About SDPI

SDPI was founded in August 1992 on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), also called Pakistan’s Agenda 21. The NCS placed Pakistan’s socio-economic development within the context of a national environmental plan. This highly acclaimed document, approved by the Federal Cabinet in March 1992, outlined the need for an independent non-profit organization to serve as a source of expertise for policy analysis and development, policy intervention, and policy and program advisory services. SDPI is registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860.

Mission
To catalyse the transition towards sustainable development, defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations.

Vision
To be a center of excellence on sustainable development policy research, capacity development and advocacy in Pakistan.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>• Dawn</th>
<th>• The News</th>
<th>• The Express Tribune</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The Nation</td>
<td>• Business Recorder</td>
<td>• Daily Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pakistan Observer</td>
<td>• Pakistan Today</td>
<td>• Urdu Point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Product of ASRC-SDPI

Team:
Data Managed by: Shahid Rasul, Abid Rasheed
Layout Design: Ali Aamer Javed Associate coordinator ASRC
Contents……

Articles/Editorials/News Comments

National News

- AJK
- Balochistan
- Gilgit Baltistan
- Islamabad
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Punjab
- Sindh

International News

- Countries News
- Donors News

SDPI Engagements

- Dialogue News
- Media Briefing
- Related Articles
- Researchers Articles
- SDPI News
- Webinar News
### New Covid surge
Source: Editorial, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-11-20
PARTS of Europe and the US have seen a rise in Covid-19 cases, sparking fears of a fourth or fifth wave in several countries as winter approaches. In Austria, just days after a lockdown was announced for the unvaccinated, the government has imposed a complete national lockdown for 20 days to avert a disaster. Though it is the first EU state to impose a full lockdown this winter, other states are a...more >>

### Social protection promotion
Social protection signifies the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of the citizens, and establish building blocks allowing citizens and communities to enhance the quality of their lives on a sustainable basis and accordingly create the conditions for all individuals to attain their full potential. Social protection can help build the resilience of the poor and vulnerable segments .....more >>

### Worlds apart
Source: Dr Ayesha Razzaque, *The News, International*, 2021-11-21
I would like to put on my engineer’s hat today and talk about a technology that is still in its early days but, aside from electric vehicles and fintechs, promises to become one of the biggest mega trends over the next decade. It will find obvious applications in communication, co-working, social media, gaming, and all manner of entertainment; and early versions were drive tested in the educ.....more >>

### What the pandemic has taught us
As Pakistan’s Covid-19 positivity rate fell to 0.64 percent this Tuesday, the lowest in the last 14 months, there is some room to process the time we spent struggling against an invisible and dangerous enemy. The outbreak of the deadly disease in 2020 was taken as nothing more than an item of international news that was scrolled past and flipped away by a TV remote. Deluded by our own sense.....more >>

### The Problem won’t Solve itself
Source: Saba Yousaf, *Daily Times*, 2021-11-20
I guess, it is time. Time to switch your regular masks to air purifying ones, because, clearly, we have multiple issues at hand and the relevant departments are yet to figure out ways to combat them so until then, why not switch to air purifying masks? I remember vividly there was a time when Lahoris would look forward to the aesthetic vibe of reduced visibility during October, November and Decemb.....more >>

### Amidst the fifth wave
A new wave of the coronavirus seems to be gripping Europe, forcing governments across the continent to carry out strict lockdowns. The recently announced restrictions on businesses have triggered unrest in several parts of the region. Belgium and the Netherlands witnessed some violent protests, while Europeans in other parts of the region are also taking to the streets to vent their anger against .....more >>
Financial inclusion — Cracking the code
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-11-25
Where COVID-19 disproportionately impacted women globally, it was also a tipping point for financial inclusion during the pandemic and digitalization of economies around the world. And undoubtedly, women have woken up to the potential of digitalization with significant changes seen in the last year or so primarily in the developing economies where their financial inclusion remains a grave concern......more >>

Living in dystopia
The smog that has descended on Lahore has made the city a health hazard, with people quite literally unable to breathe and facing serious respiratory conditions. The fault lies not with the beautiful city of Lahore itself, once known for its picturesque winters. The fault lies with the way the problem has been allowed to worsen from one year to the next, to a point where Lahore is now ranked as th.....more >>
National News

### Islamabad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National News</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Covid-19 cases increase as winter begins</strong></td>
<td>Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-11-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: As the arrival of winter has increased the rate of Covid-19 infections in several countries, Pakistan's positivity rate, which remained less than one per cent for the past six days, went up to 1pc on Thursday. According to data of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 460 people were infected with Covid-19 and 10 died over the past 24 hours. The data showed that <a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coronavirus positivity rate increases to 2.2pc</strong></td>
<td>Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-11-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: A total of 418 people tested positive for Covid-19, 10 people lost their lives and 411 others recovered over the last 24 hours from the coronavirus. The positivity rate, however, increased to 2.2 per cent on Friday. The total number of active cases in the country on Friday was 22,498. A total of 40,143 Covid-19 tests were conducted in the country. They include 14,434 in Punjab, 13<a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Covid vaccination for 12 to 15 years of age halted till 27th</strong></td>
<td>Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-11-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: The administration of anti-Covid-19 vaccine to children between 12 to 15 years of age will remain suspended till 27th of this month, announced the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday. According to the NCOC, the decision has been taken due to the ongoing vaccination campaign against Measles and Rubella virus. “Due to ongoing National MR campaign, (15-27 November<a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two die of COVID-19, 26 cases from twin cities</strong></td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-11-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamabad : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another two lives from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 2161 while 26 new patients have been tested positive for the illness from the region taking tally to 143,625. The positivity rate of COVID-19 has been recorded as the lowest in ICT and as well in the region in <a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>120m doses of Covid-19 vaccine administered so far</strong></td>
<td>Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-11-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has achieved another milestone of administering 120 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 120,448,598 doses of vaccine have been administered since the vaccination drive began in the country in February this year. It said on Saturday that 78,845,170 people have received at least one dose of vaccine and 49,01<a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanitation workers left underpaid, unprotected in pandemic: report</strong></td>
<td>Jamal Shahid, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-11-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: During the pandemic, sanitation workers had been praised as 'Covid warriors' in some nations but WaterAid has found many of these workers in developing countries, including Pakistan, have been forgotten, underpaid, unprotected and left to fend for themselves. Research carried out by WaterAid at the start of the pandemic on the safety and wellbeing of those who cleared and<a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
313 infected by Covid-19 with below 1pc positivity rate
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-11-22
ISLAMABAD: As many as 313 people were infected with Covid-19 and four others died of the virus over the past 24 hours. According to data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday, the positivity rate stood at 0.78 per cent. While 136 ventilators were in use across the country, the highest percentage of ventilators in use was in Multan where 26pc vents were occupied.

more >>

'Capital's 75pc vaccine-eligible residents fully immunised'
ISLAMABAD: As many as 1.4 million out of the 1.6 million vaccine-eligible residents of the federal capital have been partially or fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Official data showed that 90pc of the residents of the city have been partially and 75pc fully vaccinated. District Health Officer (DHO) Islamabad Dr Zaeem Zia told Dawn 2.25 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine had been administered.

more >>

20 new Covid-19 cases surface in Islamabad
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-11-22
ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Sunday said that 20 new Coronavirus cases were reported in the federal capital during the last 24 hours. According to an official of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), as many as 20 cases were reported on Saturday while 21 cases were reported on Friday. He said so far 107,467 cases were reported from the federal capital and 952 deaths were reported.

more >>

Covid-19 claims four more lives; 313 new cases reported
ISLAMABAD: The country on Sunday reported 313 more cases of coronavirus during the last 24 hours, pushing the nationwide tally of confirmed cases to 1,281,872. A statement issued by National Command and Operation Centre’s (NCOC), said 313 people tested positive for the virus after 40,019 Covid-19 tests were taken across the country during the last 24 hours. “This brings the posit...

more >>

Country reports four Covid-related deaths
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has posted only four deaths and 313 infections from coronavirus pandemic during the last 24 hours (Saturday), showed the statistics released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday morning. The country reported less than 500 new Covid-19 cases in a single day for the 10th consecutive day and a positivity rate below 2 percent for the 35th straight day o...

more >>

NCOC reviews overall coronavirus situation across country
Source: App, Daily Times, 2021-11-24
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) morning session held on Tuesday discussed epidemic curve chart data, national vaccine strategy and disease prevalence. The NCOC session was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar. The Forum was briefed about COVID positivity ratio and about the disease prevalence. The forum expressed satisfaction on t....

more >>
Covid-19 situation improving: NCOC
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-11-24
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday expressed satisfaction over the overall situation of Covid-19 in the country as the number of new cases and admissions to hospitals has decreased. During the last 24 hours, five patients succumbed to the virus and 315 people were found infected. The national positivity ratio was calculated at 0.89 per cent. Meanwhile.....
more >>

NCOC satisfied with low COVID-19 infection
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) discussed the epidemic curve chart data, national vaccine strategy and disease prevalence. The NCOC session on Tuesday was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar. It was briefed about Covid-19 positivity ratio and about the disease prevalence. It expressed satisfaction on the overall Cov.....
more >>

Pakistan reports 5 deaths, 315 Covid cases in a single day
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has registered only five deaths and 315 infections from the coronavirus pandemic during the last 24 hours (Monday), showed the statistics released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday. As per the NCOC data, after the addition of five new deaths, the overall toll has now surged to 28,668 whereas the number of total infections now stood at 1,282,510 aft.....
more >>

Pakistan posts 9 more Corona deaths, 350 infections in a day
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has posted nine more deaths and 350 infections from the Coronavirus pandemic during the last 24 hours (Tuesday), showed the statistics released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday. As per the NCOC data, after the addition of nine new deaths, the overall toll has now surged to 28,677 whereas the number of total infections now stood at 1,282,860 afte.....
more >>

Pakistani students seek PM Imran's help for their return to China
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-11-26
ISLAMABAD: Around 6,000 Pakistani students, who returned home from China in the middle of their studies after the Covid-19 outbreak there two years ago, have not been able to resume their studies in the neighbouring country. After running from pillar to post in their attempt to travel back to China, these students have now appealed to Prime Minister Imran Khan to intervene in the matter so that t.....
more >>

Another succumbs to Covid-19
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-11-26
RAWALPINDI: An elderly patient lost her life to Covid-19 on Thursday while 12 people were diagnosed with the disease and six patients were discharged from hospitals after recovery during the last 24 hours. Positivity ratio in the district was 0.6percent. The deceased was identified as Piyari Jan, 93, resident of Mangtal, brought to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) on Nov 24. .....
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

**KP hospitals resume OPD service as Covid cases continue to dip**
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-11-24
PESHAWAR: The public sector hospitals have started providing full-fledged services to people in outpatient departments following decline in Covid-19 cases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. On Tuesday, three more persons died of the virus and 76 new cases were reported in the province. Two people passed away due to the virus in Peshawar and one in Dera Ismail Khan, according to a report of health department.....[more >>]

**People’s disinterest in Covid vaccination perturbs health officials in KP**
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-11-26
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has recorded four more deaths due to Covid-19 and 81 new cases as health department is struggling to inoculate people against the virus. “Only vaccination can ensure safety of the people from the pandemic. We have proven medical evidence that non-vaccinated people are likely to die or face severe complications than the immunised ones,” senior health offi.....[more >>]

**11,000 PCR kits given to AMC**
MANSEHRA: The Saibaan development organisation in collaboration with the Care International Pakistan handed over about 11,000 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) kits to Ayub Medical Complex Hospital, Abbottabad, for the coronavirus tests. “We have been enhancing the existing capabilities of the health facilities in the Hazara division and gave away over 11,000 PCR kits to Ayub Medical Comple.....[more >>]

Punjab

**One dies, another 15 contract Covid-19**
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-11-20
RAWALPINDI: One person died of Covid-19 in the district on Friday and 15 people were diagnosed with the disease while positivity ratio was recorded at 1.04 percent. Five patients were discharged from hospitals after recovery during the last 24 hours. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Afzal, 81, resident of Gujjar Khan. As per data shared by the District Health Authority, a total of 1,4.....[more >>]

**More than 1.27 million people vaccinated against corona in B’pur**
Source: Agencies, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-11-21
BAHAWALPUR - A meeting was held under the chair of Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Capt (retd) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal to review the situations of dengue, coronavirus vaccination drive Reach Every Door (RED) and price control in the division. The Deputy Commissioner Rahim Yar Khan Noman Yousaf, Deputy Commissioner Bahawalnagar Capt (retd) Muhammad Waseem, Additional Deputy Commissioner Amir Nazir.....[more >>]

**Covid-19 claims another life in Pindi, 15 new infections in 24 hours**
Source: APP, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-11-20
Rawalpindi: Fifteen more persons tested positive for coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,176 in the district, while one person lost his battle of life against the virus. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Friday, the total infected cases included 36,172 from Rawalpindi and 3,004 from other districts. Among the new.....[more >>]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 claims another like, 15 new infections in Rawalpindi</td>
<td>App, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-11-20</td>
<td>2021-11-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifteen more tested positive of deadly coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,176 in the district, while one lost his battle of life against the fatal disease. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Friday, the total infected cases included 36,172 from Rawalpindi and 3004 from other districts. Among the new patients, three</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021-11-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rawalpindi : The number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi is continuously on the decline as only 25 new patients have been tested positive for the disease in the last 24 hours however the virus has claimed another life from the region. It is important that the number of patients tested positive in the last 24 ho</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021-11-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sindh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covid-19 claims one more life, infects 27 others</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-11-20</td>
<td>2021-11-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARACHI - One more patient of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,600 and 27 new cases emerged when 4,948 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Friday. He said that one more patient of COVID-19 lost his life lifting the death toll to 7,600 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021-11-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The city looks back at its escape from the pandemic</td>
<td>Aamir Khan, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em>, 2021-11-20</td>
<td>2021-11-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARACHI: After languishing in pandemic conditions for over two years, it was only recently that the Karachi began to experience a continuous downward slump in Covid-19 cases; encouraging the government to finally drop its multitude of restrictions. Following which, over the last few months, the provincial capital has been endeavoring to make a return to normalcy, and charily rebuild all that w</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021-11-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private school sealed for not inoculating COVID-19 vaccine to students</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2021-11-21</td>
<td>2021-11-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HYDERABAD - A private school was sealed for not inoculating COVID-19 vaccine to the students aged 12 to 18 years and warning was also issued to other schools for implementing the directives of district administration in that regard. According to a statement issued here on Saturday, on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Fuad Ghaflar Soomro and ADC-II Qaim Akbar Nimai, Assistant Mukhtiarkar</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021-11-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covid sparks e-commerce boom</td>
<td>Usman Hanif, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em>, 2021-11-21</td>
<td>2021-11-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARACHI: Curbs on physical movement during the strict lockdown under the Covid-19 pandemic have significantly bolstered the growth of e-commerce and online payments in Pakistan. Despite inflicting severe human, financial and economic losses to countries across the globe, the pandemic, on the other hand, provided an opportunity of growth in some sectors including e-commerce, said foodpanda Pakist</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021-11-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 180 new Covid cases overnight
**Source:** APP, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-11-22  
**KARACHI:** As many as 180 new coronavirus cases emerged when 11,973 tests were conducted in the province. However, no death was reported due to Covid-19 on Sunday. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in a statement that 25 new cases had been detected in Karachi including 11 from East, nine from South, two each from Korangi and Malir and one case detected in district Central. .....  
[more >>](#)

### Experts highlight link between diabetes and coronavirus
**Source:** Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-11-22  
**KARACHI:** The Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center (JPMC) organised the 8th National Diabetes Symposium 2021 on the occasion of World Diabetes Day in which health experts shed light on the causes of diabetes in the current era, its prevention, treatment, the causes of psychological and mental stress caused by diabetes. Pakistan ranks third in the world, in terms of the prevalence of diabetes with 3.....  
[more >>](#)

### Sindh reports 180 fresh Covid-19 cases
**Source:** Recorder Report, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-11-22  
**KARACHI:** Fortunately no death stemming from coronavirus reported on Sunday, however 180 new cases emerged when 11,973 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Sunday. Shah said that fortunately no death was reported. He added that till last Saturday the number death was 7,611. Mr. Shah.....  
[more >>](#)

### 180 new cases of corona detected, no death reported
**Source:** Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-11-22  
**KARACHI:** As many as 180 new corona positive cases emerged when 11,973 tests were conducted, however, no death was reported due to coronavirus on Sunday. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House. Shah said that fortunately no death was reported on Sunday. He added that till last Saturday the number death was 7,611. Shah said that 11,973 sam.....  
[more >>](#)

### COVID-19 claims two more lives, infects 163 others in Sindh
**Source:** Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-11-24  
**KARACHI:** As many as two more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,613 while 163 new cases emerged when 9,790 tests were conducted in Sindh. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Tuesday. He added that two more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,613 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.....  
[more >>](#)
# International News

## Countries News

### FDA authorises Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna Covid-19 boosters

**Source:** [Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad](https://www.reuters.com), 2021-11-20

NEW YORK: The US Food and Drug Administration on Friday authorized booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines for all adults who were vaccinated with the Pfizer Inc and partner BioNTech SE shot and the Moderna Inc shot. The regulator’s decision paves the way for millions of Americans to get additional protection and is aimed at addressing waning protection among fully vaccinated Americans in the... [more >>](https://www.reuters.com)

### Fresh Covid demos in riot-hit Netherlands

**Source:** [AFP, The News, International](https://www.afp.com), 2021-11-21

BREDA, Netherlands: Dutch coronavirus demonstrators held fresh rallies on Saturday, a day after 51 people were arrested in an "orgy of violence" in Rotterdam that left two people in hospital with bullet wounds. The Netherlands went back into Western Europe's first partial lockdown of the winter last Saturday with at least three weeks of curbs, and is now planning to ban unvaccinated... [more >>](https://www.afp.com)

### Violence erupts at Covid curb protest in Brussels'; 5th Covid wave hitting France at 'lightning' speed

**Source:** [AFP, The News, International](https://www.afp.com), 2021-11-22

Paris: Fifth-wave coronavirus infections in France are rising at an alarming rate, the government reported on Sunday, with new daily Covid cases close to doubling over the past week. The seven-day average of new cases reached 17,153 on Saturday, up from 9,458 a week earlier, according to the health authorities, an increase of 81 percent. "The fifth wave is starting at lightning speed,"... [more >>](https://www.afp.com)

### Fresh arrests in fourth night of Dutch Covid unrest ; Merkel’s husband calls unvaccinated Germans ‘lazy’; WHO fears 700,000 more Covid deaths in Europe

**Source:** [AFP, The News, International](https://www.afp.com), 2021-11-24

Copenhagen: Europe remains "in the firm grip" of Covid and the death toll on the continent could top 2.2 million this winter if current trends continue, the World Health Organisation said on Tuesday. Some 700,000 could die in the coming months, the WHO said, as cases creep up across Europe, prompting some countries to reimpose tough restrictions. The WHO expects "high or extrem... [more >>](https://www.afp.com)

### Covid tests

**Source:** [AFP, The News, International](https://www.afp.com), 2021-11-24

Geneva: Spain’s top research institution reached a licensing deal on Tuesday that paves the way for its Covid-19 antibody test to be produced more cheaply in developing countries. The World Health Organisation described the accord as the first transparent, global, non-exclusive licence for a Covid-19 health tool that will help correct "devastating global inequity". ... [more >>](https://www.afp.com)

### Children at lower risk from Covid, vaccines should go to poor: WHO

**Source:** [Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](https://www.reuters.com), 2021-11-24

GENEVA: As children and adolescents are at lower risk of severe Covid-19 disease, countries should prioritise sharing vaccine doses with the COVAX programme to bring urgently needed supplies to poorer countries, the World Health Organisation said on Wednesday. Some rare cases of heart inflammation called myocarditis have been reported in younger men who received mRNA vaccines - Pfizer (PFE.N)... [more >>](https://www.reuters.com)
States must brace for ‘shocks’ to agri-food systems: FAO
Source: AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-11-24
PARIS: Countries must prepare for future “shocks” to their agricultural and food systems from droughts, floods or diseases following the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, a UN agency said Tuesday. “The Covid-19 pandemic has left the fragilities of national agri-food systems widely exposed,” the Food and Agriculture Organization said in an annual report. &ldqu.....
more >>

Britain says new COVID-19 variant is the most significant yet found
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-11-26
LONDON: Britain said on Friday that a newly identified coronavirus variant spreading in South Africa was considered by scientists to be the most significant one yet found and so it needed to ascertain whether or not it made vaccines ineffective. Defending a ban on flights from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Eswatini, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said that the lesson.....
more >>

Belgium PM says Covid resurgence worse than feared; France to open Covid booster jabs; Germany’s Covid death toll tops 100,000
Berlin: German Chancellor Angela Merkel issued an urgent warning on pandemic management on Thursday to the new government coming in to succeed her, imploring it to take quick, decisive measures as the country’s total death toll passed 100,000. Speaking one day after Olaf Scholz presented his new centre-left-led ruling coalition due to take office next month, the outgoing Merkel told repor.....
more >>
The Afghans are calling
“We have not seen this level of near-universal poverty in any country in recent history,” said Ms Kanni Wignaraja, assistant secretary of the United Nations Development Programme, last month, while referring to the deteriorating economic situation of Afghanistan. The UN estimates that the percentage of the Afghan population living below less than $1.90 when the Taliban took.....

more >>