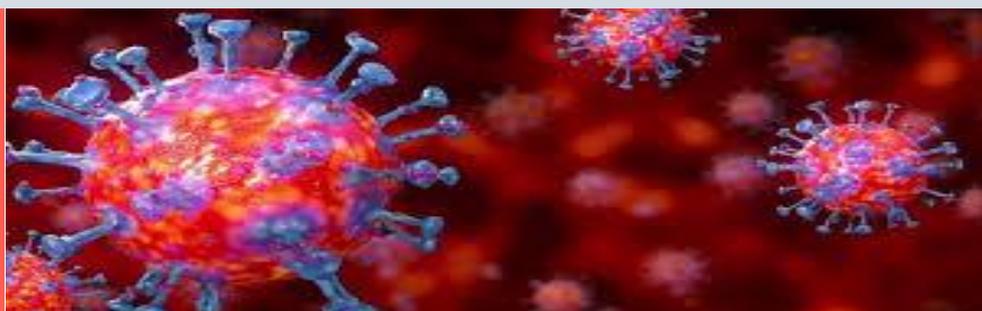


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 01, No, 69-70



Issue: 19-25 December, 2020

.....About Newsletter

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

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

Newspapers Covered:

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

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Team:

Data Managed by:
Shahid Rasul , Abid Rasheed

Compile & Layout Design by:
Ali Aamer Javed

Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

10-D West, 3rd Floor, Taimoor Chamber, Fazl-ul-Haq Road,
Blue Area, Islamabad. Pakistan,

Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Covid in prisons

Source: [Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

PAKISTAN'S overcrowded prisons are a Petri dish for disease even during 'normal' times. During a pandemic, however, the inmates are at an even more grave risk. In the confined space, social distancing and other public health precautions become next to impossible to implement. The individuals detained become, in effect, sitting ducks for exposure to the virus. Prisoners of the Pan.....[more >>](#)

Aid crisis

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only highlighted the chink in the armour of neo-liberalism and capitalism, it also presents an unprecedented challenge to the global humanitarian system in both scale and complexity. According to recent reports, more than one billion people around the world are currently affected by long-term humanitarian crises which include conflicts, natural disasters and displacem.....[more >>](#)

An out of control situation

Source: [Editorial, Daily Times](#), 2020-12-21

The second wave of the coronavirus is getting out of control very fast. It seems the smart idea of the smart lockdown that got us out of the first wave so nicely is just not working this time. Experts believe the virus has mutated and now not just spreads much faster but also tends to finish off infected patients a lot quicker than before. That explains the sudden surge that both the number of inf.....[more >>](#)

Prisoners of pandemic

Source: [Waqar Gillani, The News, International](#), 2020-12-20

In Pakistan, prisons are notoriously crowded, making physical distancing and other public health recommendations impossible to implement, a recent Amnesty International report suggests. They lack adequate health-care facilities and have unsanitary conditions, accelerating the spread of infectious diseases. These and other underlying systemic issues lead to a catalogue of human rights violat.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 and refugees

Source: [Jan Egeland, The News, International](#), 2020-12-19

While this figure is likely lower than the actual number due to weak testing capacity, even if it was tenfold higher, the spread of the virus in the US and many European nations still overshadow it. Despite this, the pandemic is a much harder blow economically to the world's 80 million displaced people than for those in affluent societies. Here are three things we got wrong about the.....[more >>](#)

A people's vaccine

Source: [Mustafa Talpur, The News, International](#), 2020-12-19

The latter half of November brought hope for a world facing the unprecedented public health challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic. Three pharmaceutical companies announced the results of their vaccine trials with a successful rate of over 90 percent. The UK was the first country to approve and administer the Pfizer /BioNTech vaccine. Soon after, American regulators also cleared this vaccine.[more >>](#)

Challenging Days Ahead

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

It is sad to observe that people across the country are taking the second wave of coronavirus too lightly. People's negligence while ignoring the government's safety protocols has only made Lahore the hotspot of the pandemic. We see once again that families are going out shopping with no regard for social distancing and avoiding crowded places as Christmas is around the corner. They ar.....

[more >>](#)

Yippee ki yay 2020

Source: [Mosharraf Zaidi, The News, International](#), 2020-12-22

As much as we all rightfully lament the scars of this Covid-19 inflicted year, there are many lessons that we should be carrying with us into the new year in 2021, InshaAllah. I summarise a few of these below. Lesson 1: Pakistan is not always unlucky. The original first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic was supposed to destroy the healthcare system, take hundreds of thousands of lives and leav.....

[more >>](#)

The brutal impact of coronavirus

Source: [Talat Masood, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

Corona took the life of my wife who was my partner for 58 years. It was a monumental loss the pains of which I will suffer until the years that I live. Corona also devoured me and it was only a matter of touch and go that I survived but its brutal assault I am struggling to overcome as I write. Maybe those who have corona suffer in different ways with varied levels of pain and suffering, but for s.....

[more >>](#)

Covid control: penny-wise, pound-foolish

Source: [Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

Less than two years before the Covid-19 hit the world, I was trying to save a critical pandemic detection and control programme in a strategically important geographical location. "It's an expensive programme, Madam," someone murmured to a senior officer of an international organisation where the decisions were being made. Both had expertise in finance but none in global health s.....

[more >>](#)

New Covid-19 variant

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

The United Kingdom has been isolated by the neighbouring European countries as well as a lot of others in other continents. Reason? A highly infectious strain of the Covid-19 coronavirus has been detected in the UK. Pakistan has joined the burgeoning list of countries that have placed restrictions on travellers from the kingdom. Flights from Britain have already been suspended by several European

[more >>](#)

A simple affair

Source: [Zara Maqbool, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

I recently attended my cousin's wedding. COVID the bully dictated the terms and conditions of the ceremony and like all COVID weddings, this one was also a simple affair. It was the first COVID wedding I have attended. It was a beautiful outside event with just the close family members. There was minimal catering staff, a simple but delicious menu, no cameraman annoying the life out of guest.....

[more >>](#)

Process of vaccine approval in Pakistan to be expedited

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

ISLAMABAD: With 15,000 of the 18,000 volunteers administered the Chinese Covid-19 vaccine, its clinical trial is expected to wind up within the current month and preparations to commence trial of another vaccine will begin. University of Health Sciences Vice Chancellor and Scientific Task Force on Covid-19 member Dr Javed Akram told Dawn that 15,000 people — 80 per cent of the total volunteer.....

[more >>](#)

Virus mutation

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

NEWS of a mutated, more transmissible version of the Covid-19 virus in the UK has set off alarm bells. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's announcement this week that one-third of England's population would be placed under strict restrictions came as a blow to millions who had hoped to celebrate Christmas or travel to see loved ones. Under the new Tier 4 rules, non-essential shops a.....

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An out of control situation

Source: [Editorial](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-12-21

The second wave of the coronavirus is getting out of control very fast. It seems the smart idea of the smart lockdown that got us out of the first wave so nicely is just not working this time. Experts believe the virus has mutated and now not just spreads much faster but also tends to finish off infected patients a lot quicker than before. That explains the sudden surge that both the number of inf.....

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National News

Balochistan

Kamal reviews Covid-19 response, uplift projects

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal reviewed the coronavirus response of the provincial government in a meeting held at the CM House on Tuesday. The provincial chief executive was informed about how the second wave of Covid-19 is being tackled in the province with assistance from the federal government. He was also told about the other natural disaster control programmes being launched.....

[more >>](#)

Islamabad

Visa curbs are temporary, UAE assures Pakistan

Source: [Amir Wasim](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office spokesman Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri on Sunday said that authorities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had assured Islamabad that visa restrictions imposed on Pakistan due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic were "temporary in nature". In a statement issued here, Mr Chaudhri said that during his recent visit to the UAE, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in hi.....

[more >>](#)

Video chatting

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

According to the Global Consumer Insights Survey 2020 conducted by PwC, 59 per cent of people have increased their use of video chat apps since the Covid-19 outbreak.

[more >>](#)

Saudi Arabia suspends international flights and land and sea entry for a week

Source: [Reuters | Qazi Hassan](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

Saudi Arabia suspended late on Sunday all international commercial flights for a renewable week except for the foreign flights already in the kingdom which will be allowed to leave, state news agencySPAreported quoting an interior ministry source. The source added the entry to the kingdom through land and sea ports will be also suspended for a renewable week. These measures come after the spread

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Process of vaccine approval in Pakistan to be expedited

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

ISLAMABAD: With 15,000 of the 18,000 volunteers administered the Chinese Covid-19 vaccine, its clinical trial is expected to wind up within the current month and preparations to commence trial of another vaccine will begin. University of Health Sciences Vice Chancellor and Scientific Task Force on Covid-19 member Dr Javed Akram toldDawnthat 15,000 people — 80 per cent of the total volunteer.....

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Visa curbs for Pakistan 'temporary': UAE FM

Source: [news desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-12-21

UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan has said the decision to suspend the issuance of visas to Pakistani citizens was taken due to the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions are 'temporary'. Appreciating

Pakistani community in UAE, the UAE foreign minister said in a statement that more than 1.5 million of the Pakistani diaspora enjoy safety and stability there a.....

[more >>](#)

Total active Covid-19 cases reach 40,553 as 2,615 more test positive

Source: [news desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-12-21

The national tally of total active Covid-19 cases in Pakistan on Sunday reached 40,553 with 2,615 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,904 people recovered from coronavirus. Eighty corona patients, 68 of whom were under treatment in hospital and 12 in their respective homes or quarantines died on Saturday, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operati.....

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Govt urged to grant extension in date for filing of income tax returns for FY 2020

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-12-21

The Friends of Business and Economic Reforms (FEBR) on Sunday appealed to the Prime Minister for the grant of extension in date for income tax returns for the tax year 2020. FEBR President Kashif Anwar said that PM Imran khan himself should take notice of the grave situation, as FBR's last date for filing income tax returns has expired on Dec 08, 2020 while the taxpayers want some relaxatio.....

[more >>](#)

The pandemic made 2020 a wild year for Wall Street

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-12-21

Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial, does not hold back in describing 2020 on Wall Street: "a year of extreme extremes." From the start of the coronavirus pandemic that sent stocks crashing, to their resurgence after the approval of vaccines holding the best hope for eradicating the disease, here's a look back at the year in US stocks: March: His.....

[more >>](#)

'Most medics faced violence over Covid-19'

Source: [DNA](#), [The Express Tribune](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-12-20

ISLAMABAD: Nearly half of all healthcare workers in three major cities of the country have faced some form of violence, either physical or verbal while tackling the novel coronavirus, leading to an erosion of trust between patients and medics. This was claimed in a study conducted by the APPNA Institute of Public Health at the Jinnah Sindh Medical University in Karachi, University of Lahore and

[more >>](#)

Coronavirus takes 80 more lives in last 24 hours across Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-21

The government of Pakistan recorded 80 more COVID-19 deaths across the country in the last 24 hours, bringing Pakistan's total number of deaths from the infection to 9,330. As reported by Geo News, a total of 37,206 countrywide COVID-19 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, showing a positivity ratio of 7%, according to the government's official coronavirus website (covid.gov.pk). Ac.....

[more >>](#)

CPEC achieves excellent results during pandemic

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-21

ISLAMABAD: The flagship project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has advanced and achieved excellent results during the Covid-19 pandemic, said President Arif Alvi in a recent exclusive interview with the China

Media Group. Speaking highly of China's handling of coronavirus outbreak, the president said it [the pandemic] was largely brought under control within one to two mo.....

[more >>](#)

Corona caused ban on UAE visas for Pakistanis'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-21

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Sunday said the UAE ban on work and visit visas for Pakistanis was temporary and imposed in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. The spokesperson referred to a statement of the UAE Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, which quoted him saying that the ban was of "temporary nature of the recent restrictions

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims 87 more lives in last 24 hours

Source: [Muhammad Anis](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-20

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has reported another 87 deaths due to Covid-19 in the last 24 hours across the country as 36 deaths occurred in Punjab followed by Sindh 32. Out of 87 deaths, 45 died on ventilators. At least 2486 Covid-19 patients were in critical condition across Pakistan and the number of critical patients is rising fast. In all, 3179 people tested p.....

[more >>](#)

83 more succumb to corona in Pakistan

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-19

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Friday were recorded at 42,478 as 2,972 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Eighty-three corona patients, 74 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and nine in their respective homes or quarantines, died during the last 24 hours, according to the latest update issued by the National Command

[more >>](#)

Japan gives \$9.5m to Pakistan for Covid-19 fight

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-19

Islamabad: Japan has extended a grant assistance of one billion Japanese yen (around \$9.5 million) to Pakistan for enhancing its capacity to confront COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Matsuda Kuninori and secretary of the ministry of economic affairs Noor Ahmad here. In this programme, more than 30

[more >>](#)

'Mutations in Covid-19 make it more virulent in Pakistan'

Source: [Afshan S. Khan](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-19

ISLAMABAD: A recently published research in a prestigious journal 'Genes and Immunity' by 'NATURE' has identified critical changes in coronavirus during its local transmissions in different countries including Pakistan. These specific changes have improved the ability of coronavirus to inhibit the human immune system, as a result, it spreads very fast to the lower r.....

[more >>](#)

Vaccination Campaign

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-20

It is evident that any response by governments to counter the pandemic through vaccination programmes needs to be well-thought-out, comprehensive, prepared but also quick. Now is the time for the federal and provincial

governments to map out proper vaccination strategies, as global vaccines start rolling out. Though Pakistan has not so far procured one, it needs to stay on top and have programmes

[more >>](#)

Pakistan's coronavirus single-day tally sees a drop after six weeks

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-22

Pakistan's coronavirus positivity rate dropped to 4.93% after more than six weeks of a surge in infections, data issued by National Command and Operations Centre showed on Tuesday. The country recorded 1,704 new infections in the past 24 hours, raising the national tally to 460,672. Government data showed 60,190 COVID-19 cases have been reported across Pakistan in the last 21 days with a daily.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 confinement changes students' learning strategies

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-22

ISLAMABAD- Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) said in a report issued here that there was a significant positive effect of the COVID-19 confinement on students' performance. "The COVID-19 confinement changed students' learning strategies to a more continuous habit, improving their efficiency," it said. The report aims at supporting education decision making to develop an.....

[more >>](#)

Corona's pace picks up as 82 more die

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-23

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Tuesday reached 40,261 with 1,704 more people testing positive during the last 24 hours. A total of 1,852 people have recovered during the last twenty-four hours, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Eighty-two patients, of whom 71 were under treatment in hospital and 11 in.....

[more >>](#)

159 new cases reported in capital

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

RAWALPINDI/ ISLAMABAD: The second wave of the novel coronavirus continued to surge in the federal capital with 159 new cases reported during the past 24 hours, the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) said on Tuesday. An NCOC official said that as many as 159 cases were reported on Monday and 212 on Sunday. He said so far total 36,416 corona cases had been reported from the Islamabad Ca.....

[more >>](#)

Abbottabad Covid-19 positivity at 40.32% The highest positivity ratio was observed in Hyderabad at 22.12% and Karachi at 12.54%,

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

ISLAMABAD: As the novel coronavirus second wave continues, the positivity ratio has peaked in Abbottabad, recording at 40.32% on Tuesday. An update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said that the positivity ratio was determined based on positive cases appearing in 100 samples of novel coronavirus (Covid-19) patients. After Abbottabad, the highest positivity ratio was observed.....

[more >>](#)

PCAA slaps restriction on travellers from UK

Source: [Muhammad Ali](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

KARACHI: Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has imposed a temporary restriction on inbound travellers from the UK, either travelling directly or indirectly to Pakistan effective December 23, 2020 (Wednesday) up to December

30, 2020. According to the PCAA, the decision was made on the directives of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) to curb the spread of the COVID-19 in Pa.....

[more >>](#)

Country reports 82 daily virus deaths

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

ISLAMABAD - Covid-19 claimed 82 more lives across the country while 1,704 tested positive for the virus during the past 24 hours. According to the National Control and Operation Centre (NCOC), 1,704 new Coronavirus cases and 82 more deaths were reported on Tuesday, while with 1,704 new infections reported in the country, the tally surged to 460,672 cases and with 82 new deaths, the toll of fa.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan liaising with coronavirus vaccine manufacturers

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-23

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) has been informed that the federal government is liaising with manufacturers of leading coronavirus vaccines including China. A statement issued on Wednesday said the government is regularly reviewing developments including data from phase three of the COVID-19 vaccine trials. The final decision about the availability of the vaccine for Pak.....

[more >>](#)

84 deaths, over 2,100 new Covid-19 cases reported

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-24

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Wednesday reached 37,905 with 2,142 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 6,267 people recovered from coronavirus during the last 24 hours. Eighty-four corona patients, 73 of whom were under treatment in hospital and 11 in their respective homes or quarantines, died on Tuesday, according to the latest.....

[more >>](#)

'Joint efforts needed to fight COVID-19'

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-24

Islamabad : Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque Wednesday emphasized the need of joint efforts to cope the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. The role of IT was vital for tackling coronavirus and the ministry was taking every possible measure in this regard, the Minister said while chairing a meeting here. Amin Ul Haque appreciated the role of telec.....

[more >>](#)

Single-day Covid-19 fatalities hit 111 in Pakistan Most deaths were reported in Sindh, followed by Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Thursday reported the highest number coronavirus related deaths of 111 in the country since June; taking the death toll to 9,668. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), most deaths were reported in Sindh, followed by Punjab. The highest number of ventilators occupied in the country was found to be at 51 per c.....

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Pakistan reports 2,142 new COVID-19 cases, 84 more deaths

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

ISLAMABAD - As many as 84 more people died of Coronavirus in the country during the past 24 hours. According to the latest data shared by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 2,142 people tested corona

positive during this period after tests of 35,621 people were conducted. The figure of active Covid cases in the country stood at 462,814 on Wednesday morning while 415,352 people

[more >>](#)

COVID-19: Rehman Malik urges govt to impose national emergency

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

ISLAMABAD - Former Interior Minister Senator Rehman Malik yesterday urged the government to impose national emergency during the second wave of COVID-19 which is highly dangerous and deadly. Malik, who is also the Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior, said that new strain of Coronavirus was more dangerous as it is animal mutated strain having been originated from Holland. He said tha.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims six lives in Pindi At least 238 test positive for virus in the capital

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

At least six people died of novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in Rawalpindi while 238 new cases were reported from Islamabad during the last 24 hours, health authorities said on Thursday. Covid-19 pandemic continue to surge in the federal capital as 238 new cases were reported from the city during the last 24 hours, a report issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. Acc.....

[more >>](#)

New coronavirus strain yet not detected in Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

The Ministry of National Health Services, emphasized that the new strain of the coronavirus on Friday indicated in Britain, has not made it to Pakistan yet. The ministry further added, the situation in Pakistan is being monitored closely as all the passengers arriving from the United Kingdom (UK) are being evaluated medically. "As of today, no such variant of the SARS-CoV-2 has been det.....

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Pakistan sees highest one-day death toll as 111 more die of Covid-19

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Thursday morning reported the highest one-day death toll amidst the second wave of Coronavirus as 111 more died during the past 24 hours. The fatalities are the highest in a single-day in the country since the second wave of the virus started in late October. The region-wise breakup of the deaths for the last 24 hours showed that Punjab reported 51 deaths, Sindh 40 dea.....

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Pakistan closely monitoring all passengers arriving from UK

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

ISLAMABAD - The Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) on Thursday said that Pakistan is closely monitoring all passengers arriving from the UK, however no such variant of SARS COV-2 has been detected so far. In a brief statement, it said that Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination remains vigilant about the emergence of new variant of SARS CoV-2 detected in the U.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Micro smart lockdown imposed in Mansehra areas

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-19

MANSEHRA: The district administration on Friday imposed micro smart lockdown in three areas here declaring them coronavirus hotspots. Deputy commissioner Dr Qasim Ali Khan told reporters here that religious and other gatherings had also been banned in those localities, including Ghazikot Township's Sector-A, Jabri area from Khaki Shah Baba Dargah to Zafar Park, and Shinkiari Road from Narri.....

[more >>](#)

Peshawar hospital admits three minor coronavirus patients

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-19

PESHAWAR: With coronavirus claiming 10 more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Khyber Teaching Hospital, Peshawar, has admitted three minor Covid-19 patients, including two girls. According to the hospital's doctors, the children are aged two months, six months and four years and two of them are in critical condition. They told Dawn that those cases belonged to Peshawar, Lower Dir and Mardan a.....

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Govt orders closure of seminaries under epidemic control law

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Sunday ordered closure of all religious seminaries throughout the province till further order as coronavirus claimed 10 more lives. A notification in this regard was issued by home secretary under KP Epidemic Control and Emergency Relief Act wherein it was stated that the violator of the restriction would be penalised under the law. According to a s.....

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Covid-19 test now must for entry via Torkham border

Source: [Ashrafuddin Pirzada](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-20

LANDIKOTAL: The authorities here on Saturday made the coronavirus test compulsory for the people entering the country through the Torkham border. Deputy Commissioner of Khyber Mehmood Aslam Wazir told the media that the step had been taken to contain the spread of the coronavirus. He said the ones entering the country through the Torkham border were now required to get tested for the coronavirus.....

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Doctor among 15 more Covid-19 deaths in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-20

PESHAWAR: The coronavirus on Saturday claimed 15 more lives, including a doctor, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, taking the death toll from the fatal disease to 1536 and the number of doctors, who have died of the infectious disease, has jumped to 38 in the province. This is the highest number of people who have died of coronavirus in the province in the second wave of coronavirus pandemic. Among the dea.....

[more >>](#)

Hundreds fined over SOPs' violation

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-22

PESHAWAR: The district administration fined 246 citizens and 170 transporters for not wearing facemasks in various localities here on Monday. Out of the total 246 individuals, 132 were fined inside BRT buses and stations while 114 were roaming in bazaars without wearing facemasks. Similarly, a private school and 21 workshops/truck stands on Ring Road were also sealed over violation of coron.....

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Ex-chairman of journalism dept dies of Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-23

MANSEHRA: A former chairman of journalism departments of two public sector universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Professor Syed Shaukat Ali, died of a novel coronavirus here on Tuesday. He was hospitalised at the Combined Military Hospital Abbottabad last week after contracting the Covid-19 where he breathed his last. The funeral prayer would be offered at his native Paras area of Kaghan valley at.....

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Another Covid-19 patient dies in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-23

NOWSHERA: Another patient died of Covid-19, raising the number of fatalities to 60 in the district on Tuesday. Briefing the media, Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgan, District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and Dr Yaseen Khan said that the number of coronavirus-infected patients were increasing with the passage of time as people were ignoring the standard operating procedures (SOPs) against.....

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New virus variant: KP begins hunt for 101 passengers who arrived from UK

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-23

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has initiated a search for dozens of passengers who had arrived in the province from Britain in light of the new coronavirus variant that has emerged in the UK. According to a report by the provincial health department, authorities have sent letters to deputy commissioners that include the names of at least 101 people. The passengers arrived from the UK a.....

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14 more die as death toll from corona reaches 1,577 in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-24

PESHAWAR: Fourteen more people, including a 1st year student of Khyber Girls Medical College (KGMC), died of coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday, taking the toll from the infectious disease in the province to 1577. The second wave of infectious disease is proving quite fatal in the country and particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and has surprisingly affected people of all age gro.....

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Smart lockdown imposed at 17 places in Haripur

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-24

HARIPUR: The district administration has imposed a smart lockdown at 17 different scattered areas of the Haripur district, official sources said on Wednesday. Following a recent surge in the corona positive cases, the district administration in consultation with the district health officer, Dr Saifullah Khalid, imposed a smart lockdown by deploying police and sealing the streets leading to.....

[more >>](#)

19 more test positive for Covid-19 in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-24

NOWSHERA: The surge in the coronavirus infected patients continued unabated as 19 more suspected patients reported positive for the viral disease in the district on Wednesday. Briefing the media, Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgan, District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and Dr Yaseen Khan said that the number of coronavirus-infected patients were increasing with passage of time as people w.....

[more >>](#)

KP loses 8 more people to coronavirus

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-25

PESHAWAR: Eight more people died of coronavirus and 384 others tested positive for the infectious disease in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday.

[more >>](#)

Punjab

Lahore becomes Covid-19 hotspot in second wave

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-19

LAHORE: With 31 more Covid-19 deaths, Punjab reported 831 new cases, the highest number in a day in the second wave of the Covid-19 so far, showing a persistent surge in the confirmed cases of the virus in the province. Of the new cases, 403 were reported in Lahore alone, making it the hotspot of the virus where the number of deaths and active cases of the infection remained the highest since the.....

[more >>](#)

Nine localities in Pindi district placed under smart lockdown

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-19

RAWALPINDI: Nine localities in the district were placed under smart lockdown on Friday after the number of patients in these areas increased in the last two weeks. Besides, eight people lost their battle against Covid-19 in the twin cities. According to the district administration spokesperson, six areas fall in Rawalpindi, two in Taxila and one in Kallar Syedan. The areas are Street No. 7 in Mu.....

[more >>](#)

Smart lockdown extended in hotspot areas of six cities

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-20

LAHORE : The Punjab government has extended smart lockdown in six cities till December 31 in hotspot areas with maximum emergence of Covid-19 cases amidst rising second wave of coronavirus in the province. According to separate notifications issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), Punjab, on Saturday, the smart lockdown has been imposed in hotspot areas of Lahore, Rawal.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab CM Usman Buzdar contracts coronavirus

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-21

Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar contracted coronavirus, confirmed his aide Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Monday. According to a tweet by the chief minister's assistant, the CM Punjab had contracted the infection. She blamed the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and their recklessness in holding public rallies and disregarding coronavirus health guidelines as being the cause for a ".....

[more >>](#)

31 more corona patients die in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-19

LAHORE: Around 31 Covid-19 patients died while another 831 new infections were confirmed in Punjab province during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department Friday, the death toll reached 3,522 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 130,122 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Pr.....

[more >>](#)

34 corona patients die in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-22

LAHORE: Around 34 COVID-19 patients died and 505 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the death toll reached 3,638 in Punjab, while confirmed cases reached 131,933 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare Departmen.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab CM tests positive for Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-22

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Monday quarantined himself after being tested positive for Covid-19. Taking to Twitter, Focal Person on Digital Media to CM Punjab Azhar Mashwani said that Buzdar had mild symptoms of fever and flu since last night and was in self-isolation as per the advice of doctors. He requested prayers for early recovery of the chief minister.

[more >>](#)

Seven marriage halls sealed over SOPs violation

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-22

FAISALABAD: The district administration sealed the premises of seven marriage halls on violation of corona SOPs in different parts of the district. A spokesman for the local administration said here on Monday that Assistant Commissioner Sadar Umar Maqbool checked various marriage halls and found seven marriage halls violating corona SOPs. Those marriage halls were sealed include Castle Marriage H.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 34 more lives, 505 new cases reported in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-22

LAHORE - The pandemic of COVID-19 claimed another 34 precious lives in 24 hours, while 505 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Monday across the province. According to data shared by Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 131,933, while so far the total number of deaths in the province has been recorded as

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims 50 more lives

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-23

LAHORE: Fifty Covid-19 patients died and another 593 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) here on Tuesday, the toll of fatalities rose to 3,688 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 132,526 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room at Prim.....

[more >>](#)

Covid overwhelms health facilities

Source: [Yousuf Abbasi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

LAHORE: After the outbreak of novel coronavirus, the health sector of Punjab faced the worst crisis of resources during the outgoing year. The 253 teaching, district and tehsil headquarters hospitals and basic health units in the province could not be provided adequate financial resources as about 90 per cent of the funds were spent for setting up diagnostic and treatment facilities for coronavi.....

[more >>](#)

Petitioner fined Rs 200,000 for 'denying virus'

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

LAHORE - The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday imposed Rs 200,000 fine on a petitioner for moving frivolous petitions denying the existence of coronavirus. The court ordered for recovery of the fine from the petitioner under the Revenue Act. LHC Chief Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan heard the petitions, filed by a citizen, Azhar Abbas. The petitioner stated before the court that coronavirus di.....

[more >>](#)

Over 20 businesses sealed on corona SOPs violations

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-24

LAHORE: The district administration officers took action against businesses on violation of corona SOPs on Wednesday. Cantt Assistant Commissioner Zahi Shakir sealed a school on Main Burki Road at Mouza Chak Padat for being open and violating the SOPs. An FIR was also registered against the school administration. The Cantt AC also sealed 17 restaurants, shops and marquees and imposed a fine.....

[more >>](#)

44 more die from COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-24

LAHORE: As many as 44 COVID-19 patients died and another 653 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Wednesday, the toll of fatalities was raised to 3,732 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 133,179 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room.....

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Cops enforcing lockdown remain exposed to Covid-19

Source: [Muhammad Shahzad](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

LAHORE: Policing in the wake of the global pandemic Covid-19 was the first challenge of its kind for Lahore police in their history. The police in the metropolis lost four officials, while as many as 508 contracted the disease. However, the department appears as ill-prepared to protect its personnel from the infection as it was nine months back. As the government announced lockdowns to counter

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Corona situation critical, PDM's politics pathetic: Dr Firdous

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

Lahore - Special Assistant to the CM on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan Wednesday said that the corona situation was critical while the politics of the PDM was pathetic. In a statement, she said that the PDM was facing internal conflicts while the lead Maulana had been badly exposed by his political companion. Along with it, resignation-drive has also ended in a fiasco, she added. The ele.....

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Corona situation is critical, PDM's politics is pathetic: Dr Firdous

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

LAHORE-Special Assistant to the CM on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan Wednesday said that the corona situation was critical while the politics of the PDM was pathetic. In a statement, she said that the PDM was facing internal conflicts while the lead Maulana had been badly exposed by his political companion. Along with it, resignation-drive has also ended in a fiasco, she added. The eleme.....

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COVID-19 claims 44 more lives in Punjab on Wednesday

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

LAHORE-The pandemic claimed another 44 lives in 24 hours, whereas 653 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Wednesday across the province. According to data shared by spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 133,179 and total deaths were recorded as 3,732. P&SHD confirmed that 360 new cases.....

[more >>](#)

51 more COVID-19 patients die

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-25

LAHORE:As many as 51 COVID-19 patients died and 695 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Thursday. The toll of fatalities was raised to 3,783 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 133,874 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room at.....

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51 COVID-19 patients died, 695 new infections confirmed in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

LAHORE - As many as 51 COVID-19 patients died and 695 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Thursday, toll of fatalities raised to 3,783 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 133,874. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcar.....

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Sindh

32 Covid patients die overnight

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-19

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday said that 32 more patients of the coronavirus died overnight and 1,903 new cases emerged when 20,681 tests were conducted, raising the tally to 202,983. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said the 32 casualties lifted the death toll to 3,302, constituting 1.6 per cent death rate. Mr Shah said that 20,681 samples, the highest e.....

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DC disputes NCOC's virus positivity figures of Hyderabad

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-19

HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Fuad Ghaffar Soomro has disputed National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) figures for the coronavirus positivity ratio of 24.6pc in Hyderabad district. The DC has, however, imposed a smart lockdown in nine union committees of the district for 10 days ie till Dec 28 in line with the NCOC guidelines regarding virus hotspots. He pointed out that the two WHO reports dat.....

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'Electronic' mourning rituals picking up during pandemic

Source: [Lubna Jerar Naqvi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

KARACHI: "My sister couldn't reach Pakistan and my father passed away earlier this year. She lives in the UK and she couldn't make it because of the coronavirus travel restrictions. She was devastated and was inconsolable," Tehmina said. "Then her husband suggested we take her online and show her our father's body, the burial and all the rituals. We were a littl.....

[more >>](#)

'Covid-19 holds opportunity to transform Pakistan into cashless society'

Source: [Erum Zaidi, The News, International](#), 2020-12-20

KARACHI: Mudassar Aqil, chief executive officer of Easypaisa/Telenor Microfinance Bank talked about challenges and opportunities in corona norms, digital financial market potential and regulatory oversight. Q: How do you see economic slowdown aggravated by Covid-19 and do the present circumstances present growth opportunities? A: There are challenges and risks associated with every scenar.....

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Covid-19 kills 17 in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-12-20

KARACHI : Seventeen more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 1,120 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,319 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Saturday that 10,372 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 1,120 people,.....

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Sindh's Covid death toll soars past 3,300 as 32 more perish

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2020-12-19

The novel coronavirus has claimed 32 more lives in Sindh, with the majority of deaths occurring at health facilities in Karachi, during the last 24, raising the death toll to 3,302 in the province. As many as 1,903 more people tested positive for the infectious disease when 20,681 tests were conducted, the highest number of tests conducted in a single day, raising the number of positive ca.....

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Covid-19 claims 14 more lives in Sindh

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 14 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,333 and 737 new cases emerged when 9,322 samples were tested raising the tally to 204,840. In a statement issued from CM House on Sunday, he said that 14 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,333 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah said that

[more >>](#)

Lady health workers present charter of demands

Source: [Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-22

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) MNA Shahida Rahmani, while speaking to a seminar, demanded that the sacrifices of frontline health workers who give their lives in the line of duty should be recognized at all level. Whether working during Covid-19 pandemic or as polio workers, these lady health workers face immense challenges, while undertaking their duties, not only in the field but a.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19, wheat crisis push millions into poverty: PBIF

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-22

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group and President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum (PBIF), Mian Zahid Hussain has said the coronavirus and wheat crisis have ruined household budgets while pushing millions into abject poverty. Wheat is the most important crop in the world and Pakistan is seventh largest wheat producer in the world but the mafia operating in this sector has.....

[more >>](#)

At least 149 Sindh police officials contract Covid-19 in five days

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-22

KARACHI: As many as 149 Sindh Police personnel, including officers and ranks, contracted the coronavirus during the last five days, pushing the number of infected police personnel to 4,084, said a spokesperson of the Sindh Police on Tuesday. "So far, 22 police officials have died due to the virus and at least 465 were undergoing treatment," the spokesperson added. The spokesperson a.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh reports 19 fatalities, 644 fresh Covid infections

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-22

KARACHI: As many as 644 people were diagnosed with the coronavirus in the province, when 10,234 samples were tested between Sunday and Monday, constituting a low positivity ratio of 6.3 per cent, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday. With the newly detected cases, the virus tally has soared to 205,428 in the province. Shah stated that 19 more patients succumbed to the contagio.....

[more >>](#)

19 more COVID-19 deaths, 644 new cases reported in Sindh: CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-22

KARACHI - As many as 19 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives overnight and 644 new cases emerged when 10,234 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued from CM House on Monday. He added that 19 more patients of coronavirus lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,352 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.

[more >>](#)

Covid kills 27 as 1,005 more test positive in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-12-23

Twenty-seven more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 1,005 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,379 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 10,914 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 1,005 people, or 9.2

[more >>](#)

Pechuho admits lack of ICUs, HDUs

Source: [Hafeez Tunio/Vakeel Rao, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

KARACHI: Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazl Pechuho admitted on Tuesday that the province is facing a shortage of healthcare resources and facilities, intensive care units (ICUs) and high-dependency units (ICUs), ambulances and trained staff. Replying to questions during a Sindh Assembly session, Pechuho said that ventilators reserved for Covid-19 patients are available mostly in Hyderabad and K.....

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Covid claims 27 more lives in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

The coronavirus claimed as many as 27 more lives in the province overnight, lifting the death toll to 3,379, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday. According to a statement issued by the CM House, the province saw another 1,005 fresh Covid-19 cases when 10,914 samples were tested on the day. The provincial tally of confirmed infections now stands at 206,489, said Shah. The CM

[more >>](#)

Sindh reports 27 single-day deaths, 1,005 infections

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

Karachi - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah, in a statement issued from CM House, disclosed that unfortunately stemming from COVID-19 we had 27 more deaths overnight and 1,005 new cases emerged when 10,914 tests were conducted. He said that 27 more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,379 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr Shah said that 10,914

[more >>](#)

149 new cases of COVID-19 detected in Sindh police

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

KARACHI - Around 4,084 personnel and officers of Sindh police had contracted coronavirus so far with 149 new cases reported in last five days, spokesperson to Sindh police informed on Tuesday. He said that currently 465 officers and personnel were under treatment while 3,597 had recovered from the disease. The spokesperson said that 22 policemen lost their lives battling against COVID-19. He said all

[more >>](#)

Sindh loses 40 more Covid patients, including 31 in Karachi

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-12-24

Sindh has lost 40 more Covid-19 patients, including 31 in Karachi alone, in the past 24 hours. A senior medical professor is also among the city's latest victims. Officials said that 11 of Karachi's 31 fresh fatalities were reported in the city's District East, six in District West, four each in the Central and Korangi districts, and three each in the South and Malir dist.....

[more >>](#)

Another 40 people succumb to Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

HYDERABAD: Another 40 people succumbed to the coronavirus overnight in the province, following which the death toll climbed to 3,419, said Sindh Chief (CM) Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday. Meanwhile, 918 new cases emerged when 11,643 samples were tested on the day, resulting in a positivity rate of 7.9 per cent, which lifted the virus tally in the province to 207,407. According to.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 40 more lives, infects 918 others: CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

KARACHI - Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 40 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,419 while 918 new cases emerged against 11,643 tests. In a statement issued from CM House on Wednesday, he said that 40 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,419 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Syed Murad Ali Shah.....

[more >>](#)

Covid claims 21 more lives, infects 1,107 others in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-12-25

Covid-19 has claimed 21 more lives in Sindh, most of them in Karachi, during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll to 3,440, while another 1107 people have tested positive overnight, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Thursday. In his daily Covid-19 report, he said that 21 more patients of the novel coronavirus died overnight, bringing the death toll to 3,440, and that 1,107 ne.....

[more >>](#)

State-of-the-art ventilator developed in Pakistan

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

A prototype of a locally developed ventilator, equipped with all features available in imported ones, was handed over to the Innovation and Testing Centre (I&TC) of the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) on Thursday. The centre will test the prototype called AVB-100 for nearly two weeks as clinical trials will be carried out and then pass it over to the Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan (Dra.....

[more >>](#)

PPP MNA from Tharparkar succumbs to Covid-19 in Karachi

Source: [Hafeez Tunio](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Member National Assembly (MNA) Pir Noor Mohammad Shah Jeelanipassed away on Thursday after contracting the novel coronavirus. According to reports, Jeelanias undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Karachi where he succumbed to the deadly disease. The PPP leader was elected as a member of the National Assembly from Chachroin Tharparkar in the 2018 ele.....

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Sindh reports 1,107 fresh Covid cases, 21 deaths

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

As many as 1,107 fresh Covid-19 cases were reported in the province overnight, said Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday, adding that the provincial coronavirus tally has soared to 208,514. Besides, Shah said that another 21 people succumbed to the coronavirus between Wednesday and Thursday, lifting the death toll to 3,440 in Sindh. According to the statement issued by the C.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh reports 21 virus deaths in a day

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

KARACHI - Sindh chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 21 more patients of Coronavirus died over night lifting the death toll to 3,440 and 1,107 new cases emerged when 12,646 samples were tested. In a statement issued here from CM House on Wednesday, he said that 21 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,440 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr.....

[more >>](#)

Coronavirus cases in Sindh surpass 209,000

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-25

Sindh registered 915 more coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, lifting overall cases to 209,429, a statement issued by the province's chief minister Murad Ali Shah stated Friday. In the statement, CM Shah said that the province had recorded 22 new coronavirus deaths, which had taken the province's death toll to 3,462. The chief minister highlighted that in the last 24 hours, 11.....

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International News

Countries News

VP Pence gets a jab as Moderna vaccine nears US approval

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-19

WASHINGTON: US Vice President Mike Pence received a Covid-19 jab on live television on Friday as the country prepared to greenlight its second vaccine in a boost to the planet's unprecedented immunisation campaign. Pence's move comes as inoculation efforts are unfurling around the world in the race to halt a pandemic that has claimed at least 1.66 million lives and infected more than[more >>](#)

US jobless claims rise to 885,000 amid resurgence of virus

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits rose again to 885,000, the highest weekly total since September, as a resurgence of coronavirus cases threatens the economy's recovery from its springtime collapse. The Labour Department said last week that the number of applications increased from 862,000 the previous week. It showed that nine months after the virus paralysed the e.....[more >>](#)

Sydney isolated from rest of Australia as Covid outbreak grows

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-21

SYDNEY: Sydney was isolated from the rest of Australia on Sunday after all of the country's states and territories imposed travel restrictions on its residents as a coronavirus cluster in the city grew to around 70. The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) sent a stern 'do not come to us' message to Sydney, the country's most populous city of more than five million people, w.....

[more >>](#)

Germany's largest Covid jab site ready for business

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-12-21

Spaces to queue up are already marked out on the way to the 64 miniature doctors' offices where thousands of people per day will be vaccinated against Covid-19 in Hamburg. Only the green light from the European Union is needed for Germany's largest single vaccination site to spring into action, the brand-new equipment sitting ready in the vast congress centre of the northern po.....

[more >>](#)

Concern among Muslims over halal status of COVID-19 vaccine

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-12-21

In October, Indonesian diplomats and Muslim clerics stepped off a plane in China. While the diplomats were there to finalize deals to ensure millions of doses reached Indonesian citizens, the clerics had a much different concern: Whether the COVID-19 vaccine was permissible for use under Islamic law. As companies race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine and countries scramble to secure doses, qu.....

[more >>](#)

New corona variant shuts UK

Source: [Agencies](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-22

LONDON: Countries across the globe shut their borders to Britain on Monday due to fears about a highly infectious new coronavirus strain, causing travel chaos and raising the prospect of food shortages days before Britain is set to leave the European Union. Pakistan, India, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Russia, Jordan and Hong Kong suspended travel for Britons after Prime Minister Bo.....

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Britain faces isolation as world tightens borders to keep out new coronavirus strain

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-22

LONDON: Countries across the globe shut their borders to Britain on Monday due to fears about a highly infectious new coronavirus strain, causing travel chaos and raising the prospect of food shortages days before Britain is set to leave the European Union. India, Pakistan, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Russia, Jordan and Hong Kong suspended travel for Britons after Prime Minister Boris Jo.....

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Vaccine bond sales to soar to fund COVID-19 shots for poor countries

Source: [Karin Strohecker and Tommy Wilkes](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-23

Socially conscious bond investors will be targeted in a coming wave of vaccine bond deals that will seek to provide billions of dollars for the speedy rollout of COVID-19 shots for developing countries. Dedicated vaccine bonds have been deployed before, but the immediate COVID-19 funding needs should lead to large amounts of new issuance in 2021. "There is no doubt that investors v.....

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Millions of US vaccine doses sit on ice, putting 2020 goal in doubt

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-24

Millions of Covid-19 vaccines are sitting unused in US hospitals and elsewhere a week into the massive inoculation campaign, putting the government's target for 20 million vaccinations this month in doubt. As of Wednesday morning, only 1 million shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine had been given, about one-third of the first shipment sent last week. Over 9.5 million doses of vaccin.....

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Kuwait starts Covid-19 jabs as Gulf rolls out mass vaccinations

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

Kuwait City - Kuwait began coronavirus vaccinations on Thursday, following several other Gulf states in rolling out a mass inoculation campaign. "This vaccine is safe and has been approved by many countries," said Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah, who was the first to receive the jab, state media reported. Kuwait, which has officially confirmed more than 148,000 coronav.....

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Donors News

Poor countries to start getting Covid-19 vaccines early next year: WHO

Source: [AFP](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-19

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation and partners said on Friday that the Covax facility, created to ensure equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines worldwide, expected to begin delivering jabs early next year. The UN health agency, the Gavi vaccine alliance, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) announced they had now secured nearly two billion doses of various vaccine cand.....

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UNICEF to provide 1.15m Covid-19 testing kits

Source: [INP](#) , [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-21

ISLAMABAD: The UNICEF has decided to provide coronavirus testing kits to Pakistan as the requirement of the country for the diagnostic kits has increased in the second wave of the disease, sources said on Sunday. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has decided to provide 1.15 million COVID-19 testing kits to Pakistan after soaring cases of the disease in the second spike of the cont.....

[more >>](#)

Not too late to contain new strain: virus mutation tracker

Source: [AFP](#) , [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-22

GENEVA: It is not too late for Europe to contain the new variant of Covid-19 exploding in southeast England, a top coronavirus mutation tracker toldAFP. However, there is a fair chance that the strain is already circulating under the radar in other countries, said Emma Hodcroft. The US-British molecular epidemiologist, based at the University of Bern, is a co-developer on the Nextstrain project.....

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SDPI Engagements

SDC-2020

“Sustainable Development in the Times of COVID-19”

Encouraging Sustainability

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-25

While speaking at the 23rd Sustainable Development Conference, Fawad Chaudhry highlighted the government's agenda to facilitate the manufacturing and large-scale usage of Electric Vehicles (EV) in Pakistan. As part of the larger initiative to usher the country towards clean energy by 2030, a new policy concerning tax cuts and exemptions has been introduced. While this is a step forward, we m.....

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