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:

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

A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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Layout Design: Ali Aamer Javed Associate coordinator ASRC
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### Covid curbs
CONSIDERING the steep rise in Covid-19 cases in the country over the past few days, the government decided on Thursday to reimpose a number of curbs to curtail the spread of the infection that is currently being driven by the Omicron variant. The non-pharmaceutical interventions include more curbs in cities where the positivity rate is above 10pc, and lesser restrictions where infections are below..... [more >>](#)

### Vaccine hesitancy
Like elsewhere in the country, the Omicron variant of coronavirus is spreading rapidly in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Confirmed cases of Covid-19 have been recorded at nearly 190,000 in the province. Ironically the provincial government is now focusing more on motivating people to get the booster jabs than on primary inoculation. This is preposterous given that more than half the people have not yet recei..... [more >>](#)

### Fifth Wave
As the tally reaches 7678 in the last 24 hours, Pakistan is reporting the highest number of Covid-19 cases since the pandemic began. Within a matter of the first two weeks of the year, we went from a positivity rate that was below 1 to what is now 12 percent. This is extremely concerning, especially because the response to the fifth wave has been rather lax. The government has now implemented s..... [more >>](#)

### Healing from the pandemic, now
Source: Arooj Naveed Haq, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2022-01-23
Lately, I can't help but feel impatient at life not moving fast enough. Yet, looking back on the experiences and people that have been lost to the past few years in a raging pandemic, it feels like everything has changed. This is a moment that calls for quiet reflection, resilience, and a lot of patience. None of these things feel natural to do for a deeply anxious person who is used to dist..... [more >>](#)

### Corona test challenges
The coronavirus pandemic is continually throwing up new challenges and issues with regard to the diagnosis and treatment of Covid-19. Now the problem of conflicting test results has cropped up with the emergence of a new variant. Hospitals are using testing kits designed to test the earlier mutations of the virus to diagnose the latest Omicron variant, resulting in contrasting results of tests car..... [more >>](#)

### Sustainable funding
How much is our health worth? If Covid-19 has given any guide, clearly not enough. This stark reality has been ignored for too long – at a price the whole world can now see. Lip service, largely, was paid to warning after warning to strengthen the world’s defences against pandemics of novel pathogens, leaving the world dreadfully ill-prepared almost two years ago for the tsunami of ..... [more >>](#)
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<td>Education in Times of COVID</td>
<td>Editorial, Daily Times</td>
<td>2022-01-26</td>
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<td>Tackling the 5th wave</td>
<td>BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-26</td>
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I am a global public health professor with expertise in multicultural health and health disparities. My teaching and research focus on the social determinants of health: the layers of policies, economic factors and social structures that affect health and quality of life, and the complicated ways they interact. I also study social justice in the context of public health, including the sociocultura.....  

China concluded the year 2021 with strong economic growth and good future forecast. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) exhibited strong growth and economy grew by 8.1 percent. It is remarkable on different accounts and in the context of challenges China was/is facing are: First of all, China had to fight the impacts of COVID-19, which sharply brought down GDP growth to 2.2 percent in 2020. Second, Ch.....  

We have entered the age of pandemics. Covid-19 dominates the headlines, and rightly so; January has seen a record-high number of cases worldwide. But that is not all. The AIDS pandemic rages on – 34 percent of people with HIV did not receive a viral suppressant in 2020. Meanwhile, a rapidly changing climate is set to turbocharge malaria as warmer temperatures aid the spread of disease-carryi.....  

Whosoever had pinned hopes for at least part of education to return to normalcy this school year was up for a troubling surprise, come Omicron. Because it is the third year down the row and our students are still struggling to concentrate at an endless number of Zoom screens and ratchety internet connections. Many find it a pleasurable routine where childish manoeuvring helps you gain attendance b.....  

Welcome to the fifth wave! New covid cases are piling up at a horrifying rate. Despite mass-vaccinating—over 80 million people are fully vaccinated in the country which is half of the eligible population—Pakistan recorded the highest number of daily cases only a few days ago with current positivity rate close to 13 percent. As far as vaccination is concerned, the government is not shir.....  

It has become increasingly hard to write about Pakistan and what has become of our society, our politics and our state. To do so will require the skills of the legendary journalist Ryszard Kapuscinski from Poland, who combined the
skills of magic realism with more hardline reporting to describe events in various countries, including Ethiopia in his superb ‘The Emperor’ to describe the re..... more >>

### Nadra’s algebra

I AM puzzled by the role/non-role assigned to Nadra in times of Covid-19. At the start of the pandemic in early 2020, the National Command Operation Centre was set up and linked to Nadra to record all Covid-related data. This helped the authorities plan ‘smart lockdowns’ strategically according to the prevalence of cases in various localities. The dilemma began with the start of the va..... more >>

### Humanitarian Catastrophe

Source: Muneezay Moeen, *Daily Times*, 2022-01-22  
Forty years of war, periodic natural disasters, long-standing poverty, drought, and predominantly the COVID-19 pandemic have left more than 18 million people in Afghanistan in a dire need of humanitarian assistance. The recent escalation in conflict and resulting upheaval has exacerbated needs and further complicated an extremely challenging operational content. Pakistan has a key role in awakeni..... more >>

### All time high Covid tally

Source: *Editorial, Daily Times*, 2022-01-23  
Whenever a new wave of Covid-19 arrives it is very important for the NCOC (National Command and Operations Centre) not to allow its earlier successes against the virus cloud its judgement. There’s no denying that it’s data-centric approach enabled Pakistan to stand out in the whole world for the effectiveness of its smart lockdowns, and subsequent earlier opening of its economy than ot..... more >>

### SBP expected to hold rates

Source: *Editorial, Daily Times*, 2022-01-23  
The market clearly expects the central bank to keep the interest rate unchanged at 9.75 percent at the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting tomorrow (Monday), but conflicting signals from the overheating global economy and the rush to close down because of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus is leaving investors split about the long term direction of lending rates. SBP’s goal of mildly..... more >>

### Use of Fake News; Reasons and Remedy

Source: Atique Ur Rehman, *Daily Times*, 2022-01-28  
Straight lines are getting blurred with each passing day for every stakeholder who deals in the public domain. It is getting difficult even for global players to maintain a balance in their pronounced policies and their implementation. Trump era has exposed the true face of democratic America. BJP hardliners have exposed the true face of Indian secular drama. Media objectivity has been exposed all..... more >>

### Wealth tax

Our politicians, flush from millionaire/billionaire campaign ‘contributions,’ like to pretend that the cost of dealing with the climate and biodiversity crises is prohibitively expensive and pretend that we should wait until the cost of solutions come down before we act, but is this really true? In their 2019 Emissions Gap Report, the UN states that transitioning to a zero-carbon ec..... more >>
Rampant virus
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-31
CASES of the Covid Omicron variant are increasing rapidly across the country, with over 100,000 active infections and almost 8,000 new cases detected in a single day. The National Command and Operation Centre records on Sunday showed that 29 people had died of Covid-19 complications over the last 24 hours. The total number of patients in critical care at hospitals touched 1,455, and the national ..... more >>

Covid efforts
Pakistan, and the rest of the world, is becoming increasingly frustrated with the Covid-19 spread, notably with the rapidly transmissible Omicron version of the virus. Currently there are over 104,000 active cases in the country, the highest since the pandemic began; 27 deaths have also been reported in a single day on Friday, and close to 8000 cases reported, the highest since October last year, ..... more >>

Covid-19 Persists
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-31
The roaring fifth wave continues uninterrupted in Pakistan as 7978 new cases were reported within the last 24 hours. This has pushed the positivity ratio to 12.49 percent which is worrisome when considering it had declined a few points previously. What can be taken away from such statistics is the fact that simple precautions are not being taken by the public which has bought the false sense of se..... more >>

Endemic Covid-19? Another false god
Source: Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
When Covid-19 pandemic started in early 2020, many epidemiology terms were thrown on to us by those who were newly inspired by the discipline. One of these terms was endemicity. How quickly Covid-19 could be moved from a pandemic status to an endemic stage? This was a favourite question for highest decision-makers and alongside they were quietly hoping that quickly a majority of the population get..... more >>

How the last two years have changed me
Source: Daud Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
As we move into the first weeks of the New Year, I have been thinking which of the big events of the last couple of years fundamentally changed how I perceive the world. The Covid pandemic was clearly a top candidate. As it carried on into its third year, it underlined our tenuous existence on the planet. It showed us the vulnerability of the social and economic structures we have so laboriously ..... more >>

Vaccination on doorstep
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-02-03
The fact that the federal and Sindh governments’ door-to-door campaign for coronavirus vaccination has coincided with the WHO’s global warning that people should not lower their guard against the pandemic augurs well for the success of the fight against the dreaded virus in Pakistan. The WHO has regularly been cautioning people about the need for full vaccination and for following the ..... more >>

Preventing a pandemic
Source: Dr Nadeem Jan, The News, International, 2022-02-03
The WHO has declared Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) one of the top 10 global public health threats to humanity and termed it “the biggest threats of the 21st century to global health”. Antimicrobials – including antibiotics, antivirals,
antifungals and anti-parasitic – are medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals and plants. Antimicrobial Resist..... more >>

Covid-19: a pandemic that lays bare deep cracks in the neoliberal economic order
Source: Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-02-04
The pandemic has exposed the limited institutional capacity of both individual governments, and multilateral institutions, primarily reached under the neoliberal mantra of limited governments which, among other things, meant outsourcing significantly public service delivery, and in turn has had diminishing capacity to safeguard the interest of demos, against the ‘profit-over-people’ mi..... more >>
### National News

#### Balochistan

**Vaccination targets can be achieved: Buledi**

Source: PPI, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-01-31

GWADAR: Dr Akhtar Buledi, Provincial Coordinator, Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), Balochistan, has said that with the assistance of District Health Officers, Deputy District Health Officers and by following an effective strategy, the set targets of vaccination at regional level could be achieved. These views were expressed by him while presiding over a fourth quarterly review meeting.

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#### Islamabad

**Smart lockdowns, closure of over dozen educational institutions ordered in Islamabad**

Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-22

ISLAMABAD: With a sharp increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in Islamabad and Rawalpindi districts, 25 localities were sealed in several sectors and closure of a dozen educational institutions has been recommended in the capital on Friday. Furthermore, seven people succumbed to the virus in both regions, with the positivity ratio in Rawalpindi and Islamabad shooting up to 16.03 and 18.9pc, respectively.

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**Covid-19 affected income of 80pc of households: ADB**


ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the income of around 80 percent of households in Pakistan, says the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The bank in a latest report, “impacts of Covid-19 on households in CAREC countries” stated that the impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak have heavily affected CAREC member countries, which include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhs.

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**Detection of Covid-19 cases Action taken against a dozen educational institutes in Islamabad**

Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-01-22

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration has closed a dozen educational institutes following detection of Covid-19 cases as the federal capital has reported the highest number of coronavirus infections in the past 24 hours. According to the District Health Officer (DHO), Islamabad, Dr Zaeem Zia, the federal capital in the past 24 hours tested 1,359 people positive for Covid-19.

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**NCOC decides aggressive Covid testing in educational institutions**


ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Friday decided to go for aggressive testing in educational institutes for the next two weeks, especially in high disease prevalence cities. In a statement on Friday, it said Covid testing in educational institutes was carried out in major Omicron-hit cities to ascertain disease spread among students and ensure accurate disease mapping.

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**Pakistan reports 7,678 Covid cases, highest single-day count**


ISLAMABAD - Coronavirus fifth wave is taking toll in all over Pakistan as country registered its highest number of daily Covid-19 cases -7,678 - in the last 24 hours, up from 6,808, the second highest daily toll, since the pandemic
started in 2020, official figures showed Friday morning. Previously, the highest daily toll was recorded on June 13, 2020, when the country reported 6,825 coronavirus..... more >>

Int'l travellers offered free booster dose amid Covid uptick Rs1,270 were being charged for a booster shot previously
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-22
Charges on booster dose of coronavirus vaccine for those travelling abroad have been withdrawn. Rs1,270 were being charged for a booster shot as per the notification of the health department dated August 27, Express News reported. However, the earlier notification has now been withdrawn. Read more: Booster shot campaign expanded as Covid spreads fast The infectious disease is spreading fast in..... more >>

No let-up as 6,540 Covid cases surface in a day
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-23
ISLAMABAD: As the country recorded more than 6,000 coronavirus cases for a third consecutive day, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday in an 'unprecedented' decision allowed only the fully vaccinated people to offer prayers in mosques. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, who heads the NCOC, however, distanced himself from..... more >>

DHO wants 30 streets in various localities of Islamabad sealed after Covid cases surface
Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-23
ISLAMABAD: The District Health Office (DHO) on Saturday requested the district administration to seal 30 streets in different parts of the capital following emergence of Covid-19 cases. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Zaeem Zia, when contacted, toldDawnthat the Deputy Commissioner Office was approached with a request to restrict movements in 30 streets located in different sectors and housing so..... more >>

Pims limits entry of OPD patients after over 200 employees test Covid-19 positive
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-23
ISLAMABAD: While over 200 employees of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) are currently infected with Covid-19, the hospital administration has directed each of the outpatient departments (OPDs) to check a maximum of 100 patients daily. A filter clinic has also been established outside the hospital to avoid entry of infected persons into the premises. Moreover, the National Command an..... more >>

NCOC announces SOPs for mosques, other places of worship
Source: INP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-01-23
ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Saturday conducted a meeting to review coronavirus situation across the country and decided to implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) in mosques and other worship places. According to details, only fully vaccinated people will be allowed to offer prayers in mosques while wearing face masks has also been made mandatory. The..... more >>

Pakistan reports 6,540 new Covid cases, 12 deaths
ISLAMABAD - The fifth wave of coronavirus is playing havoc across the country as during the last 24 hours, Pakistan reported 6,540 new infections and 12 more deaths. According to the latest figures that appeared on the National Coronavirus Dashboard of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 6,540 persons tested positive for Covid-19 in the past 24 hours and 12 more deaths were also..... more >>
**Full vaccination mandatory for entry to worship places: NCOC**
ISLAMABAD - Only the vaccinated individuals will be allowed to enter mosques and other places of worship from now onwards, according to a statement issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday as the fifth wave of the pandemic, driven by the Omicron variant, continues to spread throughout the country. The forum undertook a detailed review of the disease’s curre..... [more >>]

**892 fresh Covid-19 cases reported in capital**
ISLAMABAD - Health officials on Saturday said that 892 new Coronavirus cases were reported in the capital during the last 24 hours. According to an official of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), as many as 1,359 cases were reported on Friday while 1,131 cases were reported on Thursday. He said so far 115,939 cases were reported from the federal capital and 975 deaths were repo..... [more >>]

**NCOC curtails isolation period to five days**
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Sunday officially reduced the quarantine period for Covid-19 patients from the erstwhile nine days to five days in case of no fever for 24 hours without medication. The decision has been taken nearly a month after the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had shortened the recommended time for isolation to five day..... [more >>]

**Country’s Covid positivity rate swells to 13pc**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2022-01-24
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has logged 7,586 new infections in the last 24 hours (Saturday), the second-highest daily caseload since the start of the pandemic in February 2020. Furthermore, 20 deaths were also reported during the last 24 hours while the positivity rate rose to 13 percent. The total number of cases has risen to 1,367,605 and the death toll is 29,097. According to the NCOC, Sindh rep..... [more >>]

**In-person classes, exams continue as universities witness surge in Covid-19 cases**
ISLAMABAD - Despite rapid surge in Covid-19 cases among students and staffers, many universities in Islamabad are going as usual with in-person classes and exams. Meanwhile, SOPs in universities and other educational institutes across the capital are being violated by students as fewer students in universities bother to wear face masks. An infected student from the University of Lahore Islam..... [more >>]

**Single day Covid tally stays above 7,000** The latest figures raised the national caseload of the disease to 1,374,800
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2022-01-25
ISLAMABAD: The single day tally of fresh Covid cases topped 7,000 level for second straight day, as the fifth wave of coronavirus pandemic continued unabated on the back of Omicron variant, according to the data issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday. The NCOC, which serves as the nerve centre of the government’s unified effort against the global pandemic, sai..... [more >>]
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: The Omicron variant of Covid-19 is less lethal, causes far fewer deaths but is a super spreader compared to previous variants, experts say. “Omicron concentrates in the upper respiratory tract where it multiplies and infects other people,” pulmonologist Dr Shazli Manzoor explained to The News. “When one is gripped by the flu and cold, it is difficult to distinguish ..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>‘Shehbaz Sharif’s case should be broadcast live’</td>
<td>News Desk, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-25</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Monday said the government has requested the Chief Justice of Pakistan to broadcast Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif’s case live for the public to see, Geo News reported. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the minister said that the government wants the public to witness ..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: A five-day anti-polio campaign kicked off on Monday all over the country as the coronavirus infections surge. About 150,000 health workers are taking part in the five-day anti-polio drive to inoculate 22.4 million children under five years of age, according to a statement issued by Shahzad Beg, the coordinator for polio programme. The previous campaign took place weeks ago when the c..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>1,055 COVID-19 cases from twin cities, one death</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-25</td>
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<td>Islamabad: As many as 1,055 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 life from the region taking death toll to 2,209. The situation is much alarming as the average positivity rate of COVID-19 from the twin cities has been around 13 to 18 per cent for the last..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Two years of corona-related disruptions to education to be marked in March</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-25</td>
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<td>Islamabad: As the COVID-19 pandemic nears its two-year mark, Unicef shares the latest available data on the impact of the pandemic on children’s learning. The report reveals that more than 635 million students remain affected by full or partial school closures. On the International Day of Education. “In March, we will mark two years of COVID-19-related disruptions to global education..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Record breaking 1,932 COVID-19 cases in a day from twin cities, three deaths</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-24</td>
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<td>Islamabad: A record breaking 1932 patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while the virus claimed another three lives from the region showing that the outbreak has entered the most intense phase since the advent of COVID-19 in the country. Meanwhile, District Health Officer (DHO) ICT Dr. ..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Govt joy over Pakistan’s post-Covid economic recovery questioned</td>
<td>Khaleeq Kiani, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-25</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The Institute for Policy Reforms (IPR), a think tank led by a PTI leader, on Monday questioned the government’s celebrations over Pakistan’s improved ranking in terms of post-Covid economic recovery, saying this</td>
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did not point anything significant. Pakistan ranked second after Egypt among selected 50 major economies monitored by The Economist's global normalcy index last. 

**Corona positivity ratio surges to 13pc in a day**

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: The COVID-19 situation in Pakistan continued to get serious as the country's positivity rate surged to 13% in the last 24 hours, the official report of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Sunday said. According to the NCOC, a total of 58,334 tests were conducted in the country during the last 24 hours, of which 7,586 came back positive, pushing the nationw.

**Covid-19 situation worsens as positivity ratio hits 13%**
Source: *Agencies, Daily Times*, 2022-01-24

Pakistan reported 7,586 fresh cases of COVID-19 on Sunday as the Omicron driven fifth wave of the pandemic continues to get worse, official figures showed Sunday morning. Pakistan registered its highest number of daily COVID-19 cases – 7,678 – on Friday since the pandemic started in 2020, the National Command and Operation Centre’s (NCOC) statistics had showed. According to the....

**20 more localities to be sealed in Islamabad**
Source: *Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad*, 2022-01-25

ISLAMABAD: As coronavirus cases continued to surface in several localities, the district administration was asked to seal 20 more streets in the capital on Monday. Islamabad saw 856 more cases on Monday while the positivity ratio was recorded at 12.7 per cent. During the last 24 hours, 6,730 tests were conducted. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Zaeem Zia said restriction of movement had been re....

**Covid-19 allowance for 679 Pims employees sought**

ISLAMABAD: An employees' delegation of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) on Monday visited the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) and demanded health risk allowance for 679 employees of the hospital whose names were not mentioned in the initial list. The delegation was headed by Grand Health Alliance (GHA) Chairman Dr Asfandyar Khan. Talking to Dawn, Dr Asfand said the ....

**NA Sectt mulls to curtail activities amid Corona cases**

ISLAMABAD - The National Assembly Secretariat, in the wake of Coronavirus pandemic, has sought opinion from National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to suspend fifty percent of activities including parliamentary committee meetings. While the cases of the fifth wave of Coronavirus is fast increasing in different parts of the country, the National Assembly secretariat would once again decide.....

**856 fresh Covid cases reported in capital**
Source: *Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad*, 2022-01-25

ISLAMABAD - Health officials on Monday said that 856 new coronavirus cases were reported in the federal capital during the last 24 hours. According to an official of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), as many as 1,497 cases were reported on Sunday while 892 cases were reported on Saturday. He said so far 118,292 cases were reported from the federal capital and 976 deaths were report....
| **Country reports 7,195 fresh Covid-19 cases** |
| ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Monday, reported 7,195 new Covid-19 cases with a positivity rate of 12.53 percent, taking the national tally of cases to 1,374,800 since pandemic outbreak. According to coronavirus-related data released by the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), the country also registered eight more Covid-19 deaths, taking the deaths tally to 29,105 since pandemic outbreak. | more >> |

| **Egypt, Pakistan achieved economic growth despite Covid-19: Muzammil** |
| ISLAMABAD: Spokes-person Finance Ministry Muzammil Aslam on Monday said that Egypt and Pakistan were among those countries that had achieved almost 100 percent economic growth despite the impact of Covid-19 pandemics. Talking to the PTV news channel, he assured that the government was fighting crises with determination as to the provision of relief to the people, affected by the outbreak of c. | more >> |

| **NCOC revises COVID protocols for mosques** |
| ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday revised COVID-19 protocols for mosques and announced that only fully vaccinated people will be allowed to pray inside the places of worship. The NCOC revised mosque protocols a day after Pakistan recorded its highest daily infections count at 7,678 since the pandemic started in 2020. The body leading Pakistan's COVID-1 | more >> |

| **Third highest number of cases from twin cities in COVID-19 history** |
| Islamabad: As many as 1,170 patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours setting a new record for the third highest number of cases reported in a day from the twin cities since the advent of coronavirus in Pakistan. It is important that over 1,150 patients have been confirmed positive from the | more >> |

| **NCOC team, AC check COVID-19 SOPs compliance, impose fines on violators** |
| Islamabad : National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) team along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi on Saturday visited various areas of the city to check compliance of Coronavirus SOPs to ensure implementation of new guidelines regarding Omicron spread. The teams visited several hotels, restaurants, markets, various shops in areas including Chandni Choke, 6th Road, Murre Road, C. | more >> |

| **NCOC team, AC check COVID-19 SOPs compliance, impose fines on violators** |
| Islamabad : National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) team along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi on Saturday visited various areas of the city to check compliance of Coronavirus SOPs to ensure implementation of new guidelines regarding Omicron spread. The teams visited several hotels, restaurants, markets, various shops in areas including Chandni Choke, 6th Road, Murre Road, C. | more >> |

| **Corona spread gets alarming** |
| ISLAMABAD: Pakistan registered its highest number of daily COVID-19 cases — 7,678 — in the last 24 hours, up from 6,808, the second-highest daily toll, since the pandemic started in 2020, official figures showed Friday morning. |
Previously, the highest daily toll was recorded on June 13, 2020, when the country reported 6,825 coronavirus cases, the National Command and Operation Centr..... more >>

**Pakistani volunteers fighting COVID-19 in Tianjin**
ISLAMABAD: Pakistani volunteers fighting COVID-19 in the Chinese city of Tianjin, China Economic Net reported on Friday. "I hope to do something (in fight against COVID-19) when China needs as Chinese government and people give me the opportunity to study here," said Akhtar Islam, a Pakistani student from Nankai University, China. Akhtar, Yasra Sayyed, a Pakistani, and an Egyptian ..... more >>

**Capital admin imposes smart lockdown in six sectors**
ISLAMABAD: The district administration of the capital on Friday imposed smart lockdown in six sectors, saying the movement of residents will be restricted in 23 streets with high Covid-19 positivity rate. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqaat issued a notification for sealing 23 streets in different sectors of the capital from Saturday (today). He said that we have imposed smart lockdown..... more >>

**Situation getting out of control, 1,709 cases, 2 deaths from twin cities**
Islamabad : A continuous and sharp increase in the intensity of the fifth wave of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak hints that there is almost no control on the spread of the virus particularly in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district from where the positivity rates of the infection have been recorded as 18.91 per cent and 16.03 per cent respectively. The number of patients w..... more >>

**Courts in Islamabad sealed after 15 judges, 58 staffers test positive**
Islamabad : As many as 15 judges and 58 staff members of the district courts in Islamabad have tested positive for the COVID-19 that forced the authorities concerned to seal the affected courts here on Friday. After the detection of several cases, the East and West courts at the district courts building have been sealed. The Rawalpindi Bar Association (RBA) President Arshad Majeed Malik told &l..... more >>

**Over 20 million yet to receive second dose of Covid vaccine**
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-26
ISLAMABAD: While the government is making all possible efforts to inoculate majority of the people, the data of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) shows that over 66 million doses of seven vaccines of Covid-19 are available across the country and over 20m people are yet to receive second jab. Overall 172m doses of vaccines have been administered in Pakistan. As many as 103m people h..... more >>

**Shops won't be shut despite rise in Covid cases: Fawad**
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Tuesday said the cabinet was informed that despite an increase in the cases of new coronavirus variant — Omicron — the hospitalisation rate in the country had risen by only one and a half times. Addressing the media after the federal cabinet meeting, the minister said there is no pressure on the health sy..... more >>
Pakistan registers 12.81% Covid-19 positivity ratio
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan registered 12.81% national positivity ratio as another 6,357 people were tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, the data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) showed on Tuesday. It is for the sixth consecutive day that the country’s positivity ratio remained over 10% while Karachi with 40.68% remained on top of cities. The Covid-19 si...... more >>

Statistics hint COVID-19 outbreak gets out of control
Islamabad: The number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak, and the positivity rate of the infection in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district hint that the fifth wave of the outbreak is getting out of control as a new record for the highest number of cases from the region reported in a day has set for the fourth time in the last six days. I..... more >>

Pakistan records 6,357 fresh Covid cases, 17 deaths
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-26
ISLAMABAD: While the fifth wave of Covid-19 driven by Omicron variant of the virus is fast spreading in the country, as many 6,357 people were tested positive and 17 more lost their lives due to the coronavirus during last 24 hours. According to the latest figures released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the new positive cases reported in the country took the overall posit.... more >>

Pakistan records 6,357 fresh Covid cases, 17 deaths
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-26
ISLAMABAD: While the fifth wave of Covid-19 driven by Omicron variant of the virus is fast spreading in the country, as many 6,357 people were tested positive and 17 more lost their lives due to the coronavirus during last 24 hours. According to the latest figures released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the new positive cases reported in the country took the overall posit.... more >>

Number of active Covid-19 cases crosses 80,000 mark
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-01-26
ISLAMABAD: The number of active coronavirus cases in the country has crossed 80,000-level as Pakistan in the past 24 hours reported 6,357 more Covid-19 infections with a positivity ratio of 12.81 percent. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), countrywide a total 17 Covid-19 deaths were reported in the past 24 hours taking the national death tally to 29,122 since the p..... more >>

Over 5,100 new Covid cases reported
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
ISLAMABAD: The country on Wednesday reported 5,196 new cases of Covid-19, which was slightly less than the 6,357 recorded a day earlier. As the number of Covid-19 patients are increasing in Islamabad, the National Assembly and the Senate secretariats changed working hours and activities in view of the fifth wave of Covid-19. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the num.... more >>

5 die of corona, 934 test positive from twin cities
Islamabad: As many as five patients from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district died of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours while 934 individuals were tested positive for the infection keeping the situation
much alarming. The most alarming fact is that a record-high number of active cases was reported from the twin cities in the last two weeks. On January 12, this y..... more >>

Shafqat chairs meeting on vacancies
Islamabad: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood presided over a meeting of the Cabinet's Committee on Institutional Reforms (CCIR) here on Wednesday. The secretary of the Federal Public Service Commission gave a detailed briefing on major functions, modes of recruitment, redressal of grievances, and status of unfilled vacancies to the Cabinet Committee o..... more >>

Pakistan economy showing upward trends despite Covid-19: Farrukh
Source: App, Daily Times, 2022-01-27
Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said on Wednesday that despite Covid-19, global high inflation and other economic challenges, Pakistan has sustainable growth rate of 5.37 per cent. In a tweet, the minister said exports, tax collection and agricultural produce showed upward trends. He said that the first half of the fiscal year, IT exports increased by 35.8 per cent..... more >>

Covid positivity rate in Pakistan still above 10%
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2022-01-27
Pakistan’s COVID-19 positivity ratio remained above 10% for the seventh consecutive day, the National Command and Operation Centre’s (NCOC) data showed Wednesday morning, with the government mulling over more restrictions for cities with high positivity rates. The country recorded a positivity rate of 10.17% as 5,196 new coronavirus cases were recorded after 51,063 tests were conducted..... more >>

Covid-19: ministry says 52pc of population vaccinated
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services and Regulations has claimed that Pakistan has successfully completed the Covid-19 vaccination of 52 percent of the population. The ministry announced this here on Wednesday in a tweet while giving details. According to the ministry, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) is on top with vaccinating 79 percent of the eligible population, followe..... more >>

Covid-19 continues to pose economic challenges: ADB
Source: Tahir Amin, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 pandemic continues to pose a major health care and economic challenge to Pakistan, says the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The bank in its latest report, “Asian Development Bank Member Fact Sheet”, stated that continued efforts toward fiscal consolidation and policy reforms will be key to sustaining improvements in macroeconomic stability, especially in broa..... more >>

Pakistan reports 7,539 fresh COVID-19 cases in 24 hours
After a decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases over the past two days, Pakistan has again reported 7,539 fresh cases of the pandemic during the last 24 hours. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), a total of 63,272 samples were tested, out of which 7,539 turned out to be positive at the positivity rate of 11.91pc as compared to yesterday’s 10.17pc. With the e..... more >>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan records further slide in corona cases, positivity ratio</td>
<td>Tahir Niaz, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2022-01-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Covid infections surpass 90,000 with 11pc positivity rate recorded in 14 cities</td>
<td>Ikram Junaidi, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2022-01-28</td>
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<td>Islamabad’s Polyclinic shuts OPDs after 100 employees infected with Covid-19</td>
<td>Aamir Yasin</td>
<td>Munawer Azeem, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2022-01-28</td>
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<td>Schools closed, again</td>
<td>Agencies, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2022-01-22</td>
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<td>Highest number of daily Covid cases since start of pandemic</td>
<td>Agencies, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2022-01-22</td>
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ISLAMABAD - The National Assembly Secretariat, in the wake of fifth coronavirus wave [Omicron], has decided to reduce timings [10am to 4pm] and curtail its activities. According to the notification, the employees of the secretariat have been advised to remain in the office especially during the sessions of the Parliament [National Assembly and Senate]. While the cases of the fifth wave of Coronavirus..... more >>

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has recorded further slide in coronavirus infections and positivity ratio. NCOC data showed on Wednesday. It said the country registered 5,196 new Covid cases and 15 deaths during last 24 hours. After registering 7,195 and 6,357 coronavirus cases on Sunday and Monday respectively, Pakistan recorded a further drop in the Covid-19 infections during last 24 hours (Tuesday) wi..... more >>

ISLAMABAD - The two-day Pakistan Science Expo earlier scheduled to be arranged by Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) from January 28 has been postponed due to the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) latest guidelines to avoid the spread of COVID-19. According to an official of PSF, the foundation is continuously in coordination with NCOC and will announce the new dates of the expo soon..... more >>

ISLAMABAD: The number of active positive cases of Covid-19 surpassed 90,000 on Thursday with 14 cities reporting 11 per cent positivity rate across the country. The data of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) showed that as many as 7,539 people were infected and the country reported 25 or more deaths after a gap of over 100 days. Of 14 cities reporting over 11pc positivity rate of the de..... more >>

ISLAMABAD:After detection of 100 cases of Covid-19 among employees in the last one week, the administration of Polyclinic on Thursday decided to close all the outpatient departments (OPDs). Moreover, the hospital also suspended elective surgeries. However, the emergency department will remain open and emergency surgeries will be performed round the clock. According to a document of the hospital ..... more >>

All schools situated in areas with a high Covid-19 positivity ratio will remain closed for one week across the country, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) announced on Friday. According to a notification issued in this regard, the NCOC said, “Educational institutions, premises, sections, specific classes with high positivity to be closed for one week.” The notification ..... more >>

Pakistan registered its highest number of daily COVID-19 cases – 7,678 – in the last 24 hours, up from 6,808, the second-highest daily toll, since the pandemic started in 2020, official figures showed Friday morning. The country
had last seen the highest number of coronavirus cases on June 13, 2020, with the country reporting 6,825 infections. Further, 23 fatalities were also reported ..... more >>

| 6,500 more test positive for Covid-19; 12 lose lives |
| Source: App, Daily Times, 2022-01-23 |
| The national tally on Saturday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 63, 344 with 6,540 more people tested positive for the deadly virus while 12 people had died from the disease on Saturday. All 12 corona patients died in the hospital during past 24 hours, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths were occurred in Punjab a..... more >> |

| Omicron, external pressures, inflation threaten to retard growth: govt |
| Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-28 |
| ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on Thursday identified the spread of Omicron variant, external pressures on account of higher imports and double digit inflation as emerging risks to an otherwise balanced growth trend. “Though economic recovery is underway, the economy is also confronting the new Covid-19 wave, inflation and external sector pressure. The rising global inflation alon..... more >> |

| NCOC extends Covid-19 curbs till February 15 |
| Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2022-01-28 |
| The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Thursday decided to extend the coronavirus curbs in the country from January 31 till February 15, a private TV channel reported. The NCOC had imposed the non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) on January 19, which were to be reviewed on January 27 in light of the COVID-19 situation in the country. The restrictions for the wedding sector were alrea..... more >> |

| Stalled vaccine drive |
| Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-28 |
| At a time when the country is witnessing a strong surge in cases of Covid-19, the Sindh government’s corona vaccination drive has been stalled over reported delay in the payment of salaries and remuneration. The major government-run vaccination facility at Expo Centre in Karachi, the Sindh capital, has been lying shut for the past several days because those employed there have struck work in..... more >> |

<p>| Govt clears cars stuck at ports |
| Source: Zafar Bhutta, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-28 |
| ISLAMABAD: In a major relaxation, the government has allowed the release of vehicles imported by overseas Pakistanis as they have been stuck at ports since January 2021. According to the Commerce Division, the government has allowed the overseas Pakistanis to import up to five-year-old used vehicles under the residence and gift schemes in accordance with the eligibility criteria, conditions and ..... more &gt;&gt; |</p>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NCOC extends Covid curbs till Feb 15</strong></td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-28</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) extended the virus-induced curbs announced earlier this month until February 15, as the fifth wave of the pandemic continues unabated across the country, driven by the Omicron variant of novel coronavirus. The NCOC, which serves as the nerve centre of the government's synchronised strategy to contain the coronavirus spread, said t..... <a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Although economic recovery is underway, but the ministry of finance has warned that number of risk factors remain present at the horizon for the economy including surge of the omicron variant of the COVID-19 disease, higher inflation and external sector pressures. “Though economic recovery is underway, the economy is also confronting new COVID-19 wave, inflation and external s..... <a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Finance identifies major risks to economy</strong></td>
<td>Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-28</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: With fiscal deficit of Rs951 billion for the first five months of the current fiscal year (July-November 2022) against Rs822 billion for the same period a year before, the Finance Ministry has identified external account pressure, as well as, inflation and Omicron virus as major risks for the economy. The Finance Ministry’s monthly, “Economic Update and Outlook” f..... <a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
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<td><strong>Pakistan sees most cases since virus outbreak</strong></td>
<td>Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-29</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: As the country reported 8,183 cases of coronavirus on Friday — the highest in a single day since the pandemic hit Pakistan in February 2020 — the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) announced extending the existing Covid-related restrictions till February 15. The country had last tim..... <a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
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<td><strong>More educational institutions to be sealed in capital as Covid cases rise</strong></td>
<td>Aamir Yasin</td>
<td>Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD/rawalpindi: With no let-up in the number of Covid-19 cases in educational institutions in the capital, the health authorities on Friday requested the deputy commissioner (DC) to seal 14 more schools and colleges after students and staff were found infected by the virus. On the other hand, 1,550 people tested positive in Islamabad district, recording a positivity ratio of 17.1pc. An inc..... <a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
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<td><strong>2 deaths from Pindi, 1,613 cases from twin cities</strong></td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-28</td>
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<td>Islamabad : Another 1,613 individuals have tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours that is the fourth highest number of cases reported in a day from the region since the virus hit Pakistan while another two patients have died of the illness from Rawalpindi that has taken death toll from the twin cities to 2,216..... <a href="#">more &gt;&gt;</a></td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported the highest number of daily COVID-19 cases ever since the pandemic started in 2020 after 8,183 people tested positive overnight, the National Command and Operation Centre's (NCOC) data</td>
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showed Friday morning, as the cases continue to rise amid a spread of the Omicron variant. Meanwhile, the daily COVID-19 death toll also reached a new high since October 6, 2021, ..... more >>

1,911 COVID-19 cases in a day from twin cities
Islamabad: Another 1,911 patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours is the third highest number of cases reported in a day from the region in the history of COVID-19. The intensity of the fifth wave of COVID-19 outbreak can be gauged from the fact that from January 17 to date, as many as 137..... more >>

Country reports highest number of single-day Covid-19 cases
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-01-29
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Friday, reported the highest number of daily Covid-19 cases since the start of the pandemic in February 2020 as a total 8,183 people tested positive for coronavirus after 68,624 tests were conducted with a positivity ratio of 11.92 percent. According to the Covid-19 data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the country registered 30 coronavirus de..... more >>

Rehman Malik suffering from post-Covid lung complications
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-29
ISLAMABAD - Former President Asif Ali Zardari yesterday sent a bouquet to senior Pakistan People’s Party leaderRehman Malikwho is being treated for post-Covid complications. Zardari wished early recovery to the former interior minister.Rehman Malikwas admitted to the hospital and a panel of doctors shifted him to ICU for treatment of post-Covid complications. In a statement,Rehman Mali..... more >>

Covid on the rise despite government restrictions Positivity rate remains above 11pc for third consecutive day
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-30
Despite imposition of restrictions on public activities, the coronavirus pandemic has shown no signs of slowing down as the positivity rate remained above 11 percent for the third consecutive, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) revealed on Saturday. On January 19, the government imposed non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to control the worsening situation with the spread of Omi..... more >>

Covid-19: Active cases cross 100,000 mark
Source: Zulfiqar Ahmad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-01-30
ISLAMABAD: The country’s active Covid-19 cases crossed 100,000 mark for the first time since July 1, 2020 on Saturday when the country recorded 7,963 new cases. According to the data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), as many as 7,963 new cases were recorded in the last 24 hours after 70,389 tests were taken. “The active case count stood at 104,095&..... more >>

Covid-related hospitalisation doubles in 45 days
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-31
ISLAMABAD: While the Covid-related hospitalisation has doubled in 45 days and the number of active cases surpassed the figure of 100,000, as many as 7,978 more people were infected with the virus during the past 24 hours and 16 cities reported over 10 per cent positivity rate. University of Health Sciences Vice Chancellor Dr Javed Akram has urged the government to ban corporate functions and publ..... more >>
### Urban centres witness higher Covid positivity ratio
Source: DNA, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2022-01-31
ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 positivity ratio on Sunday was higher in major urban centres of the country with 46.77 per cent in Nowshera, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). According to sources in the Ministry of National Health Services, the overall Covid positivity ratio in Pakistan stood at 12.46 per cent during the last 24 hours, with K-P recording the highest ratio of 16.25 per cent, followed by Sindh 12..... *more >*

### Over 1,200 coronavirus cases surface in capital
Source: APP, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2022-01-31
ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Sunday said that 1,270 new coronavirus cases were reported in the federal capital during the last 24 hours. According to an official of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), as many as 1,555 cases were reported on Saturday while 1,550 cases were reported on Friday. He said so far 126,473 cases were reported from the federal capital and 979 deaths were..... *more >*

### Covid-19 positivity rate again on the rise: NCOC
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s active Covid-19 case count stayed over the 100,000 mark for the second consecutive day, National Command and Operation Centre’s (NCOC) data showed Sunday morning, as the country’s positivity rate is again on the rise after a slight decline. The stats issued by the NCOC suggested that 7,978 new infections were detected overnight after 64,016 diagnostic t..... *more >*

### 1,806 COVID-19 cases from twin cities
Islamabad : The positivity rate of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district is sustainably higher along with much higher number of patients being tested positive from the region for the last 10 days or so as in the last 24 hours, another 1806 patients have been reported positive from the twin cities recording a positivity rate of 17.75 per cent in the re..... *more >*

### Millennials secure highest distinctions in Edexcel Exams
Islamabad : The Millennium Education group (TME) is pleased to announce its Edexcel iPrimary result and has bagged the highest number of distinctions, says a press release. The Millennium Education, Pakistan through its diverse and international curriculum builds the foundations for wellbeing and equips learners with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and strategies to understand, excel and achi..... *more >*

### Endangered pangolins thrive in Margalla Hills
Islamabad : The endangered species of Pangolins are thriving in the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) which is a scaly anteater and the most trafficked mammal in the world use to protect forest trees from termites. The MHNP homes some 38 mammals, 27 reptiles, and over 600 plant species, and no doubt it is the habitat of the endangered scaly anteater under threat of poaching, hunting, and huma..... *more >*

### Pakistan logs another 7,978 Covid infections, 29 deaths
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has recorded another 7,978 coronavirus infections and 29 deaths during the last 24 hours (Saturday) amid the fifth wave of Covid-19 which is spreading at a faster speed throughout the country. As per the
Pakistan logs another 7,978 Covid infections, 29 deaths
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-31
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has recorded another 7,978 coronavirus infections and 29 deaths during the last 24 hours (Saturday) amid the fifth wave of Covid-19 which is spreading at a faster speed throughout the country. As per the statistics released by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday morning, after the addition of 29 new deaths, the overall toll has now surged to 29,248 wherea..... more >>

Omicron positivity ratio high in children
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-31
ISLAMABAD - The omicron's positivity ratio was very high in children, said National Institute of Health's focal person on infectious diseases, Dr Mumtaz Ali Khan. He said mostly children below the age of 12 years were severely affected by this viral infection. “This is the main reason behind the closure of a number of schools in the capital,” he revealed. He alarmed t..... more >>

Daily Covid count remains at elevated levels
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported more than 7,000 cases of Covid-19 for the fifth consecutive day on Monday, with the national positivity rate averaging 11.53 per cent. Data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) showed that 7,048 more infections were reported and 21 people succumbed to the virus during the past 24 hours. The number of patients on critical care stood at 1,423. A..... more >>

Islamabad reports over 1,000 Covid-19 cases
Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
Islamabad: Over 1,000 Covid-19 patients surfaced in the federal capital while three persons succumbed to the virus on Monday. The positivity rate in both Rawalpindi and Islamabad hovered over 14pc. According to officials of the capital administration, 7,164 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours out of which results of 1,024 people came back positive. Out of the total positive patients, 627 w..... more >>

NCOC begins door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination from today
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) will commence a countrywide door-to-door Covid-19 inoculation drive from today (Tuesday), announced Asad Umar. Addressing the media and flanked by SAPM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan, the NCOC chief said 55,000 teams will conduct the drive aimed at providing vaccination services at people's homes. He said the teams would provide first, second and ..... more >>

Covid-19: national positivity ratio soars to 12.42pc; Peshawar worst affected city
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
ISLAMABAD: The number of active Covid-19 cases and hospitalisation of the coronavirus patients is rapidly on the rise since the spread of the Omicron variant of the global pandemic. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), in the past 24 hours, Pakistan has recorded 7,978 fresh coronavirus cases taking the nationwide tally of the cases to 1,425,039 since the pandemic out..... more >>
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<td>Active Covid cases cross 100,000 mark</td>
<td>Ikram Junaidi, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2022-02-02</td>
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<td>Three die, over 1,100 contract Covid-19</td>
<td>Munawar Azeem</td>
<td>Aamir Yasin, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2022-02-02</td>
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<td>‘US provided Pakistan 47.3m COVID-19 vaccines’</td>
<td>News Desk, <em>The News, International</em>, 2022-02-02</td>
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<td>Guided tours delayed due to corona spike</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, <em>The News, International</em>, 2022-02-02</td>
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Islamabad. According to the details, the IWMB has made all necessary arrangements for the guided tours but given the increasing coronavirus cases, it has decided to postpone the....  more >>

**Covid-19 vaccination; Massive door-to-door drive launched to administer 35m jabs’**

Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-02-02

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan, Tuesday, announced launching a massive door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination drive to administer over 35 million vaccination jabs to contain the spread of the fifth wave of the virus. This was revealed by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Chairman, Asad Umar, while addressing a press conference along with Special Assistant to the Prime Ministe.....  more >>

**NCOC starts two-week home vaccination campaign**

Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-02-02

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning and Development and head of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Asad Umar on Tuesday announced the start of a two weeks long home vaccination campaign that aims to administer over 35 million coronavirus vaccine shots. The decision comes amid the fifth wave of the pandemic that continues across the country. Addressing the media here with Special As.....  more >>

**Covid infections, positivity ratio down, deaths up in Pakistan**

Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-02-02

ISLAMABAD - There was a sharp drop in the coronavirus infections and positivity ratio in the country whereas the number of deaths went up during last 24 hours (Monday), showed the statistics released by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday morning. The number of Covid-19 cases, after hovering between 7,000 to 8,000 for many days, went down considerably as Pakistan reported 5.....  more >>

**DRAP approves sale of self-testing Covid-19 kits**

Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-02-03

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved sale of self-testing Covid-19 kits across the country. According to the notification issued by the DRAP, over the counter testing kit has been approved, which will be available in medical stores across the country to relieve people from going to hospitals and Covid-19 testing centers. The decision will rid the peopl.....  more >>

**PM pays 4-day visit to China from today**


ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan, on the special invitation of the Chinese leadership, will visit China from February 3 to 6, the Foreign Office said Wednesday. “Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit China from February 3-6 to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games,” the Foreign Office said in a statement issued ahead of the visit. The prime minister will be acc.....  more >>

**29 more die due to covid-19**


ISLAMABAD: The 29 deaths occurred and 6047 tested positive due to coronavirus in the 24 hours period in the country. As per the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) statistics 6,190 tests were conducted of which 6,047 persons returned positive in the past 24 hours taking the total number of positive cases to 1,436,413. The positivity ratio stands at 9.88 percent. As per province wise de.....  more >>
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rehman Malik put on ventilator</td>
<td>Agencies / Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-02-03</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 COVID-19 deaths, 737 cases from twin cities</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-02-03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan to get 40m more vaccine doses from COVAX</td>
<td>App, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-02-03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covid-19 home vaccination drive begins today as Omicron spreads</td>
<td>News Desk, Daily Times</td>
<td>2022-02-02</td>
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<td>Free medicines, insulin available at Hyderabad’s five major hospitals</td>
<td>App, Daily Times</td>
<td>2022-02-02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engro donates 14,000 medical scrubs for healthcare workers</td>
<td>News Desk, Daily Times</td>
<td>2022-02-02</td>
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**Rehman Malik put on ventilator**
Source: Agencies / Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-02-03

ISLAMABAD - PPP leader and former Senator Rehman Malik has been put on a ventilator after his health deteriorated due to Covid-related complications, his spokesperson Riaz Ahmad Turi confirmed on Wednesday. The senior PPP leader had tested positive for coronavirus around two weeks ago. According to Turi, the former senator was initially shifted to the intensive care unit of a private hospital i..... more >>

**2 COVID-19 deaths, 737 cases from twin cities**

Islamabad: The number of patients tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in a day has dropped down to below 800 after two weeks and an almost similar downward trend in the positivity rate of the infection has been recorded in the last 24 hours. The positivity rate of COVID-19 has been recorded as below 10 per cent in the region..... more >>

**Over-the-counter sale of corona test kits okayed**

Islamabad: The national drug regulator has allowed the sale of coronavirus testing kits over the counter hoping the initiative will help stem the spread of infection amid the detection of more and more cases of the highly transmissible Omicron variant. The kit, which will enable people to test themselves for the virus at home, will be available at pharmacies across the country for Rs400-Rs600..... more >>

**Pakistan to get 40m more vaccine doses from COVAX**

Islamabad: Pakistan will get 40 million more doses of COVID-19 vaccine in the first quarter of the current year from the COVAX facility, said United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Pakistan on Wednesday. UNICEF Pakistan told this agency that since May 2021 Pakistan has already received over 91 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine from the COVAX facility. It was half of the t..... more >>

**Covid-19 home vaccination drive begins today as Omicron spreads**
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2022-02-02

Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar Tuesday announced the launch of a two-week home vaccination campaign to administer over 35 million coronavirus vaccine shots as the fifth wave of the pandemic continues across the country. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan, Asad said, “The NCOC has prepared..... more >>

**Free medicines, insulin available at Hyderabad’s five major hospitals**
Source: App, Daily Times, 2022-02-02

District Health Officer Dr. Lala Jaffar Khan Tuesday said best medical facilities were available in five major hospitals across the Hyderabad district where all medicines and insulin were being provided to the patients free of charge. In an interview with APP, he said Sindh Govt hospital Preetabad, CDF hospital, Shah Bhittai hospital Latifabad, Sindh Govt hospital Khosar and Qasimabad Taluka hosp..... more >>

**Engro donates 14,000 medical scrubs for healthcare workers**
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2022-02-02

As part of the Rs1 billion Hussain Dawood Pledge, Engro Foundation – the social investment arm of Engro Corporation – has committed financial assistance to Patients’ Aid Foundation, JPMC, for the procurement of 14,000
medical grade scrubs to protect medical staff against the rising incidence of COVID-19 in Karachi. According to Sindh Health Department figures, the COVID-19 posit..... more >>

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<tr>
<th>COVID_19: E-Newsletter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vol. 3, No. 7-10 Issue 22 Jan to 4 Feb 2022</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pakistan records 29 more corona deaths, 6,047 infections</th>
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<tr>
<td>Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad , 2022-02-03</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has recorded another 6,047 coronavirus infections and 29 deaths during last 24 hours (Tuesday) amid the spread of Omicron variant throughout the country. As per the statistics released by National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday morning, after the addition of 29 new deaths, the overall toll has now surged to 29,330 whereas the number of total infections now..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Daily Covid death toll highest in four months</th>
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<tr>
<td>Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad , 2022-02-04</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: As many as 42 people succumbed to the Covid-19 disease over the last 24 hours — the country’s highest daily death toll since Oct 6, when 46 people died in a single day. Besides, as the country continues to grapple with the fifth wave of Covid-19, driven by the Omicron variant of coronavirus, 98,333 patients are in quarantine — either at their homes or elsewhere. ..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Five schools closed as Islamabad sees Covid spread</th>
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<tr>
<td>Source: Munawar Azeem</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: Five more educational institutions were sealed in the capital on Thursday after 13 people contracted the virus on the premises. On the other hand, three elderly patients lost their lives after battling with the disease in Islamabad and Rawalpindi districts. As many as 754 people were diagnosed with the virus in Islamabad district and the positivity ratio was recorded at 10.8 per cent. ..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<th>42 die of COVID-19, 5,830 more cases reported</th>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Thursday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded at 100,072 with 5,830 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and its 42 patients died during the last 24 hours. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), all the patients died in hospital, most of them in Punjab, followed by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and none of them on ventilator..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country reports 42 more Covid-19 deaths</th>
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<tr>
<td>Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2022-02-04</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Thursday, recorded 42 coronavirus deaths, which is the highest toll of past four months, the Covid-19 data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. According to the NCOC data, the country also reported 5,830 new Covid-19 infections over the past 24 hours by conducting 59,786 coronavirus tests, which reflect a positivity ratio of 9.8 percent. ..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Deaths soar as Pakistan records 42 single day Covid fatalities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad , 2022-02-04</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD - The number of deaths from the coronavirus pandemic has soared as Pakistan registered another 42 new deaths in a single day on Thursday morning. The country also reported another 5,830 cases from Covid-19 infections during the last 24 hours (Wednesday). According to the statistics released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Thursday morning, Pakistan recorded 42 n..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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Parents refusing children’s vaccination to face action  
Source: The Newspaper's Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-22  
BAJAUR: The district administration on Friday warned that parents refusing vaccination of their children against polio would face action. A five-day anti-polio drive is scheduled to start in the Bajaur district on Monday (Jan 24). Additional deputy commissioner (general) Zameen Khan Momand and additional deputy commissioner (planning and finance) Sohil Aziz issued the warning while speaking at t..... more >>

Swabi university closed over coronavirus cases  
Source: The Newspaper's Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-22  
SWABI: The Women University Swabi was closed on Friday after suspected cases of coronavirus were reported from some students. A notification issued by the varsity’s registrar Dr Shamsul Hussain, said, “In light of the reported suspected cases of Covid-19, all the academic activities at the varsity are shifted to online mode with immediate effect.” However, it was not mentioned ..... more >>

Peshawar Covid rate climbs to 16%  
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-22  
PESHAWAR: A sudden surge has been recorded in the Covid-19 positivity in Peshawar district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) as it has reached 16 per cent per day followed by five per cent in Nowshera and Kohat districts. Talking to The Express Tribune an official of the Health Department said that along with the overall positivity ratio there is an increase in the number of Omicron cases too as on Fr..... more >>

KP sets target of collecting 15000 samples for Covid tests  
Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-22  
PESHAWAR - The provincial government has set a target of collecting 15000 samples for coronavirus tests on a daily basis and link the districts with different medical laboratories by issuing the details of target and lists of the laboratories for future strategy. According to the Health Department sources, a new target for coronavirus testing has been set for all the districts of Khyber Pakht..... more >>

KP govt to increase Covid vaccination, testing amid Omicron surge  
Source: Sher Alam Shinwari, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-23  
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to increase coronavirus vaccination, testing and contact tracing in Peshawar, Mardan and Swabi in light of the growing cases of Omicron variant. The decision comes amid five fresh virus-related deaths and 590 cases in the province. According to officials, deaths or hospitalisation surge hasn’t been seen among people infected with Omic..... more >>

Non-Pharma Interventions ordered in Peshawar  
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-23  
PESHAWAR: The Home & Tribal Affairs Department, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has directed all divisional and deputy commissioners for adopting various Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) in wake of over 10 per cent positivity ratio for Coronavirus in the provincial capital Peshawar. Home Department has already issued instructions for the restrictions in those cities where the Covid rate is recorded..... more >>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Secy reviews vaccination measures at Torkham</th>
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<tr>
<td>Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-23</td>
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<td>Peshawar-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Secretary Tahir Orakzai Saturday visited Torkham on the Pak-Afghan border and inspected the arrangements made for the corona vaccination and screening of the people coming to Pakistan from Afghanistan. During his visit, he also reviewed vaccination and screening on Pak-Afghan border and directed the officials concerned to ensure proper testing and screening. more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<th>KP govt issues NPIs for cities with over 10pc corona positivity ratio</th>
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<td>Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-23</td>
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<td>PESHAWAR - The Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has directed all divisional and deputy commissioners for adopting various Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) in wake of over 10% positivity ratio for coronavirus in the provincial capital Peshawar, said a notification issued here on Saturday. The dispatch addressed to the administration, specially mentioning the impleme. more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<th>Over 1500 Covid cases reported in three days: SACM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-24</td>
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<td>PESHAWAR - Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relation Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif Sunday said that the fifth wave of Corona pandemic is spreading rapidly as more than 1500 new cases were reported and urged people to follow SOPs. In a statement issued here, Barrister Saif said that the provincial government is taking steps to deal with the Cor.... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<th>Peshawar localities locked down</th>
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<td>Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>PESHAWAR: The District administration of Peshawar has imposed a smart lockdown in various localities to control the spread of Covid-19, according to an official notification issued on Monday. Localities where the restrictions have been imposed on the entry and exit included Street No: 1 to 8, Sector F-V, Phase-VI, Hayatabad, the area bound by Ring Road, Phandu Road and GHSS Hazar Khwani Road, th.... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<th>KP governor urges people to get vaccinated</th>
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<td>Source: App, Daily Times, 2022-01-25</td>
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<td>Chancellor of Khyber Medical University (KMU) and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shah Farman Monday visited KMU mass vaccination center and got a booster dose of Pfizer. He appreciated KMU for playing a major role in responding Covid 19 pandemic. Prof Dr Zia Ul Haq who is a professor of Public Health &amp; Vice Chancellor KMU briefed the Governor that KMU Public Health Ref Laboratory has a daily ca..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<th>Govt to outsource Covid hospital in Peshawar</th>
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<tr>
<td>Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>PESHAWAR: Health department decided to outsource services at Covid-19 Hospital Nishartabad to a private organisation as the province recorded 304 new cases and two deaths due to the pandemic on Monday. A report of health department said that Covid-19 positivity rate in Peshawar rose to 24 per cent during the last 24 hours. It said that weekly infectivity level was 19 per cent. Tally of infected..... more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<th>DC directs strict implementation of Covid SOPs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-25</td>
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<td>PESHAWAR - Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Captain (Retd) Khalid Mahmood has directed the district administration for conducting surprise visits at bazaars and business centres to ensure the implementation of</td>
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standard operating procedures (SOPs) in letter and spirit, said a press release issued here on Monday. On the directives of the DC, the administrative officers inspected various bazaars and ..... more >>

**KP Governor gets booster dose, urges people to get vaccinated**

Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-25

PESHAWAR - Chancellor of Khyber Medical University (KMU) and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shah Farman Monday visited KMU mass vaccination center and got a booster dose of Pfizer. He appreciated KMU for playing a major role in responding Covid 19 pandemic. Prof Dr Zia Ul Haq who is a professor of Public Health & Vice Chancellor KMU briefed the Governor that KMU Public Health Ref Laboratory has ..... more >>

**Smart lockdown imposed on various localities of Peshawar**


PESHAWAR: District administration Peshawar has imposed smart lockdown on various localities to control the spread of Covid-19, said an official notification issued here on Monday. The localities where the restrictions have been imposed on the entry and exits were included Street No: 1 to 8, Sector F-V, Phase-VI, Hayatabad. Area bound by Ring Road, Phandu Road & GHSS Hazar Khwani Road. ..... more >>

**CS directs district admins to achieve vaccination targets**


PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Shahzad Khan Bangash has directed district administrations to ensure vaccination targets and enforce precautionary measures in the wake of rise in number of Omicron cases. Shahzad Bangash chaired a meeting to review Covid-19 vaccination and Omicron cases here on Saturday. The meeting was attended by Secretary Health, Home Secretary, focal person N..... more >>

**SOPs’ violation: Managers of three wedding halls arrested**


PESHAWAR: District administration on Saturday arrested the managers of three wedding halls from Faqirabad locality over violation of Corona preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs). In light of the directives of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the officers of the district administration visited business centres in various parts of the city including interior city, Ring Roa...... more >>

**Three more Covid deaths amid closure of educational institutions**

Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-26

PESHAWAR: Three more people lost life to coronavirus and 854 were infected with it in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday amid the closure of several educational institutions in the province following the detection of the virus among staff members and students. Of the new cases, 49 were of Omicron variant, says the health department. According to it, two deaths by coronavirus were reported in Peshawar..... more >>

**Schools asked to meet vaccination target Those with less than 99% inoculation to be closed**

Source: Muhammad Haroon, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-26

PESHAWAR: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Education Minister Shahram Khan Tarakai has said that strict action would be taken against those private schools whose 99 per cent students are not vaccinated till February 16. He said that all such schools would be closed down and strict action will be taken against the owners. He was addressing a meeting to review the situation arose from the fifth wave of C..... more >>
KP records highest number of Covid cases in single day
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday reported 1,446 coronavirus cases, the highest number of infections recorded in a single day since onset of the pandemic in the province, as Public Health Reference Laboratory at Khyber Medical University began collecting samples from suspected patients in an effort to escalate testing. The province had reported 1,265 cases of Covid-19, the highest number..... more >>

PCR Test Centre, sampling booths inaugurated
Source: Our Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to CM Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) on Information Barrister Saif Wednesday inaugurated Covid-19 PCR Test Centre and sampling booths at Khyber Medical University (KMU). The vice-chancellor KMU Professor Dr Ziaul Haq, Director KMU Public Health Reference Lab (PHRL) Dr Yasir Yousafzai, Director Institute of Pathology and Diagnostic Medicine Dr Asif Ali, and other officials w..... more >>

Vaccination drive from Feb 1 in KP to put brakes on spread of Covid
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa detected 1,317 new Covid-19 cases and three deaths on Thursday as the health department decided to launch a 14-day vaccination campaign from February 1 to put brakes on the transmission of the virus amid rising hospitalisations due to the pandemic. Officials said that the drive was meant to administer vaccines to students of schools because they were potential sources..... more >>

KP govt to start 14-day Covid vaccination drive
Source: App, Daily Times, 2022-01-28
In wake of the growing cases of coronavirus, especially that of Omicron Variant being more infectious than other variants and in pursuance of decision of NCOC & Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Phase-I of the 14-day COVID Vaccination Campaign would be started from February 1,2022. The vaccination would be carried out in 22 districts to achieve 90 percent first dose coverage across the provin..... more >>

PCR Test Centre, sampling booths inaugurated
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to CM Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) on Information Barrister Saif Wednesday inaugurated Covid-19 PCR Test Centre and sampling booths at Khyber Medical University (KMU). The vice-chancellor KMU Professor Dr Ziaul Haq, Director KMU Public Health Reference Lab (PHRL) Dr Yasir Yousafzai, Director Institute of Pathology and Diagnostic Medicine Dr Asif Ali, and other officials w..... more >>

Covid-19 vaccination drive to start on Feb 1
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
PESHAWAR: In the face of rising cases of Covid-19 infections particularly that of Omicron variant being more infectious than other variants and in pursuance of decision of National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) and government ofKhyber-Pakhtunkhwa(K-P), Phase-I Covid vaccination campaign is starting from 1st February, 2022. The campaign will continue for 14 days in 22 districts with an aim t..... more >>

Covid services to resume at Peshawar police hospital
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-29
PESHAWAR: With a spike in coronavirus-related deaths and incidence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the health department has planned to resume the admission and isolation of the virus patients and other related services at the
Police Services Hospital in the provincial capital. It, however, requested the police for extra security checks at the hospital in light of the admission of under-trials and convict..... more >>

**Mardan shuts 40 educational institutions over coronavirus cases**
MARDAN: The district administration on Friday closed 40 educational institutions including the University of Engineering and Technology due to the emergence of coronavirus positive cases. According to an official statement, Deputy Commissioner Habibullah Arif in the wake of recently reported Covid-19 positive cases and recommendations of district health officer (DHO) Dr Kachkool Khan under Sect..... more >>

**Coronavirus cases rising in KP alarmingly**
PESHAWAR: Coronavirus has started spreading rapidly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with the provincial capital of Peshawar with 29.65 per cent positivity rate and remained on top of the list of cities with highest number of positivity ratio on Friday. As usual, the provincial government and its health department has not been able to develop a proper surveillance system and record the exact number of ca..... more >>

**Coronavirus cases rising in KP alarmingly**
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**KP records highest single-day Covid cases**
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday recorded 1,961 coronavirus cases, the highest in a single day since the outbreak of the infection in Feb 2020. The rising Covid-19 incidence prompted the Peshawar administration to lock down eight more areas in the district. Of the new cases, 915 were reported in the provincial capital, which has half of the province’s patient tally recorded since t..... more >>

**Door-to-door vaccination in K-P to begin in Feb & March**
PESHAWAR: A door-to-door vaccination campaign in the mountainous districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa(K-P) will be launched from February 1. This was revealed during a high level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Shehzad Khan Bangash via video link. The agenda of the meeting was vaccination and Omicron variant. Secretary Health, Director G..... more >>

**8 educational institutions closed after Covid surge**
PESHAWAR: The district administration has closed down more educational institutions after a sharp rise in Covid-19 cases among the students. In Peshawar the Covid-19 rate has dropped but it is still alarmingly high at 31 per cent. Across the province it has been recorded at 9.7 per cent after a 3.3 per cent drop. On Saturday eight more education institutions situated in different localities across..... more >>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indoor wedding, events banned in wake of Covid-19</strong></td>
<td>Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>There’s alarming surge in Covid-19 cases in KP</strong></td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-31</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1,647 new corona cases reported in KP</strong></td>
<td>APP, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-31</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>KP’s Covid death toll crosses 6,000 mark</strong></td>
<td>Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-02-01</td>
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from Peshawar where the number of people fallen to the pandemic is about 50 per cent of the province-wide mortalities. A health department’s report said that 721 new ..... more >>

Rising cases of Covid-19; Four educational institutes shut down in Peshawar
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
PESHAWAR: Four educational institutions in Peshawar on Monday closed due to increasing cases of coronavirus. According to details, one girls’ hostel has also been sealed to prevent further spread of the virus. The local administration has said that the educational institutions have been closed for a week. On the other hand, Pakistan has reported 21 deaths in the last 24 hours ..... more >>

KP health department sets up coordination office against coronavirus
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department has setup a coordination office to enhance response and contain its further spread, said a notification here on Monday. According to the notification, the Provincial Coordination Office for Corona would provide enhanced response to the patients and work out a coordinated strategy to contain the virus. The coordination office would also help the peop..... more >>

Two Khyber colleges sealed over Covid cases
Source: The Newspaper’s Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-02
KHYBER: The Khyber district administration sealed two colleges in Jamrud on Tuesday after 13 students tested positive for coronavirus. Officials said that all the infected students were quarantined at their homes, adding the colleges would remain closed for seven days. They said that as many as 120 persons had tested positive for Covid-19 during the last two weeks with overall positivity rate in..... more >>

Seven more fall prey to Covid-19 in provincial capital
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-02
PESHAWAR: Seven more died of Covid-19 and 1,441 new cases were recorded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a vaccination campaign was launched in 22 districts of the province. A report of health department said that the number of fatalities due to coronavirus in the province reached 6,009. It said that the number of cases was 196,348. It said that all the mortalities occurred in Peshawar-based hospitals. I..... more >>

Covid claims 14 lives as door-to-door vaccination begins
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-03
PESHAWAR: Fourteen people died of coronavirus and 1,589 were infected with it in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday as two weeks long door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination began in 22 districts of the province. According to a health department report, the province’s coronavirus-related deaths and cases tallied 6,023 and 197,937 amid growing hospitalisations and active cases. The province has 16..... more >>

Covid claims 14 lives as door-to-door vaccination begins
Source: Recorder Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-03
PESHAWAR: Fourteen people died of coronavirus and 1,589 were infected with it in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday as two weeks long door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination began in 22 districts of the province. According to a health department report, the province’s coronavirus-related deaths and cases tallied 6,023 and 197,937 amid growing hospitalisations and active cases. The province has 16..... more >>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>MANSEHRA: The district administration has sealed the Hazara University's Communication and Media Studies Department after many students and faculty members were tested positive for the coronavirus. The Health Department had tested many students and faculty members of the Communication and Media Studies Department Covid-19 positive following which the district administration sealed it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister urges for strict observance of Corona SOPs at KP schools</td>
<td>App, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2022-02-02</td>
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<td>Provincial Education Minister Shahram Khan Tarakai Tuesday presided over a meeting to review the situation regarding coronavirus in educational institutions. The meeting besides others was also attended by Secretary Education Yahya Akhunzada, Director General Health Services KP Dr Niaz, Director Education Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim and officers from health and education departments. Education Ministe</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Door-to-door corona vaccination drive underway in plain areas</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2022-02-03</td>
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<td>Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has launched door-to-door COVID vaccination campaign in the plain areas since February 1 in order to achieve the vaccination targets, while the campaign in the snow-bound areas would be launched from March. Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Shahzad Khan Bangash chaired a meeting on the ongoing situation with regards to the Omicron spread and vaccination via a v</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Coronavirus claims eight more lives</td>
<td>Bureau Report, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2022-02-04</td>
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<td>PESHAWAR: Eight more died of Covid-19 and 1,258 new infections emerged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday as the number of active coronavirus patients continued to rise in high-risk districts. A report of health department said that Mardan recorded 24 per cent positivity rate, Kohat 22pc, Peshawar and Nowshera 21pc each and Mansehra 18pc. It added that overall infectivity rate in the province was</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Seven Kohat schools closed over Covid cases</td>
<td>The Newspaper's Correspondent, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2022-02-04</td>
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<td>KOHAT: Additional deputy commissioner Bashir Ahmed ordered closure of six girls and boys schools and a nursing school here on Thursday on the recommendations of the Covid-19 surveillance committee following emergence of positive cases. The schools include Working Folks Grammar Girls High School, Bannu Road; Government Girls Higher Secondary School No1; Government High School, Akhorwal, Darra Adam</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Door-to-door vaccination launched in Bajaur</td>
<td>A Correspondent, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2022-02-04</td>
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<td>BAJAUR: The authorities on Thursday launched a door-to-door vaccination campaign in Bajaur tribal district to protect the people from Covid-19. The campaign has been launched in line with the decision of National Command and Operation Centre and the directive of the provincial government to protect the entire population of the district from coronavirus, according to a statement issued by the DC o</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>PESHAWAR: The KP government has announced changes to the next academic year due to the delay in intermittent closure of the educational institutions due to Covid-19. A formal notification to this effect issued here on Thursday</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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stated: “Due to delay caused by the Covid-19, the academic session for the year 2022-23 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would start from August 1, 2022, and end on April 30, ..... more >>

Covid vaccination goes up by 20% across K-P Still fails to meet targets of inoculation
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2022-02-04
PESHAWAR: The ongoing Covid-19 vaccination drive in the 22 districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) has registered a 20 percent increase on the second day of the drive (February 2) but despite that it missed the target of inoculation. Sources told The Express Tribune that two districts of Lakki Marwat andCharsadda achieved 90 per cent of their target while Peshawar and Torghar districts once again..... more >>

Punjab

Tarin, Shehbaz test positive for Covid-19
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2022-01-26
LAHORE: Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday isolated themselves at their houses after they tested positive for coronavirus. The meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) was postponed as well after the finance minister tested positive for the virus. Earlier in the day, PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzebmentioned..... more >>

Punjab reports record 1,886 virus cases
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad , 2022-01-22
LAHORE: The Covid-19 is spreading fast in Punjab as record 1,886 new positive cases were reported in the province during the last 24 hours. It is the highest number of cases reported during the last three months or so, and the official data indicates that the fifth Covid wave is heading its peak. The official figures say the infectivity rate of the virus in Lahore and Rawalpindi has reached 17.9..... more >>

Marriage halls move LHC against ban on indoor functions
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad , 2022-01-22
LAHORE: The Punjab Marriage Halls Association has filed a writ petition in the Lahore High Court, challenging the new restrictions on indoor functions after the increase in the cases of Omicron, the new variant of Covid-19. The petition says that the decision of the National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) to ban indoor wedding functions is discriminatory. It argues that educational institutions,..... more >>

Covid vaccines found dumped in garbage
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad , 2022-01-22
GUJAR KHAN: Partially used and unused Covid-19 vaccines were found dumped in the vicinity of a private college near Gujar Khan city on Friday. As the matter was highlighted on social media, authorities of the health department swung into action. Focal person for Covid-19 Mohammad Yousaf reached the spot with his team and took the vaccines into custody. When contacted, Deputy District Health Off..... more >>

Omicron snuffs out three more lives
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2022-01-22
RAWALPINDI: The Omicron variant surge of coronavirus cases continues to surge in the twin cities as health authorities feared the situation may worsen in the coming days. The Islamabad district health officer has recommended closing down all educational institutions in the federal capital after the Omicron-fueled surge of coronavirus cases. Around two dozen educational institutions have been cl..... more >>
**Commissioner for pacing up vaccination drive amid new wave**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-22

BAHAWALPUR - Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal on Friday chaired a meeting and reviewed government taxes, sugarcane crushing, supply of urea fertilizer, anti-smog, Ehsas ration discount programme, corona vaccination campaign, price control, and development projects. The commissioner said that development targets should be completed within time. All resources .... more >>

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**1,886 new cases as coronavirus getting perilous in Punjab**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-22

LAHORE - The rapid spread of coronavirus is alarming in Punjab as 1,886 new cases were reported on Friday, whereas, three deaths were reported during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by spokesman for Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province has reached 458,925, whereas, 13,093 total deaths have been recorded so far. more >>

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**Committee to probe incident of corona vaccine vials found dumped**
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-22

Rawalpindi-A fact-finding committee was constituted in Gujar Khan to probe an incident of finding Covid-19 vaccine from a heap of garbage near a private college, informed sources on Friday. Rural Health Centre Qazian Head Dr Shahid Chauhdry has been appointed as inquiry officer by the health department, they said. The DDHO has also ordered to submit report within three days with his office. more >>

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**Covid-19 positivity rate in Punjab reaches 6.85pc**

LAHORE: While there is no let up in the spread of coronavirus, the overall positivity rate of virus in the province of Punjab reached to 6.85 and the health professionals fear spike in Covid-19 cases. Out of 21,253 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 1456 fresh infections and 04 fatalities were reported in the province taking the tally of cases to 460,381 and death toll to 13,097. more >>

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**93 more Omicron cases detected in Punjab**

Punjab has recorded 93 new cases of COVID-19's Omicron strain over the past 24 hours including 84 only in Lahore. The tally of the new strain of coronavirus cases in Lahore has reached to 830, according to the provincial health department. According to the provincial health department, the province has overall reported 883 cases of Omicron strain, while 93 new cases in the last 24 hour. more >>

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**Corona positivity rate increases to 17.96pc in Rawalpindi**
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-23

RAWALPINDI - As many as 290 more people were tested positive of deadly coronavirus, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 41,611 in the district, while the positivity rate was recorded at 17.96 per cent during the last 24 hours in the district. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Saturday, among the new cases, 89 belonged to the Rawalpindi Cantonment are. more >>
CM for following coronavirus SOPs
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-24
LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Sunday stressed the need for following coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) and made it clear that the government did not want to impose restrictions but people should also adopt precautionary measures. In a press statement, he said that Omicron was not a simple virus, adding that it could be dangerous. “Therefore, vaccination..... more >>

1,988 new cases as coronavirus spreading at alarming rate
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-24
LAHORE - As many as 1,988 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Sunday, whereas, five Covid-19 patients died during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province has reached 462,369, whereas, 13,102 total deaths have also been recorded so far. The P&SHD..... more >>

Covid fear strains hospitals’ test capacity
Source: Adnan Lodhi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-25
LAHORE: While Punjab government is struggling to curb the fifth wave of coronavirus, private hospitals and laboratories have reportedly increased the fee for tests for the Omicron variant of the disease. Government hospitals are conducting the test free of charge but are reportedly unable to test all the suspected patients of coronavirus because of their high number. Several patients complained..... more >>

Comparing apples with oranges
LAHORE: The debate on the economy should be based on how it benefited the public at large and not on comparing the difficulties faced by the general population in affluent countries, because it amounts to comparing apples with oranges. It is true that Pakistan cannot shield itself from the ups and downs being experienced in the global economy. Price hikes around the globe should not be limited..... more >>

Five more schools sealed in Rawalpindi
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-25
RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority (DHA) has sealed five more schools after confirmation of coronavirus in female students and teachers bringing the total number of sealed educational institutions in Rawalpindi district to 12. The sealed schools include Government Pak Islamia Girls High School 3 Jahangirabad, Government Girls High School Morgah, Government Girls High School Dhok Mangtal, ..... more >>

Marriage halls plea against curbs dismissed
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-25
LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Monday dismissed a petition of the Punjab Marriage Halls Association challenging the new restrictions on indoor functions with an increase in the cases of Omicron, the new variant of Covid-19 pandemic. The court observed that the matter pertained to government policy to control the spread of the pandemic and a petition against it was not maintainable. The associa..... more >>

2,108 new Covid cases
Source: From the Newspaper, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-25
LAHORE: Punjab reported 2,108 new positive cases of Covid-19 during the last 24 hours, the highest number recorded during the fifth wave of the pandemic, taking the total number to 464,474. The official data shows that the
positivity rate of the virus has increased in Rawalpindi to 17.4pc, making it the most vulnerable city of the province. The ratio was recorded at 15pc in provincial capital Lah..... more >>

**Okara Addl DC Revenue tests positive for corona**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-25
Okara - Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Okara Mudassar Farqalit has been tested positive for coronavirus. The fifth wave of corona is becoming dangerous. Like other districts of the province, the fifth wave of Corona in Okara is spreading fast. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Administrator Municipal Committee Okara Mudassar Farqalit testing positive for corona has quarantined hims..... more >>

**2,108 new cases as corona spread getting worse from bad**
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-25
LAHORE - Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch Monday said that during the last 24 hours, 2,108 new cases of coronavirus were reported across the province. In a press statement issued here, he said that 1,320 positive cases were reported in Lahore, 444 in Rawalpindi, 61 in Faisalabad, 56 in Sialkot, 34 in Multan, 23 in Gujranwala, 19 in Baha..... more >>

**0.1m masks handed over to post master general**
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-26
LAHORE: Commissioner retired Capt Muhammad Usman on Tuesday handed over 100,000 (0.1 million) Covid-19 masks packed in post letters to the Punjab Post Master General to dispatch the same to Lahorites free of cost. The masks are being distributed under the “Lahore Wears Mask” campaign to counter the fifth wave of the coronavirus pandemic. The masks would be sent through Pakistan Post t..... more >>

**Eight more Covid deaths in Punjab, positivity ratio 15.8 in Lahore**
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-26
LAHORE: Punjab reported eight more Covid-19 deaths during the last 24 hours, with virus positivity rate reaching 15.8 in Lahore and 12.5 in Rawalpindi, respectively. The official figures on Tuesday showed the number of deaths caused by the virus were gradually increasing. Of the eight deaths, five were reported in Lahore, two in Sheikhupura and one in Multan. Similarly, the total number of Covid..... more >>

**Govt intensifies SOPs’ enforcement**
Source: Imran Adnan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-26
LAHORE: As the number of coronavirus cases continues to rise, the government has decided to ensure strict enforcement of the Covid-19 safety standard operating procedures (SOPs). Lahore district administration sealed several eateries over violation of the coronavirus SOPs. On directives of the Lahore deputy commissioner, district administration officials inspected restaurants and eateries in di..... more >>

**Yasmin Rashid again tests positive for coronavirus**
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
LAHORE: Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has been isolated again at her home after she tested positive for the second time during the last three weeks or so. Dr Rashid had some specific Covid-19 symptoms, including fever and flu, after which her samples were drawn that tested positive, an official toldDawn. Earlier, he said, the minister had tested positive for the virus some15 days backand was ..... more >>
Pindi locks down 15 schools, colleges after Covid cases surface
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: As many as 15 educational institutions were sealed in Rawalpindi district on Wednesday after over 80 people were found infected by Covid-19 on their premises. However, a drop in cases was seen in the capital on Wednesday. As many as 685 people tested positive during the last 24 hours compared to 1,836 recorded the previous day. On the other hand, two persons lost their live..... more >>

Dr Yasmin tests corona positive for second time in a month
LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Dr Yasmin Rashid has tested positive for coronavirus, a spokesperson said Wednesday, as the pandemic spreads rapidly across the country. This is the second time in a month that the health minister has tested positive for coronavirus. She first tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this month on January 4. The spokesperson said the health minister was self-isol..... more >>

Schoolchildren at risk as corona cases on the rise
Rawalpindi : The twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad reported the highest number of COVID-19 cases on Tuesday and the situation seems to be going out of control but all private and public schools have remained open with 100 per cent attendance proving the point that nobody is taking the issue seriously. Only the branches of the Army Public Schools (APS) have been closed for a week. *T..... more >>

1,534 test positive for Covid-19 in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
LAHORE - As many as 1534 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Wednesday whereas two persons lost their lives during the last 24 hours, according to the data shared by the spokesperson of P&SHD. of coronavirus cases in the province reached 467,744 while total number of deaths recorded 13,116 so far. The P&SHD confirmed the maximum number of coronavirus cases were reported in Laho..... more >>

11 schools closed in Rawalpindi as COVID-19 cases surge
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
Rawalpindi - The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of District Health Authority has recommended closure of 11 schools after detection of COVID-19 among students and teachers, informed sources on Wednesday. In a letter, the CEO district health authority suggested closing down the 11 educational institutions immediately. The schools should be kept close for 10 days, proposed the district health aut..... more >>

1,886 new Covid-19 cases reported in Punjab
Source: App, Daily Times, 2022-01-22
Rapid spread of coronavirus cases is getting dangerous in Punjab as 1886 new cases were reported on Friday whereas three deaths were reported during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 458,925 while total number of deaths recorded 13,093 so far..... more >>

Pandemic claims seven more lives in Punjab
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
LAHORE: As many as 1,842 new cases of coronavirus were reported and seven people died due to the pandemic in Punjab on Thursday. As per the data shared by a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare
Department (P&SHD), the number of cases in the province reached 469,586 while total number of deaths recorded 13,123 so far. The P&SHD confirmed 1,163 cases in Lahore, thre..... more >>

**Pakistan’s anti-Covid policy hailed worldwide: CM**
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said the Opposition tried to exploit the situation in the wake of the corona pandemic and dengue. In a statement issued on Thursday, the CM said the government has taken timely and far-sighted decisions to deal with Corona and its successful strategy has helped to overcome the spread of coronavirus in Pakistan as compared to other countries. ..... more >>

**Smart lockdown imposed in six areas of Rawalpindi**
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
RAWALPINDI - The district administration on Thursday issued an order for imposition of smart lockdown in six areas of Rawalpindi to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Primary and Secondary Health Care Department Punjab on the request of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq has issued orders for certain restrictions and controlled movement in different areas including Street No. 6, Shami..... more >>

**CM maintains timely measures taken to curb spread of coronavirus**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Thursday said that the government had taken timely and far-sighted measures to deal with coronavirus and its successful strategy helped overcome spread of coronavirus in Pakistan. In a statement issued here, he said that the opposition tried to exploit the situation resulted in the wake of the corona pandemic and dengue. The chief minister said..... more >>

**3rd phase of Covid vaccination campaign from Feb 1**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
LAHORE - The third phase of coronavirus vaccination campaign (RED-III) will be initiated formally from February 1 in Punjab, Sindh and KPK. This was informed by Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch who was chairing a meeting regarding the vaccination campaign RED (Phase III) here on Thursday. The P&SHD secretary said that in the benchmark vaccinati..... more >>

**No fake entry in corona vaccination record: Health Dept**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
LAHORE - Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch Thursday rejected the news item telecast on a private news channel regarding the record of corona vaccine given to the deceased in the province. In a statement issued on Thursday, he said that the NADRA and NCOC had blocked the identity cards of all the deceased. He said that there was no record..... more >>

**1,842 new coronavirus cases, seven deaths reported in Punjab**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
LAHORE - As many as 1,842 new cases of coronavirus were reported and seven people died due to the pandemic in Punjab on Thursday. According to the data shared by a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of cases in the province reached 469,586 while total number of deaths recorded 13,123 so far. The P&SHD confirmed 1,163 cases in Lahore,..... more >>
Restrictions on class I to VI
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-29
LAHORE: Punjab Minister for School Education Murad Raas on Friday announced that all public and private schools of Lahore and Rawalpindi from grade one to six would continue classes in a staggered manner 50 per cent students each day until Feb 15. The decision was taken due to the steady rise in coronavirus cases in Lahore and Pindi. As many as 1,380 new infections were detected in Lahore during ..... more >>

PCR test fee reduced to Rs4,800
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-30
LAHORE: The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) on Saturday reduced the PCR test charges to Rs4,800 per test to increase the percentage of people tested for Covid-19 as the cases started rising in the province. The commission also vowed to take action against the public and private hospitals and laboratories charging more for the PCR test. The commission was receiving reports about private hospit..... more >>

Detection of Covid-19 leads to closure of 17 schools, colleges in Rawalpindi
Source: Munawar Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-30
RAWALPINDI: The district administration on Saturday sealed 17 education institutions in the district after 53 people were found infected by Covid-19, taking the tally of schools and colleges closed in the district to 79 in the last over one week. On the other hand, more than 1,900 coronavirus patients were reported in Rawalpindi and Islamabad during the last 24 hours, with the positivity rate rec..... more >>

Covid-19 deaths in Punjab hit 8-month high
Source: Adnan Lodhi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-30
LAHORE: Punjab on Sunday recorded thehighest number of Covid-19 relateddeaths for the first time in eight months with 12 morepeople succumbing to the disease in the last 24hours. The provincial death ratio has been increasing continuously due to the fifth wave of Covid-19with 46 people dying in Punjab during the past week. According to health experts, the crucial phase of the Omicron wave has b..... more >>

135 govt doctors, nurses down with Covid-19 Positivity ratio in Rawalpindi district hits 16.48%
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-30
RAWALPINDI: The situation of hospitals in the Rawalpindi district presents a grim picture with 135 doctors and nurses in four government hospitals testing positive for coronavirus during the ongoing fifth wave of the pandemic so far. As many as 34 doctors and 14 nurses of District Headquarters Hospital Rawalpindi, 16 doctors and 11 nurses in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 20 doctors and 17 nurses in H..... more >>

5 restaurants, 3 bakeries sealed for violating virus rules
Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-30
FAISALABAD - The district administration sealed five restaurants and three bakeries in violation of anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) here Saturday. The team headed by Assistant Commissioner City Sahibzada Muhammad Yousaf along with AC Saddar Ghulam Mustafa Jutt held inspection in various areas of the city and sealed Fork n Knife, Malwari Pratha Kabab, Fine Dine, Khayam Restaur..... more >>

Punjab govt extends restrictions on attendance in schools
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-30
LAHORE - The Punjab government has extended its decision to restrict attendance to 50 per cent in public and private schools here. According to the notification issued by Punjab Education Department, classes up to Grade 6
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<tr>
<td>CM takes notice of Covid medicine shortage</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-31</td>
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<td>Lahore: Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has taken notice of the shortage of fever medicine and has sought a report from the health secretary on the matter. He has directed the health department to take all possible steps to ensure availability of fever medicine at medical stores. He said that the manufacturers should be contacted to increase the production of the medicine. The PML-N strongly...</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omicron cases surge in Punjab despite high vaccination rate</td>
<td>Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-31</td>
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<td>Lahore: Omicron, the new variant of Covid-19, is gradually raising its ugly head in Punjab as the related deaths and positivity rate have increased to an alarming level in the province. &quot;It is alarming in the sense that Punjab is reporting over 2,200 new positive cases daily on average at a time when 61 percent of the targeted population has been vaccinated&quot;, a senior official of the...</td>
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<td>One dies of COVID-19 from Pindi, 1,436 cases from twin cities</td>
<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-31</td>
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<td>Rawalpindi : As many as 1,436 new patients have been diagnosed with coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours showing that the situation is much alarming in the region while the virus has claimed another life from Rawalpindi district taking the death toll from the twin cities to 2,217 on Sunday. It is worth mentioning here that...</td>
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<td>Lahore: There is no let up in the spread of coronavirus, as overall positivity rate of the virus in the province of Punjab reached to 9.13% amid flouting of Covid-19 SOPs cases at public places and marriage functions. Out of 24206 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 2212 fresh infections and 12 fatalities were reported in the province taking the tally of cases to 476,466 and death toll...</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Punjab reports another 2,212 cases of Covid-19</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-31</td>
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<td>Lahore - As many as 2,212 new cases of coronavirus were reported, and 12 Covid-19 patients lost their lives during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by a spokesperson for Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&amp;SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province has reached 476,466, whereas, 13,148 deaths have also been recorded so far. The P&amp;SHD confirm...</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Covid vaccination: DCs, health CEOs performance lauded</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-02-01</td>
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<td>Lahore: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Monday distributed shields among the deputy commissioners (DCs) and chief executive officers (CEOs) of the health authorities of various districts on their performance during the Covid vaccination campaign. Those who received appreciation from the CM included DCs and CEOs health of Mianwali, Bhakkar, DG Khan, Rajanpur, Sargodha, Okara, Kasur, Chiniot, Sahiwa...</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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Special vaccination drive against Covid-19 from today
Source: Jamil Mirza, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority (DHA) will start the third 15-day vaccination campaign against the coronavirus in the garrison city from Tuesday (today) During the special campaign dubbed as reach every door (RED) first, second doses and booster doses will be given to more than 600,000 people. The DHA will also launch an awareness campaign of the importance of using masks, social dist..... more >>

Punjab: 58pc population vaccinated; ‘RED-III’ drive to be launched today
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
LAHORE: While the 58-per cent of the Punjab population has been fully vaccinated in the RED drive. The overall Corona positivity rate in the province of Punjab reached to 8.60% amid steady rise in corona virus positive cases. The Covid-19 positivity rate in Lahore reached to 14.44% followed by Rawalpindi with 12.62%, Bahawalpur 10.21%, Multan 8.91%, Faisalabad 8.65%, Sargodha 7.37% and Gujran..... more >>

Eight more schools closed in Pindi as COVID-19 cases spike
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
Rawalpindi - The CEO District Health Authority has recommended closure of eight more schools after detection of COVID-19 among students and teachers, informed sources on Monday. In a letter, the CEO suggested closing down the eight educational institutions immediately. The schools should be kept closed for 10 days, he proposed. Schools to be kept closed for 10 days The educational instituti..... more >>

Khanewal prominent in vaccination drive
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-02-01
Khanewal - In the ongoing corona vaccination campaign under the direction of Usman Bazdar government, Khanewal district has secured a prominent position for the second time in a row in this regard. Deputy commissioner Khanewal Salman Khan was awarded with shield and commendation certificate by CM punjab in prize distribution ceremony. On the occasion, Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Bazdar..... more >>

Vaccination
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-02
SAHIWAL: The Sahiwal division has stood first in executing the second phase of the door-to-door coronavirus vaccination campaign in Punjab. Local health and district administration departments covered 113 percent of the population of the actual target sin the three districts of the division. ..... more >>

3 die of corona in Pindi, 1,136 cases from twin cities
Rawalpindi : As many as 1,136 individuals have tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while the virus has claimed another three lives, all from Rawalpindi that has taken death toll from the twin cities to 2,222. The positivity rate of COVID-19 in the region has dropped down to around 12 per cent in the last..... more >>

Covid-19: Punjab reports 16 more deaths, 1,894 fresh cases
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-02-02
LAHORE: There is no respite in fatalities as well as fresh Covid-19 infections, as out of 23,583 tests conducted across the province in the last 24 hours; Punjab has reported 16 more deaths and 1,894 new infections taking the provincial tally of death toll to 13,173 and coronavirus cases to 480,467. Out of 16 deaths, nine were reported in Lahore, four in Rawalpindi and two in Gujranwala takin..... more >>
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<td>Covid-19 claims 3 more lives in Rawalpindi Share:</td>
<td>APP, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>Govt college, other institutions sealed after coronavirus detection</td>
<td>APP, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>3rd phase of Covid-19 RED vaccination drive kicks off</td>
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<td>13 more educational institutions sealed in Rawalpindi, Islamabad</td>
<td>Munawer Azeem</td>
<td>2022-02-03</td>
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<td>Punjab Highway Patrol personnel told to get booster shots</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-02-03</td>
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<td>Covid-19: three more Pindi colleges sealed</td>
<td>App, Daily Times</td>
<td>2022-02-02</td>
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Nine die, 1894 new cases of coronavirus reported in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-02-03
LAHORE - As many as 1,894 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Wednesday while nine patients lost their lives. According to data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of cases in the province reached 482,661 while the total number of deaths were recorded 13,182 so far. The P&SHD confirmed 1,021 cases in Lahore, one in..... more >>

187 more coronavirus cases reported in Rawalpindi
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-02-03
RAWALPINDI - As many as 187 more patients were tested positive for the fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours in the district on Wednesday. The new cases included 46 belonging to the Rawalpindi Cantonment, 38 from Potohar Town, 37 from Rawal Town, 21 from Gujjar Khan, 14 from Taxila, eight from Islamabad, five from Chakwal, four from Kahuta, two each from AJK, Jehlum and Attock while one ca..... more >>

Covid claims 16 lives in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-04
Lahore: The Covid-19 virus claimed 16 lives on Thursday in Punjab, taking the toll to 13,198 so far. Nine deaths were reported in Lahore, five in Rawalpindi and one each in Dera Ghazi Khan and Rahim Yar Khan. The total number of infections in Punjab reached 483,825 after 1,463 more people tested positive for the virus. Of them, 810 are in Lahore, and 172 in Rawalpindi. The official figures said..... more >>

Covid-19 vaccination drive in full swing
Source: APP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-04
RAWALPINDI: The two-week-long Phase III of the Reach Every Door (RED) anti-coronavirus campaign, which began in all tehsils and towns of the Rawalpindi district, entered its third day on Thursday. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) District Health Authority Dr Faiza Kanwal said the vaccination campaign was in full swing. Under the drive, she said over 150,000 people above 12 years of age had so far be..... more >>

2 COVID-19 deaths from Pindi, 894 cases from twin cities
Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another two lives from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while as many as 894 individuals have tested positive for the infection from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district. The positivity rate of the infection has been recorded as well over 10 per cent in the region in the last 24 hours as it was 10.86 per cent in ICT..... more >>

Over 6.56m people vaccinated against COVID-19 in Faisalabad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-02-04
FAISALABAD - Over 6.56 million people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun‘im said on Thursday 3,981,171 citizens were injected first dose while 2,512,982 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 38,518 health workers were also given first dose while 34,413 received the second dose of vaccine. He sa..... more >>

84 positive cases of covid-19 in district Okara: admin
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-02-04
Okara - Spokesperson of District Administration and Focal Person for Anti-covid Deputy Director Khursheed Jilani said that there are 84 positive cases of covid-19 in the district at present and all the patients are in isolation in their
homes. They are being treated under the supervision of the health department. He appealed to the people and said that covid-19 virus is very dangerous. The peo..... more >>

400 cops deployed to guard Covid-19 vaccination teams
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-02-04
RAWALPINDI - As many as 400 police personnel have been deployed here to provide security to 210 Covid-19 vaccination teams in the ongoing vaccination campaign. According to Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz, the Covid-19 door-to-door vaccination campaign was launched to vaccinate the citizens against Covid-19 and police were ensuring their security. He said senior ..... more >>

Sindh

Three more lose lives to Covid-19 in city
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-22
KARACHI: Three more patients died of Covid-19 on Friday in the city which saw the detection of over 2,800 new infections, including 21 cases of the Omicron variant when reduced testing was carried out, official statistics showed. According to the data released by Chief Minister House, out of a total of 3,467 Covid-19 cases diagnosed in the province, 2,884 were reported in Karachi and 269 in Hyderabad ..... more >>

Covid-19 test positivity rate touches 46.58pc in Karachi
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-22
KARACHI - Coronavirus positivity rate in provincial capital of Sindh, Karachi has risen to record level of 46.58 percent as country faces fifth wave of the deadly virus fueled by Omicron variant. According to a report on Friday, 3739 new cases of coronavirus have surfaced in Karachi. The positivity ratio in Islamabad has been recorded as 18.91 percent while 6 percent was reported in Hyderabad ..... more >>

Alarming rise in Covid deaths as eight more fall prey to virus in Karachi
Source: Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-23
KARACHI: City’s Covid-19 situation remains alarming as the infection claimed eight more lives on Saturday, raising the death toll from the infection in three days to 28. Sources toldDawnmajority of the victims were women. Karachi contributed 40 per cent of the new cases reported in the country overnight. According to the data released from the Chief Minister House, Karachi reported almost ..... more >>

Covid surge takes toll on stocks
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-23
KARACHI: Investors dumped shares at the Pakistan Stock Exchange in the outgoing week as mounting Covid-19 cases and a spike in international commodity prices triggered a sell-off, however, the rebasing of economy provided some respite and eased concerns. During the week ended on January 21, 2022, the benchmark KSE-100 index dived 745 points, or 1.8%, to close at 45,018. “The market remain..... more >>

No decision taken for lockdown in Sindh, says Saeed Ghani
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-23
KARACHI - Sindh Minister for Information Saeed Ghani on Saturday said no decision had been taken on the imposition of a lockdown in the province, even as COVID-19 cases continue to rise at an alarming rate. “The pressure
on hospitals is not as bad as it was seen during the previous waves,” he said, adding that the Sindh government has “upgraded” hospitals and people have.....  more >>

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Smart lockdown implemented in several areas of Karachi</td>
<td>News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-23</td>
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<td>KARACHI: A smart lockdown has been imposed from Sunday in several regions of Karachi's Central District due to an increase in Covid-19 cases. According to the Interior Department, the smart lockdown has been imposed on the recommendation of the District Health Officer as “the fifth wave of Covid-19 is spreading at a great pace”. The smart lockdown has been implemented in Gulberg, .....  more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Many Karachi city areas placed under smart lockdown amid Omicron surge</td>
<td>Imtiaz Ali, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-24</td>
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<td>KARACHI: In the wake of an alarming rise in Covid-19 cases, particularly of the Omicron variant, city administration has imposed ‘micro-smart’ lockdowns in several areas of the metropolis, it emerged on Sunday. Over 3,100 new cases emerged during the last 24 hours in the province and Karachi’s share stood at 2,480. District South topped the list with 811 new cases. The micro-sm.....  more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Modern isolation ward for Covid patients set up at LU Hospital Jamshoro</td>
<td>Staff Report, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-24</td>
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<td>HYDERABAD - The Medical Superintendent Liaquat University Hospital Dr Munshir Ali on Sunday said that a state-of-the-art isolation ward was set up at Civil Hospital, Jamshoro for the treatment of patients suffering from COVID-19. Speaking to a delegation of civil society members and social activists, MS said experienced specialist doctors and paramedical staff had been deputed in the ward where m.....  more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Distt admin intensifies action against SOPs violators</td>
<td>Staff Report, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-24</td>
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<td>HYDERABAD - In order to ensure strict implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by Sindh government, after the current wave of Covid-19, local administration has intensified action against violators in the district. On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Fuad Ghaffar Soomro, AC Qasimabad Ghulam Rasool Panhwer along with police officials paid a surprise visit to Ali Palace mar.....  more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Booster shot uptake increases as viral cases skyrocket</td>
<td>Tufail Ahmed, MettisGlobal link News Karachi, 2022-01-25</td>
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<td>KARACHI: Until a few weeks ago, it seemed that much of Karachi, despite constant reminders from the government, could find little motivation to get an anti-coronavirus booster shot. While the federal government had invested Rs43 billion in procuring doses for all four provinces, port-city residents who had been fully vaccinated adamantly believed that they could do without the booster jab. Medi.....  more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>The Karachi city administration has imposed micro-smart lockdowns in parts of the metropolis, particularly in Central district, amid an increase in cases of the Omicron variant. District Central Deputy Commissioner Taha Saleem issued a notification imposing micro-smart lockdowns in several union councils in Gulberg, North Nazimabad, North Karachi and Liaquatabad. According to the notification, sm.....  more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Five more die of Covid-19 in city</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-25</td>
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<td>Seven die of Covid</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mega Covid jab centre in Karachi shut for three days due to staff protest</td>
<td>Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-27</td>
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As many as 3 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,741 and 3,108 new cases emerged when 16,469 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He said that 3 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,741 that constituted 1.5 percent death rate. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 3 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,741 that constituted 1.5 percent death rate.

KARACHI: Five more Covid-19 patients died overnight in the city that reported 81 per cent of new cases detected in the province in 24 hours, official figures released on Monday showed. According to the data released from the Chief Minister House, the number of critical patients has risen to 391 from 368 reported on Sunday. The data analysis showed that limited tests were carried out in 24 hours.

KARACHI: With eight more deaths caused by coronavirus, the metropolis city's private health facilities dealing with the novel virus have been packed to capacity as the positivity rate hovers over 45 percent in the city. The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) was packed to capacity with Covid-19 patients on Saturday night while other private hospitals, including Dr. Ziauddin Hospital and others.

KARACHI: Seven more patients lost their lives to coronavirus and 1,735 new cases emerged when 7,636 tests were conducted in the province on Tuesday. A statement said that 45,222 patients were under treatment; of them 44,737 were in home isolation, 37 at isolation centres and 448 at different hospitals.

KARACHI: Unmoved by rising cases of disease and morbidity caused by Covid-19 that claimed another 12 lives overnight in the city, the Sindh government is yet to make the mega Covid-19 immunisation unit at the Expo Centre operational. Sources said the facility visited daily by thousands of people had been completely closed for three days on account of protests by staff awaiting salaries for nine months.

KARACHI: COVID-19 claimed 12 more lives in Sindh, including 8 in Karachi during last 24 hours while 2,404 more people were tested positive for the infectious disease when 13,752 tests were conducted throughout the province. “As many as 12 more people infected with Coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, including 8 in Karachi, raising the death toll to 7,765 while 2,404 new cases emerged when 13,752 tests were conducted throughout the province.

The Gallup Pakistan has found a large 41 percent approval rating for the government’s management of the Covid-19 pandemic, while 29 pc expressed disapproval and interestingly 61 pc respondents refused to consider the fifth wave of as of any serious consequence despite the wide-ranging global deaths and sickness caused by the virion and described the fears as over-exaggerated, while ....
CAA tightens Covid-19 curbs at airports
Source: INP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
KARACHI: Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) on Wednesday imposed additional restrictions at the country’s airports to combat the fifth wave of the Covid-19. The additional curbs have been placed to save the airlines’ crew members and airport staff from contracting Omicron variant of the deadly coronavirus. The CAA made it mandatory to wear facemasks for the passengers c.... more >>

33.6 million people vaccinated in Sindh, says CM Murad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-27
KARACHI - As many as 12 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,765 and 2,404 new cases emerged when 13,752 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that 12 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,765 that constituted 1.5 percent death rate. ..... more >>

City reports 20 Covid deaths in a day
Source: Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-28
KARACHI: The city recorded the highest number of deaths in a single day in the ongoing coronavirus wave on Thursday when 20 patients lost their life, raising the death toll this month to 108, sources told Dawn. They said most of the dead patients were over 60 years of age. “Nine patients, all with comorbidities, died at our hospital overnight. Diabetes and hypertension were the most common..... more >>

15 more die of Covid as vaccination at Karachi mega centre remains suspended
Source: Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-29
KARACHI: The Covid-19 vaccination process at the mega immunisation facility at the Expo Centre remained closed on Friday that saw the death of 15 more patients in the city. Sources said the facility visited daily by thousands of people had been completely closed since Monday on account of protests by staff awaiting salaries for nine months. The issue attracted attention of opposition lawmakers, wh..... more >>

Door-to-door COVID-19 vaccination to kick-start in Sindh from Feb 1
KARACHI: The provincial Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), under the supervision of Sindh health department and with the support of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), is going to launch a door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination campaign in Sindh from February 1 to 14 to enhance vaccination coverage, officials said on Thursday. The Covid-19 pandemic is still prevailing with new varia..... more >>

Serious discrepancies unearthed in COVID-19 testing in Sindh
KARACHI: Expressing serious concerns over the quality and number of COVID-19 tests being conducted by the Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, the Sindh health department officials on Thursday directed Karachi’s district health officers to take maximum advantage of five leading public COVID-19 testing laboratories in the city and send samples to them for testi..... more >>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-30</td>
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<td><strong>KARACHI:</strong> Twelve patients died of Covid-19 overnight in the city, raising the death toll to 135 in the month of January. A statement released by the Chief Minister House on Saturday showed that the number of critical patients rose to 400 from 382 a day before while 8,915 recovered overnight in the province. “A total of 1,827 new cases emerged when 14,768 tests were conducted (in the provinc.....</td>
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<th>Vaccination at Expo still suspended</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-01-30</td>
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<td><strong>KARACHI:</strong> The process of vaccination against coronavirus remained suspended for the sixth consecutive day at the Expo Centre. Students and citizens who reached the centre to get the jab against coronavirus had to return without being vaccinated. The citizens have demanded of the Sindh government to ensure the continuation of vaccination process including availability of vaccines at vaccination c.....</td>
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<th>Govt to launch door-to-door vaccination drive</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-30</td>
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<td><strong>NAWABSHAH -</strong> Deputy Commissioner Aamir Hussain Panhwar on Saturday chaired a meeting to give final shape to arrangements for door-to-door Corona Vaccination Campaign. The 14-day corona vaccination campaign is scheduled from February 1, 2022 to February 14, 2022. Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner said the 5th wave of Corona Pandemic was very dangerous and advised the people who got the.....</td>
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<th>Nine die, 1,599 test positive for Covid overnight</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-01-31</td>
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<td><strong>KARACHI:</strong> As many as nine more patients of coronavirus died and 1,599 new cases emerged when 12,644 tests were conducted in the province. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in a statement issued here on Sunday that the death toll rose to 7,821 that constituted 1.5 per cent death rate. He said that 12,644 samples were tested, which detected 1,599 cases that constituted 12.4pc current de.....</td>
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<th>Five health workers terminated for administering expired vaccine</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Our Correspondent, The News, International, 2022-01-30</td>
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<td><strong>SUWKUR:</strong> Five health workers, including Dr Amar Lal, were terminated from their services by the District Health Officer Khairpur after found them responsible for giving expired Covid-19 booster vaccine doses to 170 police personnel during an anti-Covid drive at Police Training Centre Khairpur. DHO Khairpur Dr Tasleem Khamisani said an inquiry committee was constituted to probe into the issue of .....</td>
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COVID-19 claims 9 more lives, infects 1,599 others  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-31  
KARACHI - As many as 9 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,821 and 1,599 new cases emerged when 12,644 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He said that 9 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,821 that constituted 1.5 percent death rate. Mr. Sha.....  

Over 0.74m people fully vaccinated in Hyderabad  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-31  
HYDERABAD - As many as 7,46,523 people have been fully vaccinated in district Hyderabad till Saturday (Jan 29), the health authorities said. According to official figures, 1130855 people had so far received the dose while 746523 people were fully vaccinated by receiving the second dose of the vaccine and 12436 people received booster dose as per the advice of the National Command and Operatio.....  

Covid-19 claims eight more lives overnight  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-01  
KARACHI: Eight more patients died of Covid-19 on Monday, while the number of critical patients stood at 396. According to a statement released by the Chief Minister House, a total of 1,411 new cases emerged overnight when 13,023 tests were carried out across the province. A total of 667 cases were detected from Karachi, including 257 from district East, 151 Central, 141 South, 70 Korangi and 24 .....  

Careem maps over 600 govt vaccination centres on its Super App  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-02-01  
KARACHI: Careem has partnered with National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) to map 600 government vaccination centres on its ‘Super App’. People can now book a ride to and from the centres to get their vaccination or boosters shots, following the outbreak in the Omnicorn variant of Covid-19. The feature ‘Vaccination’ entails detailed information on more than 600 v.....  

Door-to-door Covid vaccination drive begins in Sindh  
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2022-02-02  
KARACHI: The provincial government launched on Tuesday a massive door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination campaign targeting each and every household in the province. Part of anational initiative, the 14-day campaign targets a total of 18,460,137 eligible citizens above the age of 12 years. Of them, 12,748,123 citizens will receive their first dose while another 5,712,014 citizens will receive their sec.....
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<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-02-02</td>
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<td>Covid-19 vaccination drive to start in Hyderabad today</td>
<td>App, Daily Times</td>
<td>2022-02-01</td>
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<td>COVID-19 claims 11 more lives, infects 1,493</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-02-02</td>
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<td>20 more die of coronavirus in Sindh</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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KARACHI: Eleven more patients lost their lives to Covid-19 overnight while as many as 1,493 new infections including 46 more cases of the Omicron variant were reported in the province. According to a statement released by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday, 46 of 48 samples are found affected by the Omicron variant of coronavirus, bringing the total number of the variant identified so ..... more >>

District Health Officer Dr. Lala Jaffer has announced that a 14-Day door-to-door vaccination campaign against coronavirus would be launched in the district from today (Tuesday) to ensure maximum vaccination of the population of Hyderabad district. He said in an interview during his visit to APP Bureau Office on Monday that Hyderabad is the only district of Sindh where 2061149 people (approximatel..... more >>

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah sharing the daily COVID and Omicron variant situation said that 46 more cases of Omicron virus and 1,493 of COVID were detected and unfortunately 11 more patients died lifting the death toll to 7,840. In a statement issued here from CM House on Tuesday, the CM said that 48 samples of Omicron were tested, of them 46 were detected as [Omicron] po..... more >>

KARACHI - As many as 20 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,869 and 1,733 new cases emerged when 15,863 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that 20 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,869 that constituted 1.5 percent death rate. Sy..... more >>
## International News

### Countries News

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Omicron ‘sub-variant’ throws up new virus questions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Isabelle Tourné, <em>Business Recorder, Islamabad</em>, 2022-01-23</td>
<td>2022-01-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientists are keeping a close watch on a recently-discovered sub-variant of the Omicron version of the Covid-19 virus to determine how its emergence could effect future pandemic spread. The initial Omicron variant has become the dominant virus strain in recent months but British health authorities have notably identified hundreds of cases of the latest version, dubbed BA.2, while internation.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Brussels: Economic growth in the eurozone slowed sharply in January, a key survey showed on Monday, as new coronavirus restrictions hit consumer spending, raising a new obstacle for the region’s recovery. In its closely watched monthly survey, IHS Markit said the deceleration, which brought growth to an 11-month low, was completely attributable to the services sector, with manufacturers e.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>SYDNEY: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden has cancelled her wedding as the nation imposes new restrictions to slow the community spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, she told reporters on Sunday. New Zealand will impose mask rules and limit gathering from midnight on Sunday after a cluster of nine COVID-19 Omicron cases showed community spread from the North to South islands after .....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>Single hamster handed over for HK Covid cull tests positive; Clashes in Belgium as thousands protest virus rules</strong></td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> AFP, <em>The News, International</em>, 2022-01-24</td>
<td>2022-01-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brussels: Police fired water cannon and tear gas on Sunday at stone-throwing protesters after tens of thousands of demonstrators marched through Brussels against Covid-19 rules. Authorities estimated that around 50,000 people paraded through the Belgian capital -- the largest in a spate of protests in the city over the past months. Clashes broke out close to the headquarters of the European Uni.....</td>
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<td><strong>Clashes as tens of thousands protest Covid rules in Belgium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> AFP, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2022-01-24</td>
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<td>Police fired water cannon and tear gas Sunday at stone-throwing protesters after tens of thousands of demonstrators marched through Brussels against Covid-19 rules. Authorities estimated that around 50,000 people paraded through the Belgian capital — the largest in a spate of protests in the city over the past months. Clashes broke out close to the headquarters of the European Union as pol.....</td>
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<td><strong>Global learning crisis' continues, says UN chief; millions of students affected</strong></td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Our Staff Reporter, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2022-01-25</td>
<td>2022-01-25</td>
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<td>UNITED NATIONS - Almost two years into the coronavirus pandemic, school closures continue to disrupt the lives of over 31 million students in mostly developing countries, exacerbating what the United Nations' Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called &quot;a global learning crisis.&quot; &quot;Unless we take action, the share of children leaving school in developing countries who are una.....</td>
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<td>India holds Republic Day parade without foreign dignitary guests of honour</td>
<td>AFP, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-27</td>
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<td>Paris outdoor booksellers eager to turn page on Covid</td>
<td>Afp, Daily Times</td>
<td>2022-01-22</td>
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<td>Pakistani volunteers fighting Covid-19 in China’s Tianjin</td>
<td>Inp, Daily Times</td>
<td>2022-01-22</td>
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Tongans queued for limited money services that were restored in the Pacific island's capital on Saturday, as the clean-up continued a week after a devastating volcanic eruption and tsunami. Tonga's government said drinking water was the priority, and a national emergency team had already distributed 60,000 litres of water to residents. A desalination plant on a New Zealand naval ship that..... more >>

Hong Kong: Nearly 3,000 residents at a Hong Kong housing estate will be confined to their homes for five days, authorities announced on Friday, as they struggle to halt an outbreak of the Omicron coronavirus variant. The lengthy lockdown order -- reminiscent of those used on the Chinese mainland -- comes as Hong Kong tacks harder to Beijing's "zero-Covid" policy. At least 20 co..... more >>

Washington: The Omicron variant of Covid-19 is creating an obstacle course for the global economy, which will slow growth this year, notably in the world’s two largest economies, the IMF said Tuesday. The Washington-based crisis lender cut its world GDP forecast for 2022 to 4.4 percent, half a point lower than the October estimate, due to the “impediments” caused by the latest o..... more >>

London: Nearly two-thirds of people in England who tested positive for Covid-19 in January previously had the virus or suspected they had it, a large long-running infection survey revealed on Wednesday. The finding, in the latest report on coronavirus transmission by Imperial College London, is seen as further evidence of the Omicron variant’s ability to dodge the immune systems of those ..... more >>

NEW DELHI: Lumbering tanks and the deafening roar of fighter planes echoed through New Delhi on Wednesday as India’s military showcased its might on Republic Day. The annual January 26 event marks the adoption of India’s constitution with missile launchers, jet flyovers, motorcycle stunts and the brass band of the camel-mounted Border Security Force. Military and police battalions ma..... more >>

The open-air booksellers of Paris, a fixture along the banks of the Seine for centuries, are seeing their numbers dwindle after two years of Covid, with stalls going empty thanks to a dearth of local and foreign customers. Tending dark green boxes packed with second-hand works that are often rare or special editions, the dealers enjoy rent-free access but must follow rules set by the city, includ..... more >>

Pakistani volunteers fighting COVID-19 in the Chinese city of Tianjin, China Economic Net reported on Friday. “I hope to do something (in fight against COVID-19) when China needs as Chinese government and people give me the
opportunity to study here,” said Akhtar Islam, a Pakistani student from Nankai University, China. Akhtar, Yasra Sayyed, a Pakistani, and an Egyptian student made ..... more >>

**Arab League delays annual summit as Covid bites again**
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2022-01-23
The Arab League has announced it is delaying its annual summit scheduled for March 22 in Algiers because of Covid-19 after two years of cancellations due to the pandemic. “Every year, the summit is held in March, but this year, there has been a delay,” the pan-Arab organisation’s assistant secretary general, Hossam Zaki, said in televised remarks Friday, a week after returning t..... more >>

**Pakistani volunteer plays role in fighting COVID-19 in China**
Source: Inp, Daily Times, 2022-01-28
A Pakistani volunteer Muzammil Hussain plays a role in fighting COVID-19 in Chinese city of Xi’an, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. Hussain, a Pakistani student from Punjab now pursuing his PhD degree at Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), Xi’an city, China. “I came to China in 28th of September 2017. China is our best friend and Chinese government awarde..... more >>

**Modernina begins trial of Omicron-specific vaccine booster: UK lifts Omicron curbs across the country**
London: Commuters trooped back to the office in England on Thursday, with public transport visibly busier, after the government scrapped restrictions imposed to combat the Omicron coronavirus variant. The return to “Plan A” measures -- ditching legal requirements for face coverings and shelving vaccine passports -- comes as the number of positive Covid-19 cases has fallen sharply from..... more >>

**Catalonia drops Covid pass**
Barcelona: Spain’s north-eastern Catalonia region is dropping the requirement for a Covid passport to enter restaurants, bars and gyms after experts deemed it ineffective to halt surging Omicron cases. ..... more >>
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<tr>
<td>New type of corona found in bats may be worrisome</td>
<td>News Report, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-29</td>
<td>BEIJING: A new type of coronavirus — NeoCov — has been detected in bats of South Africa. Scientists of Wuhan and Chinese researchers carried out research and studied that the virus may pose a threat to humans in the future if it mutates further, NDTV reported. NeoCov is closely related to the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), a viral disease first identified in Saudi Arabia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia's daily Covid-19 tally tops 110,000</td>
<td>AP, Dawn, Islamabad</td>
<td>2022-01-30</td>
<td>MOSCOW: Russia’s daily coronavirus cases exceeded 100,000 on Saturday for the first time since the pandemic began. The daily count of new infections actually topped 110,000 as the highly contagious omicron variant raced through the vast country. The state coronavirus task force reported 113,122 new infections over the past 24 hours, which is an all-time high and a sevenfold increase from e.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraqi FM tests positive for Covid</td>
<td>xinhua, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-31</td>
<td>BAGHDAD: Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein have been tested positive for Covid-19, but &quot;is recovering and will continue his work soon,&quot; the foreign ministry confirmed on Sunday. &quot;We confirm that the minister's health condition is good, and he is recovering, and he will continue his work and activities soon,&quot; said a statement by the ministry's spokesman Ahmed al-Sahaf.</td>
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<td>‘Felt like a bullet’: Bhutan PM mourns rare Covid death</td>
<td>AFP, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-31</td>
<td>Ottawa: Hundreds of trucks and thousands of people blocked the streets of central Ottawa on Sunday as part of a self-titled “Freedom Convoy” to protest vaccine mandates required to cross the US border. Flying the Canadian flag, waving banners demanding “Freedom” and chanting slogans against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the truckers were joined by thousands of other protest.</td>
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<td>Greek ‘holy men’ sow vaccine mistrust</td>
<td>AFP, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-31</td>
<td>In a remote monastery in northern Greece, an Orthodox abbot delivers a blunt message to dozens of his maskless worshippers: Covid-19 vaccines are &quot;the mark of the Antichrist&quot;. Vaccine scepticism is rampant in the country’s north, where clerics and monks play a key role in the lives of their followers, often serving as a personal confessor. Earlier this month dozens gathered to.</td>
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<td>Taliban offer refuge to pregnant journalist denied re-entry to NZ</td>
<td>AFP, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-31</td>
<td>WELLINGTON: A pregnant New Zealand journalist denied re-entry to her home country to give birth due to strict COVID-19 regulations said she has been offered refuge by the Afghan Taliban. “This just feels like such a breach of trust,” Charlotte Bellis told Radio New Zealand Sunday from Kabul. Bellis had been working for Al Jazeera in Afghanistan, but said she didn’t realise sh.</td>
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<td>Omicron drives US deaths higher than in fall’s delta wave</td>
<td>AFP, The News, International</td>
<td>2022-01-30</td>
<td>WASHINGTON: Omicron, the highly contagious coronavirus variant sweeping across the country, is driving the daily American death toll higher than during last fall's delta wave, with deaths likely to keep rising for days or even weeks.</td>
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The seven-day rolling average for daily new Covid-19 deaths in the US has been climbing since mid-November, reaching 2,267 on Thursday and surpassing a Septemb.... more >>

NZ PM Ardern is self isolating after exposure to Covid-19
WELLINGTON: New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has gone into self-isolation until Tuesday after being deemed a close contact of a person who tested positive for Covid-19, the government said. The exposure took place on Jan 22 during a flight to Auckland from the town of Kerikeri, the government said in a statement on Saturday, adding that the result of whole-genome sequencing was e..... more >>

New Zealand relents on woman offered refuge by Taliban
WELLINGTON: A pregnant New Zealand journalist who claimed to have nowhere to go but Afghanistan will be allowed to return home, after officials granted her an exemption from strict Covid-19 entry restrictions amid public outcry. Reporter Charlotte Bellis on Tuesday said she would return to New Zealand next month to give birth to her daughter after being granted a rare place in state-managed qua..... more >>

Denmark unmask to ‘live normally’ again with Omicron; WHO warns of medical waste threat: ‘Premature to declare victory over Covid’
Geneva: The World Health Organisation chief warned Tuesday that it is too early for countries to either declare victory over Covid-19 or give up attempts to halt transmission. "It is premature for any country to either surrender or to declare victory," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters. "This virus is dangerous, and it continues to evolve before our very eyes.&q..... more >>

Covid-19, HIV collision could generate new coronavirus variants: scientists
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2022-02-02
LONDON: Leading South African scientists are set to investigate Covid-19 and HIV in tandem, amid mounting evidence that the collision of the two pandemics could be generating new coronavirus variants. The team at the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA), which first alerted the world to the Covid variant Omicron, said it was time for a "systematic" investigation of..... more >>

Omicron sub-variant found in 57 countries: WHO
Geneva: A sub-variant of the highly contagious Omicron coronavirus strain, which some studies indicate could be even more infectious than the original version, has been detected in 57 countries, the WHO said Tuesday. The fast-spreading and heavily mutated Omicron variant has rapidly become the dominant variant worldwide since it was first detected in southern Africa 10 weeks ago. In its weekly ..... more >>

‘Collision of COVID-19, HIV could generate new corona variants’
LONDON: Leading South African scientists are set to investigate COVID-19 and HIV in tandem, amid mounting evidence that the collision of the two pandemics could be generating new coronavirus variants. The team at the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA), which first alerted the world to the COVID variant Omicron, said it was time for a “systematic” investigation..... more >>
World can end Covid emergency this year: WHO
GENEVA: The head of the World Health Organisation said on Monday that the planet can end the Covid-19 emergency this year, although the virus last week killed someone every 12 seconds. "We can end Covid-19 as a global health emergency and we can do it this year," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the UN health agency's executive board. To do so, countries need to work harder to en..... more >>

WHO warns 'premature' to declare victory over Covid
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2022-02-02
The World Health Organization chief warned Tuesday that it is too early for countries to either declare victory over Covid-19 or give up attempts to halt transmission. "It is premature for any country to either surrender or to declare victory," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters. "This virus is dangerous, and it continues to evolve before our very eyes." ..... more >>

Covid symptoms appear in 2 days after virus exposure: study
Source: App, Daily Times, 2022-02-04
According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Covid symptoms take around five to six days to appear after infection. But the study led by Imperial College London researchers showed that symptoms start to develop very fast, on average about two days after contact with the virus. The infection first appears in the throat; infectious virus peaks about five days into the infection and at that sta..... more >>

WHO sees pause, even end of pandemic for Europe
Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2022-02-04
The World Health Organization on Thursday offered Europe hope of a "long period of tranquility" and even "enduring peace" in the war on coronavirus, with a growing list of nations lifting almost all Covid curbs. WHO Europe director Hans Kluge spoke of "a ceasefire that could bring us enduring peace", with high vaccination rates, the milder Omicron variant and t..... more >>
**SDPI Engagements**

### Researchers Articles

#### Pak-Afghan relations
When the Taliban took control of Kabul on August 15, some experts were of the view that the situation along Pakistan’s western border was likely to improve. The new rulers of Afghanistan had expressed their resolve to not allow the Afghan soil to be used against any other country. They had said they wanted friendly relations with all the neighbouring countries. Everyone was shocked therefore..... [more >>]

#### Business gaps
Pakistan has been gradually reducing the regulatory requirements for businesses operating in various geographical jurisdictions. Still there is plenty of room for improvement in this regard. Anecdotally, the lack of coordination between federating units and departments and policy inconsistencies have led to a difficult business regulatory environment in Pakistan and creation of negative competiti..... [more >>]

#### The security roadmap
The challenges that Pakistan faces are diverse and both chronic as well as acute. But no matter the nature and type of these challenges, there seems to be one common strand among them: most of them have their origins in the policies that Pakistan has pursued over the last many decades. In other words, these challenges are ‘policy led’ and can be avoided – provided the right sets..... [more >>]

#### Getting climate smart
In Pakistan nearly 20 million people are homeless. Many live in poverty, in slums and informal settlements, near shrines, under bridges and flyovers, one sidewalks and road dividers. Pakistan is Asia’s fastest-urbanising country, where 40 million people will live in metropolitan centres and towns by 2023. This is a vast and rapid shift from rural to urban areas. In addition, Pakistan’s..... [more >>]

#### Climate change and the NSP
Pakistan’s recently launched National Security Policy (NSP) should be commended for recognising climate change as a vital factor in human security and articulating the goal of a “climate resilient Pakistan that prioritises climate adaptation, sustainable water management, and disaster preparedness”. Sadly, this comprehensive security blueprint does not see the need to strengthen..... [more >>]
**Struggling with AI**  
Source: APP, BOL News, 2022-01-23  
Farmers of Southern Punjab are facing challenges in effectively applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) to increase crop cultivation, which has resulted in a decline in the overall crop yield and has added to the rising commodity prices in the country. Agriculture is a major industry in Pakistan which contributes around 20 per cent to the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country and empl..... more >>

**Indicators show Pak economy performing well amid challenges**  
Source: APP, 2022-01-26  
ISLAMABAD, Jan 25 (APP): Notwithstanding the global economic shocks caused due to Covid-19 pandemic, the country’s economy has performed well as is clearly demonstrated by several macroeconomic indicators. The overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, during the fiscal year 2020-21 was recorded at 5.37 percent, the second highest growth in last 14 years, according to National Accounts Com..... more >>

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**Macro Economic Advisory Group lauds govt efforts for economic stability**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-28  
ISLAMABAD - Macro Economic Advisory Group on Thursday commended the efforts undertaken by the current government for economic stability on both fiscal as well as monetary fronts. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin presided over the meeting of Macro Economic Advisory Group at Finance Division. Former Governor SBP Dr Ishrat Hussain, Adviser to CM Punjab Dr Salman Shah, Gover..... more >>

**Ban on government borrowing from SBP will create difficulties**  
Source: News Desk, Pakistan Observer, 2022-01-31  
Pakistan’s top economic experts are of the view that prohibition on the government’s borrowing from the central bank under the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Amendment Bill 2021 will create practical difficulties. However, they said the bill is a step in the right direction because the SBP should have full independence in the formation of monetary policy and exchange rate adjustments to..... more >>

**Ban on govt borrowing from SBP to create difficulties: experts**  
Source: Staff Reporter, Pakistan Today, 2022-01-31  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s top economic experts are of the view that prohibition on the government’s borrowing from the central bank under the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Amendment Bill 2021 will create practical difficulties. However, they said the bill is a step in the right direction because the SBP should have full independence in the formation of monetary policy and exchange rate adj..... more >>
SBP’s digital banking initiative positive step
Source: News Desk, Pakistan Observer, 2022-02-03
The State Bank of Pakistan’s latest initiative to introduce a licensing and regulatory framework to set up digital banks is a good step to promote digital financial services in Pakistan, WealthPK reported on Wednesday quoting economic experts. “If implemented in letter and spirit, the measure can significantly improve financial inclusion in Pakistan,” Dr Sajid Amin Javed, a seni.... more >>

Over Rs4.1bn subsidy disbursed among farmers in Punjab, meeting told
Source: Reporter Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2022-02-03
ISLAMABAD: Over Rs4.1 billion subsidy has been distributed among farmers under the Kissan Card scheme in Punjab. A meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) of Agriculture Transformation Plan (ATP), which was presided over by Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam informed that 780,000 Kissan cards had been distributed among farmers and Rs4.1 billion had ..... more >>

Govt distributes Rs640 billion interest-free loans to farmers
ISLAMABAD: The government, under its flagship Agriculture Transformation Plan (ATP), disbursed around Rs640.6 billion interest-free loans to nearly 3.4 million farmers in all provinces while 0.88 million Kissan cards were distributed in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials informed on Wednesday. A meeting of National Coordination Committee (NCC) of the Agriculture Transformation Plan was held..... more >>

‘India dumping millions of tonnes of rock, loose soil in Jhelum’
ISLAMABAD: Environmental expert asks Prime Minister Imran Khan to take notice of the trans-boundary environmental hazards of India’s strategic Zojila and Z-Morh tunnels, following the dumping of 17,345 million tonnes of rocks, loose soil, and silt in Jhelum River. India has made substantial advancements on its strategic project, 14.2km Zojila tunnel and 6.5km Z-Morh tunnel currently under c..... more >>

Awareness on behaviour change crucial for animals’ rights: Speakers
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2022-01-22
ISLAMABAD - Speakers at a webinar on Friday said enhanced awareness on behavioural change was crucial to protect animal’s rights in the country as they were an important part of the human ecosystem ensuring natural balance in the environment. While sharing his view at the webinar ‘Islamabad Safe for Strays,’ held by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Additional D..... more >>

Behaviour change crucial to protect animals’ rights
Islamabad: The district administration along with related departments is working according to the guidelines provided by experts to make Islamabad safe for the animals, said Shehryar Arif Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner. He was speaking at a webinar on ‘Islamabad safe for stray animals’ held by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here Saturday. Shehryar said that we..... more >>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan Needs Diverse Education System, Reforms: Experts</td>
<td>Faizan Hashmi, Urdu Point</td>
<td>2022-01-26</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD, (Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 25th Jan, 2022 ): Pakistan being a heterogeneous society needs a diverse education system backed by reforms to cater changing societal requirements, said experts from education sector while sharing their views at the webinar. A webinar held on ’Adopting Single National Curriculum: challenges and opportunities for Pakistan’ organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Deputy Director.....</td>
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<td>Pakistan needs diverse education system, reforms: Experts</td>
<td>DNA, Centreline.com</td>
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<td>Islamabad, /DNA/ – Pakistan being a heterogeneous society needs a diverse education system backed by reforms to cater changing societal requirements said experts from education sector while sharing their views at the webinar ‘Adopting Single National Curriculum: challenges and opportunities for Pakistan’ organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Deputy Director.....</td>
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<td>PAKISTAN NEEDS DIVERSE EDUCATION SYSTEM, REFORMS: EXPERTS</td>
<td>DNA News, DNA News</td>
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<td>Islamabad, /DNA/ – Pakistan being a heterogeneous society needs a diverse education system backed by reforms to cater changing societal requirements, said experts from education sector while sharing their views at the webinar ’Adopting Single National Curriculum: challenges and opportunities for Pakistan’ organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Deputy Director.....</td>
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<td>Pakistan needs diverse education system, reforms, say experts during SDPI webinar</td>
<td>SABAH, SABAH</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD, Jan 25 (SABAH): Pakistan being a heterogeneous society needs a diverse education system backed by reforms to cater changing societal requirements, said experts from education sector while sharing their views at the webinar ‘Adopting Single National Curriculum: challenges and opportunities for Pakistan’ organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Deputy Director.....</td>
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<td>Afghan Humanitarian Crisis Can Be Security Threat To Pakistan: Experts</td>
<td>APP, Urdu Point</td>
<td>2022-02-04</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 4th Feb, 2022): Experts at a webinar called upon the world to resolve the current humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan immediately, which, they said, was lingering on with each passing day and could cause security threat to Pakistan. Addressing the webinar on ‘The Afghanistan Impact - Security Threats to Pakistan Confirmation’, organized by Sustainai.....</td>
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