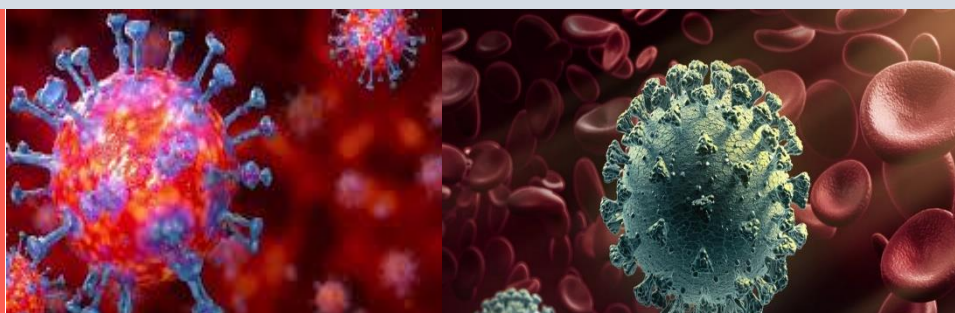


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 04 - 05



Issue: 09 - 15 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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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

Pandemic measures

Source: [Julia Maskivker](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-12

At the apex of this pandemic, it is shocking that the US federal government has no legal right to enforce a nationwide lockdown and a mask-wearing mandate of the sort that we have seen in Italy, Spain, and France. State police powers stand in the way, making governors and county leaders the proper locus of authority for these measures. We know that many states and counties have not imposed.....[more >>](#)

Aiming for a 'great buy'

Source: [Dr Ayesha Razzaque](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-11

The writer is an independent education researcher and consultant. She has a PhD in Education from Michigan State University. News coverage of Covid vaccine development has introduced the world to the use of Randomized Controlled Trials, or RCTs, where one group of participants are given the vaccine, and another group given a placebo. At the end of the experiment, researchers have quantitat.....[more >>](#)

Pakistan's vaccination plan for Covid-19

Source: [Hasaan Khawar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-12

Does Pakistan have a vaccination plan for Covid-19? Notwithstanding the global efforts to ensure fair access to the Covid-19 vaccine, it is not a level playing field for developing countries, which are struggling to acquire sufficient quantities of vaccine. Out of a total of 7.2 billion doses booked so far, 72% have been booked by high or upper middle-income countries, 28% by lower middle-income[more >>](#)

Hospital diversion: what it means and why it happens

Source: [Masooma Raza](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-12

At the emergency department of one of the busiest hospitals in the city, Dr Khan (name changed) sprinted back and forth as she managed the flow of Covid-19 patients, on a late November evening. She and her team of nurses, residents and consulting physicians had predicted the second wave of the pandemic a long time back and knew that their Department of 24/7 Emergency and Acute Care Services would[more >>](#)

Relief for newsvendors

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-10

In its effort to provide social justice, the government has come up with yet another welfare measure for the weaker section of society. On Thursday, Federal Minister for Information Shibli Faraz announced a financial package for the newspaper sellers from the Baitul Maal. Under the assistance package, each newspaper seller will be provided with a free medical facility of up to Rs600,000 a year, an.....

[more >>](#)

SBP projections for 2020-21

Source: [Dr Hafiz A Pasha](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-12

The SBP report on the State of the Economy in the first quarter of 2020-21 has been released recently. The report contains a very comprehensive and in-depth analysis of trends in the economy. In the first section on the Overview a set of projections is presented of the likely outcome in key macroeconomic variables of the economy in 2020-21. The projections are, first, that the GDP growth is e.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 and monetary emergency in Pakistan

Source: [Shahbaz Ahmed Shahzad](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-10

There are 180 plus countries that become a victim of COVID-19. Pakistan is also one of them. Like countries all over the world, Pakistan is also facing economic problems. All the businesses, works, factories remain shut. Thousands of people fell sick, hospitals overburdened, facing such a situation where most people get sick, and the economic condition of Pakistan also fell, and a monetary emergen.....

[more >>](#)

Dynamics of religious militancy

Source: [Syed Akhtar Ali Shah](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

The year 2020 has ended, leaving behind, to a good extent, the horrific psychological effects of Covid-19. The year also tested the incumbent government's claims of good governance, amidst deaths in hospitals due to system failures. Life seemed almost paralysed with rising Covid cases, coupled with rising inflation, loss of jobs, and ensuing socio-economic degradation. The most tragic part i.....

[more >>](#)

Immunisation race

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

With the Covid-19 vaccine entering the bloodstream of people around the world, the ebbing of the pandemic and the hope of recovery has finally become a reality that can be imagined. However, the biggest hurdle in moving forward as a global force against the raging pandemic remains Capitalism. We are already witnessing that the vaccine is apportioned according to wealth. While the rich countries ha.....

[more >>](#)

Impact of the pandemic

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-13

The efforts of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) must be lauded for bringing out data about the effects of the pandemic on the people. And since reliable numbers have now confirmed that almost all the jobs (about 85 percent) lost during the first wave of the coronavirus were eventually recovered, Federal Minister Asad Umar is well within his rights to say 'I told you so' about th.....

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Covid-19 and the labour market revival

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

The most immediate impact of the coronavirus pandemic has been on the economic activity and employment – beside the impact on public health. In the absence any official data, the number of job losses triggered by COVID-19 as projected by PIDE its initial COVID Bulletin was as high as 18.5 million in case of complete restrictions. Recent numbers by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) making h.....

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Impact of the pandemic

Source: [Editorial](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-13

The efforts of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) must be lauded for bringing out data about the effects of the pandemic on the people. And since reliable numbers have now confirmed that almost all the jobs (about 85 percent) lost during the first wave of the coronavirus were eventually recovered, Federal Minister Asad Umar is well within his rights to say 'I told you so' about th.....

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Gender inequalities further amplified by Covid-19 in Pakistan

Source: [Shahid Khan](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-14

No one has been immune from the larger than life impact of the Covid-19 in some shape or form which reared its ugly head back in March, 2020 in the Chinese city of Wuhan. Since then, the pandemic has touched and impacted almost all aspects of our lives be that social, economic, or political etc. The impact of this pandemic has hit vulnerable groups most, for example, as women or ethnic minority c.....

[more >>](#)

National News

Islamabad

Covid-19 claims 46 more lives, 2,899 new cases reported

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-11

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Sunday reached 34,803 as 2,899 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,524 people recovered from it during the last 24 hours. Forty-six corona patients had lost their lives out of which 41 were under treatment in hospitals and five others in their respective homes or quarantines, according to the latest upd..... [more >>](#)

Covid-19 exposes failure of international diplomacy

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-11

Islamabad: The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the failure of international diplomacy in this one year as the countries were left to tackle this pandemic challenge on their own. The situation has developed a realisation among all the countries that they must have to build their capacity in the field of science and technology. This was observed by Coordinator General COMSTECH, Professor Dr. M Iqbal [more >>](#)

Asad Umar lauds PM's decision to protect lives, livelihoods since start of Covid-19

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-12

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar lauded Prime Minister Imran Khan's decisions since the start of the pandemic to protect the lives of the people, as well as their livelihoods. The federal minister, while addressing the media on Tuesday, said: "Since the first day, the prime minister told us we have two responsibilities: to work to save the lives of the people and t.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan to host trilateral consultation with Turkey, Azerbaijan today

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-12

ISLAMABAD: The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan will hold the second Pakistan-Turkey-Azerbaijan trilateral meeting on in Islamabad on Wednesday and discuss global and regional issues, including new and emerging threats to regional peace and security. According to a Foreign Office statement, the three sides would also explore possibilities of deepening trilateral cooperation i.....

[more >>](#)

'Coronavirus rendered over 20m jobless'

Source: [Irshad Ansari](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-11

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has revealed that 20.6 million people lost their jobs while the income of 6.7 individuals was reduced due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. The bureau of statistics observed that the manufacturing, agriculture, wholesale, transport, construction and other sectors were badly impacted by the contagion. According to a report issued by the PBS a.....

[more >>](#)

Vast informal sector majority affected by Covid-19: PBS

Source: [Tahir Amin](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-12

ISLAMABAD: Around 53 percent households faced financial implications, 37 percent of working population i.e. 20.63 million lost their jobs/could not work while 12 percent i.e. 6.7 million experienced reductions in incomes due to closure of business owing to the Covid-19 lockdowns in Pakistan. This has been revealed in a special survey conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) for ev.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistan opens borders for Afghan brothers during Covid-19: Speaker

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-12

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser said that Pakistan had opened borders for their Afghan brothers during the Covid-19, apart from removing tariff barriers and impediments in Afghan bilateral and transit trade. The speaker said this in a conversation with Afghan Hizb-e-Wahadat-e-Islami Chairman Muhammad Karim Khalili who met the speaker in Islamabad, on Monday along with a deleg.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 vaccine due by early February

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-13

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Faisal Sultan on Tuesday said Pakistan was hopeful of receiving the first batch of COVID-19 vaccine from China's Sinopharm in early February. Pakistan said last month it would purchase 1.2 million vaccine doses from Sinopharm in the first official confirmation of a vaccine purchas.....

[more >>](#)

FDE issues guidelines for schools reopening

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-13

Islamabad : Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) has issued special guidelines for the public sector schools, colleges of Islamabad Capital Territory to operate in ways to counteract COVID-19 spread. According to a notification issued by the FDE on Tuesday, it was stated that Saturday shall remain working day during this academic session for all educational institutions. In the notification, e.....

[more >>](#)

New corona cases, deaths ebbing: Asad Umar

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-13

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Tuesday said the government's decisions to cope with the second wave of COVID-19 yielded positive results, as the number of new cases, hospitalised patients, those on ventilators and deaths had started coming down after witnessing peak in December 2020. Addressing the media after chairing a meeting of the Nation.....

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PM chairs briefing on inflation, corona impacts

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-09

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan was Friday briefed by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on the decision-making system in view of inflation and the social and economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The briefing was attended by Finance Minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Information Minister Senator Shibli Faraz, Planning Minister Asad Umar, Industries Minister Hammad Azhar, Trade Adv.....

[more >>](#)

18 more corona patients die in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-09

LAHORE: Around 18 patients died of COVID-19 while 676 new infections were confirmed in the Punjab province during the last 24 hours. According to daily situation report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department Punjab on Friday, the death toll reached 4,221 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of corona virus reached 143,511 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Mo.....

[more >>](#)

Chinese vaccine registration soon as trial nears end

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

ISLAMABAD: As the novel coronavirus continues to claim dozens of lives a day in Pakistan, the only hurdle in importing the Covid-19 vaccine from Chinese state-owned company Sinopharm will be removed soon with its Phase-I trial in Karachi reaching the final stage, it emerged on Tuesday. In a separate development, the federal government has decided to implement the Medical Teaching Institutions (MT.....

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 : Survey shows 40pc households facing moderate or severe food insecurity

Source: [Mehtab Haider](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-10

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's 40 percent households facing moderate or severe food insecurity in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic, a survey evaluating the socio-economic impact of coronavirus conducted by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) revealed on Saturday. A presentation on survey shows that Pakistan's 60 percent households possessed adequate access to food in both quality and quantit.....

[more >>](#)

Corona vaccination: Efforts in Muslim nations to overcome 'halal' concerns

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-10

Governments and religious leaders in Muslim-majority nations are talking to vaccine makers, investigating production processes and issuing guidance in an effort to make sure concerns about products prohibited by Islam don't interfere with Covid-19 inoculations, foreign media reported. On Friday, the high clerical council in Indonesia, with the world's largest Muslim population, said t.....

[more >>](#)

More deaths from Covid-19 in twin cities

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

ISLAMABAD: As many as seven people succumbed to coronavirus and 161 got infected in the twin cities on Tuesday. Islamabad reported four deaths and 98 new cases while Rawalpindi saw three patients falling prey to the virus and 63 more testing positive. Officials of the capital administration said the deceased were residents of I-8, Bhara Kahu, Tarlai and Chirrah. During the last 24 hours, 5,277 te.....

[more >>](#)

NCOC advises people to be extra careful during 'last stage' of Covid-19 pandemic

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-13

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Tuesday said that the decisions of the government to cope with second wave of Covid-19 yielded positive results as number new cases, hospitalized patients, those on ventilators and deaths had started coming down after witnessing peak in December 2020. Addressing media after chairing a meeting of National Command and Operation Ce.....

[more >>](#)

Experts call for post-Covid education policy

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

RAWALPINDI: A new education policy is needed in step with the changing trends after the novel coronavirus pandemic increased the importance of distance learning. Experts at Virtual Education Conference organised by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) highlighted the key challenges of novel coronavirus pandemic in the education sector at the Chamber House on Tuesday. According.....

[more >>](#)

'SOPs week' concludes

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

ABBOTABAD: The Hazara Divisional Administration's inspection campaign to ensure implementation of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) standard operating procedures (SOPs) across all districts concluded on Tuesday, an official shared. During the 'SOPs implementation week', all districts conducted regular inspections of marketplaces, restaurants, marriage halls, parks, mosques as we.....

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1.1m doses of vaccine to be purchased in first phase: NCOC

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan in the first phase will purchase 1.1 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine to vaccinate health professionals across the country, National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Chairman Asad Umar said on Tuesday. While briefing the media persons on the coronavirus situation in the country, Asad Umar said the government's decision to impose "smart lockdown".....

[more >>](#)

13,053 health workers tested positive so far; Pakistan loses 113 medical professionals since Covid-19 outbreak

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has lost 113 medical professionals since the outbreak of the Covid-19, while 13,053 health workers including doctors, supporting staff and nurses have tested positive for the coronavirus. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), since start of the pandemic in February 2020, a total 13,053 healthcare workers have been infected with the coronavirus of which

[more >>](#)

MNAs call for enhancing parliamentary oversight of govt's COVID-19 response

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-15

Islamabad : Key members of the Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) called for enhancing parliamentary oversight of the government's response to COVID-19 in various sectors and asked the government to convene a session of the National Assembly which has not met during the last two months. These views were expressed by Members of the Taskforce on SDGs at a

[more >>](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Nowshera reports 56 more Covid-19 cases

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-12

NOWSHERA: The number of confirmed Covid-19 infected patients reached 1,874 as 56 more tested positive for the viral disease in the district on Monday, officials said. Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgan, District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and Dr Yaseen Khan said during a media briefing that the surge of coronavirus-infected patients continued unabated with the passage of time as people

[more >>](#)

Covid-19 infects 6 more in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-13

NOWSHERA: Six more suspected patients tested positive for the Covid-19, raising the confirmed case to 1,880 in the district on Tuesday. Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgan, District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and Dr Yaseen Khan told media that the surge of coronavirus-infected patients continued unabated with the passage of time as people were ignoring the standard operating procedures (SOPs) a.....

[more >>](#)

15 more test positive for Covid-19 in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-09

NOWSHERA: Another 15 people on Friday tested positive for the coronavirus in the district, health officials said. They said that the fresh cases brought to 1,798 the number of coronavirus patients in Nowshera district. Also, six patients have recovered from the viral infection, bringing the number of people who have recovered from the coronavirus to 1,538. The Health Department officials said th.....

[more >>](#)

10 more die of Covid-19 in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-15

PESHAWAR: The coronavirus on Thursday claimed 10 more lives and infected 342 other people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, taking the death toll to 1762 in the province. With 462 new cases, officials said, the number of infected people in the province had reached 62,719. Of 10 fatalities, seven were reported from the provincial capital. Two other people died in Upper Dir and one in Swabi. "Abo.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab

3 COVID-19 deaths, 130 new cases from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-01-12

Rawalpindi: As many as three more deaths due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have been reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours while 130 new cases have been confirmed positive for the disease showing the severity of the second wave of the outbreak is still intact in the region. Data collected by 'The News' on Monday has revealed that a.....

[more >>](#)

56 businesses sealed for SOPs breach

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-12

LAHORE: The district administration continued its operation against violators of corona SOPs and sealed 56 businesses here on Monday. Officials said the field teams inspected various areas of the City and 56 shops, restaurants and marriage halls were sealed and Rs 20,000 fines were imposed. Assistant Commissioner, Shalimar, Mansoor Qazi sealed three marriage halls and Assistant Commissioner.....

[more >>](#)

Corona kills 12 more in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-12

LAHORE: Around 12 COVID19 patients died and 599 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 4,272 in Punjab, while confirmed cases reached 145,508 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare D.....

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70 shops sealed for SOPs violation

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-11

LAHORE : The district administration continued its operation to implement corona SOPs and sealed over 70 shops and businesses in the City here on Sunday. The grand operation was launched on the directions of DC Mudassar Riaz, officials said, adding Assistant Commissioner Raiwind Adnan Rashid visited Emporium Mall Johar Town to check implementation of corona SOPs. He sealed 50 food shops for v.....

[more >>](#)

18 more die from corona in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-11

LAHORE : Around 18 patients died from corona and 798 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Sunday, the death toll reached 4,260 in Punjab, while confirmed cases reached 144,909 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare

[more >>](#)

Buzdar resumes official duties after recovery from Covid-19

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-12

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has resumed official responsibilities after recovery from corona and chaired different meetings on Monday besides holding meetings with ministers and high officials. Talking on the occasion, the CM emphasised that the journey of public service will be accelerated and development schemes will be completed in time to facilitate the people. He st.....

[more >>](#)

Corona positivity rate remains 4.47pc in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-12

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus cases remained 4.47% in Punjab province, as out of 13,396 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 599 fresh virus cases and 12 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 145,508 and fatalities to 4272. With recovery of 238 more people, the number of recovered patients has reached to 130,358 in the province. On the other hand,.....

[more >>](#)

New Zealand series defeat; Misbah blames corona-triggered lack of training

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-12

LAHORE: Terming the defeat of Team Pakistan in series against New Zealand as disappointing, head coach of the national cricket team Misbah-ul-Haq said on Monday that the fitness and fielding sector was affected due to Corona pandemic. "Losing the series to New Zealand was disappointing. The Pakistan team gave their 100-percent in terms of resources and time. And no matter how hard we tr.....

[more >>](#)

Another 5 COVID-19 deaths

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-13

Rawalpindi: Another five confirmed patients of coronavirus, COVID-19 died of the illness here in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 while 124 new patients have been tested positive for the illness taking the tally to 51,476. The number of patients being tested positive from the twin cities is showing a continuous downward trend for the last month or so but the viru.....

[more >>](#)

27 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-13

LAHORE: Around 27 more patients died from COVID19 and 508 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 death toll reached 4,299 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of corona virus reached 146,016 in the province.

[more >>](#)

Three more die of corona

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-09

Rawalpindi : The number of recoveries from coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district is showing a continuous upward trend but still the number of patients being tested positive and deaths caused by the virus are significantly high as another three confirmed patients died of the illness from the region in the last 24 hours and 165 new patients have been te.....

[more >>](#)

4 more die of coronavirus

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-10

Rawalpindi : The total number of patients so far tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district has crossed the figure of 51,000 on Saturday while the number of deaths so far caused by the virus from the region has got over 1,000 showing the twin cities is among the worst-hit regions of the country. Data collected by 'The News&rsqu.....

[more >>](#)

21 COVID patients die; 600 new cases

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-10

LAHORE : As many as 21 COVID-19 patients died and 600 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department on Saturday. The toll of fatalities was raised to 4,242 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 144,111 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room at Pri.....

[more >>](#)

Experts highlight challenges facing education sector due to pandemic

Source: [Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

RAWALPINDI: Experts at Virtual Education Conference organised by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) highlighted the key challenges education sector face due to Covid-19 at Chamber House here on Tuesday. Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr Tariq Banuri in his video link address highlighted the key initiatives of HEC to address the challenges and disruption due to Covi.....

[more >>](#)

LDA claims improved business facilitation amid Covid

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

LAHORE: To facilitate the construction sector in line with the package announced by Prime Minister Imran Khan to achieve desired results through Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) reforms, Lahore Development Authority (LDA) has geared up its efforts to serve public amid Covid-19. With the introduction of EoDB reforms and setting up of e-Khidmat Centre at LDA office Johar Town in mid-July 2020, LDA not

[more >>](#)

50 businesses sealed

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

LAHORE: The city district administration sealed 50 shops, restaurants and marriage halls on Tuesday. The authorities also imposed Rs58,000 fine for flouting coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). A spokesperson for the district administration said Assistant Commissioner (AC) Model Town Zeeshan Ranjha sealed nine shops in A-Block Model Town while AC Cantt Sakhi Shakir sealed 1.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab govt offers subsidy to assist farmers

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-12

MULTAN: Punjab government is offering subsidy on the pesticides of wheat crop with an aim to assist farmers and improve wheat production. According to the official sources of the agriculture department, "The subsidy is being given under PM assistance scheme under COVID-19 package for the year 2020-21. The farmers with five or less than five acres will be given Rs 250/acre." Farmers

[more >>](#)

3 COVID-19 deaths

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-15

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another three lives from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 1,021 while as many as 178 new patients have been confirmed positive from the twin cities taking tally to 51,786. Data collected by 'The News' on Thursday reveals that another two COVID-19 p.....

[more >>](#)

Corona kills 25 more

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-15

LAHORE: Around 25 patients died of COVID-19 and 767 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Thursday, the death toll reached 4,348 in Punjab, while confirmed cases reached 147,292 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 14,411 tests have been c.....

[more >>](#)

Covid and corruption: Oxygen prices balloon in Lahore black markets

Source: [Muhammad Ilyas](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-15

LAHORE: As the novel coronavirus grips local healthcare systems, the city's many black markets appear to have found an opportunity to place extortionate markups on oxygen prices. Informal vendors, seeing the growing demand, have spiked oxygen rates across Lahore, putting many oxygendependent patients in the midst of a burgeoning crisis. Although Covid-19 patients under hospital care have a.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh

Nine more succumb to Covid-19 in Sindh as 1,547 new cases emerge

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-12

Covid-19 claimed nine more lives in Sindh during previous 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the contagious disease in the province to 3,708. In the meantime, 894 patients of the disease remained under treatment at various hospitals, of whom the condition of 806 was stated to be serious and 82 of them were on life support. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on.....

[more >>](#)

Six more killed, another 829 infected with Covid-19 in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-11

Six more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 829 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,699 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Sunday that 10,571 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 829 people, or eight per cent of

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Covid kills 22 more in Sindh as another 1,064 test positive

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-13

Twenty-two more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 1,064 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,730 in the province. According to officials, most of the latest deaths have occurred in Karachi. They have also pointed out that infections and hospitalisation of critically ill patients are on the rise in the city.

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73pc Pakistanis approve PTI's handling of Covid-19 crisis

Source: [Gallup Pakistan](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-09

KARACHI: As many as 73 percent respondents of Gallup Pakistan Survey have strongly approved of the government's management of COVID-19 pandemic, which is 21 percent higher than the global average of people expressing satisfaction with their respective government's handling of the pandemic. The average global positive response to respective country's handling of the health crisis

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1,005 new Covid-19 cases emerge in Sindh as another nine die

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-09

Covid-19 claimed nine more lives in Sindh during last 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the viral disease in Sindh to 3,679. In the meantime, 855 patients remained under treatment at various health facilities, of whom the condition of 770 patients was stated to be serious and 78 of them are on life support. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday in his daily s.....

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Indonesian diplomat dies of Covid-19 in Karachi

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-10

KARACHI: Indonesian Consul General in Karachi, Totok Priamto, expired on Saturday afternoon after two-week struggle for his survival from COVID-19 attack. The Indonesian diplomat was admitted to South City Hospital- Clifton, two weeks ago and was under treatment for COVID-19. On Saturday he suffered severe heart attack and left for his last abode at around 4:00 pm. This was confirmed by Mr Abdi.....

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Coronavirus claims another 14 lives in Sindh, infects 1,505 more

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-10

Covid-19 claimed 14 more lives in Sindh during last 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the viral disease in the province to 3,693. In the meantime, 877 patients of Covid-19 remained admitted to various health facilities, of whom the condition of 744 was said to be serious and 84 of them were put on life support. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday in his d.....

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Coronavirus claims another 22 lives

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-13

Another 22 people succumbed to coronavirus overnight, which took the death toll to 3,730 in the province, said Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday. According to the statement issued by the CM House, 1,064 people were diagnosed with Covid-19 when 12,566 samples were tested between Sunday and Monday. Shah stated that the virus tally in the province had reached 228,949. On the

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Global food inflation may stay on higher side: SBP

Source: [Rizwan Bhatti](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-13

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is expecting that global food inflation may be on the higher side for some time due to hoarding and unfavorable production prospects in the wake of Covid pandemic. The SBP in its recent report discussed the rising global food prices in detail and said that in view of the Covid-driven supply disruptions and grain production outlook, food insecurity per.....

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Sindh records 1,064 new cases of Covid-19

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-13

KARACHI: As many as 1,064 new cases of Covid-19 emerged while 22 patients died overnight, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah told in a statement issued here on Tuesday. The CM said 22 new fatalities lifted the death toll to 3,730 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. He said 12,566 samples were tested against which 1,064 cases were diagnosed constituting 8.5 percent detection rate. T.....

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Various sectors of economy; Baqir says ‘...but Covid-19 has also created opportunities’

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-09

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Dr Reza Baqir Friday said that although the Covid-19 has derailed the economy but also created a lot of opportunities in various sectors of the economy. Addressing the Pakistan Banking Award ceremony organized by the Institute of Bankers Pakistan, Baqir said that last year was very difficult and challenging for the country's economy due to Co.....

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Covid-19 claims nine more lives, infects 1,005 others: Murad

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-09

KARACHI: As many as nine more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,679 and 1,005 new cases emerged when 12,904 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Friday. He added that nine more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,679 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.....

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Sindh confirms 1,235 fresh Covid infections

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-15

KARACHI: Sindh reported another 1,235 coronavirus cases and 11 more fatalities on Thursday, lifting the provincial Covid tally and death toll to 231,953 and 3,755, respectively. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House, 13,008 samples were tested between Wednesday and Thursday, and 1,235 persons tested positive for the contagion, indicating a positivity ratio of 9.5 per

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Covid-19 cases surging in Karachi due to ‘ideal weather’

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-15

Covid-19 cases have started surging again in Karachi as its current cold weather with moderate humidity is most suitable for the spread of the virus, while its dense population with millions living in slums and regularly-held “super spreading events” are other contributing factors behind the surge, experts said on Thursday. “Cold weather with moderate humidity in the rang.....

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International News

Countries News

Covid emergency imposed in London

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-09

LONDON: The mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has in effect declared an emergency in the capital as it grapples with a soaring number of coronavirus cases and hospitals struggle to cope with the influx of patients, The Guardian reported. Khan declared a “major incident”, in his dual role as mayor and chair of the London Resilience Forum, after discussions with NHS London, local authorities.....

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Arthritis drugs could help save lives of Covid patients, research finds

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-09

LONDON: Two drugs used to treat rheumatoid arthritis could help to save the lives of one in 12 intensive care patients with severe Covid, researchers have found, foreign media reported The NHS will begin using tocilizumab to treat coronavirus patients from Friday, health officials said after results from about 800 patients confirmed the drug brings benefits, potentially cutting the relative risk

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Malaysian parliament suspended after declaration of virus emergency

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia’s king declared a nationwide state of emergency on Tuesday to fight a coronavirus surge and parliament was suspended, with critics charging it was a bid by the unstable government to cling to power. The surprise move came a day after the prime minister announced sweeping new curbs across much of the Southeast Asian nation, including the closure of most businesses, and.....

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0.5m healthcare workers to get Covid vaccine in 1st phase

Source: [Fakhar Durrani](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-10

PHOENIX: The federal government has given approval for procurement of 1.1 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from the Chinese company Sinopharm for 0.5 million healthcare personnel working in Pakistan, said Special Assistant to PM on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Faisal Sultan. Talking to this scribe, Dr Faisal said a three-member cabinet committee on COVID-1.....

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Airlines face more turbulence before vaccine relief

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-15

For a year expected to mark a turning point for pandemicstricken European airlines, 2021 is off to a rough start. A resurgence of Covid-19 lockdowns has killed off a fragile bookings upturn, executives and analysts said, as insolvent Norwegian Air finally axed its long-haul operations on Thursday. The setbacks deal a blow to airline hopes that the promise of vaccines would put the worst of the c.....

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France braces for new Covid curbs but set to avoid lockdown

Source: [AFP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-15

PARIS: The French government is expected on Thursday to announce new restrictions to stave off a rise in coronavirus cases but unlike some of its neighbours a full lockdown appears off the agenda for now. Among the measures floated to try to avert a much-feared third wave of infections include expanding a 6:00 pm curfew in place in parts of the east to the whole country. Most of France is

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Donors News**EU gets vaccine boost as WHO dampens herd immunity hopes**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-13

THE HAGUE: The European Union started the approval process for its third vaccine on Tuesday as WHO scientists warned that herd immunity from coronavirus was unlikely this year even with mass inoculation schemes. The 27-nation EU -- under fire for lengthy approval processes and slow national rollouts of virus shots -- promised an "accelerated timeline" after confirming drug company Ast.....

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SDPI Engagements

Webinars News

Experts highlight need to prioritise health spending

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-15

ISLAMABAD: The society needs to change its behaviour towards health spending to face the emerging health and nutrition challenges after the novel coronavirus pandemic. In addition to policy level response by the governments, universal health coverage has become need of hour to respond to needs of the citizens. Noted physicians and experts from the health sector said this while sharing their view.....

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Health Experts Highlight Need Of Prioritizing Health & Nutrition In The Country

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point](#), 2021-01-14

ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 14th Jan, 2021) :Health and Nutritional experts on Thursday observed that to face the emerging health and nutrition challenges amid Covid-19, behavioral change in society has a key role to play in addition to policy level response by the governments. Besides, universal health coverage has become need of hour to respond to needs of the citizens.....

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