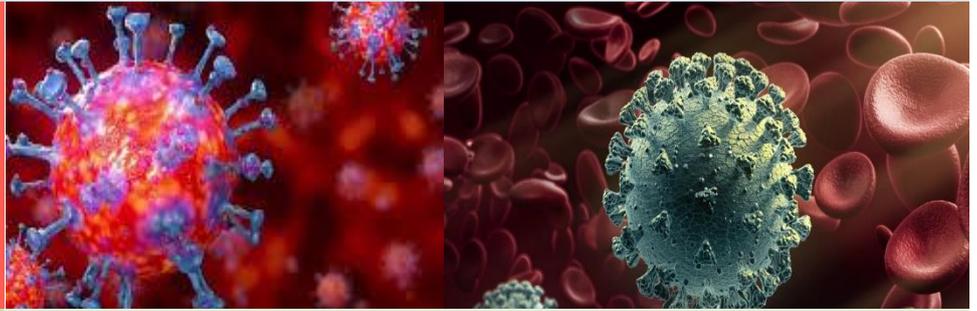


# E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 03



Issue: 05-08 January, 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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## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

**Punjab reels from pandemic and its impact**

Source: [Muhammad Ilyas, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

LAHORE: Punjab, Pakistan's largest province in terms of population, reeled from the coronavirus pandemic that brought the entire world to a standstill and altered the course of lives in a year. The densely populated province had to face severe difficulties on several fronts such as health, economic and social activities. In the first phase of the pandemic, the province faced an acute situa.....[more >>](#)

**Harsh lessons: After a year of suffering, life seeks normalcy amid pandemic**

Source: [Aamir Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

KARACHI: In Karachi's lower middle class neighbourhood, Liaquatabad, 55-year-old Shahnaz Khan fondly recalled the time when her two sons went to work daily and derived decent monthly wages to sustain their household. Almost a year into the pandemic, Khan's sons, who provided pick-and-drop service to students, are on the lookout for a substantial means of sustenance. "Running a.....[more >>](#)

**Money talks**

Source: [Zarrar Khuhro, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

JUST like we as individuals like to believe certain stories, myths and narratives about ourselves, so do states. For America, one such narrative, a declarative statement actually, has always been 'we're number one!' It's easy to believe because for the most part, it has been the truth. America has enjoyed unprecedented military dominance for decades, complemented and supple.....[more >>](#)

**Moving ahead in 2021**

Source: [Kamal Siddiqi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

This week, our federal minister for education and the provincial heads of education departments across the country will once again go into a huddle to decide whether to re-open educational institutions in January. Once again there are calls for re-opening schools, colleges, and universities so that in-person instruction can resume. Schools have suffered greatly because of the closures. But so hav.....

[more >>](#)

**Global reset and the new world order**

Source: [Saad Rasool, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

Just one year ago, in the first few days of January 2020, no one could have predicted or imagined that the world would go through such tectonic changes within a period of just 12 months. No one, in their reasonable mind, could have foreseen the spread and impact of COVID-19 across the world. No one could have imagined that, in the wake of COVID-19, entire industries (like airlines and tourism) wou.....

[more >>](#)

**Year 2021: pandemic, politics and economy**

Source: [Hasaan Khawar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-05

The year 2020 was about Covid-19 but 2021 would be about vaccination. All said and done, Pakistan did a wonderful job in sailing through the pandemic. The stimulus package was timely and the decision to open up the economy in May paid dividends. But now it's time to get back to 'normal'. Countries all around the globe would be racing to vaccinate their populations. Assuming that.....

[more >>](#)

**The vaccine rollout**

Source: [Ryan Cooper](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-05

Vaccines are being shipped out across the country, but most of them have not yet made it into actual Americans. Bloomberg has been tracking vaccination progress across the country – at time of writing, about 12.5 million doses have been sent out, yet just over 3 million shots have actually been administered. At this rate, it will take something like seven years to inoculate the whole country.....

[more >>](#)

**Citizen journalist**

Source: [Rafia Zakaria](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

THE early days of the novel coronavirus were soaked in unknowing. There was very little that was known about the virus, how it was transmitted, what symptoms it caused, how many had it and how many were dying of it. Some said that the Chinese government was hiding information to prevent the world from knowing how terrible the situation was. The city of Wuhan was the centre of the world's att.....

[more >>](#)

**Hopes for the new year**

Source: [Hassan Baig](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-06

Now that 2020 is over, let's start our new year with a firm resolution and a big hope of economic recovery in the wake of a successful vaccination program ensuring a relatively Covid-free world. The just-past year played havoc with humanity in the form of restrictions on movement, unprecedented lockdowns, economic downturns, joblessness, fear and a big death toll. Pakistan is a case .....

[more >>](#)

**Education and Covid-19**

Source: [Mark LeVine](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-06

"The UCIMC [University of California Irvine Medical Center] team is seeking volunteers to assist today and tomorrow with the set-up of the medical field hospital in front of UCIMC Douglas Hospital (...) The field hospital is set to go live on 12/29." The email came only a few hours after the publication of the latest COVID-19 numbers in California – an 82 percent inc.....

[more >>](#)

**Economy revives to pre-Covid levels**

Source: [Salman Siddiqui](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

Economic activities were largely restored to pre-Covid levels in the first quarter (Jul-Sept) of current fiscal year 2020-21. The uptrend indicates a promising growth ahead in all major sectors like agriculture, industries and services, but the risk of a spike in Covid-19 cases still poses a major threat to growth trends. Pakistan's central bank reported on Tuesday that theBusinessConfiden.....

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**I wish Shaheed Bhutto were alive today**

Source: [Wajid Shamsul Hasan](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-05

Had Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto been alive today, poor people of Pakistan would not have been so pathetically treated by Imran Khan government for want of co-vid vaccine, utter lack of proper medicare, running from pillar to post for sustainable oxygen ventilators and pep. It is indeed, an irony that the world scientists are speeding up to outrun each other in producing a viable curative vaccine. ....

[more >>](#)

### **Vaccine for Palestine**

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2021-01-08

Amnesty International has asked Israeli authorities to begin vaccinating Palestinians, based in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, against the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, while Israel has delivered around one million vaccines to its own population of nine million, and hopes to have completed a quarter of that population within one month, it has not offered vaccines to Palestinians in the areas where .....

[more >>](#)

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### **Pandemic Nurturing Nationalism in the Divided World**

Source: [Talha Aslam, Daily Times](#), 2021-01-08

History repeats itself, but in such cunning disguise that we never detect the resemblance until the damage is done, said by Sydney J. Harris, an American journalist, who also accounted the fact that the difference between patriotism and nationalism is that the patriot is proud of his country for what it does, and the nationalist is proud of his country no matter what it does; the former attitude c.....

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## National News

### Islamabad

#### National Covid positivity surges to 5.12%; 2,284 patients critical

Source: [news Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

The national Covid-19 positivity ratio on Sunday was recorded 5.12 percent while 2,284 coronavirus patients are 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-19 patients. The highest positivity ratio was observed in Mirpur which was 15.69 perc.....[more >>](#)

#### Covid-19 patients advised to consult doctors before using oxygen at home

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

ISLAMABAD: As seven more people lost their struggle against Covid-19 on Sunday, the capital administration has advised coronavirus patients to seek medical help and avoid self treatment at home. "It has been observed that Covid-19 patients who were in very critical state were being brought to hospitals as majority preferred to isolate themselves in their homes and use oxygen cylinders, Dist.....[more >>](#)

#### Renowned pathologist Dr Farooq dies of Covid-19

Source: [NNI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

ISLAMABAD: Another doctor on Sunday succumbed to deadly novel coronavirus in Islamabad after days of battling for his life on the ventilator. The deceased, Dr. Umar Farooq was the former head of the Pathology Department at the KRL Hospital in Islamabad. He had been undergoing treatment for the virus at a private hospital in Islamabad. Dr Umar Farooq, a senior pathologist was on the venti.....[more >>](#)

#### Pakistan reports 1,895 new COVID cases in 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

Pakistan has reported 39 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 488,529. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 10,350 on Monday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 1,895 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pand.....[more >>](#)

#### 53 more die of corona during last 24 hours

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

ISLAMABAD - As many as 53 more deaths and 2,272 new positive cases of coronavirus were reported in the country during the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, Punjab's caseload has crossed 140,000 with more than 800 new infections reported during the past 24 hours. Punjab recorded 847 new coronavirus cases and 24 deaths during the last 24 hours, according to the government's Covid-19 portal.....

[more >>](#)

#### Pakistan reports 59 Covid-19 related deaths in last 24 hours

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-05

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday reported 59 Covid-19 related deaths during the last 24 hours, taking the country's total death toll to 10,409. According to the NCOC, most deaths were reported in Punjab, followed by Sindh. The NCOC added that 31 Covid-19 patients died on the ventilator during the last 24 hours. Out of the 10,409 total reported deaths, there had been about 3,623 deaths in Sind.....

[more >>](#)

### **Schools reopening announced as virus cases fall in 2nd wave**

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-05

ISLAMABAD - Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) following the directives of Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) on Monday announced phase-wise re-opening of educational institutions across the country from January 18. The IPEMC meeting decided to postpone the board exams in the months of May-June. However, Federal Minister Shafqat Mahmood stressed that no one will b.....

[more >>](#)

### **Pakistan extends travel curbs on passengers from UK, South Africa**

Source: [Imran Ali Kundi](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-05

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani yesterday extended travel restrictions till January 31 for all those passengers coming from UK and South Africa into the country. Since December 21, Pakistan had put in place temporary restrictions on all passengers travelling from UK into Pakistan after reports had emerged that fast-moving new strain of coronavirus detected in Britain. The re&sh.....

[more >>](#)

### **Reopening schools**

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

THE government has made the difficult decision to reopen schools in phases in the coming weeks, a development which comes after educational institutions across Pakistan took an extended winter break due to rising Covid-19 cases in the country. The coronavirus incidence here is still worrying, with the number of critically ill patients in hospitals rising and daily deaths clocking in at between 50 .....

[more >>](#)

### **Mental health in pandemics highlighted**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-06

Islamabad : COVID-19 has devastated the global health infrastructure in all means and ways and countries are struggling to control the spread of the disease. In this regard psychological impacts of COVID-19 can't be ignored. Keeping this aspect in view, Department of Biotechnology, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) in collaboration with UNESCO office Jakarta arranged a one-day conference '.....

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### **Russia wants to register Sputnik-V vaccine in Pakistan**

Source: [Razya Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

ISLAMABAD: Russia has shown interest in registering its Sputnik-V vaccine in Pakistan, saying that the first ever anti-Covid vaccine developed in August last year would be ready for public use during next months. According to a letter written to Special Assistant to Prime Minister Dr Faisal Sultan, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) head Kirill Dmitriev, said that Sputnik-V had an emergenc.....

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### **Procurement rules relaxed to allow vaccine import**

Source: [Syed Irfan Raza](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday approved the procurement of the anti-Covid-19 vaccine by relaxing the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules. There will be no need to fulfil the tender requirement to procure the vaccine, which will be procured from any of the six companies registered with the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS). The cabinet also expressed its conce.....

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### PPP leaders want govt to discuss Covid-19 policy in parliament

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

ISLAMABAD: Some leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Tuesday alleged that a hybrid system was being run in the country which had debased parliament and the Council of Common Interests (CCI). Speaking at a programme organised by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (Pildat) here to discuss strategies to tackle the Covid-19 crisis, PPP's parliamentary l.....

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### Cabinet okays purchase of Covid-19 vaccine Exempts it from import duty, PPRA rules

Source: [Rizwan Shehzad](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday approved the purchase of Covid-19 vaccine by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and exempted it from import duty and the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules. The cabinet's approval for the purchase of the vaccine comes nearly a month after it had allocated \$150 million for procurement of the coronavirus.....

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### CAA exempts few countries from Covid-19 test

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

ISLAMABAD: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Tuesday issued a list specifying the countries from where the international travellers would not require Covid-19 tests before their entry into Pakistan. According to a notification issued by the aviation authority, the list has been divided into three categories – A, B and C. The new directives have been announced for all scheduled and char.....

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### 'Schools not main threat for Covid-19'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

ISLAMABAD: Political gatherings, tourism, and recreational activities are more responsible for causing the spread of the novel coronavirus disease than educational institutions, a representative body of private schools said objecting to phase-wise opening of schools and delay in examination. All Pakistan Private Schools Federation (APPSF) President Kashif Mirza applauded the government's dec.....

[more >>](#)

### Lesser Covid-19 deaths being reported in Pindi

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

RAWALPINDI: The number of deaths from Covid-19 has been decreasing for the last two days, however cases are rising in three districts of Rawalpindi Division. Since the start of the new year, three to four people had been falling victim to Covid-19 whereas the daily death figure was seven to eight till Dec 29. On Tuesday, the twin cities saw five patients losing their struggle against the virus a.....

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### Procurement of vaccine allowed by Cabinet

Source: [Zaheer Abbasi](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the federal cabinet on Tuesday allowed procurement of the Covid-19 vaccine following a briefing by the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan. The meeting of the federal cabinet presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan, after being briefed by the Special Assistant on Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination on the late.....

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### **Covid-19 cases showing upward trend again**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

ISLAMABAD: Coronavirus cases in Pakistan have once again started showing an upward trend after seeing a declining trend for two days as in the past 24 hours the country reported 1,947 Covid-19 cases and 59 deaths. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), authorities over the past 24 hours conducted 35,073 tests of which 1,947 tested positive for coronavirus, which reflece....

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### **Pakistan reports 2,118 new coronavirus cases in one day**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

Pakistan has reported 52 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 492,594. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 10,461 on Wednesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 2,118 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the p.....

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### **Misinformation during pandemic paved way for fear, anxiety, say experts**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

ISLAMABAD-Department of Biotechnology, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) in collaboration with UNESCO Office Jakarta arranged a one-day conference on awareness on the psychological consequences and mental health in pandemics on Thursday. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University attended the conference as chief guest. The experts were of the view that a huge chunk of misinf.....

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### **52 deaths, over 2,100 new Covid-19 cases reported**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-07

ISLAMABAD: As 2,118 new cases and 52 deaths were reported due to Covid-19 in a single day on Wednesday, the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) stopped medical universities across the country from holding examinations in the current month. Ministry spokesperson Sajid Shah said that during a meeting, chaired by NHS secretary Aamir Ashraf Khawaja, it was decided that all medical professional.....

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### **More Covid-19 recoveries being reported**

Source: [Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-07

RAWALPINDI: The district saw 234 people recovering from Covid-19 on Wednesday though three patients also succumbed to the virus. Another 28 cases also emerged in the district. Rubina Tariq, 53, resident of Gujar Khan, was brought to Pims on Dec 15 where she died on Wednesday. Mohammad Ishaq, 61, resident of Dheri Hassanabad, was also shifted to Pims on Jan 5 where he died Tuesday night. Gulshan .....

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### **Corona claims 52 more lives, 2,100 new cases reported**

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-07

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Wednesday reached 37,740 with 2,118 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 4,033 people recovered from the coronavirus during the last 24 hours. Fifty Two corona patients, 45 of whom were under treatment in hospital and seven in their respective homes or quarantines died on Tuesday, according to the latest u.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19: 2,118 new cases and 52 deaths in Pakistan**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-07

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported 52 coronavirus deaths, and 2,118 new Covid-19 cases during the past 24 hours, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. According to the latest Covid-19 data released here on Wednesday by the NCOC of the 52 coronavirus patients who have died, 45 were under treatment in hospital, and seven died at their homes or quarantines on Tuesday. The NCO.....

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**UNHCR helped Afghan refugees hit by Covid**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-08

ISLAMABAD: While the novel coronavirus pandemic prevailed throughout the year and posed serious humanitarian challenges, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported the Afghan refugees and their host communities while contributing to the government's COVID-19 response in Pakistan. This was shared in a press release issued by the UNCHR on Thursday. "Thanks to the g.....

[more >>](#)

**50 more die as corona killing spree continues**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-08

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Thursday reached 34,049 with 2,482 more people testing positive and 2,122 people recovering from the disease during 24 hours. Fifty corona patients, of whom 45 were under treatment in hospital and five in their respective homes or quarantines, died on Wednesday, according to the latest update issued by the National Comma.....

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**Livelihood of 20.7m people affected by lockdown: PBS**

Source: [Mehtab Haider, The News, International](#), 2021-01-08

ISLAMABAD: A survey by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on well-being after COVID-19 pandemic shows that due to lockdown and closure of economic activities, 20.76 million population was affected in Pakistan. That followed speedy recovery because the government did not opt for strict lockdowns. Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar, visited the.....

[more >>](#)

**Vaccine from China to reach by January end**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-08

Islamabad : The first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine is likely to reach Pakistan by the end of this month, said Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of National Health Services Dr Nausheen Hamid on Thursday. She didn't specify the vaccine to be procured by the country. However, experts insist it will be the Sinopharm vaccine made in China. The parliamentary secretary also said the governme.....

[more >>](#)

**Glowing tributes paid to COVID-19 frontline warriors**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-08

Islamabad : The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), together with the Islamabad Capital Territory administration, arranged a dignified ceremony at the PRCS National Headquarters on Thursday to recognise the heroism of COVID-19 frontline warriors, who have been battling it out against the pandemic in different capacities, risking their lives in the process. Special Assistant to the Prime .....

[more >>](#)

### **Pakistan reports 2,482 new cases of Covid-19**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-08

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported 2,482 new cases of Covid-19 and 50 deaths over the past 24 hours. According to the latest Covid-19 figures released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), here on Thursday, countrywide 2,482 more people were tested positive for the deadly virus, and 2,122 people recovered taking the Covid-19 cases tally to 495,075 of which 34,049 are active, and .....

[more >>](#)

### **Pakistan reports 2,482 new Covid-19 cases, 50 deaths**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-08

ISLAMABAD - As many as 2,482 new cases of Covid-19 surfaced in the country during the last 24 hours, said the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Thursday morning. It said that test of 40,509 people were carried out over the last 24 hours which helped diagnosing 2482 new Covid-19 patients in the country. According to the latest statistics, 50 more people died of the virus during t.....

[more >>](#)

### **Services of Covid-19 frontline workers lauded**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-08

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) together with the Islamabad Capital Territory administration Thursday paid tribute to the COVID-19 frontline warriors, who have been battling it out against the pandemic in different capacities risking their lives. In order to acknowledge the heroism of frontline warriors, including doctors, paramedics, intellectuals, religious scholars, police.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 claims another 50 lives; over 2,400 new cases reported**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-01-08

In yet another deadly day, 50 corona patients, 45 of whom were under treatment at hospitals, died on Wednesday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Thursday reached 34,049, as another 2,482 people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,122 people recovered from it in a day. ....

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## **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

### **JI leader, wife again test positive for Covid-19**

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-04

PESHAWAR: Quarantined for the last 10 days, provincial ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan and his wife tested positive for Covid-19 again on Sunday. In a post on his social media portal, the JI leader said he and his wife had tested positive for the viral infection for the second time during the last 10 days. He appealed to his followers to remember him in their prayers. ....

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### **KP govt to mark awareness week on coronavirus SOPs**

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-05

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to mark a special week to create awareness among the people about the standard operating procedures (SOPs) about the coronavirus in view of the rising number of Covid-19 cases. An official handout said that all administrative secretaries, divisional commissioners and regional police officers had been directed to take special measures .....

[more >>](#)

### Four die of Covid-19 in Abbottabad

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-05

ABBOTTABAD: Four people, including two women, suffering from the coronavirus died from the contagious disease at the Ayub Teaching Hospital here on Monday. Dean, Ayub Medical College & Chief Executive Officer AMTI Abbottabad Professor Dr. Umer Farooq when contacted confirmed the deaths at the ATH on Monday. He said the condition of four more patients had worsened while 22 patients wer.....

[more >>](#)

### Corona claims 12 more lives in KP

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-05

PESHAWAR - Another 12 people died of coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday, taking the total number of deaths to 1687 in the province so far. According to the KP Health Department report, 245 new corona cases surfaced in the province on Monday, while 149 patients recovered on the day. Of the latest deaths, five patients died in the provincial capital Peshawar, four in Abbottab.....

[more >>](#)

### Efforts launched to ensure implementation of SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-06

ABBOTTABAD: The district administration here on Tuesday launched efforts to ensure implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of Covid-19 following directives from the provincial government. Talking to reporters, Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Mughees Sanauallah said all government departments were playing their role to ensure implementation of SOPs of the coronavirus. He s.....

[more >>](#)

### One dies, 291 more test positive for Covid-19 in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-06

NOWSHERA: A patient of Covid-19 died while 291 more tested positive for the coronavirus in the district on Tuesday. With the new casualty, the number of fatalities from fast-spreading virus reached 63 in the district. Briefing the media, Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgan, District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and Dr Yaseen Khan said that a woman aged 80, was infected by the virus and wa.....

[more >>](#)

### Covid detected in five people on return from UK in KP

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department has detected coronavirus in five people, who returned from Britain recently, and is waiting for confirmation if the infected people have the UK's strain of virus. The health department started tracing the people, who returned from UK, on the instruction of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to see if they had dangerous Covid-19 vi.....

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### Cheque given to family of doctor who died of corona

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-07

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mahmood Khan gave away a cheque for Rs7 million under special Shuhada Package to the family members of Dr. Muhammad Javed, the first healthcare professional who had died of COVID-19 in the province. Dr Muhammad Javed had served at Hayatabad Medical Complex. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said the provincial government was working to provide the financial ass.....

[more >>](#)

### **Katlang residents urged to observe virus SOPs**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-07

MARDAN: Katlang subdivision Assistant Commissioner Kamran Khan has urged residents and shopkeepers to follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and help control the deadly coronavirus. He was talking to local notables, traders and shopkeepers in Katlang in connection with the launching of a weeklong awareness campaign about coronavirus and its prevention. The official said coronavirus.....

[more >>](#)

### **Another Covid-19 patient dies in Nowshera**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-07

NOWSHERA: Another patient died of Covid-19, raising the number of fatalities to 64 in the district on Wednesday. Briefing the media, Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgan, District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and Dr Yaseen Khan said that Raees Khan, 67, a resident of Jehangira Town, was infected by the fatal virus. They said the patient was under treatment at the Qazi Medical Complex, Nowshera. H.....

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## **Punjab**

### **Smart lockdown extended in three cities**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-04

LAHORE : The Punjab government has extended smart lockdown in three cities till January 14, 2021 in hotspot areas with maximum emergence of COVID19 cases amidst the rising second wave of dreaded novel corona virus in the province. According to separate notifications issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), Punjab, on Sunday, the smart lockdown has been imposed in .....

[more >>](#)

### **24 more die from COVID19**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-04

LAHORE : Around 24 more patients died of COVID19 and another 847 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. The P&SHD report issued here on Sunday said the death toll reached 4,109 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of corona virus reached 140,188 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, 20,.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 restrictions boost online shopping**

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

MULTAN: The coronavirus lockdown and other related restrictions imposed over the past year boosted online shopping and created job opportunities for youth in the sector. A large number of youngsters were employed for delivery services, which not only provided jobs to youth but also increased sale of different products. Fast food outlets, hotels, shopkeepers and women entrepreneurs started online.....

[more >>](#)

### **Punjab sees twice as many Covid deaths as Sindh**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

ISLAMABAD: Punjab on Sunday reported twice as many coronavirus deaths, as compared to Sindh. According to the data released by the National Command and Operation Centre, 24 people lost their lives in Punjab, 12 in Sindh, 11 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, three in Islamabad, two in Azad Kashmir and one in Balochistan. The number of deaths across the country surged to 10,311 while active cases across the .....

[more >>](#)

**Mixed prospects of agriculture**

Source: [Mohiuddin Aazim](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

In 2019-20, agricultural growth of 2.7 per cent helped contain the decline in GDP to 0.4pc in the wake of the first wave of Covid-19. For 2020-21, the government has set a 2.8pc growth target for agriculture and 2.1pc for the overall economy. Achieving overall economic growth may not be difficult due to the low-base effect. But meeting the agricultural growth target can be as it is supposed to co.....

[more >>](#)

**Lockdown in 10 Covid hotspots of three Punjab cities**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

LAHORE: The Punjab government has imposed lockdown in 10 'hot spots'(streets) in Lahore, Gujranwala and Multan because of the increasing number of coronavirus positive cases being reported there. The province has recorded 24 deaths during the past 24 hours, as compared to the 43 reported a day earlier. With the latest deaths, the total Covid-19 death toll in Punjab has reached 4,109. ....

[more >>](#)

**'Covid-19 restrictions boost online shopping, create jobs for youth'**

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

MULTAN: Covid-19 restrictions boosted online shopping and created job opportunities for youth by accommodating a large number of youngsters in job of delivery services which not only provided jobs to youth but also increased sale of different products. Different fast food points, hotels, shopkeepers and women have started online sale of their products by signing agreement with private deliver.....

[more >>](#)

**Another corona patient dies in Faisalabad Share:**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

FAISALABAD - Another patient of coronavirus died in the city while 34 fresh cases were reported during the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for the Health department said that 1218 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sectors laboratories in the district during the 24 hours. At present, he said that total active cases of COVID-19 were 641 in Faisalabad, while the number of recovery .....

[more >>](#)

**Number of COVID patients showing downward trend**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-05

Rawalpindi : The second wave of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak that hit population in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district much harder claimed another seven lives in the last 24 hours from the region though the number of patients being tested positive for the illness has been showing a downward trend for the last three weeks or so. In the last 24 hours, another 131 patients.....

[more >>](#)

**Government spends Rs260m on COVID-19 patients at RIU: Dr Yasmin Rashid**

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-05

Rawalpindi :Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Monday said that government was making all-out efforts to provide best healthcare services to patients and around Rs260 million were spent on COVID-19 patients treatment at Rawalpindi Institute of Urology (RIU). Talking to media men here at RIU, she said that a new diagnostic laboratory would be setup at Benazir Bhutto Hospital for Cor.....

[more >>](#)

### **Positivity rate remains 5.22pc; Punjab reports 15 deaths, 526 fresh cases**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-05

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus cases witnessed a slight increase at 5.22% in Punjab, as out of 10,073 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 526 fresh virus cases and 15 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 140,714 and fatalities to 4,124. With recovery of 668 more people, the number of recovered patients in the province has reached to 125,129. After ide.....

[more >>](#)

### **15 more die from corona**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-05

LAHORE : Around 15 corona patients died and 526 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Monday. The death toll reached 4,124 in Punjab, while confirmed cases reached 140,714 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare Departme.....

[more >>](#)

### **'Vitamin D for all' campaign launched to fight coronavirus**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-05

LAHORE : The University of Health Sciences (UHS) has taken another important step in fight against coronavirus by launching a 'Vitamin D for All' campaign. The campaign aims to increase immunity in the general public, especially frontline healthcare workers, against the coronavirus through the use of vitamin D. The campaign was formally launched at a function at the Governor Ho.....

[more >>](#)

### **One dies of COVID**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-06

Rawalpindi : Another confirmed patient of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Rawalpindi district died of the disease in the last 24 hours while the virus did not claim any life from Islamabad Capital Territory though to date, a total of 984 patients have lost their lives due to COVID-19 in ICT and Rawalpindi district. The population in the federal capital witnessed a day without reporting .....

[more >>](#)

### **COVID claims 36 more lives**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-06

LAHORE : As many as 36 patients died of COVID-19 and another 679 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Tuesday, the toll of fatalities was raised to 4,160 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 141,393 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monit.....

[more >>](#)

### **Seven arrested for desecrating grave in search of treasure**

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

KASUR: The followers of a fake faith healer dug up a grave at a local shrine of village Kotly Pathana in search of a treasure on Tuesday. The villagers caught the suspects while unearthing the grave red-handed, thrashed them and handed them over to police. According to the Saddar police, seven suspects, including Waqas of Rukanpura, Nadeem and Sajid of Gulberg Colony and Allah Ditta of Pakpattan.....

[more >>](#)

**36 more succumb to virus in Punjab**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

LAHORE: Covid-19 claimed the lives of 36 more patients in Punjab during the last 24 hours, taking the total toll to 4,160. A majority of the patients died in Lahore where the Covid death toll has reached 1,640, according to the official data released by the Punjab government here on Tuesday. Punjab also recorded 679 new cases of the viral infection during the same period. Of these cases 377 were.....

[more >>](#)

**Pindi's Covid cases go down, capital's go up DHA stresses implementation of SOPs regardless**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

RAWALPINDI/ ISLAMABAD: The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is silently waning in the garrison city as the infection rate dropped from nine per cent to five per cent on Tuesday. However, the Rawalpindi Health Department has urged people to continue following all relevant standard operating procedures (SOPs). The District Health Authority (DHA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Faiza Kanwal told The .....

[more >>](#)

**Punjab reports 36 deaths, 679 new Covid-19 cases**

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus cases remained 4.19% in Punjab province, as out of 16,203 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 679 fresh virus cases and 36 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 141,393 and fatalities to 4160. With recovery of 1096 more people, the number of recovered patients has reached to 126,225 in the province. As per break up o.....

[more >>](#)

**Corona claims 36 more lives in Punjab in a single day**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

LAHORE - The COVID-19 pandemic claimed another 36 lives in the last 24 hours, whereas 679 new cases of coronavirus were reported 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 reached 141,393 while the total deaths were recorded as 4,160 altogether. The.....

[more >>](#)

**1,597 complaints against flouting of lockdown SOPs during second wave**

Source: [Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-07

LAHORE: The alarming Covid-19 mortality rate and new infections in Punjab during the second wave of the virus have become a case for serious concern for the medical and health authorities as well as the public. Experts warned that the situation could get out of hand if prompt measures were not adopted very soon. Medical experts, however, attributed the spread of the infection to poor implementati.....

[more >>](#)

**CM tests negative for Covid-19**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-07

LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Wednesday tested negative for coronavirus after spending 17 days in isolation. Mr Buzdar had tested positive for the virus on Dec 21 and immediately gone into isolation. He, however, continued performing official work from the chief minister secretariat's lawns while maintaining social distance, and later from his home. He remained in good health durin.....

[more >>](#)

### 7 more die of corona

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-01-07

Rawalpindi : As many as seven more patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 died of the disease here in the federal capital and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the region to 991 while 162 new patients were tested positive for the disease taking the total number of patients so far confirmed positive from the twin cities to 50,527. The number of recoveries repor.....

[more >>](#)

### 22 shops sealed for SOPs violation

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-07

LAHORE : The district administration continued its operation against violators of corona SOPs and sealed around 22 shops, restaurants and marriage halls here on Wednesday. Officials said Rs25,000 fines have been imposed on violators. They said Assistant Commissioner City Faisan Ahmed sealed four shops and four restaurants and sealed businesses, including Little Heart Shop, Fresh Lee Store, Facili.....

[more >>](#)

### Punjab much better prepared to battle corona 2nd wave: minister

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-07

LAHORE : Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said here on Wednesday that Punjab is much better prepared to battle the second wave of corona pandemic due to lessons learnt in the first wave. The minister was speaking as chief guest at a seminar on Importance of Diagnostics in Corona Prevention and Future Challenges at a local hotel. Steps for enhancing testing capacity and measures to control.....

[more >>](#)

### 24 more die from corona in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-07

LAHORE : Around 24 COVID19 patients died and 665 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Wednesday. The death toll reached 4,184 in Punjab, while confirmed cases reached 142,058 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare De.....

[more >>](#)

### BR - EPAPER JAN 07, 2021 NORTH NEWS PAGE 12 Covid-19: 665 fresh cases, 24 deaths in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-07

LAHORE: There is no let up in the cases of coronavirus, as out of 15,997 tests conducted across the province of Punjab, as many as 665 fresh virus cases and 24 deaths were reported during the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally of cases to 142,058 and fatalities to 4184. With recovery of 2550 more people from the virus, the number of recovered patients has reached to 128,775 in the prov.....

[more >>](#)

### 22 shops, restaurants and marriage halls sealed

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-07

LAHORE: The Lahore district administration has sealed 22 shops, restaurants and marriage halls, and imposed fines worth Rs 25,000 for not complying with the Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). As per the details released by the administration here on Wednesday, the Assistant Commissioner City sealed four shops and four restaurants while the Assistant Commissioner Cantonment sealed .....

[more >>](#)

**24 more die of corona in Punjab**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-07

Lahore - The coronavirus claimed another 24 lives during the last 24 hours whereas 665 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Wednesday across the province. According to the data shared by spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 142,058 while the total deaths were recorded as 4,184 altogether.....

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**Faisalabad Covid death toll rises to 344**

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-08

FAISALABAD: The coronavirus death toll in the city since March last year climbed to 344 with seven more deaths reported on Thursday. At least 78 people have tested positive for the virus during the past two days, according to the health department spokesperson. He said 1,907 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector laboratories during the period. He added that the total act.....

[more >>](#)

**Corona claims 3 more lives**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-08

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another three lives here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 994 in the region while 179 new patients have been tested positive for the illness taking the tally to 50,706 however the number of active cases from the region is on a continuous decline. Data collected by 'The N.....

[more >>](#)

**'Corona vaccine to become available in Pakistan very soon'**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-08

LAHORE: Corona vaccine shall become available through a uniform policy in Pakistan very soon. This was stated by Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid. Meanwhile, out of 15,562 coronavirus tests conducted in the last 24 hours, as many as 777 fresh Covid-19 cases and 19 deaths were reported across the province, taking the provincial tally of cases to 142,835 and fatalities to 4203. ....

[more >>](#)

**Seven more corona patients die in Faisalabad**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-08

FAISALABAD - Seven more patients died of the COVID-19 in the city while 78 people tested positive during the last two days. According to the health department spokesperson, the number of deaths had reached 344 since March this year. He said, 1,907 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector laboratories during the same period. He said that total active cases in Faisalabad were 36.....

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**CM asks people to follow corona SOPs**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-08

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has thanked Almighty Allah for recovery from corona and added that he is also obliged to the people for their prayers. I will continue the core mission of public service as serving the masses is the main agenda of the PTI government, he added and asked the citizens to follow SOPs as the corona is a viral disease. ....

[more >>](#)

### 71 shopping malls sealed in a week on SOPs violations

Source: [Qadeer Sikander Malik, Daily Times](#) , 2021-01-08

Provincial Minister for Public Prosecution and Focal Person for Anti-Corona Measures Chaudhry Zaheeruddin has said that the vital role of the media in educating the citizens about the precautionary measures against the second wave of Coronavirus could not be ignored. He said this while briefing the media persons in the committee room of the DC office regarding the current status of Coronavirus and.....

[more >>](#)

## Sindh

### Sindh's death toll from Covid soars to 3,611 as 17 more die

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-05

KARACHI: As many as 17 more coronavirus-related deaths were reported in Sindh on Sunday, when 961 new Covid-19 cases emerged in the province, according to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on the day. He said that following these developments, the coronavirus death toll in the province had increased to 3,611. Besides, the CM added that with over 900 samples of 11,473.....

[more >>](#)

### 'Tis the season of subsidies

Source: [Kazim Alam, Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-04

The pandemic has caused a disaster, and big industrialists are not letting it go to waste. Look closely and you'll notice that Covid-19 has only fortified what Canadian author Naomi Klein calls the disaster capitalism complex. There's wartime-like exuberance in Islamabad. Q Block has turned into a shopping strip for big industrialists. All kinds of 'packages' are on offer.....

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### 17 Covid-19 patients die overnight in Sindh

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-04

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that 17 Covid-19 patients lost their lives overnight and 961 new cases emerged when 11,473 samples were tested. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that with the fresh deaths, the toll rose to 3,611, constituting 1.7 per cent death rate. Mr Shah said that 11,473 samples were tested which diagnosed 961 cases that const.....

[more >>](#)

### Around 115,000 frontline health workers in Sindh to get Covid-19 vaccine in first phase

Source: [Imran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-04

KARACHI: As the Sindh government waits for first supply of 250,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses by mid-January, the authorities have identified some 115,000 frontline health workers across the province who would be inoculated in the first phase of the programme in two major centres, becoming the first province in the country that had already designed such a strategy to meet the challenge, officials and .....

[more >>](#)

### Covid-19 claims 17 more lives, infects 961 others in Sindh

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-04

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 17 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,611 and 961 new cases emerged when 11473 samples were tested. A statement issued here from CM house on Sunday, he said that seventeen more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,611 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah said that 11473 sa.....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 17 more lives, infects 961 others: CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 17 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,611 and 961 new cases emerged when 11,473 samples were tested. In a statement issued from CM house on Sunday, he said that seventeen more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,611 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Murad Ali Shah said.....

[more >>](#)

**25 more tested COVID-19 positive in Hyderabad**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

HYDERABAD - As many as 25 patients have tested positive for COVID-19 during the last 24 hours, taking the tally of coronavirus cases to 9,191 in Hyderabad district on Sunday. According to health authorities, 104,522 tests so far conducted in the district and 8,134 were fully recovered while 201 had lost their lives since outbreak of the contagion in March 2020. Out of 899 active COVID-19 patients,.....

[more >>](#)

**Combating Covid-19; Banks approve Rs8.4bn loans in 9 months for hospitals**

Source: [Rizwan Bhatti](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-05

KARACHI: Financial Institutions approved loans worth Rs 8.4 billion during the last nine months under the State Bank of Pakistan's Refinance Facility to facilitate hospitals for combating COVID-19. The SBP launched time-bound RFCC on March 17, 2020 and its Shariah-compliant facility was aimed to support hospitals and medical centers for enhancing the capacity of health services to deal .....

[more >>](#)

**12 succumb to Covid-19, 855 new cases emerge: Sindh CM**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-05

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 12 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,623 and 855 new cases emerged when 10,165 tests were conducted. This he said in a statement issued here on Monday. He added that 12 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,623 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. Shah said that 10,.....

[more >>](#)

**Sindh gets 855 new Covid cases, 93pc of them in Karachi**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-05

Twelve more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 855 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,623 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Monday that 10,165 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 855 people, or 8.4 per .....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 12 more lives, infects 855 others: CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-05

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 12 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,623 and 855 new cases emerged when 10,165 tests were conducted. This he said in a statement issued on Monday. He added that 12 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,623 that constituted 1.7 percent death rate. The CM said that 10,1.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid kills doctor among 11 as 1,049 more test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-06

A lady doctor among 11 more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 1,049 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,634 in the province. Gynaecologist Dr Anjum Saleem had been on life support at the Indus Hospital Karachi, where she breathed her last on Tuesday due to complications of the infectious disease, acc.....

[more >>](#)

### **One day, two projections: State Bank says GDP to grow 1.5-2.5pc**

Source: [Shahid Iqbal](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SPB) has projected the real GDP growth in the range of 1.5-2.5 per cent for FY21 but said risks attached with the Covid-19 could hurt the growth. "Real GDP growth is projected to be in the range of 1.5 to 2.5 per cent in FY21. This is based on the current trends of economic activity," said the first quarterly report of the SBP issued on Tuesday. A.....

[more >>](#)

### **11 more Covid-19 patients die**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said that 11 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives overnight and 1,049 new cases emerged when 12,457 tests were conducted. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that the death of 11 more patients during the past 24 hours lifted the death toll to 3,634 constituting 1.6 per cent death rate. Mr Shah said that 12,457 samples wer.....

[more >>](#)

### **Vaccine delivery likely to face delay, says Sindh health minister**

Source: [Faiza Ilyas](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

KARACHI: There would be some delay in getting the Covid-19 vaccines from the federal government, earlier planned to be handed over to the Sindh government by Jan 15, the provincial health minister stated on Tuesday. "The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) had earlier communicated that the vaccines would be delivered by mid-Jan. But, we have just been informed that there would be s.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 tally crosses 220,000 mark in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

Sindh reported another 1,049 coronavirus cases on Tuesday, after 12,457 samples were tested, according to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. The province's infection tally has now reached 220,501, the CM said. He added that 11 more Covid-19 deaths were reported on the day in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 3,634. According to the CM, 707 more Covid-19 patients .....

[more >>](#)

### **Reviewing Sindh's 2020 socio-political landscape**

Source: [Aamir Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

KARACHI: On New Year's Eve of 2020, the world had not the faintest of inkling about the coming year's trajectory. Unbeknownst to what the future holds, many shared glad tidings, made resolutions and planned ahead. However, the advent of the global coronavirus pandemic changed everything. Borders closed, schools shut, and businesses suspended- the world as we know it came to a brief st.....

[more >>](#)

**1.5 to 2.5pc growth projection; SBP identifies 2nd Covid-19 wave as downside risk**

Source: [Rizwan Bhatti, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has projected that real GDP growth to be in the range of 1.5 to 2.5 percent during this fiscal year (FY21) based on the current trends of economic activity. Actual real GDP growth target for FY21 was 2.1 percent as against negative 0.4 percent growth in FY20. However, SBP said that the downside risk to this projection includes the second wave of Covid.....

[more >>](#)

**Rs98, 500 imposed on shops over SOPs violation**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

KARACHI - Administration has imposed fines of Rs98,500 on twelve shops in Karachi's South district over violation of the coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs). According to details, an operation was conducted in Saddar to ensure implementation over the COVID-19 SOPs and timings. Four shops and a snooker club were sealed in the Napier area. Deputy Commissioner (DC) South Irsh.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid kills another 19 as 1,233 more test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-07

Nineteen more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 1,233 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,653 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Wednesday that 13,699 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 1,233 people, or nine p.....

[more >>](#)

**Over 1,200 new Covid cases emerge in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-07

Sindh saw another 1,233 Covid-19 cases on Wednesday, when 19 more coronavirus-deaths were reported in the province, according to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. The CM said that following the emergence of new cases, the province's infection tally had risen to 221,734 and the total number of fatalities caused by the contagion had increased to 3,653. Of the new c.....

[more >>](#)

**Sindh reports 17 deaths, 1,265 fresh infections**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-08

The coronavirus claimed another 17 lives overnight, lifting the provincial death toll to 3,670, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House, another 1,265 people were diagnosed with the virus when 12,461 samples were tested between Tuesday and Wednesday, raising the provincial virus tally to 222,999. Shah further .....

[more >>](#)

**Committee set up to ensure oxygen supply to hospitals**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-08

The Sindh health department formed on Thursday a three-member committee to ensure uninterrupted supply of oxygen to hospitals in Karachi, after it emerged that the supply was being affected as sit-ins over Machh killings and road blocks continued for the third day - with protesters' demands remaining unaddressed - in the port city. The management of Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital told The Express.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 claims 17 more lives, infects 1,265 others: Murad**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-08

KARACHI: As many as 17 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,670 and 1,265 new cases emerged when 12,461 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that 17 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,670 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. ....

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**COVID-19 claims 17 more lives, infects 1,265 others: CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-08

KARACHI - As many as 17 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,670 and 1,265 new cases emerged when 12,461 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Thursday. He added that 17 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,670 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. ....

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**Anti-COVID-19 vaccination centre to be established in Jamshoro**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-08

HYDERABAD - Additional Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Tabraiz Sadiq Marri on Thursday said divisional anti-COVID-19 vaccination centre will be establish in Jamshoro in order to ensure implementation upon the orders of government of Sindh. In a meeting, he instructed all concerned officers to finalise all required arrangements prior to the execution of administering of anti-COVID-19 vaccine. He dire.....

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## International News

### Countries News

#### **Lockdowns, curfews, alcohol bans as nations fight resurgent virus**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

countries across the world tightened restrictions on their populations Saturday to fight a resurgence in the coronavirus, as the European Union offered to help drug companies expand vaccine production to improve distribution “bottlenecks”. From local curfews to alcohol bans and complete lockdowns, governments are trying to tackle a surge in cases. The coronavirus has killed .....[more >>](#)

#### **US cities, left behind in Covid-19 aid, look for lifeline in Biden era**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

In Washington’s months-long political slugfest over who should get aid to counter the financial damage from the Covid-19 pandemic, there was at least one clear loser: local government. In the midst of cutbacks in workforce and emergency services and growing poverty, US cities, especially the smaller ones, are hoping the next round of stimulus includes them and that President-elect Jo.....[more >>](#)

#### **Stricter lockdown restriction likely on the way, says UK PM Johnson**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Sunday that tougher lockdown restrictions were probably on the way as Covid-19 cases keep rising, but that schools were safe places and children should continue to attend where permitted. Cases of Covid-19 in Britain are at record levels and increasing, fuelled by a new and more transmissible variant of the virus. That has already forced the governm.....[more >>](#)

#### **‘Overwhelmed’ Zimbabwe tightens Covid-19 restrictions, orders most businesses closed**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

Zimbabwe extended a nationwide curfew, banned gatherings and ordered non-essential businesses closed for a month on Saturday in an effort to curb a surge in coronavirus infections. Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, who is also health minister, said some of the tighter restrictions were effective immediately and included a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew and a ban on inter-city travel. From Tuesday, non-.....

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#### **Kenya extends night curfew to March to curb Covid-19 spread**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

Kenya is extending its nightly curfew to March 12 as part of measures aimed at taming the spread of Covid-19, President Uhuru Kenyatta’s office said on Sunday. In early November, Kenyatta extended the nightly curfew that was in place, and it had been due to expire on Sunday. It runs between 10 p.m and 4 a.m. A ban on political and roadside gatherings that could turn into super spreader eve.....

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#### **Thailand reports 315 new coronavirus cases in second wave**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

Thailand confirmed 315 new coronavirus cases on Sunday in a second wave of infection where the majority of the cases were local transmission. The new cases include 21 cases imported from abroad, the government’s Covid-19 taskforce said. Thailand has confirmed a total of 7,694 coronavirus cases and 64 deaths since its first case last January. The government is eyeing tougher measures to rest.....

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### India's approval of homegrown vaccine criticised over lack of data

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-04

India on Sunday granted emergency approval to Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN but faced questions after taking the step without publishing efficacy data for the homegrown coronavirus vaccine. The news, announced by the drugs controller general of India (DCGI) who did not take questions, was hailed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ministers as a success in India's self-reliance push. The .....

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### As nations fight virus resurgence India okays two vaccines

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

NEW DELHI: India on Sunday approved emergency use of two Covid-19 vaccines to kick off one of the world's biggest inoculation drives, while the European Union offered to help drug companies expand production to ease distribution bottlenecks. India, the second-worst affected country, has authorised use of shots developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and by local pharmaceutical firm B.....

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### Britain set for tougher virus rules as cases surge

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday warned the country to expect tougher restrictions to combat spiralling coronavirus cases, as a row flared over whether schools should reopen. "It may be that we need to do things in the next few weeks that will be tougher in many parts of the country," Johnson told the BBC's The Andrew Marr Show. "I'm fully, ful.....

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### Saudi Arabia reopens borders after two weeks

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-04

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Sunday announced the reopening of borders and the resumption of international flights after a two-week suspension aimed to stem the spread of a new Covid-19 strain. The government ordered the lifting of "precautionary measures related to the spread of a new variant of coronavirus", the Ministry of the Interior said, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.....

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### WHO experts on way to China in hunt for origins of coronavirus

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

BEIJING: A year after the outbreak started, WHO experts are due in China for a highly politicised visit to explore the origins of the coronavirus, in a trip trailed by accusations of cover-ups, conspiracy and fears of a whitewash. Under the global glare, Beijing delayed access for independent experts into China to probe the origins of the pandemic, reluctant to agree to an inquiry. But the WHO n.....

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### Pharmacist who destroyed vaccines was 'conspiracy theorist'

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

MADISON: A Wisconsin pharmacist convinced the world was crashing down told police he tried to ruin hundreds of doses of coronavirus vaccine because he believed the shots would mutate peoples DNA, according to court documents released on Monday. Police in Grafton, about 20 miles (32 kilometres) north of Milwaukee, arrested Advocate Aurora Health pharmacist Steven Brandenburg last week following an.....

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**WHO's virus mission in disarray as China refuses team entry**

Source: [APP](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-07

BEIJING: An expert mission to China to probe the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic was in disarray on Wednesday after Beijing denied entry to the World Health Organisation team at the last minute despite months of painstaking negotiations. Ten experts were due to arrive in China this week for the delicate, highly politicised task of establishing how and where the virus jumped from animals to human.....

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**1 in 100,000 had severe reactions to Pfizer vaccine: US study**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-01-08

Roughly one in a hundred thousand people who received the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine have had severe allergic reactions, US health officials said Wednesday while stressing that the benefits of immunization greatly outweigh the known risks. The data comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which documented 21 cases of anaphylaxis after administration of a reported 1,893,360.....

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## SDPI Engagements

### Researchers Articles

#### A case for lost interactions

Source: [Sana Malik](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-06

Social connections are important to happiness, health (physical and mental) and overall feelings of connectivity to society. It has dynamic characteristics of evolving social actions between individuals or groups. Knowing we are valued by others is an important psychological factor in shaping our self-esteem and individuality. It also helps in thinking positively about our environment. Studies hav.....[more >>](#)

#### Pakistan in 2021

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-07

If 2020 was a nightmare, it was an unusually long one. There is still no end to it in sight. The pandemic that has made the outgoing year one of the worst times for humankind in the 21st century will, to our utter consternation, remain a major factor in what 2021 brings forth. All the six factors that I am listing below to define 'Pakistan in 2021' are, therefore, linked, directly and.....[more >>](#)

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