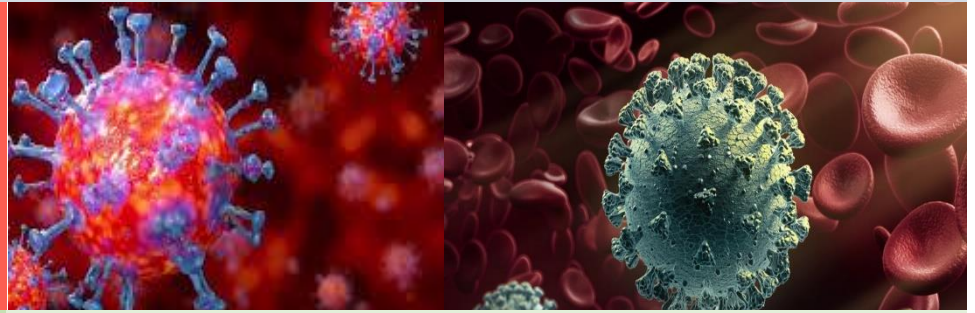


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 01



Issue: 29 December, 2020 to January 01, 2021

.....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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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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

Goals for a kinder 2021

Source: [Muhammad Hamid Zaman](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-29

In the absence of a vaccine that we all wait for, something else has proved remarkably effective in helping the vulnerable with Covid-19. It has helped those who lost their jobs and those who needed support in times of extreme loneliness. That special something is kindness. It has worked everywhere, every single time. The places it has been most potent is where kindness and empathy has worked in s.....[more >>](#)

Pakistan's 'Covid-21'

Source: [Farhan Bokhari](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-30

The new year arrives in Pakistan on Friday, promising to bring more than just the usual set of challenges coupled with fewer than expected opportunities for the time being. For the foreseeable future, Pakistan's outlook will remain closely tied to the world's worst pandemic in decades. The continuing attack by Covid-19 from country to country and the discovery of a new and deadlier st.....[more >>](#)

3D printers – an opportunity ignored

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

It is oft cited that the future of manufacturing lies in additive manufacturing – or more commonly known as 3D printing. And many are now saying that COVID-19 could be a tipping point for technology adoption in manufacturing. During 2020, the global pandemic stifled manufacturing – disrupting conventional supply chains and workforce, forcing plants to shut down amid spiking demand.....[more >>](#)

Mutated Covid cases

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

Several people across the country have tested positive for the new Covid-19 strain that was first detected in the UK, raising fresh questions about whether air travel restrictions should have been applied sooner. And while 'only' five cases had been detected by Tuesday — all from overseas — it raises new concerns about how we will avoid an explosion of cases, given people&r.....

[more >>](#)

Adieu 2020

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

The year 2020 will be long remembered by a world still grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic as transformative in the way people live in both developing and developed countries alike. The total number of deaths worldwide from the pandemic is calculated at over 1,761,381 with over 79,673,754 confirmed cases. These numbers continue to rise notwithstanding the administration of vaccines on a massive s.....

[more >>](#)

How BioNTech-Pfizer won the vaccine race

Source: [AFP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

Hui Min Neo with Yannick Pasquet, Michelle Fitz-Patrick & Yann Schreiber It was over breakfast on the wintry morning of January 24 that Ozlem Tureci and her husband Ugur Sahin decided, "we need to fire the starting gun on this". Sahin "had concluded from a publication describing coronavirus cases in Wuhan... that there was a high probability that a pandemic could be.....

[more >>](#)

Naive for a day

Source: Zebunnisa Burki, [The News, International](#), 2021-01-01

Last night, we said goodbye to what can safely be called one of the most misery-and anxiety-inducing years humanity has suffered as a collective in recent years. The fact that this misery was felt by the 'whole world' (aka the great powers, the white man, the world elite) and not just by those from the Global South who are expected to somehow bear drones and wars and famines an.....

[more >>](#)

Corona chronicle 2020: Punjab's panacea for pandemic

Source: Dr Yasmin Rashid, [The News, International](#), 2021-01-01

This is the first part of a series of articles documenting Punjab's response to the corona pandemic. It provides a succinct summary of key developments during the course of the pandemic. The start of the year 2021 marks one year since the world officially acknowledged the existence of mysterious disease later identified as COVID-19. The virus, later named as SARS-COV2, went on to inf.....

[more >>](#)

A better normal for women and girls after Covid-19

Source: Bambang Susantono/Anita Bhatia, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

Year 2020 was synonymous with the Covid-19 pandemic and the unprecedented crisis it brought across economic, social, and health dimensions. Year 2021, on the other hand, is already being associated with the promise of the next normal. For the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UN Women, our new year's resolution is that we see more Covid-19 recovery strategies that prioritise the needs of wom.....

[more >>](#)

Justice in the time of coronavirus

Source: Hasnaat Malik, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

ISLAMABAD: As the novel coronavirus pandemic unfurled, the judiciary found itself at a critical intersection between health and justice. As efforts to contain the outbreak took precedence, the country's already high judicial backlog ballooned even further. By November 15, nearly 4,000 more cases were added to the pot of pending judicial business, taking the total backlog to 45,959 cases.

[more >>](#)

A people's census

Source: Zeba Sathar, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

IS there finally something to celebrate in the government's decision to releasethe Census 2017 results? It would appear so, on the face of it. Revealing the results of the census will open up access to important information that has been suppressed for three years. But after the initial excitement, there is a widespread impression that the decision has been motivated by political compuls.....

[more >>](#)

Twilight years

Source: Zubeida Mustafa, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

"A few years to my sum of years,/ I am still stuck in the in-between./ A relic in this vale of tears,/ A reluctant 'was', 'has-been'." — Chris Z. Abbas THESE verses were penned by a dear friend describing old age, three years before her death in 2009. Chris was 88 when she departed from what she called "this vale of tears". The fact is that m.....

[more >>](#)

Year of pain

Source: [Editorial](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-01

AS the sun rises on New Year's Day, there is hope that some semblance of normality will return to the global order. In 2020, the international system was upended by Covid-19, with the coronavirus destroying routines and enforcing a 'new normal' on billions. Though the infection was first identified in December 2019, its full, deadly impact was felt in 2020, when it was declared a.....

[more >>](#)

National News

Islamabad

1974 new Covid-19 cases reported with 55 deaths

Source: [Imran Mukhtar](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-29

ISLAMABAD - With the country recorded another 1,974 infections of Covid-19 during the last 24 hours, Abbottabad in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa once again witnessed highest positivity ratio of the deadly virus in the country. The positivity ratio in Abbottabad has been recorded at 15.95 percent, said a latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Monday. As per details,

[more >>](#)

Travel restrictions; Further extension on travellers from UK till Jan 4

Source: [Nuzhat Nazar](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-29

ISLAMABAD: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Monday announced further extension in the coronavirus travel restrictions on inbound travellers from the UK till January 4. Previously, the CAA had announced that the ban would remain effective till December 29, 2020. On December 21 and 22, Pakistan announced travel restrictions for inbound travellers from the UK, after infections from a more c.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan coronavirus deaths cross 10,000

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

ISLAMABAD: More than 10,000 people have died of COVID-19 in Pakistan after the country reported 55 new deaths from the virus in the last 24 hours. The National Command and Operation Center issued on Wednesday latest data with updates on the death toll, active cases, recoveries and other updates about the virus over the last 24 hours. The NCOC data reads that 2,155 people tested COVID-19 positive.....

[more >>](#)

A year of unprecedented loss

Source: [Afreen Mirza](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

Growth in much of the world's services sector was anaemic in 2020 as industries were worried about the economic destruction caused by the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe. In Pakistan, one of the most hard-hit areas was the services sector, which for the first time since the 1960s recorded a contraction of 0.6% from July 2019 to March 2020, revealed the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2019-20.....

[more >>](#)

Parliamentary oversight will legitimise all Covid-19 affairs: FAFEN

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

ISLAMABAD - A serious effort at developing a broader consensus with active parliamentary oversight may help bring political legitimacy, focus and transparency to several aspects of government's COVID-19 response, including choice and procurement of vaccine(s). This was suggested by FAFEN in its second monthly COVID-19 response monitoring report in its report. The independent entity has[more >>](#)

NCOC reviews COVID-19 vaccine strategy

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Tuesday reviewed the national vaccine strategy and efforts made to ensure early availability of the vaccine. The NCOC morning session took stock of epidemic curve chart data, National Vaccine Strategy and update on vaccine administration. The Forum was briefed over negotiations being made with the international vaccine manufacturers i.....[more >>](#)

All set to welcome New Year amid coronavirus pandemic

Source: [Noor Aftab & Khalid Iqbal, The News, International](#), 2020-12-31

Islamabad : The green capital is all set to welcome New Year 2021 with family gala, live music concerts, dancing fountains, unlimited fun, amazing games and food especially at the popular recreational spots. When the clock will tickle to 12'o clock, fireworks will begin with slow motion and end on high note in Lake View Park bidding adieu to the old year and welcoming new one. A live.....

[more >>](#)

Capital Covid count increases by 166

Source: [APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

ISLAMABAD: The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases continued to surge in the federal capital as 166 new patients were reported during the last 24 hours, a National Command and Operation Centre spokesperson said on Wednesday. He shared that as many as 118 cases were reported on Tuesday while 155 cases were reported on Monday. A total of 37,556 cases have been reported in the capital so far with 41.....

[more >>](#)

76,968 Pakistani workers returned since Covid-19 outbreak

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary panel was informed on Wednesday that 76,968 Pakistani workers had returned back to Pakistan, since the COVID-19 pandemic's outbreak. The 12th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Sheikh Fayyazud Din. The Committee confirmed the.....

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Pakistan reports 2,475 new COVID cases in 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

Punjab has crossed grime milestone of 4,000 deaths from novel coronavirus as the total number of positive cases in the province has risen to 137,949. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), Pakistan has reported 58 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 479,715 with 2,475 people testing positi.....

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Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

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Procurement of one million vaccines authorised: Asad Umar

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar who leads the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday said that a cabinet committee has authorised the procurement of more than one million vaccines. Asad Umar, in his statement on Twitter, said that the number "will cover all frontline health workers". He said what remains now is for DRAP (Drug R.....

[more >>](#)

NCOC develops system for COVID-19 vaccin

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

ISLAMABAD - National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has developed National Immunisation Management System (NIMS) to ensure efficient supply chain management and administration of COVID-19 vaccine in the country. During Wednesday's meeting, the forum was informed that the initiative had been taken in collaboration with Ministry of Health, National Database Registration Authority (NADRA)

[more >>](#)

Committee decides pre-booking COVID-19 vaccine from Chinese state owned company, says health ministry

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

ISLAMABAD-Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) on Wednesday said that the special cabinet committee on COVID-19 vaccine decided to pre-book the virus vaccine from a Chinese state owned company. A statement released by the ministry said that the Special Cabinet Committee constituted as an oversight body for procurement of the COVID-19 vaccine, held its second meeting with the Minister fo.....

[more >>](#)

Chinese FM assures over 1m Covid doses for Pakistan

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi assured his Pakistani counterparty, Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday Beijing would assure supply of over 1 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan for emergency use. According to a Foreign Office statement, Qureshi spoke with State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang by the telephone and exchanged views on Covid-19, bilateral relations and regio.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 vaccine; Frontline health workers to be inoculated by Q1 2021: NCOC

Source: [Zulfiqar Ahmad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Thursday announced that all frontline healthcare workers would be inoculated with Covid-19 vaccine by the first quarter of 2021. The NCOC held a special session on Covid-19 vaccine availability and efficient administration to mull over the national vaccine strategy being devised to amicably ensure the immunisation process. The f.....

[more >>](#)

First quarter of 2021; Only 20pc population will be able to get Covid-19 vaccine: Dr Mirza

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

KARACHI: The Covid-19 vaccine may be administered to only 20 percent of Pakistan's population after receiving its supply by the end of first quarter in 2021, said Dr Zafar Mirza, former adviser to the prime minister on national health services. Speaking at a media talk at the Karachi Press Club on Thursday, Dr Mirza emphasized the need to follow the SOPs strictly saying that vaccination.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 dampened economic situation in 2020

Source: [Imran Ali Kundi](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's economic situation deteriorated in 2020 due to adverse impacts of novel coronavirus coupled with economic stabilization policies, as the country's economy for the first time in 68 years had contracted by 0.4 percent. The government had missed the major economic targets including GDP growth, tax collection and budget deficit in previous year. Although, the go.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan sees another 2,475 Covid-19 cases, 58 deaths in a day

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-01

ISLAMABAD - As many as 2,475 more Covid-19 cases and 58 fatalities were reported across the country on Thursday morning, said officials sources. According to the country's official Covid-19 portal, the countrywide tally for confirmed coronavirus cases stands at 479,715, whereas a total of 10,105 people have succumbed to the infectious disease so far. Around 4,960 recoveries were also re.....

[more >>](#)

Private sector can import any approved vaccine: Fawad

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-01

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Science and Technology Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said Thursday that the cabinet committee had decided to initially purchase 1.2 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from the Chinese company Sinoform. The purchased vaccine doses will be provided free of cost to the front line workers in the first quarter of 2021, the federal minister said in a tweet. Chaudhry Fawad sa.....

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Committee decides pre-booking COVID-19 vaccine from Chinese state owned company, says health ministry

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-01

ISLAMABAD - Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) on Wednesday said that the special cabinet committee on COVID-19 vaccine decided to pre-book the virus vaccine from a Chinese state owned company. A statement released by the ministry said that the Special Cabinet Committee constituted as an oversight body for procurement of the COVID-19 vaccine, held its second m.....

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Total active Covid-19 cases climb to 34,773; another 71 patients lose lives

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-01-01

The national tally of total active Covid-19 cases in Pakistan on Friday climbed to 34,773 as 2,463 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,156 people recovered from the coronavirus. Seventy-one patients, 61 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and 10 in their respective homes or quarantines, died, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Cent.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Five wedding halls sealed for violating corona SOPs

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-30

PESHAWAR: The district administration here on Tuesday sealed five wedding halls for violating the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the government to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The crackdown was carried out by respective administrative officers to check violations of corona SOPs. Additional Assistant Commissioner Aftab Ahmad checked various marriage halls on Circular.....

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10 more die of Covid-19 across K-P

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

PESHAWAR: Ten more people lost their lives to the deadly Covid-19 in the province within the past 24 hours, pushing the total number of deaths in the province to 1,627. 236 new cases have surfaced in the province whereas 762 patients recovered lately. As per the Health Department, one patient each in Swabi and Malakand, two in Manshera and three patients in Kohat lost their lives. 88 new cases.....

[more >>](#)

After husband, lady doctor also dies of virus

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

PESHAWAR: Another doctor fell victim to the Covid-19 in the K-P pushing the total number of doctor died in the pandemic across the province so far to 41. Two medical students have also lost their lives to the deadly Coronavirus. Lady Doctor Khula Jabeen is the latest victim who also lost her husband Dr Iqrar Hussain Zaidi on December 4 due to Covid. She graduated from Khyber Medical College in

[more >>](#)

Pandemic claims two more lives in Hazara division

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

ABBOTABAD: Two more patients lost their lives due to novel coronavirus disease in Hazara division where the total number of deaths caused by the pandemic reached 229 on Wednesday. According to the District Health Office (DHO) report, 132 people have died of Covid-19 infection in Abbottabad, 18 in Battagram, 38 in Haripur and 41 people in Mansehra. Abbottabad is the worst hit by the pandemic whi.....

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Punjab

COVID-19 claims another 21 lives; 482 new cases reported in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Report](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-29

LAHORE-The COVID-19 pandemic claimed another 21 lives during the last 24 hours, while 482 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Monday across the province. A spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) said that the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 136,147 while the total deaths were recorded as 3,921 altogether. The P&SHD con.....

[more >>](#)

Buzdar says he is getting better now

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-29

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that he is getting better with every passing day. "My health condition is improving day-by-day and I have issued telephonic instructions to the Principal Secretary today as well", he said in a statement. The Chief Minister said that he was thankful to the people for their prayers, He asked the citizens to remain c.....

[more >>](#)

21 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-29

LAHORE:Around 21 corona patients died and 482 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Monday, the death toll reached 3,921 in Punjab, while confirmed cases became 136,147 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department.....

[more >>](#)

'Transgender community faced neglect during corona'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-30

LAHORE:COVID-19 pandemic led to increase in poverty, harassment, depression, social exclusion and drug use amongst transgender community and key population as they received no social, economic, physical or psychological support from the relevant quarters. The findings were shared in a comprehensive study titled "The Forgotten Humans" on the "Effects of COVID-19 on Transgender Co.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab reports 38 deaths, 522 fresh cases

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

LAHORE: There is no let up in the spread of corona virus, as Punjab has reported 522 fresh Covid-19 cases and 38 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally of cases to 136,669 and death toll to 3959. With recovery of 372 more patients, the number of recovered patients in the province has reached to 122,652. The break-up of corona cases and deaths in major cities of the provi.....

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COVID-19 claims 38 more lives in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

LAHORE - The COVID-19 pandemic claimed another 38 lives in the last 24 hours, whereas 522 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Tuesday across the province. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 136,699 while the total deaths were recorded at 3,959 alt.....

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50 shops, 13 restaurants sealed over SOPs violations

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 50 shops and 13 restaurants over violation of coronavirus related standard operating procedures (SoPs) here on Tuesday. According to spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Model Town Zeeshan Ranjha sealed 17 shops in the area of Pak Arab and Chungi Amar Sandhu while AC Shalimar sealed 12 shops and imposed fin.....

[more >>](#)

36 businesses sealed over SOPs breach

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-31

LAHORE: The district administration remained active in implementing corona SOPs in the City and sealed many businesses here on Wednesday. Cantt Assistant Commissioner Sakhi Shakir, Assistant Commissioner, Model Town, Zeeshan Nasrullah Ranjha, Assistant Commissioner, Raiwind, Adnan Rasheed and Assistant Commissioner, City, Faisan Ahmed carried out the operations. DC Mudassar Riaz said the d.....

[more >>](#)

47 shops sealed, Rs25,000 fine imposed over SOPs violations

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 47 shops, restaurants and imposed Rs 25,000 fine for violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Wednesday. According to spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Model Town Zeeshan Ranjha sealed four shops at M.M Alam Road, 11 at Faisal Town and one boutique in Gulberg while AC

[more >>](#)

Doctors give clean bill of health to CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

LAHORE - Doctors on Wednesday gave a clean bill of health to Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar who was under self-isolation for over a week. He was tested positive for COVID-19 last week and has been dispensing official business from home since then. According to an official handout, the senior doctors of the Mayo Hospital declared the health of the Chief Minister as satisfactory after a d.....

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44 shops sealed for corona SOPs violations

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-01

LAHORE: The district administration on Thursday continued its crackdown on outlets violating Corona SOPs and more than 44 shops and businesses including food spots were sealed. Shops, restaurants, hotels, salons and cafes were being sealed over corona SOPs violation, said DC Mudassar Riaz while talking to the media. The DC paid surprise visits to various city localities and inspected implem.....

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UVAS BSL-3 Lab tests over 100,000 Covid-19 suspected human samples

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

LAHORE: The Biosafety Level-3 Laboratory for Emerging Pathogens, Institute of Microbiology, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) Lahore, has tested more than 100,000 Covid-19 suspected human samples by PCR. Currently, a UVAS team is also tracking the second wave of COVID-19 through sewage water in Lahore. Earlier, the UVAS in collaboration with the Health Department Punjab and

[more >>](#)

Sindh

COVID-19 claims 11 more lives, infects 817 others

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-29

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 11 more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,502 and 817 new cases emerged when 9,320 tests were conducted. In a statement issued from CM House, he said that 11 more patients of coronavirus lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,502 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr Shah said that 9.....

[more >>](#)

Covid kills 11 as 817 more test positive in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-12-29

Eleven more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 817 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,502 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Monday that 9,320 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 817 people, or nine per

[more >>](#)

Pakistan confirms first cases of UK Covid-19 variant

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-29

KARACHI: Pakistan on Tuesday confirmed its first cases of the new coronavirus variant recently detected in the United Kingdom (UK). The Sindh health department, in a tweet, said samples of 12 UK returnees were taken for genotyping, out of which six tested positive, whereas three showed a 95 per cent match with the new variant, and will be sent for a second phase of genotyping. "Meanwhile t.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh reports 11 deaths, 817 fresh Covid-19 cases

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-29

The coronavirus claimed another 11 lives overnight and 817 fresh cases were reported in the province, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House, with these deaths and new infections, the provincial death toll soared to 3,502 and the virus tally rose to 212,093. He added that 9,320 samples were tested on the day, of

[more >>](#)

Second wave can last longer, fears PMA

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-29

The second wave of coronavirus outbreak can last longer as low temperature favours the transmission, said the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) in a statement on Monday. Raising concerns over the number of infections during the second wave of the pandemic in the country, the PMA maintained that people never followed the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and the government failed to implement

[more >>](#)

Covid kills 18 as 1,100 more test positive in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-12-30

Eighteen more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 1,100 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,520 in the province and raising Pakistan's to 10,010. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 13,092 samples were tested in the past 24 hours,.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 18 more lives, infects 1,100 others

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

Karachi - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 18 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,520 as 1,100 new cases emerged when 13,092 samples were tested. He said that 18 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,520 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. The CM said that 13,092 samples were tested which diagnose.....

[more >>](#)

Commissioner urges to adopt best strategies to deal with second wave of coronavirus

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-30

SUKKUR - The Commissioner Sukkur Shafique Mahesar on Tuesday has directed all the deputy commissioners Sukkur, Ghotki and Khairpur districts to adopt the best strategies to deal with the second wave of coronavirus in their respective districts. He called for collaboration with the health department to ensure accurate and scientific statistics on the coronavirus cases, adding that lockdown should b.....

[more >>](#)

Micro-smart lockdown imposed as cases rise in parts of District Central

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-31

Authorities have imposed a micro-smart lockdown in three sub-divisions of District Central -- Gulberg, North Nazimabad and North Karachi -- in the wake of growing coronavirus cases in these areas. According to a notification issued by the deputy commissioner's office, the lockdown, which started on Wednesday, would remain in place till January 13, 2021, in only the relevant parts of

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Covid-hit tourism sector may recover in late 2021

Source: [Salman Siddiqui](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

Pakistan fast emerged as one of the top tourist destinations of choice for 2020 across the world in the wake of a five-day tour by Britain's royal couple; Prince William and Kate, to beautiful places in the northern part of the country in 2019. Following this, global magazines like Forbes declared it as the best travel destination in January 2020. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) govern.....

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Soft drinks sale picks up in 2020 despite Covid-19

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

KARACHI: Despite multiple challenges related to Covid-19 during 2020, the sales of branded soft drinks mainly, Coca-Cola and Sprite, picked up in Pakistan with stable demand among its consumers. Fahad Ashraf, General Manager of The Coca-Cola Export Corporation, Pakistan & Afghanistan Region has informed that the consumption of soft drinks increased in households and people prefer to buy 1.....

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Sindh reports 1,232 Covid-19 cases, 13 more deaths

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-12-31

Karachi - Sindh has reported 1,232 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, marking the second day the province recorded more than 1,000 infections. Sindh's caseload has risen to 213,193, according to a statement from the Chief Minister's House. Of the new cases, 989 were reported from Karachi, the statement said. Sindh has also reported 13 more fatalities, taking the total number of d.....

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Sindh's death toll rises to 3,560 with 27 more losing battle to Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-01

Twenty-seven more people have died from the novel coronavirus and another 1,254 positive cases have emerged in Sindh. As many as 13,383 samples were tested for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Mural Ali Shah on Thursday. With the new 27 deaths, the total number of confirmed deaths from the viral disease has reached 3,560 in the province. According to the chief ministe.....

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Violations of Covid-19 rules: Mobile market, two restaurants, 11 shops sealed in District South

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-01

On directives issued by the deputy commissioner of District South, Irshad Ali, action was taken on Thursday against violators of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) that the provincial government has put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the District South DC Office, a mobile market, two restaurants and 11 shops were sealed, and fines totalling of Rs0.133 million was impose.....

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Hope against hope rings in the New Year Covid-19 disrupted every aspect of life we took for granted

Source: [Zeeshan Ahmad](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

KARACHI: So it ends, leaving us wondering if things will ever be the same. The jury is out on whether it actually was the worst year in history, but for those who lived through it, 2020 would definitely go down as the worst year of their lives. Or so we hope. For all that we suffered, for everything that we learned or chose not to learn, the year that was supposed to herald an optimistic new dec.....

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Covid-19; Sindh govt decides to use Expo Centre as vaccination centre

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

KARACHI: Sindh government has decided in principle to use Expo Center, already being used as a facility to attend people affected with Covid-19 infection as a vaccination centre for the vulnerable and at high risk segments. According to a provincial Health department official, Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho in this context visited the facility here on Thursday and reviewed the arrangem.....

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COVID-19 claims 2 more lives in Hyderabad

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

HYDERABAD - The COVID-19 claimed two more lives of persons under medical treatment at Liaquat University Hospital's coronavirus ward here on Thursday. The hospital sources identified the deceased as 65 year old Ameerul Haq and 72 year old Karam Ali Memon. The bodies were handed over to the families for burial through the Edhi Foundation which performed ablution under the SOPs.

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Sindh to establish corona vaccination point at Expo Center

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-01

KARACHI - Sindh Government has decided in principle to use Expo Center, already being used as a facility to attend people affected with Covid 19 infection into a vaccination center for the vulnerable and at high risk segments. According to a provincial health department official the provincial health minister, Dr. Azra Pechuho in this context visited the facility here on Thursday and re-view.....

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International News

Countries News

Coronavirus restrictions: Pakistani nationals protest at Heathrow Airport

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-12-30

LONDON: Pakistani nationals have been stopped from boarding flights at the United Kingdom's Heathrow Airport despite having a negative coronavirus test result. According to Geo.tv, airlines refused to allow passengers from boarding planes despite Pakistan government's directives that Pakistani pasport-holders and students would be allowed to travel to the country, provided they hold a neg.....

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SDPI Engagements

Other SDPI Engagements

Yearender: Pakistan's economy continues to move forward amid COVID-19

Source: [Raheela Nazir](#), [Xinhuanet](#), 2020-12-30

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 30 (Xinhua) -- As economies around the globe have remained under intense pressure owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pakistani economy is showing encouraging signs of a promising recovery with improved economic indicators. The country's economic experts believed that despite the testing times, the national economy is heading towards the right direction as the government's.....

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