercial centres in the metropolis are shut on Fridays and Sundays, which are observed as 'safe days' each week in a bid to curb the spread of Covid-19. In a statement issued on Wednesday, Traders Action Committee.....

KARACHI: The Sindh Education and Literacy Department made the COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for parents, teachers, and students aged 16 years and they will be required to submit their vaccination certificates to the educational institutions. The department in a steering committee meeting held Tuesday decided to reopen schools with 50 percent attendance on August 23. Addressing a press conference.....

KARACHI - Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) recently kicked-off a COVID-19 vaccination drive for local communities around the company’s field locations at Gambat South, Kandhkot, Mazarani, Dhok Sultan and Adhi in districts Sanghar, Kashmore and Kambar Shahdadkot, Sindh as well as District Attock and Tehsil Gujjar Khan in Punjab. Further, at Sui, District Dera Bugti the immunization drive is a.....

KARACHI - As many as 32 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 6,529 and 1,380 new cases emerged when 16,611 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Wednesday. He added that 32 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 6,529 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate......
Gold edges up for sixth day amid USD pullback, Covid concerns

Source: correspondent, Daily Times, 2021-08-19

Gold prices edged up for the sixth successive session on Wednesday and gained around 0.20 percent, as the US dollar's pullback and Covid-19 concerns keep the prices buoyed. At 1230 hours GMT, gold in the international market was available at $1,790.70 per ounce after gaining $3.60 as compared to its closing value on Tuesday last. Meanwhile, the price of 10 grams of yellow metal in Pakistan ..... 

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International News

**Countries News**

**Johnson says reviewing Pakistan’s ‘red list’ status**
Source: **NNI, Business Recorder, Islamabad**, 2021-08-08
LONDON: Pakistan’s High Commissioner in London Moazzam Ahmad Khan on Saturday called on British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to raise the issue of Pakistan’s presence on the red list citing a spike in the COVID-19 case. The British prime minister said that they were reviewing Covid-19 statistics to mull over if the country could be removed from the ‘red list’. more >>

**Pakistan on Red List for failing to give COVID-19 data, UK claims**
LONDON: The British Government has claimed that the Pakistan authorities didn’t share with them the COVID-19 data on vaccination and testing and that likely explains why Pakistan remains on the travel ban Red List – while India and several other countries have been moved out of the ban list into the Amber category. Officials of the Pakistani and the UK governments have argued over Pak..... more >>

**Malaysia to ease Covid restrictions for fully vaccinated citizens; Delta fuels concerns for children's health in US**
Source: **AFP, The News, International**, 2021-08-09
Miami: Greater numbers of American children are being swept up in a wave of coronavirus infections driven by the Delta variant, causing renewed anxiety for parents and a bitter political fight as schools prepare to reopen within weeks. Much of the surge is concentrated in the southeastern state of Florida, where some school districts are defying an order by the Republican governor forbidding mask..... more >>

**America ‘failing’ on Covid**
Source: **AFP, The News, International**, 2021-08-09
Washington: With the United States recording its highest daily Covid case load in six months, a top public health official warned on Sunday that the country is "failing." "We should not really have ever got to the place we are," Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, said on ABC's "This Week." "In that regard, yes, we are failing.&..... more >>

**Protesters mass in France against Covid health pass**
Source: **AFP, The News, International**, 2021-08-09
Almost a quarter of a million people took to the streets across France on Sunday for the biggest protests yet against a coronavirus health pass needed to enter a cafe or travel on an inter-city train, two days before the new rules come into force. Similar but smaller protests were held in Italy. Championed by President Emmanuel Macron, the French regulations make it obligatory to have either a fu..... more >>

**UK virus**
Source: **Xinhua, The News, International**, 2021-08-09
LONDON: Britain has reported another 27,429 coronavirus cases in the latest 24-hour period, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 6,069,362, according to official figures released on Sunday. The country also recorded another 39 coronavirus-related deaths. ..... more >>
Covid variant ‘no joke,’ young Mexicans warn
Coacalco, Mexico: When Diego started going out again to meet friends he never expected to be among a growing number of young Mexicans hospitalized by a highly contagious Covid-19 variant driving another wave of infections. "I let my guard down thinking that I wasn’t going to catch it, but in the end I did," the 20-year-old student told AFP at a private clinic in a suburb north of ......

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Italian police disrupt network selling fake Covid ‘green passes’
Rome: Fake versions of anti-Covid "green passes" have begun to circulate in Italy just days after they were introduced, police said Monday, adding they had broken up a network selling false evidence of vaccination, recovery or testing. The police said they had identified four suspects, including two minors, in an ongoing investigation. "Thousands of users were registered on well-.....

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Londoners remain reluctant to have Covid-19 jabs; Swiss approve second Covid jab for young people
Geneva: Switzerland on Monday approved Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine for youngsters aged between 12 and 17 years old, weeks after EU regulators authorised the drug for the same age group. The Swissmedic regulatory authority, which has already approved the Pfizer-BioNTech jab for over-12s, said results from an ongoing study showed Moderna had 93 percent efficacy in the young age group. "T.....

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Oil slides near 3pc on China virus curbs, strong dollar
LONDON: Oil prices fell by almost 3 percent on Monday, extending last week's steep losses on the back of a rising US dollar and concerns that new coronavirus-related restrictions in Asia, especially China, could slow a global recovery in fuel demand. A United Nations panel's dire warning on climate change also added to the gloomy mood after fires in Greece have razed homes and forests and.....

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New protests as France set to implement Covid health pass
PARIS: Protesters took to the streets across France on Saturday for the fourth weekend in a row to rally against a new coronavirus health pass needed to enter a cafe or travel on an inter-city train, two days before the new rules come into force. The new rules championed by President Emmanuel Macron make it obligatory to have either a full course of vaccination against Covid-19, be in possession .....
Pakistan’s top diplomat in UK hopeful of red list exit
Source: Atiqur Rehman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-08-11
LONDON: Pakistan’s High Commissioner to the UK Moazzam Ahmad Khan on Tuesday said he is optimistic that the British government will remove Pakistan from its red list in the upcoming travel update on August 26. In a briefing to journalists here, Mr Khan outlined the mission’s engagement with British authorities on their decision to keep travel from Pakistan restricted, and said officia.....
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Dubai revises travel guidelines for Pakistan, other countries
DUBAI: The Dubai International Airport authorities on Tuesday issued a new set of regulations for entrance into the city. As per the new rules, only those individuals possessing a ‘Golden Visa’ will be allowed to enter the city, while all other travellers must seek permission from the Dubai authorities to be granted entrance. Besides, the terms of presenting a negative report for a P.....
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Thai police fire rubber bullets, tear gas during Bangkok protest; Berlin to end free Covid tests to boost vaccinations
Berlin: Germany will end free coronavirus tests in October, regional leaders and the federal government agreed on Tuesday, in a push to incentivise more people to get vaccinated. Covid-19 tests or proof of vaccination or recovery will be required to access facilities including restaurants, cinemas and gyms, in areas where infection rates rise above a certain threshold. From October those who refu.....
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Iran’s Khamenei says halting Covid ‘urgent’ priority
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2021-08-12
Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that halting Covid-19 is an “urgent” priority and called for more vaccine imports and production, after record deaths and infections. The Islamic republic’s Covid cases and fatalities have surged in recent weeks, in what officials have said is a “fifth wave” caused by the highly infectious Delta var.....
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Saudi Aramco Q2 profits back to pre-Covid levels
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2021-08-12
Energy giant Saudi Aramco’s second quarter profits for 2021 have bounced back to pre-pandemic levels due to higher oil prices, nearly quadrupling compared to the same period last year. The company’s success comes after its debts climbed last year, when Saudi Arabia was hammered by the double whammy of low prices and sharp cuts in production triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. Aram.....
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Johnson told Pakistan Red listing could cost votes to Tories
LONDON: A group of Pakistanis has submitted a letter at 10 Downing Street to Prime Minister Boris Johnson warning him that keeping Pakistan on the ‘Red List’ could cost the ruling Conservative Party heavily in next general elections as Pakistanis are furious over the discriminatory decision. A delegation of the UK Pakistan Business Council (UKPBC) visited 10 Downing Street through app.....
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Khamenei says halting a virus ‘urgent’ priority; WHO mass-testing three potential Covid treatments
GENEVA: The World Health Organisation on Wednesday announced major international trials of three drugs to find out whether they improve the condition of hospitalised Covid-19 patients. Artesunate, imatinib and infliximab will be tested on thousands of volunteer patients in more than 600 hospitals in 52 countries. “Finding more effective and accessible therapeutics for Covid-19 patients remai.....
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Palestinians get 150,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine; US mandates Covid shots for health care workers
Washington: The US health department said on Thursday it will require all its public-facing health care workers to get vaccinated against Covid-19, amid a surge in hospitalisations driven by the Delta variant of the novel coronavirus. The policy will apply to around 25,000 Department of Health and Human Services employees who could come into contact with patients -- just under a third of its tota.....
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9/11 anniversary: US issues terrorism threat warning by foreign terrorists
WASHINGTON: The US Department of Homeland Security issued a new terrorism threat advisory late on Friday ahead of the anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks and amid a resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic. The National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin said the United States faces a "heightened threat environment" from both domestic terrorists "and those inspired or moti.....
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Australia clamps down on ‘most concerning day of the pandemic’
SYDNEY: Australia’s biggest city announced tighter Covid restrictions including heavier fines and tighter policing on Saturday as authorities battled to contain a Delta outbreak and said they were seeing the "most concerning day of the pandemic" so far. After months of pursuing a "Covid zero" strategy, Australia has been struggling to bring a resurgence of coronavirus ca.....
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Debt in a warm climate: coronavirus and carbon set scene for default
LONDON: Where COVID-19 has precipitated unprecedented debts, climate change could trigger defaults across a planet which a United Nations panel says is dangerously close to runaway warming. To avert disaster, countries are committing to carbon cutting steps. But these will be costly and likely to add to a global debt pile which asset manager Janus Henderson estimates ballooned to $62.5 trillion b.....
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Iran’s daily virus deaths top 600 in new high; England ends self-isolation for Covid contacts
London: Fully vaccinated people in England will from Monday (today) no longer be required to self-isolate if they have had close contact with a coronavirus case, as restrictions continue to be eased. Instead of self-isolating, those double jabbed and the under 18s will be advised to get a free polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test if they are identified as being in close contact with a case. The .....
SL tightens Covid restrictions as hospitals struggle
COLOMBO: Sri Lankan authorities tightened coronavirus restrictions on Friday as reports emerged of Covid patients dying while awaiting admission to overcrowded hospitals. The government said state ceremonies and public gatherings were banned until September 1 because of the growing health crisis. Public servants had previously been asked to return to work from Monday but that order has now been r......
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US, European stocks rise as traders unmoved by Covid, inflation
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2021-08-14
Wall Street added to record highs and Germany’s blue-chip stocks index reached new heights on Friday as investors shrugged off concerns about Covid’s spreading Delta variant and US inflation pressures. A jump in wholesale prices added to expectations the Federal Reserve will shift course and pull back on its stimulus efforts, starting with a slowdown in the pace of massive bond buying.....
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Modi’s popularity reduced by 40 pc in a year, survey shows
NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi’s popularity as the next choice as India’s Prime Minister has fallen in the past six months, shows a survey conducted by India Today. According to the survey, though Prime Minister Modi got the most votes — 24% feel he is the best choice for PM — the share of votes he received has fallen from 38% in January 2020, and 66% in August 2020, foreign medi......
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Myanmar junta’s crackdown death toll passes 1,000
BANGKOK: Myanmar’s security forces have killed more than 1,000 civilians since the military ousted Aung San Suu Kyi from power six months ago, an advocacy group said on Wednesday. The country has been in turmoil since February 1, when the armed forces seized power in a lightning coup, triggering dissent as protesters demanded a return to democracy. Security forces responded with bloody cra.....
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Berlin records massive increase in infections; New Zealand PM warns virus outbreak will grow
Wellington/Berlin: New Zealanders must brace for additional Covid-19 cases from an outbreak that has plunged the previously virus-free country into a snap lockdown, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern warned Wednesday after nine more positive tests. Ardern confirmed New Zealand was dealing with the highly transmissible Delta variant linked to the outbreak in Australia that authorities have so far been .....
more >>

Asian markets rally despite virus woes
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-08-19
Asian markets rallied on Wednesday as investors engaged in bargain hunting despite losses on Wall Street and a surge of the coronavirus Delta variant stoking fears about the global economic recovery. A fresh lockdown in New Zealand and a curfew imposed in Australia’s second-largest city of Melbourne over a Delta outbreak added to concerns about lockdowns along with travel restrictions in Ch.....
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US donates 1m rapid Covid kits to Pakistan
Source: Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-08-10

ISLAMABAD: The United States Government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), donated one million COVID-19 antigen rapid diagnostic tests Monday to help Pakistan to diagnose the coronavirus and respond to urgent health needs, said a press release. These new rapid diagnostic tests detect infection in minutes and greatly enhance real-time monitoring, enabling health off.....

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SDPI Engagements

Consultation Gathering

‘Pakistan progressed well on SDGs despite lack of implementation capabilities’
Islamabad: Rukhsana Naveed, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change has said that Pakistan was able to show considerable progress on its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) despite a lack of implementation capabilities. Rukhsana was speaking at a meeting of parliamentarians on ‘Proposed Parliamentary Caucus on Energy Transition in Pakistan’ organised by Sustainable Devel.....more >>

Need for the green parliamentary caucus on climate change, energy crisis: Experts
Source: Web Desk, The Dayspring, 2021-08-07
ISLAMABAD: To respond to growing challenges related to climate change and the ever-increasing energy crisis, the formulation of a green parliamentary caucus is the urgent need of the hour. The platform would play a much-needed role in advancing discourse around the critical issues and thus, contribute to the right policy actions. The parliamentarians and experts from the environment and energy sect.....more >>

NEED FOR GREEN PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY CRISIS
Source: DNA News, DNA News, 2021-08-07
Islamabad, AUG6 /DNA/ – To respond to growing challenges related to climate change and ever-increasing energy crisis, the formulation of a green parliamentary caucus is the urgent need of the hour. The platform would play much needed role in advancing discourse around the critical issues and thus, to contribute to the right policy actions. The parliamentarians and experts from environment.....more >>

Webinar News

‘Climate Change should be important like other subjects in education’
Islamabad: The environmentalists from academia and civil society have said that they together can bridge research-policy gap in themes relating to Climate Change by offering evidence-based policy solutions to governments at local, provincial and national levels. They were speaking at a webinar on ‘Role of academia in achieving the objectives of National Environmental Policy’ organise.....more >>

ACADEMIA, CIVIL SOCIETY MAY BRIDGE RESEARCH-POLICY GAP IN CLIMATE CHANGE
Source: DNA, Daily Islamabad Post, 2021-08-11
ISLAMABAD, AUG 10 /DNA/ – The environmentalists from academia and civil society say they together can bridge research-policy gap in themes relating to climate change. They can offer evidence based policy solutions to governments at local, provincial and national levels. They were speaking at webinar on ‘Role of academia in achieving the objectives of National Environmental Policy’.....more >>

‘Improvement in telecom sector seen as silver lining of COVID-19’
Islamabad: Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, has said that great things are coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic and digitisation in the country and improvement of the telecom sector are seen as a silver lining. Dr. Suleri was addressing a webinar on “Future of telecom industry amid Covid-19 with special focus on Pakistan” organised here by Sustainable Development Polic.....more >>
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ACADEMIA, CIVIL SOCIETY MAY BRIDGE RESEARCH-POLICY GAP IN CLIMATE CHANGE
Source: DNA News, DNA News, 2021-08-10
ISLAMABAD, AUG 10 /DNA/ – The environmentalists from academia and civil society say they together can bridge research-policy gap in themes relating to climate change. They can offer evidence based policy solutions to governements at local, provincial and national levels. They were speaking at webinar on ‘Role of academia in achieving the objectives of National Environmental Policy&rsq..... more >>

ACADEMIA, CIVIL SOCIETY MAY BRIDGE RESEARCH-POLICY GAP IN CLIMATE CHANGE
Source: DNA, Centreline.com, 2021-08-10
ISLAMABAD, AUG 10 /DNA/ – The environmentalists from academia and civil society say they together can bridge research-policy gap in themes relating to climate change. They can offer evidence based policy solutions to governements at local, provincial and national levels.They were speaking at webinar on ‘Role of academia in achieving the objectives of National Environmental Policy’..... more >>

COVID-19 Has Allowed the Telecom Sector to Grow Faster
Source: Ahsan Gardezi, ProPakistani.com, 2021-08-15
The experts from the telecom sector said this during a webinar on ‘Future of Telecom Industry amid COVID-19 with special focus on Pakistan’ organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). ALSO READ Jazz Becomes 1st Telco with 100% Staff Now Vaccinated Against COVID-19 Muhammad Arif Sargana, Director General Commercial Affairs Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (P..... more >>

Researchers Articles

Middle East: the way forward for Pakistan
The Middle East is going through rapid changes. The process has been under way for some time but the emergence of new leadership has given it a new dimension. Many factors are contributing to this situation. These include politics, security, culture and foreign policy but economic interests dominate the rest. It seems that the Middle Eastern countries, especially the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC..... more >>

Demystifying the economy
First, the good news: the International Monetary Fund (IMF), one of Pakistan’s biggest lenders, has expressed confidence that Pakistan’s economic growth in the last fiscal year was more than double its earlier estimates. Business-friendly measures announced in the recent federal budget, an accommodative monetary policy, concessionary loans for businesses, and disbursement of cash to t..... more >>
**Vaccines, people and profit**
Source: Dr Shafqat Munir Ahmad, *The News, International*, 2021-08-13
Humanitarian campaigners who say that Covid-19 vaccines are for the people and not for profit have strong logic behind it as the R&D for these vaccines has largely been funded by the public sector through taxpayers’ money. But the pharmaceuticals, that used some of their own resources while using the bulk of public resources, have privatized and patented the vaccines they have produced.....more >>

**Demystifying Pakistan's economy and the way forward**
Source: Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, *geo.tv*, 2021-08-13
First, the good news: the International Monetary Fund (IMF), one of Pakistan’s biggest lenders, has expressed confidence that Pakistan’s economic growth in the last fiscal year was more than double its earlier estimates. Business-friendly measures announced in the recent federal budget, an accommodative monetary policy, concessionary loans for businesses, and disbursement of cash to t.....more >>

**AFGHANISTAN AND THE LIMITS OF AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM**
Source: Ahmed Khaver, *Geopolitika.ru*, 2021-08-20
Ahmed Khaver American exceptionalism Since its creation, the United States of America has thought of itself as morally and ideationally superior to others. The comparison at the time was of course drawn with European imperialist nations. The famous French Philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville, first referred to America as “exceptional” almost 190 years ago. Bef.....more >>

**SDPI News**

‘Proactive approach helps in showing better economic indicators’
Islamabad: Proactive approach of provincial and Federal governments in Pakistan is helping in showing better economic indicators, said Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Dr Suleri said this during a special session held by Progressive Writers Association, here at National Press Club. He said that the COVID-19 hit even the economies of developed .....more >>

**SDPI's Related News**

Govt focusing on construction of new dams
Source: Haider Baloch, *Radio Pakistan*, 2021-08-14
The PTI government is focusing on construction of new dams to generate clean and affordable energy and avert adverse impact of climate change for future generations. In this regard, work on various small and large hydel power projects including Dasu and Diamer Bhasha dams has already been started. According to water experts, Diamer Bhasha and Dasu dams will change the fate of Pakistan as around .....more >>

**UNDP PAKISTAN HOSTS PAKISTAN INEQUALITY WEBINAR ON (NHDR) 2020**
Islamabad, AUG 13 /DNA/ --: UNDP Pakistan hosted the second webinar of its Pakistan Inequality Debate series today. These webinars are being held to discuss the findings of the Pakistan National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2020: The Three Ps of Inequality: Power, People, and Policy which was launched by Pakistan’s Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan in April this year. The webinar began wit.....more >>
UNDP Pakistan hosts Pakistan Inequality webinar on (NHDR) 2020
Source: DNA, Centreline.com, 2021-08-13
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‘Pakistan experienced high income, wealth inequality’
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