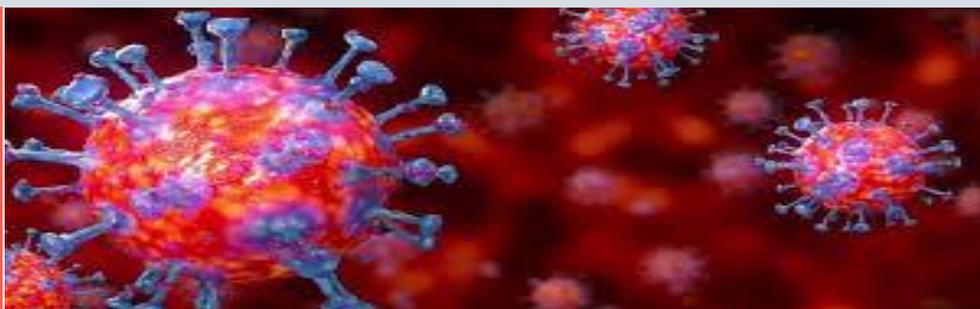


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 01, No, 65



Issue: 5-7 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

Contents.....

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[Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials..... 02](#)

National News

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

International News

• Countries News	• Donors News
----------------------------------	-------------------------------

SDPI Engagements

• Webinars News	• Researchers Articles
• Press Releases/What's on	• Other SDPI Engagements

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

A year to forget

Source: [Zainab Nazir](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-05

This year – 2020 – turned out to be the darkest and longest black mirror episode. The year was the beginning of an entirely different decade, a whole new age for humanity. As a matter of fact, so many things happened in 2020 which changed the entire direction of where we went as a civilization. No year is insane but the events that happen make it crazy for us to believe and mak.....

[more >>](#)

Business as usual

Source: [Shehryar Warraich](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

There is a huge shop at the entrance to the Shah Alam Bazaar (also known as Shahalami Market). It is decorated with fairy lights that illuminate its glass-door entrance. Shahalam Market is a hub of shopping with more than 20,000 shops. Its distribution outreach extends across Pakistan and some of the shopkeepers here boast that it is the largest wholesale market in Asia. Outside the shop's d.....

[more >>](#)

Heritage in the pandemic

Source: [Reema Abbasi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

WE were in a rough neighbourhood. An ancient composition had been beaten down with fear. And it assumed concrete form in a lane with welders, mechanics and bystanders on one side and lost heritage on the other. Entirely carved out of rock, an over 500-year-old Hanuman Mandir — a megalith that stood in the shade of neem and peepal trees at the end of a long walkway — was hacked to near.....

[more >>](#)

Network disruptions

Source: [Usama Khilji](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

CITIZENS of Pakistan continue to suffer from the short-sighted policy of shutting down apps and websites, to shutting down entire networks arbitrarily; sometimes for years. In November, again citizens of Islamabad and its adjoining districts were rendered without mobile phone connectivity. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted how the internet and mobile phone connectivity are all the more importa.....

[more >>](#)

Changing strategies

Source: [Mohammad Ali Babakhel](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

CAN we attribute the apparent decline in terrorism in 2020 to the erosion of extremist ideologies or to the militants' physical and territorial losses? Successful intelligence-based operations have either eliminated hardened terrorists or pushed them across the border. The Afghan peace talks, Covid-19 and influx of militants from other conflict zones to Afghanistan have all influenced the cu.....

[more >>](#)

National News

Balochistan

Balochistan gets nine new PCR laboratories

Source: [Mohammad Zafar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal on Sunday announced to set up PCR laboratories in nine districts of Balochistan in light of the second coronavirus wave. "The newly formed labs will be able to perform all the necessary tests related to coronavirus," he said. "DHQs of 11 districts including DHQ Killa Abdullah, Sibi, Naseerabad, Kalat, Nushki, Jam Ghulam Qadir Hospita.....

[more >>](#)

Islamabad

Second coronavirus wave; Serious challenges ahead if govt does not adopt effective measures: Fafen

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

ISLAMABAD: The country may face serious Covid-19 challenges in the ongoing second coronavirus wave, if the government did not take effective policy measures. According to the first monthly Covid-19 response monitoring report, prepared by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability-Free and Fair Election Network (TDEA-FAFEN) released here on Friday, with the emergence of the second w.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 tally reaches 410,072 in country

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Covid-19 infections tally Friday reached 410,072 after 3,262 new cases were detected in the past 24 hours across the country, authorities said. The province-wise break up of the total number of cases as of 9am, December 4, is as follows: Sindh is on top with 179,240 cases followed by Punjab with 121,753 cases, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 48,264 cases, the Islamabad Capital

[more >>](#)

Imran Khan only world leader demanding equitable provision of COVID-19 vaccine: Shibli

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

ISLAMABAD - Information Minister Shibli Faraz has said proposing a ten point agenda to the world to cope with COVID-19 speaks volume about the leadership qualities of Prime Minister Imran Khan. In his tweets on Friday, he said the Prime Minister in fact has proved himself as a voice of the poor by demanding in unambiguous terms establishment of five hundred billion rupees fund and cancellation.....

[more >>](#)

Collective response needed to recover from COVID-19 crisis, says PM

Source: [Shafqat Ali, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

ISLAMABAD - Addressing the United Nations General Assembly in a recorded speech, PM Khan said the COVID-19 pandemic was the most serious global crisis since World War II. "Hopefully when a vaccine is available it will be offered to everyone. The poorest countries are suffering the most due to this economic contraction. Around 100 million people in developing countries are at risk of bei.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan may face serious challenges if COVID-19 not tackled properly

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

Islamabad - A novel coronavirus (COVID-19) monitoring report released on Friday said that the country may face serious health-governance challenges at both policy and implementation level if the second wave of the virus is not tackled with responsibility. The first monthly COVID-19 response monitoring report, released by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability-Free and Fair Elec.....

[more >>](#)

Country reports 3,262 new virus cases, 55 deaths in a day

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

ISLAMABAD - The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Friday were recorded 51,507 as 3,262 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. At least 55 corona patients died in the country on Thursday. Some 49 patients were under treatment in hospitals while six others died out of hospital died. According to the updates issued by the National command and Operati.....

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Pakistan may face serious challenges if COVID-19 not tackled properly

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

Islamabad - A novel coronavirus (COVID-19) monitoring report released on Friday said that the country may face serious health-governance challenges at both policy and implementation level if the second wave of the virus is not tackled with responsibility. The first monthly COVID-19 response monitoring report, released by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability-Free and Fair Elec.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 SOPs compliance week to start today

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

ISLAMABAD - The government has made all necessary arrangements to effectively observe 'COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) compliance week' from Saturday (December 05) to create awareness among public about the importance of corona safety measures. According to an official of the Ministry of National Health Services, the provinces have been asked to support th.....

[more >>](#)

Health ministry requests GAVI for COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

ISLAMABAD-Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) has submitted its request to Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) to get novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine as it becomes available, a statement said on Friday. The statement issued by the ministry of NHS said that building on successful experience of tackling first wave, Pakistan is all set to benefit from COVID-19 vaccin.....

[more >>](#)

Abbottabad records highest positivity ratio

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

ISLAMABAD: With the country reporting another 3,119 infections and 43 deaths, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday revealed that Abbottabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi and Hyderabad had recorded the highest Covid-19 positivity ratio. The ratio is calculated on the basis of positive results in 100 samples. With the latest count, the number of active cases has reached 52,359 with

[more >>](#)

PM warns of action against leaders, facilitators of rallies

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

ISLAMABAD: Calling the opposition's Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) a "union of crooks", Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday stated that the government would in no case grant permission to the opposition parties to hold their public meeting in Lahore, but at the same time declared that it would not stop them from doing so. The prime minister said that cases would be registe.....

[more >>](#)

44 more die as corona ferocity grows

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Saturday were recorded 52,359, as 3,119 more people tested positive during the last 24 hours. Forty-four corona patients, of whom 43 were under treatment in hospital and one out of hospital died on Friday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No affected person was on ventilator.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan decides to contact World Bank for corona vaccine funding

Source: [nill](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to contact the World Bank for COVID-19 vaccine funding, a private channel reported on Saturday, citing sources. Pakistan will seek \$153mn from the WB for advance purchases of the COVID-19 vaccines. The request will be formally made by the Economic Coordination Division, said the sources. In this context, the Health ministry has penned a letter to the Econom.....

[more >>](#)

New Zealand tour

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

THE growing restrictions imposed by New Zealand authorities on Pakistan's troubled cricket squad continues to raise concerns about the fate of the tour. As many as 10 Covid-19 cases and protocol violations by the visiting squad have prevented the Pakistan team from training in managed isolation in Christchurch. The situation has not only caused deep national embarrassment and hindered Pakist.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 tests for Rs1,600 only

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

Islamabad : COVID-19 Antigen Tests are now available at Al-Khidmat Raazi Hospital, Islamabad at a much cheaper price of Rs1,600 only with quick delivery of results. "It is equally reliable as compared to PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) Test", said an official of the hospital. Established in 2017 at CBR Town, Al-Khidmat Hospital, a 50-bed private tertiary care hospital is providi.....

[more >>](#)

econd wave poses serious health challenges, says report

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

ISLAMABAD: With the emergence of the second wave of Covid-19, the country may face serious health governance challenges both at the policy and implementation level that if not addressed might jeopardise and reverse the gains made in the first phase of the fight against the pandemic. The first monthly Covid-19 response monitoring report, released by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountab.....

[more >>](#)

Death toll rises in twin cities as two CDA wings sealed

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Kalbe Ali | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

ISLAMABAD: Casualties continued to rise in the twin cities as 12 more people lost their lives to Covid-19 and 489 more tested positive on Saturday. With the latest count, the number of active cases in Islamabad has reached 5,874 — the second highest in the country after Karachi. On the other hand, a number of officials in the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) two key wings were fou.....

[more >>](#)

'Covid-19 compliance week' commences today

Source: [APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

ISLAMABAD: With the number of novel coronavirus cases continuing to rise exponentially, the government has decided to launch a week of 'compliance' from today to strictly enforce all guidelines regarding the pandemic. An official of the federal health ministry said that they aim to ensure the proper implementation of its anti-novel coronavirus (Covid-19) strategies to contain the vir.....

[more >>](#)

Corona cases surged by at least 3,119 in 24 hours: NCOC data

Source: [Recorder Green, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus cases in the country surged by at least 3,119 in the past 24 hours, the third consecutive daily rise of over 3,000 infections, said the data issued by the National Command and Operations Centre on Saturday. The country's cases have risen by over 3,000 for three out of the last five days, bringing the total Covid-19 tally to 413,191. In the past 24 hours,

[more >>](#)

Coronavirus: 2,441 patients critical as 44 more die in a day

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

ISLAMABAD - The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Saturday were recorded 52,359 as 3,119 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. At least 44 corona patients, 43 of whom were under treatment in hospital and one out of hospital died on Friday, according to the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No COVID affected person was on ventilator in.....

[more >>](#)

AI-Khidmat Hospital offers Covid-19 tests for Rs1600

Source: [APP, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

ISLAMABAD - COVID-19 antigen test is now available at AI-Khidmat Raazi Hospital, Islamabad at much cheaper price of Rs 1,600 with quick delivery of results. "It is equally reliable as compared to PCR Test," said an official of the hospital. Established in 2017 at CBR Town, AIKhidmat Hospital, a 50-bed private tertiary care hospital is providing a complete range of medical and surg.....

[more >>](#)

Shah Faisal Mosque's hall sealed over violation of coronavirus SOPs

Source: [Web Desk, The News, International](#), 2020-12-07

ISLAMABAD: The administration of Islamabad on Sunday sealed the inner hall of Shah Faisal Mosque because of the violation of coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) going on at the site. According to details obtained by Geo News, congregational prayers will not be offered in the inner hall of the mosque. The decision was taken after precautionary measures were not followed during

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 SOPs compliance week continues

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-07

Islamabad : The federal and provincial governments have continued effectively observing 'COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) compliance week' from Sunday to create awareness in public about the importance of corona safety measures. According to an official of the Ministry of National Health Services, provinces have been asked to support the efforts of the federal gove.....

[more >>](#)

Mirpur, Karachi, Peshawar record highest COVID-19 positivity ratio

Source: [INP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-07

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Sunday the countrywide positivity ratio of COVID 19 cases was recorded 7.94 per cent in the past 24 hours. Azad Jammu and Kashmir's Mirpur recorded the highest positivity ratio at 22pc followed by Karachi 17.39pc, Peshawar 16.02pc, Rawalpindi 11.26pc, Hyderabad 10.36, Muzaffarabad 6.76pc, Gilgit 6.67pc, Quetta 6.19pc.....

[more >>](#)

National Covid-19 positivity ratio climbs to 9.71pc

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

The country's positivity ratio was recorded at 9.71pc – highest in months – on Monday as Covid-19 cases continue to soar amid the second wave of the pandemic. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) – the nerve centre of the government's unified efforts to stem Covid-19 spread – was informed that around 81pc of the cases are from urban centres and at lea.....

[more >>](#)

Race for the vaccine

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

First things first. The head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the poor risk being "trampled" as wealthy nations roll out Covid-19 vaccine. The government of Pakistan's announcement of beginning the process of vaccinating people against the coronavirus from April 2021, though appreciated, seems a little optimistic because it's still not known for sure i.....

[more >>](#)

Desperate and deadly

Source: [Andleeb Abbas](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

It is do or die. Rather do and die. After coronavirus, 'Trump virus' has reached Pakistan. Coronavirus does not matter. People need to get rid of the government more than the virus. Rallies are not a super spreader. These are all pearls of wisdom by Trump during his electoral campaign. Similar is the logic given by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) for their campaign. The "p.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 positivity rate surges to 9.71pc in Pakistan: NCOC

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) has on Monday said that the positivity rate of coronavirus cases in Pakistan has reached 9.71 percent. Officials participated in the NCOC meeting through video link and told that most COVID-19 cases are reported in Karachi with positivity rate is 21.31 percent. According to the NCOC, steps are being taken for implementation over the coronavirus.....

[more >>](#)

Highest positivity ratio in Mirpur

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has recorded national Covid-19 positivity ratio at 7.94 percent as a total 41,645 Coronavirus tests were conducted in the country on Saturday. According to the NCOC, the highest positivity ratio was observed in Mirpur; 22 percent, followed by Karachi at 17.39 percent and Peshawar 16.02

[more >>](#)

KP govt to effectively observe Covid-19 SOPs enforcement week

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

ISLAMABAD - The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government will effectively observe the 'COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) compliance week' to create awareness in public about the importance of coronavirus safety measures. Addressing a joint press conference here, KP Health Minister Taimoor Saleem Jhagra and Special Assistant to KP Chief Minister on Information and Higher Education.....

[more >>](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Haripur DC office shut over nine Covid cases

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

HARIPUR: The office of the deputy commissioner was closed for five days after nine employees tested positive for coronavirus, officials said here on Saturday. They said during the last 24 hours 70 patients, nine of the employees of the deputy commissioner office, had tested positive for Covid-19 in the district. They added all the positive patients had been home quarantined for 14 days. When con.....

[more >>](#)

Covid claims five more lives

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded five more deaths from coronavirus and 543 new cases on Saturday. A health department report said the Covid-19 deaths and cases in the province had totalled 1,404 and 49,220, respectively. Of the new deaths, four were reported in Peshawar district and one in Kohat district. According to the report, Peshawar has so far recorded 675 deaths from the coronavirus,

[more >>](#)

Coronavirus claims five more lives in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

PESHAWAR: Five more people died of coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday and 537 others tested positive for the viral infection in the province. With the five fatalities, the number of deaths from the fatal disease has reached 1404 and positive cases to 49220 in the province. Four of the five people died in Peshawar and one in Kohat. Peshawar has so far lost 675 lives to the fast-.....

[more >>](#)

Transporters urged to follow corona SOPs

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Transport and Mass Transit Department has devised a new mechanism to ensure strict implementation of corona Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in public transport after unabated violations by the travelers. As part of stringent measures to contain corona spread, government implementing agencies would hold meetings for effective coordination and to further str.....

[more >>](#)

Masjid committees formed to enforce Covid-19 SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

MANSEHRA: District administration has constituted masjid committees to ensure compliance of SOPs of coronavirus at worship places in various areas. "Apart from other measures, we have constituted committees consisting of prayer leaders, local elders, police personnel, schoolteachers and patwaris to ensure that all precautionary measures are strictly followed at the mosques across the.....

[more >>](#)

Corona situation under control in Swat: official

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

MINGORA: Deputy Commissioner Saqib Raza Aslam has said that the Corona epidemic in Swat was under control as people were cooperating in the implementation of the SOPs. "Winter tourism is also on the rise this year. Corona outbreak rates are low in Swat but through the media, I appeal to the public to adhere to implementation of SOPs wherever they go," he said while briefing the.....

[more >>](#)

DC office in Haripur closed because of Covid-19 cases

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

HARIPUR: The office of the deputy commissioner will remain closed for the next five days as his nine subordinates have tested positive for the coronavirus, official sources said on Saturday. Dr Hasnain Raza Turabi, focal person for the coronavirus pandemic in Haripur, said that the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic had witnessed an unprecedented surge during the last 24 hours. He sai.....

[more >>](#)

Five Covid-19 patients among six die at Peshawar hospital due to lack of oxygen

Source: [Shahida Parveen](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

PESHAWAR: At least six patients admitted at the Covid-19 and one other ward died at the Khyber Teaching Hospital in Peshawar on Saturday night as the hospital ran out of oxygen supply. Hospital's spokesperson, Farhad Khan, confirmed that six patients died due to lack of oxygen supply. "Of the six, five were admitted in the Covid-19 ward, whereas one other was admitted at a different ward,.....

[more >>](#)

Khyber Teaching Hospital director among seven officials suspended over 'system failure'

Source: [Wisal Yousafzai](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

PESHAWAR: The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) government suspended on Monday seven people, including the director of the Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) Dr Tahir Nadeem Khan, a day after six Covid-19 patients died at the hospital due to oxygen shortage. Immediately after the incident yesterday, the provincial government ordered the hospital's Board of Governors (BoG) to submit a report within 48 hou.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 infects 1,240 doctors, 398 nurses in KP

Source: [INP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

PESHAWAR - A doctors' body on Sunday said that 1240 doctors had been infected by COVID-19 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province so far. Provincial Doctors Association (PDA), highlighting infections in the provincial healthcare sector, said that 398 nurses contracted coronavirus while working on the frontline. Moreover, 1132 other provincial health workers were infected by the disease, the PDA.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab

24 deaths, 670 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

LAHORE - The second wave of COVID-19 claimed 24 more lives and 670 new cases were reported in Punjab during last 24 hours. According to spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare department, the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 121,753, while so far 3115 deaths have been recorded altogether. The P&SHD said that 301 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Lahore.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan cannot afford coronavirus situation again, warns Governor

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

LAHORE - Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that the opposition parties have to work consciously and not with enthusiasm. They should have mercy on the nation. People who are not following the SOPs are in fact welcoming coronavirus. 'Pakistan cannot afford coronavirus situation like that of June again. Ulema are playing a pivotal role in raising awareness about following

[more >>](#)

Virus: Medical students urged to play role in raising awareness

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

LAHORE - Postgraduate Medical Institute/Ameer-Uddin Medical College Principal Prof Dr Sardar M Al-freed Zafar has urged healthcare providers and medical students to play their due role in raising awareness about precautionary measures to avoid COVID-19. "Wearing face masks should be motto of every person. Students of PGMI/AMC, Allied Health Sciences and Nursing College should play due role t.....

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22 more Covid deaths in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

LAHORE: As many as 22 more critical patients of the coronavirus died, while 540 new cases of infection surfaced in Punjab during the last 24 hours. Of the new positive cases, 201 were reported in Lahore, 96 in Rawalpindi, 42 in Bahawalpur and 23 in Multan. Other cases were reported in Sargodha, Attock, Nankana Sahib, Sialkot, Hafizabad, Bahawalnagar, Khanewal, Faisalabad, Kasur, Khushab, Gujrat,.....

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Corona situation dangerous, says CM Usman Buzdar

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

LAHORE : Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar has said that the second wave of the Covid-19 has resulted in 19,941 positive coronavirus cases in the province and all the new cases have surfaced during the last two months. He said 540 new cases and 22 deaths have been reported during the last 24 hours. He was addressing a press conference at CM's office here on Saturday. Speaking on th.....

[more >>](#)

22 Covid-19 patients die

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

LAHORE: Twenty-two Covid-19 patients died and another 540 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to a report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department here on Saturday. The toll of fatalities rose to 3,137 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 122,293 in the province. Out of a total of 122,293 infections in Punjab, 119,.....

[more >>](#)

Govt reactivates 300-bed Covid field hospital

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

LAHORE: The following surge in coronavirus cases, the Punjab government has reactivated a 300-bed field hospital in Lahore Expo Centre and ordered necessary medicine to deal with any untoward situation. Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has warned that the proliferation ratio of positive coronavirus tests has increased from 3% to an alarming level of 10%. As many as 540 new coronavirus c.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 exposes digital divide

Source: [Yousaf Abbasi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

LAHORE: The academic future of 34 million students across Punjab is at stake after the education system went online during the year. Examinations and results were marred due to the Covid-19 situation and a lack of proper measures to maintain internet services at the government level. As per estimates, about 80 per cent of the province's students complain about internet services, while the.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 positive cases jump to 10% in one week

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

LAHORE: The rate of Covid-19 positive cases in the city jumped from 3% to 10% in the last one week in Lahore, Corona Experts Advisory Group (CEAG) revealed on Friday. CEAG Co-Chairman Dr Asad Aslam Khan revealed the facts while briefing an emergent meeting called to review the situation of coronavirus in Lahore after a rapid increase in the cases, jointly chaired by Provincial Health Minister Dr.....

[more >>](#)

Six arrested for violating marriage act

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

FAISALABAD - The district administration arrested six managers of marriage halls/ marquees on charge of violating the Marriage Act and coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Saturday. During checking of one-dish rule, punctuality and implementation of the coronavirus SOPs, AC City Syed Ayub Bokhari found violations at four marriage halls including Lyallpur Gymkhana and Victoria M.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 second wave – We asked for it!

Source: [Dr Khalid Mahmood](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

The second surge in COVID (SARS-CoV-2 virus) is spreading at an unprecedented pace. The 40-45% asymptomatic patients form the main source of transmission, amounting to 50% as per the Centre of Disease Control. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported more than 58 million cases worldwide with more than 1.34 million deaths which is extremely worrisome. The second wave is definitely going to

[more >>](#)

Directs to ensure corona SOPs in Punjab Police

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

LAHORE - Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has directed to ensure corona SOPs during the ongoing recruitment process in Punjab Police. He said that the proliferation ratio of Covid-19 has increased in Punjab therefore all precautionary measures should be strictly followed. On the direction of CM Punjab, IG Punjab Inam Ghani has issued instruction for strict implementation on corona SOPs.

[more >>](#)

6 persons die of coronavirus in Rawalpindi

Source: [Israr Ahmad](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

Rawalpindi-As many as six patients died of COVID-19 on Saturday and 136 patients tested positive of deadly virus in different areas of the district Rawalpindi, informed sources. Tahir Kareem, 55 years old resident of new Kattarian, was brought to Holy Family Hospital on December 4 and he died on late Friday night. Naheed Zaheer, 45 years old resident of Dhoke Chaudhrian, arrived in Holy Fam.....

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25 more corona patients die in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-07

LAHORE: Around 25 COVID-19 patients died and another 662 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Sunday. The death toll reached 3,162 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 122,955 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Second.....

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December witnesses 3,920 new Covid cases, 171 deaths

Source: [Adnan Lodhi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

LAHORE: At least 3,920 people were confirmed coronavirus positive in Punjab during the first six days of December and as many as 171 individuals passed away due to its infliction, official statistics reveal. Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Sunday asserted the coronavirus positivity ratio has increased drastically throughout the province. A spokesperson for the

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LHC seeks reply from health secretary, DC Lahore on banning political rallies

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday sought a reply from the provincial health secretary and deputy commissioner Lahore on a petition asking for a ban on political rallies due to the second wave of the novel coronavirus. During the hearing, the court questioned the officials regarding the steps taken to mitigate the spread of the virus. The petition stated that hospitals are at full ca.....

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Covid-19 will be more aggressive in January: Qureshi

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi Sunday said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was putting lives of the people at risk for personal gains as coronavirus becoming more lethal by each passing day across the world. Talking to journalists before the oath taking ceremony of new body of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Women wing here, he said that opposition should revi.....

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Attock witnesses another spike in COVID-19 infections

Source: [Muhammad Sabrin](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

ATTOCK - Attock witnessed another spike of COVID-19 patients on Sunday as 11 more patients tested positive of novel coronavirus COVID-19. Chief Executive Officer District Health Authority Dr Jawad Elahi while giving the details of newly detected patients said that among these 11 new cases detected on Sunday, as many as four belong to Fatehjang, three to Attock, two to Hazro while one each to Hassa.....

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Sindh

Covid-19; Sindh records 1,664 new cases

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

KARACHI: Sindh witnessed 1,664 new cases out of 15,500 Covid-19 tests conducted while eight more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,991, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah told on Friday. In a statement issued here from the CM House, Murad Shah said eight more fatalities constituted 1.7 percent death rate. The chief minister said 15,500 samples were tested against which 1,664.....

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Bilawal tests negative for COVID-19, to attend Lahore rally

Source: [Abdullah Zafar](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

KARACHI - Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has tested negative for COVID-19, days after contracting the deadly virus. Sindh Information Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah confirmed the news on Friday. The Minister took to Twitter to thank God that the PPP Chairman had recovered from the disease. "Alhamdulillah, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's coron.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 8 more lives, infects 1,664 others overnight

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that eight more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,991 and 1,664 new cases emerged when 15,500 tests were conducted raising the tally to 180,904. In a statement issued from CM House, he said that eight more patients died lifting the death toll to 2,991 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah said that 15,.....

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LUH sets up COVID-19 isolation ward

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

HYDERABAD-The Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) has established a 35-bedded COVID-19 ward at its Jamshoro district hospital, located in the premises of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Fuad Ghaffar Soomro informed on Friday that the ward consisted of a High Dependency Unit (HDU) and an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). According to him, on Friday 6 patients.....

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Sixteen more NAB officials contract coronavirus

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

KARACHI - More staff members of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Karachi have been diagnosed with novel coronavirus amid the second wave of the pandemic hit the country on Friday. As per details, 16 employees of the NAB have been tested positive for the coronavirus. The employees have been quarantined after detection of the deadly virus. Earlier, a deputy director, two assistant dire.....

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Stocks post 3.4pc weekly gains on vaccine optimism

Source: [Equities Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

KARACHI: Stocks galvanised 1,400 points (3.4 per cent) in the outgoing week to close at 42,207. Including the preceding week's gains of 620 points (1.5pc), the benchmark represented a rise of 2,220 points (close to 5pc) in two weeks. It was by far a great turnaround from weeks of losses before. Massive flow of liquidity; attractive valuations; the optimism in the global markets following th.....

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Lockdowns devastated working class but incomes recovering, survey finds

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

KARACHI: A new survey released by the prestigious Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP) shows many households are recovering from the devastating impact of the Covid-19 lockdown, but full recovery is still some distance away. In the month of September, for example, 51 per cent of the respondents said they had to make some sort of compromise on food in order to make ends meet. 87pc of th.....

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Suhail Lari dies of Covid-19

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

KARACHI: Noted historian Suhail Zaheer Lari, who is also the husband of renowned architect Yasmin Lari, passed away here on Saturday due to complications caused by Covid-19. He was in his early 80s. Family friends said that Mr Lari was admitted to a private hospital last week after he tested positive for Covid-19. "Suhail Zaheer Lari was educated at Allahabad, Lahore, Karachi and Oxford,&r.....

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Closed health facilities being reopened as Covid-19 cases surge

Source: [Mohammad Hussain Khan, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

HYDERABAD: The district administration and Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) management decided to reopen other spaces for keeping stable and asymptomatic coronavirus patients after nine coronavirus patients died since Friday at the Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) — seven of them in a single day (Saturday). According to doctors, there is fear even among asymptomati.....

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20 more Covid-19 patients die in Sindh

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Saturday that 20 more patients of Covid-19 died in the previous 24 hours and 1,569 new cases of the coronavirus emerged when 13,864 tests were conducted, raising the tally to 182,473. In a statement issued here from Chief Minister House, he said the death of 20 more patients lifted the death toll to 3,011, constituting a 1.7 per cent death rate.....

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As 20 more die, Sindh's Covid-19 death toll hits 3,011

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

Twenty more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 1,569 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,011 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Saturday that 13,864 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 1,569 people, or 11.....

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Sindh's Covid-19 death toll hits 3,011

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-12-06

KARACHI : Twenty more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 1,569 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,011 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Saturday that 13,864 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 1,569 peo.....

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Covid-19: 20 more die in Sindh

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 20 more patients of the coronavirus died lifting the death toll to 3,011, and 1,569 new cases emerged. In a statement issued here on Saturday, he said that 20 more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,011 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah said that 13,864 samples were tested which diagn.....

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20 more die of Covid-19 in Sindh

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday said that 20 more patients died lifting the death toll to 3,011 and 1,569 new cases emerged when 13,864 tests were conducted raising the tally to 182,473 in the province. He said that 20 more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,011 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah said that 13,864 sam.....

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Hyderabad records seven coronavirus deaths in a single day

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

HYDERABAD - A record number of COVID-19 infected patients have died in a single day in Hyderabad's Liaquat University Hospital's COVID-19 ward on Saturday. A LUH official confirmed to media the death of 7 patients aged between 40 to 85 years. He informed that 5 of the deceased belonged to Hyderabad and one each to Jamshoro and Umerkot districts. The deceased include 40 years old

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Coronavirus-infected witness causes panic in accountability courtroom

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

KARACHI - A witness caused panic during a hearing in the accountability court on Saturday after the revelation that he was diagnosed with coronavirus a few days ago. The dramatic situation occurred during the hearing of illegal plots allotment corruption reference against Pak Sarzameen Party (PSP) chief Mustafa Kamal. As per details, the prosecution team presented a witness before the court f.....

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Eight more die of Covid-19 in Sindh

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-07

Eight more patients have died from the novel coronavirus and another 2,013 positive cases have emerged in Sindh. As many as 12,720 samples were tests for Covid-19 in a day, said the Sindh chief minister on Sunday. With the new eight deaths, the death toll from the infectious disease had reached 3,019, said Syed Murad Ali Shah. So far, 2,064,077 tests have been conducted against which 184,.....

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Another 2,013 new infections in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-07

KARACHI: As many as 2,013 fresh coronavirus cases emerged in the province overnight with a positivity ratio of 15.8 per cent, revealed Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday. The number is the highest reported in a single day so far in the second wave of the pandemic. He added that the newly surfaced cases, emerging from 12,270 samples tested on the day, had lifted the virus tally in.....

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CTD officer dies of Covid-19 in Karachi

Source: [INP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-07

KARACHI: A Counter-Terrorism Department police officer died of coronavirus in Karachi on Sunday. According to the channel, Syed Masoom Shah was admitted to a hospital after his coronavirus came back positive a few days ago. However, he breathed his last on Sunday. Masoom Shah was the PS to CTD SSP Operations. After Masoom Shah's death, the number of Sindh police officers who died o.....

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KU conducts entry test amid strict COVID-19 SOPs

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-07

Karachi - As many as 1,128 candidates appeared in the admission test of the Department of Visual Studies, University of Karachi, which was held at the departments of economics, mathematics, computer science, and public administration on Sunday. According to the incharge KU Directorate of Admissions Dr Saima Akhtar, the KU has received 1,178 admission forms for 150 seats available in the visua.....

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Sindh reports more than 2,000 cases first time since July

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-07

Karachi - Sindh has recorded 2,013 new cases and eight deaths from the novel coronavirus over the past 24 hours, said the Chief Minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah. This is the first time since July that the province has reported more than 2,000 new cases in a day. According to the Sindh government, the province has so far recorded 184,486 cases and 3,019 deaths.

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Hyderabad is on top of hotspot cities having 12 % positivity ratio of virus

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-07

HYDERABAD - As many as 99 patients have tested positive for COVID-19 in the district during last 24 hours, taking the tally of active cases to 1,608. Health officials informed media that 7,889 people out of total 90,591 tests so far conducted in the district reported as COVID-19 positive, of them 6,341 were fully recovered while 139 lost their lives since outbreak of the contagion. Out of 1,.....

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International News

Countries News

Argentina taxes rich people to pay for coronavirus measures

Source: [Agencies](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's Senate passed a tax on about 12,000 of the country's richest people on Friday, to pay for coronavirus measures including medical supplies and relief for the poor and small businesses. In a session streamed live on YouTube, and after a long and polarising debate, the so-called solidarity contribution was signed into law with 42 votes in favour and 26 against,

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Kuwait holds parliamentary election under shadow of virus

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwaitis hoping for reform went to the polls on Saturday in a parliamentary election overshadowed by Covid-19, with facilities laid on for citizens infected with the disease to vote in special polling stations. The oil-rich emirate has enforced some of the strictest regulations in the Gulf to combat the spread of the virus, imposing a months-long lockdown earlier this year. While so.....

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Moscow starts vaccinating workers against coronavirus

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-12-06

MOSCOW - Moscow on Saturday began vaccinating workers at high risk of becoming infected with the coronavirus at newly opened clinics across the city. Health officials said they had opened 70 coronavirus vaccine centres in the Russian capital that would initially offer jobs for health, education and social workers. "Citizens from the main risk groups who in connection with their professi.....

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Donors News

WHO chief warns poor could be 'trampled' in vaccine push

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-12-05

UNITED NATIONS - The head of the World Health Organization warned Friday that the poor risk being "trampled" as wealthy nations roll out Covid-19 vaccines, which he said should be a public good. Speaking at a virtual UN summit on the pandemic, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the world was seeing "light at the end of the tunnel" in the nearly year-l.....

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