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## Opinion/Articles/Editorials

### Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

#### The fragrance of tears

Source: Ghazi Salahuddin, [The News, International](#), 2021-12-26

Counting today, we have six more days to live in 2021. Less than a week. This is the time when we 'look before and after – and pine for what is not'. In many ways, the year that is ending was unusual, somewhat like the previous year. For two years, we have lived with the pandemic. Many of us have lost their dear ones. And the New Year, with all its uncertainties, is beginning ..... [more >>](#)

#### Omicron—The New Ninja Assailant

Source: Hafeez Khan, [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-26

It is the time of the year when festive spirit overtakes many of us. Whether you are ushering in the New Year or celebrating Christmas. I wish a Merry Christmas to my friends and readers of the Christian faith and Seasons Greetings to all. Unfortunately, the festivities will again be muted like last year. Ever since the Covid 19 pandemic entered our lives, the whole world has been turned topsy tu..... [more >>](#)

#### Spanish Flu Deja Vu

Source: Harlan Ullman, [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-27

The arrival of Omicron and the extraordinary mutations that may have created a far more contagious and possibly lethal virus paints what could be a very grim picture for 2022. Thus far, Covid-19, A-D variants, will claim more lives than were killed in all the wars the United States has fought since 1776. Omicron threatens to increase those 800,000 deaths well into seven digits. The Spanish Flu of..... [more >>](#)

#### The beginning's end

Source: Arifa Noor, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-28

"The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line, Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it." — The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyam ANOTHER year seems to have passed in a flash. But like last year, 2021 too was lived under the shadow of the pandemic. The shadows seemed not as long as they had bee..... [more >>](#)

#### The ceiling of innovation

Source: Muhammad Hamid Zaman, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-28

Dr Francis Collins, the head of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), the governmental organisation primarily responsible for biomedical and public health research in the country, is stepping down after a decade. Regarded as one of the successful leaders of the large and influential organisation, he reflected on his time, particularly in the context of the pandemic in an interview last week..... [more >>](#)

#### Digital bulge

Source: Editorial, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-26

Nearly half of the country's population is now connected to the internet, presenting a whole breadth and width of opportunities and challenges, especially for a growing number of digitally native youngsters. Figures recently released by PTA, the national telecommunications regulator, show there are as many as 109 million broadband connections in the country, potentially covering around 49% o..... [more >>](#)

### **Edible Oils and Pakistan**

Source: [Muzammil Ferozi](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-29

The emergence of COVID in the last quarter of 2019 has changed the world and people's behaviour significantly. In the last two years, the concept of the world being a Global Village was negated and the movement of people across borders became restricted. Periodic lockdowns in the cities, soaring death rates and people compelled to stay indoors have also brought changes in their lifestyles. .... [more >>](#)

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### **No resolutions**

Source: [Rafia Zakaria](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-29

IT is the usual way to begin the last column of a year that has dragged on, and that looks too much like the catastrophic year before it. At the end of enduring it, one expects to be left with some things achieved, some others shelved and yet others hovering ambiguously over the horizon. In this mess, one is supposed to pick up the shards and bits, and fashion some plans for the new year — s..... [more >>](#)

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### **Silent wave**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-30

People across the country appear to have virtually forgotten about the existence of Covid-19. But the malaise has not yet abandoned us, and according to officials at the National Health Services in the health ministry, the virus could make a big comeback in 2022. In fact, a growing number of cases are being reported already, with over 300 reported on Wednesday, and predictions that this could rise..... [more >>](#)

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### **The good, bad and bizarre of 2021**

Source: [Bilal Abbas](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-30

The advent of a new year is the best time to record the highs and lows of the outgoing year, and attempt – mostly in vain – to learn lessons from our mistakes and wish for a better future. How will we remember 2021? It's hard to pinpoint a single 'good' or 'bad' incident to define the year; it was a mixed bag which brought to the fore the very best we hav..... [more >>](#)

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### **Breaking the monopoly**

Source: [Winnie Byanyima](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-30

This month, the world could have been celebrating the waning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, vaccine apartheid and restricted production continue to fuel the spread of the coronavirus. A year has passed since the first Covid-19 vaccines were approved, offering hope that humanity could be liberated from this disease. Scientists did their part by creating safe and effective vaccines with unpre..... [more >>](#)

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### **Omicron: the gathering clouds**

Source: [Zafar Mirza](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-31

THE Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution of the WHO declared B.1.1.529 a variant of concern on Nov 26, 2021, and named it Omicron. As of Dec 22, 2021, the virus had been found in 110 countries and as I write this article the variant is now circulating around the globe. Itspreads fasterthan any other known variant of Covid-19. The doubling time of the Delta variant was up to two weeks where..... [more >>](#)

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### **New variant**

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-31

THE new year approaches on a grim note. Covid-19 numbers are skyrocketing globally, with close to an unprecedented 900,000 cases detected daily on average between Dec 22-28. Several countries, including the US, Australia and

multiple European nations have recorded all-time high numbers as the Omicron variant spreads like wild fire across the world, putting a damper on traditional end-of-year festi..... [more >>](#)

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### **The year that was**

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2021-12-31

This year began with leftover Covid uncertainties, continued with some hope with the start of the vaccination process, was marked by crippling inflation in the country, and is ending with yet another Covid wave expected, even more inflation, and a heightened sense of political, economic, social uncertainty in the country. From the Osama Satti case in January this year to the mob lynching of Priyan..... [more >>](#)

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### **PM Khan's 2021 risks and 2022 prospects**

Source: [Mosharraf Zaidi, The News, International](#), 2021-12-31

Exactly one year ago, I had identified five risks that Prime Minister Imran Khan faced in 2021. Risk 1: A weak and imbalanced economic recovery. Risk 2: System-wide division and disruption. Risk 3: Escalation of violence in Afghanistan. Risk 4: Further alienation and disengagement of the 'periphery'. Risk 5: Mainstream citizen distrust and disengagement. Today, as I try to close out ..... [more >>](#)

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### **Wasting vaccines**

Source: [Oyeronke Oyebanji, The News, International](#), 2021-12-31

Since the Omicron variant of Covid-19 was detected, the stark global inequities that have characterised this pandemic have once again come to the forefront. From discriminatory travel bans to limited access to vaccines, African countries are bearing the burden of this inequity. Almost one year after vaccine rollout began, donations of Covid-19 vaccine doses by wealthy countries that no longer n..... [more >>](#)

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### **What the World Saw in 2021?**

Source: [Numan Bucha, Daily Times](#), 2021-12-31

Every year brings new episodes with it, certainly, both good and bad. That people terming every outgoing year good or bad is nothing new. As a matter of fact, no day, month and year are not in itself the way how we term it. It is we who make it either good or otherwise. Now that the 2021 is arriving at its end and shall become part of the past, let's review what the world saw in it. As peop..... [more >>](#)

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## National News

### Islamabad

#### First Omicron case reported from capital

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-26

Islamabad : The first case of Omicron variant of COVID-19 has been confirmed positive from Islamabad Capital Territory on Saturday making the situation much alarming in this region of the country from where as many as 144,904 cases of coronavirus illness have already been reported of which 2,188 have lost their lives due to COVID-19. Data collected by 'The News' has revealed that th..... [more >>](#)

#### US embassy puts 5m more vaccine doses under Pakistan's Christmas Tree

Source: [App](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-26

Islamabad : The United States asked Santa to bring an additional 5 million doses of the life-saving Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility to Pakistan, just in time for the holidays. According to a press release on Saturday, this donation, which should arrive on Christmas Day or shortly thereafter, brings the total number of COVID-19 vaccines donated by the US government to the Pak..... [more >>](#)

#### First case of Omicron detected in Islamabad

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-26

Islamabad has reported the first case of the new Covid-19 strain, Omicron, According to National Institute of Health (NIH) the patient has no international travel history; nonetheless, the patient recently travelled to Karachi. The patient reportedly is in good health and has only minor symptoms. Contact tracing is currently being done to detect more cases, the NIH said Saturday. District Health ..... [more >>](#)

#### Covid 19 has brought major shift in global politics: expert

Source: [Press Release](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-25

The Area Study Center for Africa, North America and South America Quaid-I-Azam university Islamabad hosted a renowned expert on global politics and climate change Dr adil Najam, who is a dean of social sciences at Boston university USA. In his welcome remarks, Dr. Munawar Hussain Pahnwar stressed that covid 19 has brought about major shift in the global politics that will affect the behaviour of ..... [more >>](#)

#### Int'l day of epidemic preparedness to be marked today

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-27

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2021 will be marked tomorrow (Monday) across the globe including Pakistan with the aim to combat and fight with the infectious diseases. As exemplified by the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic major infectious diseases and epidemics have devastating impacts on human lives, wreaking havoc on long-term social and economic development. Global ..... [more >>](#)

#### Number of corona cases on continuous decline

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-27

Islamabad: The number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district has been showing a continuous downward trend while the number of deaths due to the illness is also on the decline. Data collected by 'The News' on Sunday reveals that the virus claimed only two lives from the region in the last one week, ..... [more >>](#)



### **Omicron Reported**

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-27

Unfortunately, it appears that the Omicron variant has made its way to Pakistan as the first case was recently detected in Islamabad. We could be at the precipice of a breakout given that only a quarter of the population is fully vaccinated even though over 142 million vaccine doses have been administered. It is imperative now more than ever that the government emphasises the importance of taking ..... [more >>](#)

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### **Pakistan reports 358 new Covid cases, 2 more deaths**

Source: [Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-27

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has reported 358 new coronavirus cases and 2 more deaths during the last 24 hours (Saturday), showed the data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday morning. According to the statistics released by the NCOC, after the addition of 2 new deaths, the toll has now surged to 28,907. The positivity ratio of the coronavirus cases in the country sto..... [more >>](#)

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### **'Over 150m Covid vaccine doses administered'**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-28

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Monday said that over 150 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine had been administered to people across the country. "Total vaccinations carried out now exceed 15 crore. Punjab leads the way with 68 per cent of eligible population having received at least one dose. KP at 57pc, Sindh at 51pc and Balochistan at 38pc..... [more >>](#)

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### **Govt warns of economic risks posed by Omicron**

Source: [Mubarak Zeb Khan, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-28

ISLAMABAD: The government on Monday cautioned about the impending risks of Omicron on the economy including the concerns of the policymakers about the inflationary effects and the resulting policy response. Omicron has forced economists across the globe to cast a shadow of doubt on the ongoing global economic growth recovery. Pakistan's economy cannot ignore the impe..... [more >>](#)

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### **Pakistan's total Covid-19 vaccinations exceed 150m**

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-27

National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Chief and Planning Minister Asad Umar revealed on Monday that the total Covid-19 vaccinations carried out in Pakistan have exceeded 150 million. "Punjab leads the way in provinces with 68% of the eligible population having received at least 1 dose. K-P at 57%, Sindh at 51% and Balochistan at 38%. Balochistan has done a great job in December and sha..... [more >>](#)

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### **Pakistan's Omicron toll reaches 75**

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2021-12-29

Toll from the corona variant Omicron in Pakistan has reached a total of 75 as of December 27, the National Institute of Health (NIH) said Tuesday. The NIH, in a statement, noted the first case of the corona variant was reported on December 13 in Karachi after the World Health Organization (WHO) designated it as a "variant of concern" on November 26. The institution said since then, t..... [more >>](#)

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### **5th Covid-19 wave may start in mid February, warns NHS**

Source: [M. Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2021-12-29

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan may experience the fifth wave of Covid-19 in the mid of February 2022 with daily detection of around 3,000-4,000 cases per day as community transmission of Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 or Coronavirus

has started in the major cities of Pakistan, especially in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad where so far 75 people were found infected with the Variant of Concern (VoC), official..... [more >>](#)

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### **Omicron can displace Delta, says study**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-12-29

ISLAMABAD: Research by South African scientists suggests that Omicron could displace the Delta variant of the coronavirus because infection with the new variant boosts immunity to the older one, Geo News reported. The study only covered a small group of people and has not been peer-reviewed, but it found that people who were infected with Omicron, especially those who were vaccinated, developed..... [more >>](#)

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### **Pakistan's total Covid-19 vaccinations exceed 150m**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-12-27

National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Chief and Planning Minister Asad Umar revealed on Monday that the total Covid-19 vaccinations carried out in Pakistan have exceeded 150 million. "Punjab leads the way in provinces with 68% of the eligible population having received at least 1 dose. K-P at 57%, Sindh at 51% and Balochistan at 38%. Balochistan has done a great job in December and sha..... [more >>](#)

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### **Proactive measures needed to save people from Omicron: Fafen**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-12-29

ISLAMABAD: Observing gaps in public behaviour and the government's response to COVID-19, the Free and Fair Election Network (Fafen) has urged the government to adopt a proactive response to threats posed by pandemics, particularly the Omicron variant. Despite decrease in the number of COVID-19 positives and death rates since the fourth wave, Pakistan's healthcare system is poised to..... [more >>](#)

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### **Proactive measures needed to save people from Omicron: Fafen**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-12-29

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### **NCOC Covid-19 update: Three die, 291 test positive**

Source: [ppi](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-12-29

ISLAMABAD: Three people died of the coronavirus, while 291 tested positive during the 24 hours period across the country. According to the latest statistics issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), three people succumbed to the deadly virus taking the death toll to 28,912, while 291 more tested positive, increasing the number of positive cases to 1,294,031. Province-wise fig..... [more >>](#)

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### **'Vaccination best defence against Covid-19'**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-12-29

Islamabad : The National Institute of Health (NIH) has urged all citizens to get both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine as well as the booster dose as per the eligibility criteria and process as "vaccination and SOPs continue to be the best defence against COVID-19 despite the mutations being reported." In a press release issued here on Tuesday, NIH has assured that the Ministry of Nati..... [more >>](#)

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### China says Covid-19 failed to dent CPEC development

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-29

ISLAMABAD: China's National Development and Reform Commission Director-General Ying Xiong said on Wednesday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was enjoying "smooth operation" despite the severe impact of the coronavirus pandemic that hit the world in December 2019. The Chinese official made these remarks while addressing an award ceremony held by the Chinese Embassy..... [more >>](#)

### 79 confirmed Omicron cases detected in Pakistan so far

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-29

ISLAMABAD: While the most transmissible new variant of Covid-19 has reached over 100 countries, Pakistan on Tuesday announced that so far 79 confirmed cases of Omicron had been reported across the country out of which 85 per cent was of local transmission. Dr Javed Akram, a member of the National Scientific Task Force on Covid-19, suggested that the government tighten restrictions and limit the n..... [more >>](#)

### Omicron likely to put additional stress on Pakistan's health sector: report

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-29

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's healthcare system is poised to undergo significant stress due to the emergence of the new Covid-19 variant, Omicron, despite a decrease in the number of Covid-19 positivity and casualty rates. This was pointed out in a report, titled 'Covid-19 Response and Relief Governance Monitoring', which was prepared and launched by Free and Fair Election Network (Fafe..... [more >>](#)

### CPEC has made huge progress despite Covid pandemic: China

Source: [staff Reporter](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-30

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Wednesday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project has made huge progress in the outgoing year despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. "We are very pleased to see that Prime Minister Imran Khan attaches great importance to the CPEC. He chaired a series of meetings on CPEC, including the one for industry development, and held two seminars w..... [more >>](#)

### Covid jab centres to stay shut on Jan 1-2, says NCOC

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-31

ISLAMABAD: While 30pc of overall and 46pc of eligible population has been vaccinated against Covid-19, the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Thursday decided to keep vaccination centres closed on the first two days of the next year. "All vaccination centres across the country will remain closed on 1st and 2nd January 2022 (Saturday and Sunday) as vaccination staff remained ext..... [more >>](#)

### Gwadar projects 'completing steadily' despite Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-31

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani and Chinese governments expressed their satisfaction over the progress of their joint projects in Gwadar and other schemes despite the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The two sides held meetings of the two Joint Working Groups on Gwadar and Socio-Economic Development through video conferencing. The 6th Session of the Joint Working Group on Gwadar was co-chaired by PI..... [more >>](#)

### 46% of Pakistan's eligible population vaccinated: Asad Umar

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-31

Chief of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) and Planning Minister Asad Umar on Friday announced that 46% of Pakistan's eligible population is fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and 63% have received at least one jab.

The minister took to his official Twitter handle and stated that Islamabad led the federating units with 77% of its population being vaccinated. The capital was follow..... [more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 increases: 11 more Omicron cases detected in Karachi**

Source: [M. Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2021-12-31

KARACHI: As many as 11 members of a family in Karachi's District East have been found infected with the 'Omicron Variant' of the SARS-CoV-2, Sindh Health Department officials said on Thursday, adding the highly transmissible variant of Covid-19 was now rapidly replacing the Delta variant. "Experts at the Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL) have detected 11 cases of ..... [more >>](#)

### **Amid Omicron fears, capital gears up for new year festivities**

Source: [App, Daily Times](#), 2021-12-31

The capital will be illuminated with more than week-long fun-filled family events, arranged by various public and private organizations to bid farewell to the outgoing and welcome the upcoming year. Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration, Islamabad Cycling Association and Islamabad Running Club (IRC) have joined..... [more >>](#)

### **NCOC, Motorway Police to check vaccination compliance**

Source: [App, Daily Times](#), 2021-12-31

National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) team along with Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Rawalpindi on Thursday checked the coronavirus vaccination status of drivers and passengers at Motorway (M-1) Toll Plaza Islamabad. The teams along with Motorway Police checked the vaccination status of drivers and passengers on public transport of various routes at Peshawar Motorway (M-1) To..... [more >>](#)

## **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

### **No death reported from Corona in KP**

Source: [APP, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-27

PESHAWAR - No death has occurred from Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as 31 new cases reported during the last 24 hours, said Corona updates shared by the Health Department here on Sunday. With a consecutive drop in the number of Corona cases, the total number of active cases in the province has declined to 583. The disease has claimed 5922 lives in the province. During th..... [more >>](#)

### **KP health dept complains about slow pace of Covid vaccination**

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-29

PESHAWAR: Two persons died of coronavirus and 38 new cases were recorded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday amid complaints by the health department regarding the slow pace of vaccination in private schools. "We have been able to immunise only 90,000 (15 per cent) of the total 600,000 students of private educational institutions in Peshawar so far. The situation throughout the province regard..... [more >>](#)

### **LRH handles largest number of corona patients**

Source: [Bureau report, The News, International](#), 2021-12-30

PESHAWAR: The Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) Peshawar has become the leading health facility in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by handling the largest number of corona patients and provided them with the best available services during the pandemic. Mohammad Asim Khan, media manager LRH, said the Board of Governors (BoG) was told on Wednesday about the services provided to the corona patients since the outbreak..... [more >>](#)

### KMU begins coronavirus testing for Omicron variant

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-31

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Medical University, Peshawar, has begun the coronavirus testing for Omicron variant amid a constant decline in the infection-related deaths and cases across the province during the last one week. A man lost life to the virus and 36 were infected with it in the province on Thursday, according to a government report. The World Health Organisation has provided Covid-19 variant ..... [more >>](#)

## Punjab

### Over 5.5m people vaccinated in Faisalabad

Source: [APP, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-27

FAISALABAD - Over 5.5 million (5,533,538) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Sunday 3,474,097 citizens were injected first dose while 1,991,407 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 38,456 health workers were also given first dose while 29,578 received the second dose of vaccine..... [more >>](#)

### Businesses having staff sans Covid jab to be sealed

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-28

LAHORE: Industry department warned the owners of factories, shopping malls and other businesses to get their staff vaccinated by Jan 5, 2022, failing which their premises would be sealed. "We have decided to ensure vaccination of all factory workers etc by Jan 5. After passing this deadline, the department, with the help of respective district enforcement teams, will start sealing all busin..... [more >>](#)

### People urged to get vaccinated at the earliest

Source: [APP, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-28

RAWALPINDI: People who have still not been vaccinated against Covid-19 should do so at the earliest as they are seven times more likely to contract the virus. According to District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Ehsan Ghani, the second phase of the Red Corona Vaccination Campaign was in full swing in the district and will continue till Dec 31. He said 408 teams were visiting door to door to persuade cit..... [more >>](#)

### Over 75pc patients treated free-of-cost at SKMCH&RC

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-12-29

LAHORE: The Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust celebrates spreading hope against cancer in Pakistan on the occasion of 27 years establishment of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centres (SKMCH&RC) on Wednesday (today). On the anniversary of SKMCH&RC, the acting CEO Dr Muhammad Aasim Yusuf said, "Since 1994, in Lahore, and subsequently in Peshawar, the Shaukat Khanum..... [more >>](#)

### 60 new corona cases reported in Punjab

Source: [App, The News, International](#), 2021-12-29

LAHORE: Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch on Tuesday said that during the last 24 hours, 60 new cases of coronavirus were reported across the province. In a press statement issued here, he explained that 50 positive cases were reported in Lahore and six in Rawalpindi. The secretary said that so far, total number of cases reached 444,68..... [more >>](#)

### **Covid cases declining across Punjab: Healthcare secretary**

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-26

LAHORE: Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Punjab Imran Sikandar Baloch on Sunday has said that a significant decline is being witnessed in the coronavirus cases across the province. In a statement, he said that special standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been issued for various sectors to bring about a further decrease in Covid-19 cases. He urged the general public to maintain soci..... [more >>](#)

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### **Islamabad's first Omicron case confirmed**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-25

RAWALPINDI: The first case of Omicron, the new Covid-19 strain, was detected in a 47-year-old male in Islamabad, according to the National Institute of Health on Saturday. According to the NIH, the patient has no international travel history, nonetheless, he recently travelled to Karachi. The patient reportedly is in good health and has only minor symptoms, the NIH stated, adding that contact tr..... [more >>](#)

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### **Covid-19 patient breathes her last in Rawalpindi**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-29

RAWALPINDI: One person died of Covid-19 in the district on Tuesday whereas nine people were found infected by the virus during the last 24 hours. As per data shared by the Punjab government, positivity ratio in the district was recorded at 0.5 per cent and seven people were discharged from hospitals after recovering. A total of 1,510 samples were collected out of which 1,501 were declared negativ..... [more >>](#)

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### **Free Omicron diagnostic facility at LGH**

Source: [From the Newspaper, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-29

LAHORE: Postgraduate Medical Institute and Ameer Uddin Medical College Principal Prof Dr Sardar Muhammad Al-freed Zafar says the Central Research Lab (CRL) of the LGH will provide omicron diagnostic facility to the general public. These tests will be free of cost and a same day report will also be provided which will be helpful to the citizens, he says. The facility would be provided on the direc..... [more >>](#)

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### **Omicron variant case surfaces in Lahore**

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-29

LAHORE: While one confirmed case of Omicron, the new variant of Covid-19, has so far reported in Lahore, the central research Lab of Lahore General Hospital (LGH) will be providing Omicron diagnostic facility to the general public. "The young man who has been diagnosed with the Omicron does not have any travel history," sources in the health department, said, adding: "The..... [more >>](#)

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### **Another succumbs to Covid-19**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-30

RAWALPINDI: Covid-19 claimed a life and infected 10 more people in the district on Wednesday. On the other hand, 13 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovering in the last 24 hours. According to health authorities, one person succumbed to the virus in Rawalpindi. Data revealed that the positivity ratio was recorded at 0.58 per cent. It further said 1,712 samples were collected out ..... [more >>](#)

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### **Hospitals told to prepare for Omicron wave**

Source: [The Newspaper's Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-30

DERA GHAZI KHAN: The health authorities have issued an alert to all health facilities in the province to reinforce standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the prevention of Covid-19 and allocate quarantine wards for those who may

contract Omicron. The issued alert reads: “All vice chancellors, principals and medical superintendents of teaching hospitals are hereby directed that they must r..... [more >>](#)

## Sindh

### **Sindh restricts public events to specified areas due to Omicron**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-26

KARACHI: On the recommendations of the National Command & Operation Centre (NCOC), the Government of Sindh has issued new guidelines for the upcoming public gatherings and events. The notification issued reads: “The NCOC vide their letter dated December 24, 2021 has communicated the following guidelines for the conduct of the forthcoming gatherings and events in order to avoid likely..... [more >>](#)

### **Covid-19: 229 new cases detected**

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-26

Fortunately no death stemming from coronavirus was reported on Saturday, however, 229 new cases emerged when 17,550 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Saturday. Chief minister said that fortunately no death was reported on Saturday. He said that till last Friday the number death and was 7,661. Shah said tha..... [more >>](#)

### **COVID-19 claims three more lives, infects 200 others**

Source: [App](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-25

As many as 3 more patients of coronavirus died overnight bringing the death toll to 7,661 and 200 new cases emerged when 13,180 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Friday. He said that 3 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,661 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah said that 13,1..... [more >>](#)

### **Sindh reports one more Covid-19 death, 186 fresh cases**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-27

KARACHI: One patient of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,662, while 186 new cases emerged when 12,205 tests were conducted. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement on Sunday said that one more patient of COVID-19 lost his life, lifting the death toll to 7,662 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah said that 12,205 samples were tested which det..... [more >>](#)

### **1 more Covid patient dies in Sindh**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-27

KARACHI - One more patient of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,662 and 186 new cases emerged when 12,205 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He added that one more patient of COVID-19 lost his life, lifting the death toll to 7,662 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr Shah said that 1..... [more >>](#)

### **Three die of Covid overnight**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-29

KARACHI: Three more patients of coronavirus died and 191 new cases emerged when 7,506 tests were conducted. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah said the death of three more Covid-19 patients during the past 24 hours lifted the death toll to 7,666 constituting a 1.6 per cent death rate. He said that 7,506 samples were tested which detected 191 cases that..... [more >>](#)

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**Omicron: Nausheen highlights importance of vaccination, booster jabs**

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-12-30

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary on National Health Services Regulations and Coordination Dr Nausheen Hamid Wednesday urged the public to get vaccinated, get a booster shot and follow public health guidelines as new variant of Omicron cases were significantly increasing in the country. "Vaccination and booster jabs are only weapons to fight against new variant of Omicron", she s..... [more >>](#)

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## International News

### Countries News

#### **Pope urges dialogue amid pandemic isolation**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-26

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Saturday urged dialogue on both personal and political levels as he celebrated a second Christmas under the shadow of a coronavirus pandemic that was pushing people into isolation. In his traditional Urbi and Orbi Christmas Day message to the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square at the Vatican, the pontiff also deplored that the "immense tragedies"..... [more >>](#)

#### **Over 4,500 flights cancelled as Omicron hits holiday travel**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-26

New York: Over 4,500 flights were cancelled around the world by Saturday and thousands more were delayed as the highly infectious Omicron variant disrupted holiday travel, according to tracking website Flightaware. One route, however, was thankfully not affected: Santa was on track delivering presents to children across the globe, air defense officials assured US President Joe Biden. According..... [more >>](#)

#### **Oil prices ease, focus shifts to next OPEC+ move**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-25

LONDON: Brent crude futures snapped a three-day rally on Friday in light trading before the Christmas holidays, but the benchmark ended the week higher, with the market focusing on next steps by OPEC+ and the impact of the Omicron variant, Reuters reported. Brent crude futures settled 71 cents lower at \$76.14 a barrel at the early close of 1300 GMT, rising by about 3 percent on the week. U.S. .... [more >>](#)

#### **Omicron variant: thousands of flights cancelled globally**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-26

Commercial airlines around the world cancelled more than 4,500 flights over the Christmas weekend, as a mounting wave of Covid-19 infections driven by the Omicron variant created greater uncertainty and misery for holiday travellers, reports Reuters. Airline carriers globally scrapped at least 2,401 flights on Friday, which fell on Christmas Eve and is typically a heavy day for air travel, accord..... [more >>](#)

#### **World stock markets healthy as Covid fears ease**

Source: [AFP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-26

World stock markets advanced towards the end of last week amid fading fears about both the Omicron coronavirus variant and elevated inflation. Natural gas prices continued to fall sharply from record peaks struck earlier this week, but crude oil pushed upwards. The upbeat pre-holiday mood was helped by two preliminary studies from Britain indicating Omicron infections were less likely to result ..... [more >>](#)

#### **Major airline cuts flights over Omicron fears**

Source: [AFP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-26

German national carrier Lufthansa will cut its winter flight plan by "around 10 percent" as the spread of the Omicron variant fuels uncertainty about travel, said chief executive Carsten Spohr. "From the middle of January to February, we see a sharp drop off in bookings", leading the airline group to cancel "33,000 flights or about 10 percent" of its flights th..... [more >>](#)

### Indonesia reports 92 new Covid-19 cases, 2 more deaths

Source: [xinhua](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-27

JAKARTA: Indonesia on Sunday reported 92 new cases of Covid-19, raising its tally of infections to 4,261,759, according to the country's Health Ministry. The death toll from the Covid-19 in the Southeast Asia country rose by two to 144,055, while 148 more people recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of recoveries to 4,113,049. Among the 92 new cases, 46..... [more >>](#)

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### Omicron hits weekend travel; Covid-hit Xi'an tightens measures as China sees 21-month virus record; Over 7,000 flights scrapped across the world

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-27

New York: More than 7,000 flights have been canceled worldwide over the Christmas weekend and thousands more delayed, a tracking website reported Sunday, as the highly infectious Omicron variant brings holiday hurt to millions. Severe weather is compounding the travel chaos in the United States, with storms expected to wreak havoc on roadways in the country's west, though they brought a w..... [more >>](#)

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### Pandemic prognosis: Where does it go from here?

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-28

Geneva: Two years in, as the now Omicron-fueled Covid crisis rages, there is still hope the pandemic could begin fading in 2022 -- though experts say gaping vaccine inequalities must be addressed. It may seem like a far-off reality, as countries impose fresh restrictions to address the fast-spreading new variant and surging cases and a depressing feeling of deja vu sets in. "We're f..... [more >>](#)

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### Omicron disrupts air travel; 800 more flights canceled

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-28

US airlines canceled about 800 more flights on Monday after nixing thousands of flights during the Christmas holiday weekend, as Omicron cases across the country rise, forcing crews to isolate and travelers to seek other forms of travel. Shares of American Airlines Group, United Airlines Holdings Inc, Delta Air Line Inc and Southwest Airlines were down between 2% and 3% in trading before the open..... [more >>](#)

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### China, Europe impose new virus curbs: WHO warns of Omicron overload

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-29

Berlin: The WHO warned on Tuesday that the Omicron coronavirus variant could lead to overwhelmed healthcare systems even though early studies suggest it leads to milder disease, as China and Germany brought back tough restrictions to stamp out new infection surges. China put hundreds of thousands more people under lockdown, while infections hit new highs in multiple US states and European count..... [more >>](#)

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### Brent nears \$80 as market shrugs off Omicron

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-29

LONDON: Oil prices extended gains on Tuesday, with Brent crude trading near \$80 a barrel despite the rapid spread of the Omicron coronavirus variant, supported by supply outages and expectations that U.S. inventories fell last week. Brent crude rose by 55 cents, or 0.7%, to \$79.15 a barrel, after hitting a session high of \$79.85. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose 73 cents, or 1 percent..... [more >>](#)

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### Asia keeps Omicron at bay, but a surge may be inevitable

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-29

Much of Asia has largely managed to keep Omicron at bay even as the variant rages in other parts of the world, but the region that is home to most of the globe's population is bracing for what may be an inevitable surge. Strict quarantine

rules for arrivals and widespread mask-wearing have helped slow the spread of the highly contagious variant in Asia. Countries such as Japan, South Korea ..... [more >>](#)

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### **Covid 'tsunami' will drive health systems towards collapse: WHO; World hits record Covid cases in a week**

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-30

Paris: The world hit a record number of Covid infections in a week, an AFP tally revealed on Wednesday, as the WHO warned that Omicron poses a "very high" risk and could yet overwhelm healthcare systems. The highly transmissible variant has seen case records in multiple countries and registered infections were up 37 percent globally from December 22-28 compared to the previous seven-d..... [more >>](#)

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### **Saudi Arabia takes fresh measures to curb corona variants**

Source: [Bureau report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-30

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has reintroduced mandatory wearing of face masks and maintaining social distancing indoors and outdoors effective from today (Thursday), in a new move to curb the rapid increase in cases of COVID-19 variants. The new decision will come into force from 7:00am on Thursday, Dec. 30, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Wednesday quoting an official source of the Ministry of Inte..... [more >>](#)

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### **WHO warns of Covid 'tsunami' as Omicron variant fuels record surges**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-30

A Covid "tsunami" threatens to overwhelm healthcare systems, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Wednesday, as record surges fuelled by the Omicron variant dampened New Year celebrations around the world once again. Governments are walking a tightrope between anti-virus restrictions and the need to keep societies and economies open, as the highly transmissible variant drove case..... [more >>](#)

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### **Covid-19 cases across world post record**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-30

SYDNEY: Global Covid-19 infections hit a record high over the past seven-day period, a tally showed on Wednesday, as the new Omicron variant raced out of control, keeping workers at home and overwhelming testing centres. Almost 900,000 cases were detected on average each day around the world between Dec 22 and Dec 28, with myriad countries posting new all-time highs over the past 24 hours, includ..... [more >>](#)

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### **Saudi Arabia boosts pandemic measures at Grand Mosque**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-31

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Thursday reimposed social distancing measures at the Grand Mosque in Makkah, after recording the highest number of infections in months. Workers have returned floor markings removed on October 17 to guide people to social distance in and around the Grand Mosque. Saudi authorities said they will reimpose "social distancing requirements between worshippers and pilgrim..... [more >>](#)

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### **Xian battles Covid-19 in worst outbreak to hit a Chinese city this year**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-31

BEIJING: China's industrial and tech hub of Xian reported on Thursday more than 100 new cases of COVID-19, taking its tally of locally transmitted infections to the highest in any Chinese city this year. Xian reported 155 new local cases for Dec. 29, official data showed. That takes its number of local infections to more than 1,100 since the flare-up began on Dec. 9 and compelled author..... [more >>](#)

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### Leaders hold rallies...: India imposes stricter rules to prevent Covid-19 spread

Source: [Reuters](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-31

MUMBAI/ NEW DELHI: Indian authorities started to impose stringent rules on Thursday to prevent mass gatherings at new year's parties and public venues to combat a spike in Covid-19 infections, even as top leaders led large political rallies. Night curfews have been imposed in all major cities and restaurants ordered to limit customers. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minis..... [more >>](#)

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### World heads into New Year facing Covid 'tsunami'

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-31

PARIS: Millions around the world braced on Thursday for drastically curtailed New Year celebrations as record coronavirus cases fuelled by the Omicron variant saw the WHO warn a Covid "tsunami" threatens to overwhelm healthcare systems. Coronavirus, first detected two years ago and declared a global pandemic in March 2020, has killed more than 5.4 million people, triggered economic cr..... [more >>](#)

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### World heads into New Year facing Covid-19 'tsunami'

Source: [AFP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-12-31

Millions around the world braced Thursday for drastically curtailed New Year celebrations as record coronavirus cases fuelled by the Omicron variant saw the WHO warn a COVID "tsunami" threatens to overwhelm healthcare systems. Coronavirus, first detected two years ago and declared a global pandemic in March 2020, has killed more than 5.4 million people, triggered economic crises and s..... [more >>](#)

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## Donors News

### Christmas gift: US donates 5m doses of Pfizer vaccine to Pakistan

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-25

The United States has announced shipping an additional five million doses of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine to Pakistan in continuation of its shared efforts to combat the pandemic. "The United States asked Santa to bring an additional 5 million doses of the life-saving Pfizer Covid-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility to Pakistan, just in time for the holidays," the US Embassy sa..... [more >>](#)

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## SDPI Engagements

### Webinar News

#### **'Health coverage will help alleviate poverty'**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-30

ISLAMABAD: The Sehat Sahulat Programme (SSP) is expected to contribute to poverty alleviation, in addition to eliminating financial barriers to indoor health services, said SSP Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Arshad. He was speaking at a webinar on the 'Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Social Health Insurance in Pakistan' webinar, organised by the Sustainable Development Policy In..... [more >>](#)

#### **'Health coverage to contribute to poverty alleviation'**

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-30

Islamabad: Ministry of Health Services Regulations and Coordination Sehat Sahulat Programme Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Arshad has said that the programme is expected to contribute to poverty alleviation besides improving access to indoor health services and reduction of financial barriers to access health service. Arshad was speaking at a webinar on "Universal Health Coverage & So..... [more >>](#)

#### **UHC To Contribute To Poverty Alleviation: CEO Sehat Sahulat Programme**

Source: [Nazi Gulzar](#), [NEWSMAN](#), 2021-12-30

ISLAMABAD (Dec 29, 2021): The Sehat Sahulat Program (SSP) is expected to contribute to poverty alleviation besides improving access to indoor health services and reduction of financial barriers to access health service. Moreover, the improved equity would lead to social development, peace, cohesion, and stability. Mr. Muhammad Arshad, Chief Executive Officer, Sehat Sahulat Program was speaking as ..... [more >>](#)

#### **Energy Transition to be major component of Pakistan's planning: Amin**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Pakistan Observer](#), 2021-12-31

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam on Thursday said the energy transition was a major component of the country's recent Energy Planning and was given significant importance in revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and country's interventions at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) being held at Glasgow, UK. Speaking at the..... [more >>](#)

#### **Energy Transition to be a major component of Pakistan's energy planning: Amin Aslam**

Source: [DNA](#), [Daily Islamabad Post](#), 2021-12-31

ISLAMABAD, DEC 30 /DNA/ – Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam has said that the energy transition is a major component of Pakistan's recent Energy Planning and thus, it has been given significant importance in revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and country's interventions at Conference to Parties (COP26). He was speaking at..... [more >>](#)

## Online Workshop News

### Experts for early pension reforms to reduce fiscal burden

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-26

Islamabad : Safer Ahmed, Special Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has said that his province is the first to digitise the pension payment system and remove the tiers that were not genuine. Mr. Safer said this during a meeting on "Reform of pensions: lessons from successful Examples in Pakistan and beyond," organised by Sustainable Development Policy I..... [more >>](#)

### Webinar on universal health coverage and social health insurance: Speakers hail govt's Sehat Sahulat Programme

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-30

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a webinar, while appreciating the government's efforts to provide healthcare services to masses said that the Sehat Sahulat Programme will not only contribute to poverty alleviation besides improving access to indoor health services and reduction of financial barriers to access health service. While speaking at the webinar titled, "Universal Health Coverage (UHC)..... [more >>](#)

### Energy Transition To Be Major Component Of Pakistan's Energy Planning: Amin

Source: [APP](#), [UrduPoint](#), 2021-12-30

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 30th Dec, 2021 ) :Special Assistant to thePrime Minister(SAPM) on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam on Thursday said the energy transition was a major component of the country's recent Energy Planning and was given significant importance in revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and country's interventions at the 26th Conferenc..... [more >>](#)

## Researchers Articles

### The environment card

Source: [Maryam Shabbir Abbasi](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-26

The year 2021 has been a roller coaster for the government due to Covid-19. However, climate change and environment protection too have remained a challenge for the government. Let us first focus on some positives. The first positive is the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Project (TBTP) that the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf announced as soon as it formed the government in 2018. The objective of the project..... [more >>](#)

### Monetary policy in 2021

Source: [Dr Sajid Amin Javed](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-26

After a period of monetary relaxation in 2020, central banking, particularly monetary policy, was in turbulent waters in 2021. It faced serious choices in balancing the short-term needs of fighting the pandemic and the long-term constraints and challenges. As 2021 is coming to an end, central banks are confronted with the hangover of the pandemic, uncertain economic outlooks, unintended distributi..... [more >>](#)

### 2021: the state of the economy

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-12-30

Before recapping the state of the economy in 2021, let us recall the World Economic Forum's Global Crisis Report which was released in January this year. The report highlighted that during 2021 the world could face the following risks and threats: asset bubble burst, price instability, debt crises, commodity shocks, livelihood crisis, extreme weather, weapons of mass destruction (WMD), digi..... [more >>](#)

## SDPI News

**Energy transition to be major component of Pakistan's planning: Amin Aslam**

Source: [Jamila Achakzai, The News, International](#), 2021-12-31

Islamabad: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam has said that the energy transition is a major component of Pakistan's recent Energy Planning and thus, it has been given significant importance in revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the country's interventions at Conference to Parties (COP26). He was speaking at the official la..... [more >>](#)

## SDPI's Related News

**Govt urged to enhance tax on tobacco products**

Source: [Haseeb Hanif, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-12-26

ISLAMABAD: The country's youth is vulnerable to initiating cigarette smoking, therefore, the government needs to enhance the tax on tobacco products to control this epidemic. This the was crux of the views expressed at a symposium organised by the Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAHA) the other day. PANAHA General Secretary and Director Operations Sana Ullah Ghumman said that a research..... [more >>](#)

**'Regional conflicts impediment to climate cooperation'**

Source: [Rasheed Khalid, The News, International](#), 2021-12-30

Islamabad: The conflict-ridden trajectory of the relationship between the two largest countries of South Asia is the biggest impediment in making meaningful progress on addressing the issue of climate change in the region, said Shafqat Kakakhel, former ambassador, who is currently chairperson, Board of Governors, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Kakakhel was speaking at an event o..... [more >>](#)

## SDPI's Related Articles

**'Pakistan witnessed a K-shaped recovery in 2021'**

Source: [Afreen Mirza/ Khawaja Burhan Uddin, Geo News](#), 2021-12-30

The pandemic remained a major force influencing growth in the Pakistan economy in 2021. But as vaccinations picked up and stay-in-place orders began getting lifted, the economy made notable strides throughout the outgoing year, albeit while remaining below pre-pandemic levels on many major metrics. On other metrics — and notably on inflation — the economy handily exceeded pre-pandemic ..... [more >>](#)

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