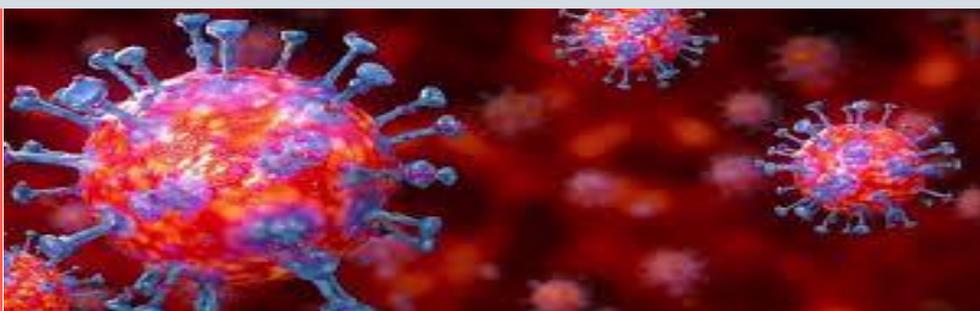


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 01, No, 71



Issue: 26-28 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
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- Pakistan Observer
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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Post-Covid C/A scenarios

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-26

"No growth, no deficit," an economist aptly put it in the context of the Pakistani economy. In FY18, the current account (C/A) deficit was USD 19 billion and economic growth was over 5 percent. Since then, growth tanked, and so did the C/A deficit. But it's not that simple to bring back growth by allowing high deficits. The equation is not complete without bringing foreign exchan.....[more >>](#)

Coronavirus springs a surprise

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-26

While there is nothing really surprising about a virus mutating the news of the new variant of the coronavirus came just when the rollout of the vaccine had started and there appeared, finally, some light at the end of this particularly dark tunnel. And that did spook not just governments and citizens, but also international financial markets as investors promptly took refuge under safe haven trad.....[more >>](#)

COVID-19 transforms education system Qamreen Khan

Source: [Guest Column, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-26

A society is always in a state of transformation. Values and ideas are constantly changing. The transformation occurs due to myriad reasons, such as diseases, natural disasters and, man-made destructions that transform society in a new form. Throughout history, many revolutions have taken place in the world. In the contemporary world, when the nations were progressing economically, political.....[more >>](#)

What the virus has taught us

Source: [Benazir Jatoi, The News, International](#), 2020-12-27

The Covid-19 virus has made this year unprecedented and unpredictable; a year like no other. It was the Spanish flu of 1918 that many have been drawing a parallel with. The Spanish flu killed 50 million people, ravaging populations around the world including the Indian subcontinent. 102 years later, despite advances in technology and science, Covid-19 has affected over 76 million people globally,

[more >>](#)

The year of unmet promises

Source: [Hiba Akbar, The News, International](#), 2020-12-27

2020 has been a sombre year. The Covid pandemic that has defined this year has forced the world to confront the many seams of inequality that run through our societies. For sexual and gender minorities, the year has confirmed what we already know: that these identity groups are disadvantaged in the economic, political and social sphere. However, because this disadvantage is sequestered largely in

[more >>](#)

Pandemic and protest

Source: [Ammar Ali Jan, The News, International](#), 2020-12-27

It's difficult to talk about 2020 without grappling with the pandemic that disrupted society and undermined our certainties and expectations of the future. The year was particularly challenging for activists as mobilisation became increasingly difficult and dangerous. The question that many were forced to address was how to imagine collective responses to our problems at a time when human co.....

[more >>](#)

The year of learning to live with yourself

Source: [Umber Khairi](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-12-27

2020 was the year that forced us not just to stay indoors but also to look inwards. It was a year in which we realised we could take nothing for granted and during which we were forced to re-evaluate so many aspects of modern life. We knew of the virus at the beginning of the year but we had thought that things would calm down and that — as in the case of the SARS and MERS viruses — t.....

[more >>](#)

2020 — a year of hope?

Source: [Shahzad Chaudhry](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-27

Boris Johnson bungled it, twice — some would say thrice if Brexit is included. Yet he is still around after a personal bout with the Virus and had AstraZeneca give humanity hope. That he is now stuck with another, even deadlier version only goes to prove that somewhere hidden in the dark vestiges of UK's health establishment still lingered the dominating hypothesis of 'herd immun.....

[more >>](#)

Upskilling youth

Source: [Hubert Boirard](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-28

OUR present and the future have been fluidly reshaped by Covid-19 that has caused significant shock to vulnerable and underserved populations. For many, the impact is widespread and huge. In this new normal, the youth have been hit the hardest. While the youth today are constrained, there are new opportunities which can be capitalised to overcome the loss of jobs and incomes. Availing opportunitie.....

[more >>](#)

The New Variant

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-27

The coronavirus pandemic is a complication that doesn't seem like it will be wished away with just a vaccine. The second wave of the virus has plagued the world, once again prompting lockdowns, flight cancellations and border restrictions. The new strain of coronavirus might just be making its impact in Pakistan too—on Thursday, Pakistan reported the highest number of deaths durin.....

[more >>](#)

National News

Balochistan

Covid patient among four killed in accident

Source: [Abdul Wahid Shahwani, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

KHUZDAR: Four members of a family, including a coronavirus patient, were killed and three others injured in an ambulance-coach collision on Quetta-Karachi national highway on Sunday. A large quantity of hashish was found in the private ambulance, officials said. They said the ambulance was carrying a coronavirus patient of Nushki along with his son and two other relatives to Karachi for treatment.....

[more >>](#)

Islamabad

Another 85 lose battle for life to corona

Source: [News Report, The News, International](#), 2020-12-26

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan reached 38,511 on Friday with 2,152 more people testing positive during the last 24 hours. A total of 1,824 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. A total of 85 patients, of whom 77 were under treatment in hospital and eight in their homes or quarantines, died on Thursday, according to the latest update.....

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Capital records 123 fresh Covid-19 cases in 24 hours: NCOC

Source: [APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-26

ISLAMABAD: COVID-19 cases continued to surge in the federal capital as 123 new coronavirus cases were reported from the city during the last 24 hours, National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Friday. According to an official of NCOC, as many as 238 cases were reported on Thursday while 67 cases were reported on Wednesday. He said so far 36,844 cases were reported from the fed.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan's health situation to decide reopening of schools, says Shafqat Mehmood

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-26

Pakistan's health situation would determine the reopening of schools and other educational institutions, said education minister Shafqat Mehmood, in his latest tweet on Saturday. The Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) is set to take place on January 4, 2021, to review the coronavirus pandemic situation and decide on when schools and other educational institutes should be

[more >>](#)

People find barbecue parties comparatively safe choice during pandemic

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-12-27

Islamabad : The trend of organising barbecue parties is on the rise in the capital city during the coronavirus pandemic where the participants can easily observe social distancing while enjoying the gathering of family and friends. The civic authorities already made arrangements in at least six recreational spots where the visitors can enjoy the barbecue but the trend has now made inroads

[more >>](#)

SAPM promises transparency in procuring vaccine

Source: [Anadolu Agency](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-27

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan said on Friday the government would procure Covid-19 vaccine on the basis of transparent scientific data about its efficacy and safety. Speaking to a private news channel on Friday, he said that six major international pharmaceutical companies are at the forefront of developing the coronavirus vaccine.....

[more >>](#)

2,260 new coronavirus cases, 63 deaths reported in past 24 hours

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-27

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Saturday reached 39,177 with 2,260 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,531 people recovered from the Coronavirus during the last 24 hours. Sixty-three corona patients, 56 of whom were under treatment in hospital and Seven in their respective homes or quarantines died on Friday, according to the late.....

[more >>](#)

Abbottabad sees highest Covid-19 positivity ratio, again

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

ISLAMABAD: As another 1,800 Covid-19 infections surfaced on Sunday, Abbottabad once again reported the highest positivity ratio in the country. According to data provided by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 1,853 people contracted the virus while 57 lost their lives. The total number of active cases throughout the country stood at 39,329 with 9,874 deaths having been reported sin.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan affirms resolve to deal with all diseases

Source: [App](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday expressed its firm resolve to strengthen national mechanisms and capacities, as well as global partnerships for robust health systems, to prevent and respond to all diseases and epidemics. On the first International Day of Epidemic Preparedness commemorated on Sunday, the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a press release that the day also reminded of the impor.....

[more >>](#)

Capital admin hopes positivity rate will fall in a week

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

ISLAMABAD: With the capital reporting 136 positive cases on Sunday, the district administration is hoping the positivity rate will fall further by up to 1pc in a week. As many as 137 people were infected on Saturday and 123 on Friday. The maximum positivity ratio recorded in November was 10pc, however, the weekly data of that month showed it to be 7pc. The rate is measured on the basis of positi.....

[more >>](#)

Covid positivity ratio surges to 5.57pc; 2,282 patients critical

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

ISLAMABAD: The National Covid positivity ratio on Sunday was recorded 5.57 percent where 2,282 coronavirus patients were in critical condition across the country with the number of critical patients rising at a fast pace. The positivity ratio was determined on the basis of positive cases appearing in 100 samples of COVID patients. The highest positivity ratio was observed in Abbottabad w.....

[more >>](#)

Abbottabad records highest Covid-19 positivity ratio a second time

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-28

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) reported on Monday that the current positivity ratio in the country stood at 6.13 per cent, with the highest positivity ratio being observed in Abbottabad at 15.95 per cent. This is the second time the city has recorded the highest positivity ratio. It had previously recorded a positivity ratio of 40.32%. Following Abbottabad, the positiv.....

[more >>](#)

People call for SOPs implementation Urge administration to check violations in markets, parks

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-28

ISLAMABAD: The citizens of federal capital on Sunday asked the local administration to take strict action against violators of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) devised to prevent spread of novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in the city. According to them, a massive violation of such SOPs has been observed in markets, food establishments and restaurants despite clear direction of the depart.....

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58 more die of Covid-19 with 1,853 new infections

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-28

ISLAMABAD - The second wave of coronavirus pandemic continues across the country as it claimed 58 more lives during the last 24 hours. According to the NCOC, during the last 24 hours, Covid-19 claimed 58 more lives across Pakistan while 1,853 more people tested positive to coronavirus pandemic. With 1,853 new infections reported in the country, the tally surged to 471,335 cases and with 58 mo.....

[more >>](#)

Govt to control second wave of virus with help from frontline soldiers: Shafqat

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-28

LAHORE - Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood has expressed hope of controlling the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic like the first one with the help of frontline soldiers. Speaking as chief guest at the concluding session of three day virtual international symposium of King Edward Medical University on Sunday, he praised Vice-Chancellor Prof Khalid Masood Gondal and Prof Bilquees Shabbir for.....

[more >>](#)

Mirpur has highest virus positivity rate

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-27

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has said that Mirpur city of AJK has the highest positivity rate in the country at 18.18 per cent followed by Karachi at 14.09pc. Hyderabad remains the city with the third-highest positivity rate at 9.77 percent. The national positivity rate is 6.12 percent, according to the NCOC. The region-wise positivity rate shows that Azad Jam.....

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Pakistan reports 1,853 new coronavirus cases, 58 deaths in one day

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-12-27

Pakistan has reported 58 deaths in the last 24 hours by culminating coronavirus as the number of positive cases has ascended to 471,335. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 9,874 on Sunday. According per the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 1,853 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh still remains the worst-hit provin.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Covid-19: BoG wants uninterrupted oxygen supply ensured at Mardan hospital

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-26

MARADAN: The Board of Governors (BoG) of Medical Teaching Institution (MTI) Mardan on Friday directed the hospital administration to ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply to the health facility. The BoG said that the demand for oxygen has increased after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. It emphasized the need for arranging oxygen in ample quantity and adopting a proper monitoring me.....

[more >>](#)

Underlying health conditions main reason for Covid high mortality rate

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

PESHAWAR: Seven more succumbed to coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday as a new study showed that underlying health conditions, oxygen saturation and breathing difficulty among the Covid-19 patients at the hospitals were main reasons of high mortality rate in the province. Other reason cited for the high case fatality rate (CFR) among the Covid-19 patients in the province is the late arriv.....

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Punjab

In a first, pandemic takes a toll on Pakistan-India routine exchanges

Source: [Asif Mehmood](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-26

LAHORE: For the first time in decades, the joint parade between Pakistan and India at the border openings has met with a prolonged hiatus due to the pandemic, silencing the echo of slogans that attracted masses from both sides of the border. Pakistan and India have their fair share of tensions, with frequent flare ups, but even that has never disrupted the joint parade from happening. Unfortunat.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab reports fresh 471 corona cases, 48 deaths

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-26

LAHORE: There is no let up in the spread of Covid-19, as Punjab has reported 471 fresh coronavirus cases and 48 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally of cases to 134,345 and total fatalities to 3,831 which are the highest in the country. With more than 1,800 coronavirus recoveries during the last 24 hours, the total number of recovered patients across the country has risen to.....

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Christmas celebrated in Bahawalpur amid coronavirus

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-26

BAHAWALPUR - Christian community, residing in various areas of Bahawalpur, celebrated Christmas on Friday with the traditional religious enthusiasm. Special services and functions were arranged at all the churches. The main service in Bahawalpur was held at Saint Dominic Catholic Church Model Town-A. Father Iftikhar Moon led the services. The celebrations began with the special midnight servi.....

[more >>](#)

2 die of Covid-19 in Rawalpindi

Source: [Israr Ahmad](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-26

Rawalpindi-As many as two people died of COVID-19 in the city, informed sources. Similarly, 52 people tested positive of corona. However, no patient got discharged from the hospital after recovery, they said. According to

details, Jabbar Malik, 60, a resident of Harley Street, was admitted to Rawalpindi Institute of Urology on December 23 and died on Friday. Zakir Muhammad, 70, a resident of.....

[more >>](#)

27 more COVID victims die

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-27

LAHORE : As many as 27 COVID-19 patients died and another 796 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Saturday, the toll of fatalities was raised to 3,858 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 135,141 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Co.....

[more >>](#)

42 more succumb to virus in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Sunday said the coronavirus claimed lives of 42 more people during the past 24 hours, taking the total Covid-19 death toll in Punjab to 3,900. Lahore continued to be the worst-hit city in the province with 13 Covid deaths, followed by Faisalabad with nine deaths, Multan six, Rawalpindi three, while two each were reported in Bahawalpur, Mianwali, Muzaffargarh and Ra.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 kills 42 more in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan has said that number of active corona patients has reached 135665 in Punjab. She said that 524 new corona cases have been reported and 42 patients died of corona during the last 24 hours.[more >>](#)

42 more die from corona in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-28

LAHORE: Around 42 COVID-19 patients died and 524 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 3,900 in Punjab, while confirmed cases reached 135,665 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare Departmen.....[more >>](#)

2 more die of COVID-19 in Faisalabad

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

FAISALABAD - Two more patients infected with COVID-19 died in the city, while 27 persons tested positive for coronavirus during the last 24 hours. According to a Health Department spokesperson, the COVID-19 death toll has reached 337 since March this year. He said that 193 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector laboratories of Faisalabad during the last 24 hours. He sai.....

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Shops, restaurants sealed over corona SOPs violations

Source: [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 21 shops, restaurants and shopping malls over violations of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Sunday. Various teams of the department imposed 20,000 fine on violators and issued strict warnings, said a spokesperson for the district administration. He said teams sealed Butt Resturant, Shinwari Resturant, Gloria Je.....

[more >>](#)

Three more corona patients die in Faisalabad

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-27

FAISALABAD - Three more patients died of coronavirus during the last 24 hours and the number of deaths had reached 335 in the district since March this year. A spokesperson for the health department said that active cases in Faisalabad reached 418 while 6,184 patients had so far recovered. He said that 87 coronavirus tests were carried out in public and private sector laboratories of Faisalabad.....

[more >>](#)

Two more patients die due to coronavirus in Multan

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-27

MULTAN - Another two patients fell prey to coronavirus at Nishtar Hospital within last 24 hours bringing the tally to 324 since March this year. Nishtar focal person for infectious diseases, Dr Irfan Arshad said that Naseem Bibi (35) and Naseem Akhtar (62) passed away at ICU of Nishtar hospital, he informed. Fifty-seven patients were termed positive and 25 were suspected out of total 124 cases registered.....

[more >>](#)

Restaurants, shops sealed over Covid-19 SOPs violation

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-27

LAHORE - The district administration sealed two restaurants and six shops over violations of coronavirus related standard operating procedures (SOPs) here on Saturday. Various teams of the department imposed heavy fines on violators and issued warnings as well, said a spokesperson for the district administration. He said the teams sealed Liaqat Garments, Bhai Jan Shoes, Kehkasha Khussa Shop and others.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 23 more lives in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-27

LAHORE - The COVID-19 pandemic claimed another 23 precious lives in last 24 hours, whereas 796 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Saturday across the province. According to the data, shared by a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province had reached 135,141, while the total deaths were recorded at.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh**22 more succumb to Covid-19 in Sindh, 915 new cases emerge**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-26

As many as 22 more patients of Covid-19 died in Sindh between Thursday and Friday, lifting the death toll due to the viral disease in the province to 3,462. In the meantime, 915 new cases of the disease emerged after 11,692 tests were conducted. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said this on Friday in his daily statement on the situation of the Covid-19 in the province. He explained.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 22 more lives, infects 915 others

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-26

KARACHI - As many as 22 more patients of coronavirus died lifting the death toll to 3,462 and 915 new cases emerged when 11,692 tests were conducted raising the tally to 209,514. This was disclosed by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Friday. Mr Shah said that 22 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,462 that constituted 1.....

[more >>](#)

Action against violators of Covid-19 SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-27

On directions of the deputy commissioners (DCs) of District South and District Malir, action on Friday and Saturday was taken against violators of standard operating procedures (SOPs) during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the South DC Office, a restaurant and a wedding hall were sealed for violating the SOPs and a total of 13 people were fined with Rs500. Civil Lines Assistant Commis.....

[more >>](#)

Bank borrowings soar despite second Covid wave

Source: [Salman Siddiqui](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-27

The level of business confidence is gradually improving as many industries belonging to the manufacturing and services sectors have increased borrowing from banks on a promising outlook despite the country suffering from the second wave of Covid-19. Among the non-traditional sectors, education - particularly the higher education sector - was seen borrowing from banks during these testing times, a.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims 22 more lives in Sindh

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Sunday that 22 more patients of the coronavirus died overnight and 1,035 new cases emerged when 12,021 tests were conducted across Sindh. In a statement issued here from the CM House, he said the 22 deaths during the previous 24 hours lifted the death toll to 3,491, constituting a 1.6 per cent death rate. Mr Shah said that 12,021 samples were t.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 claims 22 more lives, infects 1035 in Sindh

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 22 more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,491 and 1,035 new cases emerged when 12,021 tests were conducted raising the tally to 211,276. In a statement issued here from CM House on Sunday, he said that 22 more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,491 that constituted 1.6.....

[more >>](#)

Covid claims 22 more lives in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

KARACHI: As many as 22 people succumbed to the coronavirus overnight, lifting the provincial death toll of the pandemic to 3,491, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday. Another 1,035 Covid-19 cases emerged in Sindh when 12,021 samples were tested for the virus between Saturday and Sunday, said Shah, adding that the virus tally has surged to 211,276. According to the CM, there

[more >>](#)

56 more patients tested positive for COVID-19 in Hyderabad

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

HYDERABAD - As many as 56 patients have tested positive for COVID-19 during last 24 hours, taking the tally of cases to 8,958 in Hyderabad district on Sunday. According to health authorities, 8,958 people out of more than 101,000 tests so far conducted in the district, of them 7,668 were fully recovered while 184 had lost their lives since outbreak of the contagion in March 2020. Out of 989 activ.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh reports 1,035 new cases, 22 more deaths

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

KARACHI - Sindh has reported 1,035 cases of the novel coronavirus, raising the provincial tally to 211,276. Moreover, the daily situation report issued by the Chief Minister's Office confirmed the deaths of 22 more persons. The death toll now stands at 3,491. A total of 12,021 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, returning a positivity rate of 8.6 percent.

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International News

Countries News

First case of new coronavirus variant found in France as cases rise

Source: [Reuters](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-26

PARIS: France recorded its first case of the new variant of coronavirus, as the number of cases and deaths from COVID-19 mounted in the country, increasing concerns of a new wave of the virus hitting the euro zone's second-biggest economy. The French health ministry said a Frenchman who recently arrived back in France from London had tested positive for the new variant of the coronavirus.

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MBS gets Covid-19 vaccine shot

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-26

NEOM, Saudi Arabia: Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman (MBS), deputy premier and minister of defense, received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on Friday, according to Saudi Gazette. Following the Crown Prince's lead, Minister of Culture Prince Badr Bin Farhan also took the jab. Minister of Health Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah thanked the crown prince for his keenness and ongoing follow-u.....

[more >>](#)

'No Covid-19 case detected on PIA's Islamabad-Xian flights'

Source: [NNI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-27

BEIJING: All the passengers of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) arrived in Xian, China from Islamabad on Saturday were tested negative, making it the third consecutive flight of the national flag carrier which did not bring any case of Covid-19. "So far, three PIA flights have arrived in Xian from Islamabad during last three weeks and all the passengers coming on these flights from.....

[more >>](#)

EU begins vaccinations to end Covid-19 'nightmare'

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

PARIS: The EU countries on Sunday embarked on a vaccination campaign to defeat the "nightmare" of Covid-19, with the first to be immunised expressing emotions after their jabs and leaders hailing a milestone in the fight against the pandemic. The vaccine is a glimmer of hope for a continent yearning for a return to normal from a pandemic that has killed 1.76 million people worldwide s.....

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Covid picture may worsen in US after holidays, warns Fauci

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

WASHINGTON: Top US government scientist Anthony Fauci warned on Sunday the worst of the pandemic may be yet to come, driving the country to a "critical point" as holiday travel spreads the coronavirus. "I share the concern of President-elect (Joe) Biden that as we get into the next few weeks, it might actually get worse," the infectious disease specialist told CNN. Biden

[more >>](#)

Covid, pandemic and lockdown: how 2020 changed the world

Source: [Jennie MATTHEW](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-28

When the world celebrated the dawn of a new decade with a blaze of firework parties and revelry on January 1, few could have imagined what 2020 had in store. In the last 12 months, the novel coronavirus has paralysed economies,

devastated communities and confined nearly four billion people to their homes. It has been a year that changed the world like no other for at least a generation, possi.....[more >>](#)

SDPI Engagements

No News items during this week

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