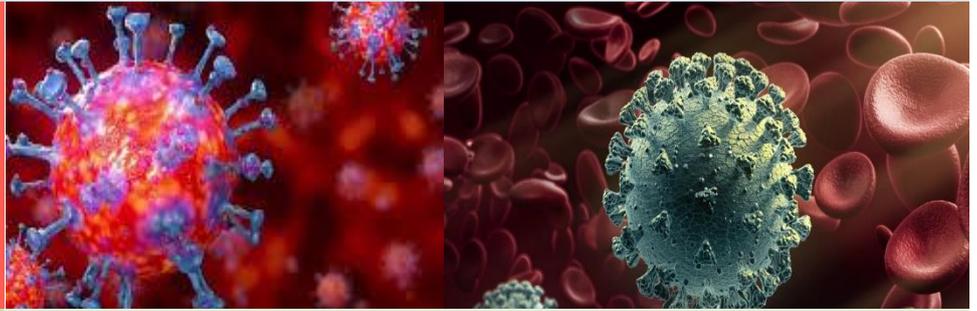


# E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 06-07



Issue: 16 - 22 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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### 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

**The actual number of Covid-19 deaths in Pakistan**

Source: [Aliza Ayaz, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

Covid-19 cases are surging across the country again. The number of critical care patients have doubled and the positivity rate amongst the daily tested is on the rise. Yet, we hear the deaths are “just 10,000 or so” in total. Is this far too much or far too less given Pakistan’s size, demographic and socioeconomic dynamic — all of which are clear exacerbators of coronavirus.....[more >>](#)

**Sindh keen to procure Covid vaccine from abroad directly**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2021-01-17

KARACHI : Mentioning that it appeared Pakistan would be the last country to vaccinate its people in the world, Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho on Saturday sought the federal government’s permission to directly negotiate with foreign governments and private companies for the procurement of the Covid-19 vaccine. “Not only the United States, United Kingdom and Turkey but eve.....[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 impact**

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

A special report by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), which gives a data driven evaluation of the socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus on the wellbeing of the people of Pakistan, is just what the government needs to formulate policy in testing times like the present. Now, thanks to ready and hopefully very reliable data, both fiscal and monetary authorities will be able to know much better.....[more >>](#)

**Coronavirus, lockdowns, and air quality**

Source: [Muhammad Zaheer/Adnan Yousaf, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 92% of the world’s population lives in places where air pollution is exceeding the defined limits. Among other pollutants, elevated levels of particulate matter — i.e. dust, smoke, etc — in ambient outdoor air are the primary cause of mortality worldwide. Pakistan’s urban areas have been among the most polluted in the world, .....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19: a third wave?**

Source: [Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

‘Where are we in this pandemic?’ is the most common question I encounter. People really want to know if we are getting out of it and I too am now exhausted by the precautions and missing in-person socialising. In most outbreaks we are either moving up on a graph (increasing daily cases) or coming down (decreasing daily cases). So as a field epidemiologist, the daily case graph gives us.....

[more >>](#)

**Internet access**

Source: [Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

AS the Covid-19 pandemic rages on, and shows few signs of dissipating, one of the many lessons policymakers should be noting is the importance of high-speed internet, particularly for educational purposes and remote work. Yet many parts of Pakistan continue to struggle with accessing the internet, or citizens are unable to afford its costs, or face connectivity issues, particularly in the peripher.....

[more >>](#)

**Brave new world**

Source: [Aqdas Afzal](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

NOW that the sun has finally set on 2020, the devastation brought about by Covid-19 is coming into stark relief. Here in Pakistan, where Covid-19 was not as intense as elsewhere, more than 10,000 people lost their lives. Covid-19 has also been an unmitigated economic disaster; GDP slid into negative territory for the first time since 1952. Where this pandemic has wreaked havoc on economies and soc.....

[more >>](#)

**Quick Action**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

While the second wave may be in full swing in Sindh and Punjab, it seems to have slowed down in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). The region has neither reported a new case in the last four days nor has it reported a death since December 25. Surely, there is something to be learnt about crisis management from the region. However, matters should be made easier now that Oxford's AstraZeneca vaccine has b.....

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**Defying the pandemic**

Source: [Rajko Kolundzic](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-19

On November 24, 2020, the S&P 500 hit a record, "defying" the pandemic the Wall Street Journal notes. The Journal added that stocks' stellar year defied the virus and economic slump—describing it as dazzling and as a "euphoria." At the same time, the rich are getting wealthier. Jeff Bezos, the owner of Amazon and now second richest man in the world, b.....

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**Education and internet**

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-19

With the timeline for the acquisition and rollout of the vaccine in Pakistan still uncertain, and news reports speaking of the second wave of the coronavirus soon giving way to a third wave, the decision about reopening schools hangs in the balance; and understandably so. It's not just that the virus is spreading much faster, it's also that new variants are cropping up all the time and.....

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**The moral vaccination**

Source: [Dr. Usman W. Chohan](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

In 2020, the world waited with bated breath as pharma companies around the world raced to arrive at a workable, safe, and efficient vaccine against the coronavirus (COVID-19). By December, 2020, good news was coming in from various companies including BioNTech (Pfizer), Moderna, Sinopharm, and Gamaleya. By January, 2021 almost 300 vaccines were being tracked by the London School of Hygiene as goin.....

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**Murmurs on the ground**

Source: [Muhammad Hamid Zaman](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

There are sectors of society which suffer from minimal support and highest expectations. Health immediately comes to mind. When it comes to the public health sector, what keeps the lights on is neither a serious budget from the exchequer, nor a robust industry and the accompanying private sector. The health sector also does not get any solid investments from abroad. A lot of what keeps our programm.....

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### Recovery in industrial production

Source: [Dr Hafiz A Pasha](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

The recent release of the estimates of the Quantum Index of Manufacturing (QIM), for the period of July to November, 2020, has strengthened the perception that the industrial sector of the economy is on the path to recovery after a severe hit to economic activity in the aftermath of the first wave of COVID-19. The QIM had plummeted by as much as 25 percent between February and June 2020, with adve.....

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### Economic recovery remains headstrong amidst pandemic, reveals PPI

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

ISLAMABAD: Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME) released its bi-monthly report on Pakistan Prosperity Index (PPI) that reviews Pakistan's macro-economy based on the analysis of four periodic data sets - industrial production, trade volume, price levels, and private sector lending. On a 12-month rolling basis, this issue of the report covers the period December 2019 to November.....

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### Schools reopening

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

THE disruptive impact of Covid-19 on education will be felt for years to come. For countries like Pakistan, where 44pc of the children were out of school even before the pandemic struck, the consequences will be devastating. In Pakistan, the extended closure of schools and colleges paints a bleak picture of the future. A recent World Bank report on education poverty had predicted that the pandemic.....

[more >>](#)

### Long arm of Big Tech

Source: [Rafia Zakaria](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

DONALD J. Trump spent the last days of his presidency sulking in the residential part of the White House. According to the White House press corps, he had isolated himself from nearly everyone and busied himself in making a list of his enemies, which included his own vice president. One of the few people seen visiting him was a man who has made a small fortune selling pillows on television and is .....

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### There's need to look at the bigger picture

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

A Business Recorder exclusive highlighted a Ministry of Maritime Affairs proposal to allow the government to continue to be the sole importer of LNG till new terminals are commissioned given the limited capacity of the pipeline network with the Ministry of Energy directing transmission companies, as per the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet decision, to share draft Gas Transmission Ag.....

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### Tax cuts, trade wars and Covid-19

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

WASHINGTON: From tradewars to tax cuts, from ultra-low unemployment to record highs on stock markets and a high-volume feud with his own Federal Reserve chief, President Donald Trump took the US economy on a wild ride even before the coronavirus drove it off a cliff. How to sum it up? The answer as of February 2020 would be different than the answer today. A year ago, the US economy seemed to hav.....

[more >>](#)

### Covid-19-The second wave

Source: [Haya Fatima Sehgal](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-20

A full acceptance of the second wave of COVID-19 came when our home had a case of it. It is not until we truly go through something personally, do we understand what the situation actually is. Pakistan has now officially reported crossing the 500, 000 mark of Covid-19 cases in the country. The reported deaths due to the novel coronavirus are above 10,000. However, as obituaries are listed each day .....

[more >>](#)

### Dubai, party haven amid pandemic, faces its biggest surge

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-20

Masks off the minute you step inside. Bars packed and pulsing like it's 2019. Social media stars waving bottles of champagne. DJs spinning party tunes through multi-hour brunches. Since becoming one of the world's first destinations to open up for tourism, Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, has promoted itself as the ideal pandemic vacation spot. It cannot afford otherwise, analysts .....

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### Change and changemakers!

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

The United Nation's just-released Human Development Report is a surprisingly refreshing read. Quite unlike earlier editions of their annual development-flagship publication, the UN stresses a noticeably higher emphasis on the role of human agency, collective action, role of political struggles, and the role of civil society towards meeting the climate change goals. It's one thing that .....

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### Paid leaves

Source: [Sarah Anderson](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-22

Late last year, Congress allowed federal mandatory emergency paid leave benefits to expire. That left millions of American workers more vulnerable to catching – and spreading – COVID-19. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, passed in March 2020, required certain employers to provide employees two weeks leave at regular pay if they were experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or .....

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### In the time of Covid-19

Source: [Gabriel Leao](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-22

These days, I get a knot in my stomach every time I reach out to one of my friends. I dread calling or texting them because I know that if they do not answer, they may well be dead. I do not work in a high-risk industry, or live in a war zone, but my fears about the wellbeing of those closest to me are not irrational or baseless. I am a Black man living in Brazil, and many of my friends a.....

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### Zero carbon race

Source: [Ali Tauqeer Sheikh](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

IN a desperate move to give a new lease of life to the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has launched the Race to Zero, described as a campaign aimed at rallying support from some 'real economy' actors — businesses, cities, regions, and investors — for a resilient, zero carbon recovery that unlocks inclusive growth. This coalition r.....

[more >>](#)

### 2021: A glimpse into the future

Source: [Muhammad Omar Iftikhar](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-22

The world went through a radical shift when the Covid-19 pandemic hit every continent in 2020. Where businesses were suspended, events canceled, and life halted, everyone was compelled to stop, think, reflect, and adapt to the new lifestyle. It was 'work-from-home' for all. The Internet proved to be the wonder network that connected students with faculty members and employees with coll.....

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### The pandemic rages on

Source: [Syed M Hamza](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

Covid-19 has undoubtedly changed the course of 21st century. It has stilled the clatter and the traffic of the world and its habitants. There struck a somber note in the people's lives during the start of the year, 2020. The world faced a deadly biological disaster that seized us all to our homes. Lives were lost, jobs were lost, freedom was lost. Unfortunately, however, the UK and the US st.....

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## National News

### Islamabad

#### Waiting for a vaccine

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2021-01-16

'The Covid-19 pandemic led to a race for a vaccine, the kind we haven't seen before – resulting in an unprecedented quick creation and trial of vaccines for the coronavirus. Once the clocks said goodbye to 2020, the world looked to their governments and to global health companies and think tanks for news about how soon humanity would receive some level of immunity from the disease.....[more >>](#)

#### RDA serves public amid COVID-19

Source: [Saeed Ahmed, The News, International](#), 2021-01-16

Rawalpindi : In line with the Prime Minister's policy of Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) under the direction of Chairman Tariq Mehmood Murtaza, has accelerated its efforts to simultaneously serve the public amid Covid-19, along with facilitation of the construction sector. The Authority has initiated its fast track application approval rate d.....[more >>](#)

#### Pandemonium at PIMS

Source: [Shahina Maqbool, The News, International](#), 2021-01-16

Islamabad : Pandemonium broke loose at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) here Friday as employees protesting against the Medical Teaching Institutions (MTI) Ordinance occupied the Administration Block and chased the former Executive Director Dr. Anser Maxood out of the hospital premises, preventing him from taking charge as the new MTI-appointed Medical Director (MD). When .....[more >>](#)

#### Cybercrime quintupled during pandemic

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

DIJKOT: Cybercrime increased by five times amid coronavirus pandemic in 2020 compared to the previous years (since the inception of the wing in October 2018), a report released by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cybercrime Wing reveals. According to the data published by the FIA Cybercrime Wing, as many as 94,227 complaints of web-based crime including fraud, sexual harassment, stalking a.....

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#### Covid-19;'Considerable number of containers could not be cleared from port'

Source: [Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the sub-committee of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance has been informed that due to coronavirus a considerable number of containers could not be cleared from the port. Director General Transit Trade Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) informed the committee that during September 3,000 trackers were installed on containers and subsequently cleared. At.....

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#### Peak of coronavirus;Production of cigarettes increases by 9.4pc in Punjab

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

ISLAMABAD: The production of cigarettes and its sales/stocks have increased by 9.4 percent and 19.2 percent, respectively, in the Punjab, during the peak of the coronavirus pandemic in the province, according to official data updated on Friday. In a monthly survey report, the Planning and Development Department of Punjab has revealed that under the head of industrial production and employment.....

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### **Corona vaccine due by March: Asad**

Source: [Azeem Samar](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-17

KARACHI: Responding to the criticism that Pakistan still had not placed an order for the coronavirus vaccine, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar Saturday said the vaccine would be made available by March. He said this while addressing a joint press conference with Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Federal Information Technology Minister Amin-ul-Haque and other minis.....

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### **Another 4 COVID-19 deaths, 159 test positive**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-17

Islamabad : After a day without reporting any death due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 on Friday, four deaths due to the illness have been registered from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 1,025 while the total number of patients so far tested positive from the region has crossed the figure of 52,000 on Saturday. As many as .....

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### **Doctor dies of corona at PIMS**

Source: [DNA](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-17

Islamabad: Coronavirus has claimed life of another doctor of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad on Friday night. According to details, Deputy Director of the PIMS Emergency Ward, Dr Manzoor, succumbed to COVID-19 on Friday. Dr Manzoor was on ventilator for the past one month. ....

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### **81 million jobs wiped out due to COVID-19**

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-17

Islamabad : The COVID-19 pandemic has wiped out 81 million jobs during past one year all over the world, said a report issued from International Labour Organisation (ILO). According to ILO preliminary estimate, unemployment rate were increased from 4.4 per cent in 2019 to somewhere between 5.2 per cent and 5.7 per cent during 2020. According to a new report by the International Labour Organ.....

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### **Only for emergency use; DRAP approves AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

ISLAMABAD: AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for emergency use in Pakistan, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Dr Faisal Sultan said on Saturday, making it the first coronavirus vaccine to get the green light for use in the South Asian country. Pakistan, which is seeing rising numbers of coronavirus infections, said its vaccines would be procured from multiple sources. ....

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### **Low success rate of China's vaccine**

Source: [Sardar Sikander Shaheen](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

ISLAMABAD: Less than even one percent, or 0.27 percent, of the total population of Pakistan may develop immunity against coronavirus through vaccination if the federal government goes ahead with its plan to procure the vaccine from China that had a success rate of only 50.4 percent in Brazil. Reports from the government circles suggested that initially Pakistan plans to get 1.1 million vaccin.....

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**24pc corporate growth witnessed despite Covid-19**

Source: [Sohail Sarfraz](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

ISLAMABAD: Despite the outbreak of the coronavirus, Pakistan has witnessed 24 percent corporate growth during 2020, as the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has registered 20,324 new companies in 2020 against 16,456 companies during 2019. The SECP officials told Business Recorder that the simplification of registration process was one of the key factors that stimulated gro.....

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**The school debate**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-18

There are no easy answers to whether schools should reopen or not. And that is true for not just Pakistan but has been a debate around the globe in these pandemic times. The issue is back in our conversations after the announcement by Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood that the government has planned a phase-wise reopening of educational institutes in the country from January 18 (today). As per th.....

[more >>](#)

**Fingers crossed**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

The novelcoronaviruspandemic has left us with difficult choices to make. With its second wave not yet over, there are already murmurs of a third around the world. Meanwhile, the virus continues to mutate. Reports of cases from the new strain that developed in the UK suggest that children, previously believed to be safe, may now be susceptible. The situation around the even younger Brazilian strain.....

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**66% of Covid-19 relief package remains unutilised**

Source: [Shahbaz Rana](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

ISLAMABAD: A UK-funded report reveals poor utilisation of the Prime Minister's Relief-cum-Economic Support Package to absorb Covid-related shock, with spending of just Rs297 billion or 34%. Prime Minister Imran Khan had announced a rescue and stimulus package worth about Rs1.2 trillion in March last year aimed at supporting the economy in absorbing the adverse impacts of the pandemic. The.....

[more >>](#)

**More Covid-19 vaccines to be registered: official**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan reported 2,521 new Covid-19 cases and 43 deaths on Sunday, the Ministry of National Health Services (MNHS) announced that more vaccines would be registered in the country in coming weeks. According to the data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), out of the 43 deaths, 22 — or over 50 per cent — were reported in Punjab; six each.....

[more >>](#)

**Pindi sees more casualties, positivity rate drops in capital**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

RAWALPINDI: As many as three patients died from Covid-19 on Saturday while 20 tested positive for the deadly virus. However, no patient was discharged from hospitals. Mohammad Altaf, 43, a resident of Sangal Town, was brought to Rawalpindi Institute of Urology (RIU) on Jan 15 where he died on Saturday. Taj Begum, 73, from Shah Faisal Colony Chaklala, was admitted to Fauji Foundation Hospital on J.....

[more >>](#)

### **Drap approves AstraZeneca vaccine for emergency use in Pakistan**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) on Saturday authorised the Oxford University AstraZeneca Covid-19 shot for emergency use in Pakistan, making it the first vaccine to get local approval. "Drap granted emergency use authorisation to AstraZeneca's Covid vaccine," Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan told Reuters. AstraZeneca said in Novemb.....

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### **Virus kills another 43, infects more than 2,500 in a day**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-18

The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Sunday climbed to 34,701 with 2,521 more people testing positive for the deadly virus, while 1,540 people recovered from the coronavirus during the last 24 hours. As many as 43 coronavirus patients, 40 of whom were under treatment in hospitals, died on Saturday, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operat.....

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### **Provinces, private entities free to import Covid-19 vaccine, says Asad Umar**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar has said that the provinces and private entities were free to import Covid-19 vaccines that have been approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan (DRAP). "The Sindh government, private sector organisation or hospital can place the order for importing the vaccine, provided that they are approved by DRAP," the NC.....

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### **Covid-19 vaccines; Procurements by ministry granted exemption**

Source: [Mushtaq Ghumman](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

ISLAMABAD: The Federal government has exempted procurement of Covid-19 vaccine or vaccines by the Ministry of NHR&C from the operation of Public Procurement Rules, 2004 and Regulations issued from time to time in the larger national interest, official sources told Business Recorder. Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) had recommended exemption to Ministry of National Health Se.....

[more >>](#)

### **43 die of Covid-19 across country**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

ISLAMABAD: As many as 43 people deaths of coronavirus have been reported across the country during the last 24 hours with 22 deaths at ventilator. According to statistics issued by the National Command and operation Centre (NCOC) 2,521 new cases were reported in the country during the last 24 hours, taking the total active cases in the country to 34,700. The total numbers of confirmed cases w.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19; Consulate in Dubai helps 61,000 expats to return home**

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

ISLAMABAD: The Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai has helped around 61,000 overseas Pakistanis to return to their homes during the time of coronavirus pandemic in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Over 17,500 ration bags were also distributed among the affected overseas Pakistanis stranded in the UAE due to the pandemic, it was revealed during visit of Kashmir Committee Chairman Shehryar Kh.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 affects insurance sector indiscriminately**

Source: App, [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-18

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has said that the lockdown situation and economic disruptions during the Covid-19 affected the insurance sector indiscriminately. According to the annual report issued by SECP, the SECP taking cognizance of its responsibility, has facilitated the insurance industry to prepare for corona virus impact by providing relaxation and relief in re.....

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### **Covid-19: Pakistan consulate in Dubai helps 61,000 Pakistani expats in repatriation**

Source: Our Staff Reporter, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

ISLAMABAD - The Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai has helped around 61000 overseas Pakistanis to return to their homes during the time of coronavirus pandemic in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Over 17,500 ration bags were also distributed among the affected overseas Pakistanis stranded in the UAE due to the pandemic, it was revealed during visit of Kashmir Committee Chairman Shehryar Kh.....

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### **22 more deaths, 734 new cases of Covid-19 emerge in Punjab**

Source: Our Correspondent, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

LAHORE - The COVID-19 pandemic claimed another 22 lives with 734 new cases in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) here on Sunday, the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 149,222 with 4,409 death toll. The P&SHD confirmed that 477 new cases of COVID-19 were repor.....

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### **Pakistan approves Sinopharm corona vaccine for emergency use**

Source: Geo News, [The News, International](#), 2021-01-19

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday authorised emergency use of Chinese firm Sinopharm's anti-coronavirus vaccine as the country grapples with a second wave of infections. The decision was taken by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) after meetings held between January 14 and 18 during which the authority reviewed vaccine results submitted by the National Institute of Health (NI.....

[more >>](#)

### **Govt wants to obtain vaccine of highest efficacy**

Source: Syed Irfan Raza | Ikram Junaidi, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

ISLAMABAD: The government is confident of acquiring the anti-Covid vaccine by the first quarter of the current year but is adopting a 'look-before-you-leap' strategy to ensure procurement of a medicine of the highest efficacy. On the other hand, 45 more people succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours while 2,417 new patients surfaced in the country. "Our target is to pro.....

[more >>](#)

### **Telecom revenue surges 129pc amid lockdown**

Source: Staff Reporter, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

ISLAMABAD: Contribution of the telecom sector to the national exchequer increased by 129 per cent in the fiscal year ending in June 2020 compared to a year ago owing to Covid-19 lockdown, the Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA) said on Friday. Sharing its Annual Report 2020, PTA highlighted that the surge in demand for telecom services due to lockdown resulted in significant growth not only in the s.....

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### **Pakistan approves another Covid-19 vaccine**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

ISLAMABAD: As the country reported 1,920 new coronavirus cases and 46 deaths in a single day, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) on Monday approved another Covid-19 vaccine manufactured by Chinese state-owned firm Sinopharm. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), a representative body of doctors, has asked the government to share details of the vaccines which are under c.....

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### **Chinese pharma Sinopharm's Covid vaccine becomes 2nd to be approved for emergency use in Pakistan**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) on Monday approved Chinese state-owned firm Sinopharm's Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use, the second shot to be given approval for use in the country. On Friday, Drap had authorised the Oxford University-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use in Pakistan. "In a meeting conducted by [the] Registration Board of Drap today January .....

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### **China's latest Covid outbreak worst since March 2020**

Source: [all updates\( corona news\)](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

ABOUT 2 HOURS AGO Islamabad, GB, AJK report 92 new cases, 2 deaths Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan have collectively reported 92 cases of the novel coronavirus over the past 24 hours. AJK also reported two deaths, while no casualties were reported in the federal capital and GB. Facebook Count Twitter Sha.....

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### **Pakistan's regulator approves AstraZeneca vaccine**

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

Sindh medical stores will import vaccine Health ministry will decide price and quantity of doses | Efficacy in clinical trials reported above 90pc: Official ISLAMABAD - The Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Saturday approved the Oxford University AstraZeneca Covid-19 shot for emergency use in the country. The UK-based AstraZeneca becomes the first vaccine locally approved .....

[more >>](#)

### **GB reports zero Covid-19 case for 4th consecutive day**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

ISLAMABAD - Gilgit-Baltistan has not reported a single Covid-19 case during the past four days, revealed the official data yesterday. Besides this, no death from Covid-19 has been reported in the region since December 25, 2020, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Pakistan's Covid-19 death toll nears 11,000. The Covid-19 tally has climbed to 516,770 after the .....

[more >>](#)

### **NCOC grants permission to start parliamentary activities**

Source: [Javaid-ur-Rahman](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

ISLAMABAD - The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has received permission from National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to start parliamentary activities including National Assembly session following observing proper SOPs due to severe second wave of Coronavirus [COVID-19]. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has asked the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to ensure SOPs before.....

[more >>](#)

**Pakistan reports 1,800 new coronavirus cases in one day**

Source: [Anadolu](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

Pakistan has reported 58 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 523,011. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 11,055 on Tuesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 1,800 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pand.....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 46 more lives**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

ISLAMABAD - The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Monday reached to 34,986 with 1,920 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,589 people recovered from the coronavirus during the last 24 hours. Forty Six coronavirus patients, 39 of whom were under treatment in hospital and Seven were in their respective homes or quarantines died on Sunday, according to t.....

[more >>](#)

**On average, 48.8 people dying of coronavirus across Pakistan since Jan 2021 started**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-19

ISLAMABAD: As a new coronavirus variant threatens the country's prevention measures to curb the pandemic, Pakistan's coronavirus death toll surged to 11,055 on Tuesday. National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) data showed that the country has witnessed 48.8 deaths on average every day since the start of January 2021 with hospital intensive care units nearing capacity across the count.....

[more >>](#)

**Cabinet briefed about Covid-19 impacts**

Source: [Zaheer Abbasi](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

The federal cabinet which met here yesterday, was briefed by the Minister for Planning, Asad Umar, about a survey recently conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) to ascertain the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on country economy. According to him, the survey revealed that 20 million population's income was lost in April 2020 following the outbreak of Covid-19 but timely measures t.....

[more >>](#)

**PM briefed on efforts to engage more firms for Covid vaccine**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

ISLAMABAD: As the Cabinet Committee on Procurement of Covid-19 Vaccine on Tuesday briefed Prime Minister Imran Khan on the efforts being made to engage more pharmaceutical companies for procurement of the vaccine, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) expressed serious concern over the federal government's decision to ask provinces and the private sector to import the vaccine. The .....

[more >>](#)

**Umerkot by-poll witnesses over 60pc turnout despite pandemic alert**

Source: [Iftikhar A. Khan](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

ISLAMABAD: Despite the challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the turnout in the PS-52 Umerkot-II by-election appeared to be as high as 60pc with low incidence of procedural violations of the prescribed standard operating procedures (SOPs). The encouraging trend indicates an improved management by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). This was first by-election held after the ECP.....

[more >>](#)

### Islamabad reports lowest Covid-19 cases in three months

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital saw a fall in the number of Covid-19 infections and positivity ratio after a period of over three months whereas Rawalpindi recorded a rise in patients on Tuesday. However, no casualty was reported in the twin cities. A downward trend was also witnessed in Attock district and Taxila as no new positive case surfaced in the area in the last couple of days. The garris.....

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### PM directs fast vaccines procurement

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday directed to expedite the process for procuring the two Covid-19 vaccines that have been approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan. He made these remarks during a cabinet committee meeting which was attended by Minister for Industries Hammad Azhar, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, Special Assistan.....

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### Genetic testing of wastewater can detect COVID-19 variants

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

islamabad-Viral genome sequencing of wastewater can detect new SARS-CoV-2 variants before they are detected by local clinical sequencing, according to a new study reported in mBio, an open-access journal of the American Society for Microbiology. The ability to track SARS-CoV-2 mutations in wastewater could be particularly useful for tracking new variants, like the B.1.17 strain that is now wi.....

[more >>](#)

### Pakistan crosses 11,000 Covid-19 deaths as active cases hit 35,485

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-20

The number of coronavirus deaths in Pakistan surged to 11,055 on Tuesday, according to the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) tally as a new coronavirus variant threatens the country's prevention measures to curb the pandemic. Since the start of January 2021, the country has witnessed 48.8 deaths on average every day with hospital intensive care units nearing capacity across the .....

[more >>](#)

### PM directs authorities to accelerate measures for COVID-19 vaccine rollout

Source: [Inp](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-20

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday chaired a meeting on the coronavirus situation in Pakistan and procurement of COVID-19 vaccines. The cabinet committee, formed on the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines, briefed the prime minister about the recently approved COVID vaccines in the country. The committee briefed the meeting that the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) had approved two Co.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 vaccine: Pakistan in advanced talks with two companies, says Dr Faisal Sultan**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-21

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Wednesday said that Pakistan is in advanced level talks with two manufacturers to procure the COVID-19 vaccine. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he said that the two companies were Sinopharm and CanSino. Dr Faisal said that Sinopharm is being used in several countries, and its efficacy is around 80-85 percent. ....

[more >>](#)

### **Govt to procure 1m doses of Covid vaccines by March 31**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-21

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Wednesday expressed confidence in the government's ability to procure at least one million doses of coronavirus vaccines by March, saying it ultimately aimed to inoculate 70 per cent of the country's population against the virus. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he spoke about the two vaccines that hav.....

[more >>](#)

### **Oxford vaccine may cost around \$6 in Pakistan**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi | Imran Ayub](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

KARACHI/ ISLAMABAD: The government is likely to bear \$6 to \$7 per dose of millions of shots if it opts to pick the Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine, which has been approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drac), though its sole authorised local distributor is at the moment unable to give a proper timeline for the supply, it emerged on Wednesday. "Since the governmen.....

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### **NIH gets go-ahead to store Covid-19 vaccine**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

ISLAMABAD: In a major development on Wednesday, the district health department gave approval to store the Covid-19 vaccine to be acquired from Chinese state-owned company Sinopharm in the warehouse of the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) located at the National Institute of Health (NIH) and other facilities. On the other hand, 137 more positive cases were reported from the federal capital.....

[more >>](#)

### **China to gift half a million Covid-19 vaccine doses to Pakistan: FM Qureshi**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Thursday announced that China will giftPakistanhalf a million Covid-19 vaccine doses by the end of January. "Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said that Pakistan can airlift the medicine," FM Qureshi said while talking to the media in Islamabad. The development comes a day after Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health D.....

[more >>](#)

### **PIMS runs out of expensive Actemra injections**

Source: [DNA](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

ISLAMABAD: Shortage of expensive medicines for the treatment of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) at thePakistan Institute of Medical Sciences(Pims) has forced patients to purchase them. Patients are facing a lot of difficulties as the hospital has also run out of stock of life-saving Actemra injections that cost Rs50,000 each, a spokesperson shared on Wednesday. ReadPIMS shuts OPDs for 90 days The.....

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**Covid-19 vaccines will be made available free of charge: SAPM**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-21

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Dr Faisal Sultan has said that the government of Pakistan will provide Covid-19 vaccines free of cost to the masses. While addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Sultan said that the authorities were devising a mechanism for the provision of the vaccine to the people, adding that the provinces and the priva.....

[more >>](#)

**Pakistan to receive first shipment of Covid-19 vaccine by Jan 31: FM**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-21

On Thursday, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that China has promised to provide 500,000 doses of coronavirus vaccine to Pakistan by January 31. Talking to media in Islamabad, he said the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi counterpart offered Islamabad to send an airplane and airlift the vaccines. Qureshi said that he told his Chinese counterpart that Pakistan requires 1.1 million dos.....

[more >>](#)

**People to get vaccine free of cost: Dr Faisal With 48 virus deaths, 1,772 new infections in a day**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter / Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-21

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister's Special Assistant on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Faisal Sultan said Wednesday that the government would provide corona vaccine free of cost to the general public. Talking to reporters in Islamabad, he said that negotiations with two pharmaceutical companies are underway for procurement of vaccine as shortlisted by the Technical .....

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**China to gift Pakistan 500,000 corona vaccine doses**

Source: [Mariana Babar](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-22

ISLAMABAD: China has assured Pakistan of provision of 500,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses by January 31, while 1.1 million doses will be made available by the end of February. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi announced this after making a phone call to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at the residence of Prime Minister Imran Khan. In a video message and a series of tweets, the foreign minis.....

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**China gifts 500,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine**

Source: [Baqir Sajjad Syed](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-22

ISLAMABAD: China on Thursday announced a gift of 500,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine for Pakistan. "China would provide 500,000 doses of vaccine by Jan 31," Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said after a telephone conversation with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. He said the first consignment of vaccines was being given as a "grant assistance" and goodwill gesture by C.....

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**Covid-19 pandemic undermining efforts to improve diets of 2bn people, says UN**

Source: [Amin Ahmed](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-22

ISLAMABAD: The economic impact of Covid-19 on the world's most populous region, Asia and the Pacific, is undermining efforts to improve diets and nutrition of nearly two billion people, who were unable to afford healthy diets even prior to the pandemic, says a report published by four specialised agencies of the United Nations. The report, titled "Asia and the Pacific Regional Overvie.....

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### Two more firms contact Drap for vaccine registration

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

ISLAMABAD: While three foreign pharmaceutical companies have already developed their stakes in Pakistan, two more companies have contacted the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) for registration and phase-III clinical trial of their Covid-19 vaccines. On Thursday, 2,363 new cases and 54 deaths were reported due to coronavirus in a single day as the number of active cases reached 35,293 .....

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### Covid-19 pandemic undermining efforts to improve diets of 2bn people, says UN

Source: [Amin Ahmed](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

ISLAMABAD: The economic impact of Covid-19 on the world's most populous region, Asia and the Pacific, is undermining efforts to improve diets and nutrition of nearly two billion people, who were unable to afford healthy diets even prior to the pandemic, says a report published by four specialised agencies of the United Nations. The report, titled "Asia and the Pacific Regional Overvie.....

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### Islamabad, Rawalpindi see surge in Covid-19 cases

Source: [Ikram Junaidi | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

ISLAMABAD: The twin cities saw a surge in Covid-19 cases on Thursday with Islamabad reporting 126 infections and the Rawalpindi district 47 cases and one death. As many as 5,798 samples were collected in the federal capital on Wednesday of which 126 were found positive and the positivity rate was 2pc. District Health Officer Islamabad Dr Zaeem Zia told Dawn that despite an increase in cases the .....

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### China promises to 'gift' 0.5m doses of Covid vaccine to Pakistan by Jan 31

Source: [News Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

China will provide 0.5 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine to the government of Pakistan by January 31, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Thursday. "As goodwill gesture, China has pledged to hand over the batch of vaccine free of cost," the foreign minister told media here, following his telephonic conversation with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. Qureshi said the Chinese fore.....

[more >>](#)

### Over 60 shops, restaurants sealed over violation of Covid-19 SOPs

Source: [News Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

More than 60 shops, restaurants and stores have been sealed besides imposition of fines by the district administration in Lahore over the violation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) against Covid-19. The district administration has conducted an operation against violators of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) against Covid-19 in different parts of the Punjab capital Lahore. According.....

[more >>](#)

**54 more die of Covid-19, 2,363 new cases reported: NCOC**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday reported 54 coronavirus deaths and 2,363 new COVID-19 infections taking nationwide coronavirus death tally to 11,157 and total infections to 527,146 since the outbreak of the pandemic in February 2020. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), after the detection of 2,363 new coronavirus cases, the national tally of active COVID-19 cases in.....

[more >>](#)

**UK doing 'all it can' to cooperate with Pakistan amid Covid-19: Deputy HC Alison Blackburne**

Source: [Shafqat Ali](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

ISLAMABAD - Deputy British High Commissioner Alison Blackburne yesterday said that the United Kingdom was doing "all it can" to cooperate with Pakistan amid the COVID-19. Speaking to The Nation at a reception here, she said the UK has great interest in Pakistan but due to the pandemic, the activities were restricted. "Still we are doing what we can. There are activities going.....

[more >>](#)

**UAE Embassy in Pakistan inoculates workers against coronavirus**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-22

ISLAMABAD: The UAE Embassy in Pakistan said Friday that it had inoculated its "employees and all cadres of the and its representative offices against COVID-19". According to a press release issued by the embassy, the two-day vaccination programme was organised from January 19-20, after the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan authorised the Sinopharm vaccine in Pakistan. UAE Embassy.....

[more >>](#)

**Relatively spared by the coronavirus, Pakistanis drop their guard**

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

ISLAMABAD: Alongside the usual snacks arranged on a tray balanced on one hand, Momin Khan sells face masks to passengers at a crowded bus stand in Islamabad. Most choose the snacks instead of paying Rs10 for a mask, he says. "It's mostly rich people buying the masks, the poor people say we don't have the money anyway and we will do without them," he told Reuters. Nearby, do.....

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## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

### 10 more test positive for Covid-19 in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-16

NOWSHERA: Ten more patients were tested positive for Covid-19 in the district, raising the total number of patients to 1938 in the second wave of corona here on Friday, officials said. Briefing the media persons, Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgan, DHO Dr Gulman Shah and Dr Yasin said that the second wave of corona continues to increase drastically. They said that the corona test of 10 mo.....

[more >>](#)

### Most infected with Covid in KP last week youth: WHO

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

PESHAWAR: Most of the people infected with coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa last week were young people, disclosed the World Health Organisation on Friday. The disclosure was made in a report as 11 more people died of coronavirus and 277 were diagnosed with it in the province. According to the health department, the province's death toll from the virus swelled to 1,773 and cases to 62,996.....

[more >>](#)

### Health authorities resume random testing for Covid-19 in schools

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

PESHAWAR: Eight more people died of Covid-19 and 210 new cases were recorded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as health authorities resumed screening of students of high school and intermediate classes on Monday. The results of testing in educational institutions will be analysed in the meetings of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on the basis of which decision about resumption of classes for pr.....

[more >>](#)

### Nowshera hits 1,958 mark as 12 more test for Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-19

NOWSHERA: Twelve more suspected patients reported positive for the coronavirus, raising the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases to 1,958 in the district on Monday. 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 stan.....

[more >>](#)

### Construction, food sectors hit hard by first Covid wave

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

PESHAWAR: The construction and food sectors laid off the highest number of their workforce during the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to a survey. The survey to assess the impacts of Covid-19 on small business and informal labour was conducted in August-September last year. The findings of the survey were discussed at a roundtable session. It was jointly organised.....

[more >>](#)

### UN agencies warn economic impact of Covid-19

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-22

PESHAWAR: The economic impact of Covid-19 on the world's most populous region is threatening to further undermine efforts to improve diets and nutrition of nearly two billion people in Asia and the Pacific who were already unable to afford healthy diets prior to the pandemic. This has been revealed in a new report published by four specialised agencies of the United Nations, said a press re.....

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## Punjab

### COVID-19 claims no life, 155 cases reported

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-01-16

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 that has so far claimed as many as 1,021 lives from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district since the advent of the disease did not cause any death in the region in the last 24 hours though 155 new patients were reported from the region taking tally to 51,941. The population in ICT and Rawalpindi district witnessed a day without report.....

[more >>](#)

### 22 more die from corona in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-16

LAHORE: Around 22 more corona patients died while 661 new infections were confirmed in Punjab province during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department, Punjab, on Friday, the death toll reached 4,370, while confirmed cases reached 147,953 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary.....

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### Covid-19 leads to new labour inspection regime

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

LAHORE: The Covid-19 pandemic, which has drastically changed the world order and claimed millions of lives already, has resulted in the formation and launch of the new labour inspection regime in Punjab, a move which Prime Minister Imran Khan claims "is a good initiative to help promote small and medium industries, besides strengthening the country's economy". "The government.....

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### Shops, restaurants sealed

Source: [APP, The News, International](#), 2021-01-17

LAHORE : The district administration sealed 37 shops, restaurants and imposed Rs 50,000 fine on violation of coronavirus related SOPs here on Saturday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Model Town Zeshan Ranjha sealed two shops in C-Block Model Town while AC Cantt Sakhi Shakir sealed 12 shops two restaurants in Cantt area and imposed R.....

[more >>](#)

### Corona claims 7 more lives

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-01-18

Rawalpindi : Another seven deaths due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have been reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours along with the registration of 156 new cases of the illness showing that the intensity of the second wave of the outbreak is still intact at least in terms of mortality in the region. The number of patients being tested posi.....

[more >>](#)

### 22 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-18

LAHORE: Around 22 more patients died from COVID-19 and another 734 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 4,409, while confirmed cases reached 149,222 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 14,186 tests .....

[more >>](#)

### **Campuses reopen today amid strict SOPs**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-18

LAHORE: Public and private education institutions across the province will reopen only for Class 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th from today (Monday). In the second and final phase, schools would reopen for classes from Pre-1 to Class 8 while public and private universities would also reopen from February 01. As per the COVID-19 related SOPs, all the schools reopening for Secondary and Intermediate.....

[more >>](#)

### **Resumption of classes: Punjab asks schools to follow Centre's directions**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Saturday issued instructions regarding reopening of schools in the province under the first phase of the plan announced by the federal government. Earlier, the federal government had announced a phase-wise plan to reopen educational institutes in the country from Jan 18, which were closed on Nov 26, 2020, to contain spread of the coronavirus. The Punjab School Ed.....

[more >>](#)

### **Punjab reports 22 deaths, 734 new Covid-19 cases**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus cases increased to 5.17 percent in Punjab province, as out of 14,186 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 734 fresh virus cases and 22 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 149,222 and fatalities to 4409. With recovery of 366 more people, the number of recovered patients has reached to 133,952 in the province. As per break .....

[more >>](#)

### **5 corona patients die in Faisalabad**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

FAISALABAD - Five more patients died of the COVID-19 in Faisalabad while 79 people tested positive during past two days. According to the health department spokesperson, the number of deaths had reached 374 since March last year. He said that 1,548 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector laboratories, adding that active cases in Faisalabad reached 729 while 6,677 patients h.....

[more >>](#)

### **Yasmin Rashid rejects rumours about ministers getting Covid-19 vaccines**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-19

Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Monday rejected the rumours about ministers getting Covid-19 vaccines and clarified that the vaccine has not arrived in Pakistan so far. Dr Yasmin Rashid, while addressing a press conference, said that rumours are circulating about the administration of Covid-19 vaccines to the ministers. She clarified that the vaccines have not arrived in the country s.....

[more >>](#)

### **Four corona patients die in Faisalabad**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

FAISALABAD - Four more COVID-19 patients died in Faisalabad, while 30 people tested positive during past 24 hours. According to the Health department spokesperson, after the death of four patients the number of deaths in district reached 369 altogether since March last year. ....

[more >>](#)

### **10 vehicles impounded for violating SOPs**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

MULTAN - District administration has impounded 10 vehicles and imposed fine on various others over violations of coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during a crackdown launched here on Friday morning. In line with special directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Aamir Khattak, district regional transport authority (RTA) launched a crackdown against the vehicles involved in violatio.....

[more >>](#)

### **Coronavirus claims 22 more lives, 661 new cases in Punjab**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

LAHORE - The COVID-19 pandemic claimed 22 precious lives in last 24 hours, whereas 661 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Friday across the province. According to data shared by spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 147,953, while the deaths were recorded as 4,370 altogether. The P&SHD.....

[more >>](#)

### **20 shops, restaurants sealed over corona SOPs violations**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

LAHORE - The district administration sealed 29 shops, restaurants, marriage halls and imposed Rs 55,000 fine on violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Friday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Sakhi Shakir sealed 12 shops, two restaurants in Cantt and imposed Rs 25,000 fine. Meanwhile, AC City.....

[more >>](#)

### **Corona claims four more lives in Multan**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

MULTAN - Another four patients fell prey to coronavirus at Nishtar Hospital within last 24 hours. Nishtar focal person for infectious diseases, Dr Irfan Arshad said that Ahmad Ali (40) Abid Hussain (65) Sardar Muhammed (50) and Altaf Hussain (65) passed away at ICU of Nishtar hospital. Ahmad Ali belonged to Vehari, Abid Hussain to Muzaffargarh, Sardar Muhammed Khanewal while Altaf Hussain hailed.....

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### **Shops, restaurants sealed in city over corona SOPs violations**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

LAHORE - The district administration sealed 37 shops, restaurants and imposed Rs 50,000 fine on violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Saturday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Model Town Zeshan Ranjha sealed two shops in C-Block Model Town while AC Cantt Sakhi Shakir sealed 12 shops two restaurants i.....

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### **Coronavirus claims another 17 lives; 661 new cases in Punjab**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

LAHORE - Coronavirus claimed another 17 lives while 535 new cases were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) here on Saturday, the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 148,488 while the death toll was recorded as 4,387 altogether. The P&SHD confirmed that 2.....

[more >>](#)

### **Punjab to introduce vaccine after successful trials: Dr Yasmin**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that the government was making all out efforts to secure academic year for students by implementing the SOPs. Addressing a press conference at the Chief Minister Secretariat on Monday, she said that educational institutions have been asked to allow 50 per cent students in a class on alternative days. "SOPs shall be strictly impl.....

[more >>](#)

### **Virus claims 23 more lives, 560 new cases in a day**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

LAHORE - The pandemic COVID-19 claimed another 23 precious lives in 24 hours, whereas 560 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Monday across the province. According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 149,782, while the total deaths were recorded as 4,432 altogether. ....

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### **2 die of COVID-19, 100 test positive**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-19

Rawalpindi: Another two confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district died of the illness in the last 24 hours while 100 new patients have been tested positive for the disease that is the lowest number of patients reported from the region in a day after October 19. Earlier, in the last three months, the lowest number of patients.....

[more >>](#)

### **Smart lockdown extended to 2 cities**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-19

LAHORE: The Punjab government has extended smart lockdown in two cities in hot spot areas with maximum emergence of COVID-19 cases amidst the rising second wave of corona virus. According to separate notifications issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), Punjab, on Monday, the smart lockdown has been imposed in hot spot areas of Gujranwala and Lahore till 25 January.....

[more >>](#)

### **Corona claims 23 lives**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-19

LAHORE: Around 23 COVID-19 patients died and 560 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to P&SHD report issued on Monday, the toll of fatalities increased to 4,432 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of corona virus reached 149,782 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, 15,195 .....

[more >>](#)

### **Call to take medical body on board to buy corona vaccine**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-19

LAHORE: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has demanded the government take the medical fraternity's representative body on board with regard to its plan to procure COVID-19 vaccines and their efficacy. According to information Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine which is being manufactured by India. Pakistan will acquire this.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 claims 28 more lives in Punjab**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-20

LAHORE: Out of 13,151 corona tests conducted across the province, 534 were tested Covid-19 positivity with 28 deaths were reported during the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally of cases to 150,316 and fatalities to 4460. The positivity rate of coronavirus reached 4.06 percent with recovery of 353 more people from the virus, taking the total number of recovered people to 134,842 in the .....

[more >>](#)

### **Raas warns of schools closure if SOPs not implemented**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-20

LAHORE: Punjab Minister Murad Raas on Tuesday warned that the schools might be closed if coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) were not implemented effectively. He was addressing a press conference at DGPR Office about different measures taken to open the schools and promote education in the province. Special Assistant to CM Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan was also present. Mr Raas said the gov.....

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### **No death due to COVID-19**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-20

Rawalpindi:Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed no life from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours and it happened only for the third time after October 18 last year that the population in the region witnessed a day without reporting of any death caused by the virus. However, in the last 24 hours, another 112 patients have been tested positive for th.....

[more >>](#)

### **28 more die from corona in Punjab**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-20

LAHORE:Around 28 corona patients died and 534 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 4,460, while confirmed cases reached 150,316 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 13,151 tests have been conducted.....

[more >>](#)

### **28 more deaths, 534 new cases of coronavirus in Punjab**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-20

LAHORE - Another 28 people lost to coronavirus while 534 new cases were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) here on Tuesday, the total number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 150,316 while the death toll 4,460 altogether. The P&SHD confirmed that 330 new.....

[more >>](#)

### **60 shops, marriage halls sealed over violation of corona SOPs**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-20

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed 60 shops, stores, marriage halls and imposed Rs 76,000 fine on them over violation of the coronavirus related standard operating procedures (SOPs), here on Tuesday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Sakhi Shakir sealed 17 shops, two restaurants in Cantt area and imposed Rs 15,000 fine.....

[more >>](#)

**Another 4 die of COVID-19, 145 cases from twin cities**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-01-21

Rawalpindi: Another four confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district died of the disease in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 1,038 and it hints that the second spike of the outbreak is still proving itself deadly in the region. Data collected by 'The News' on Wednesday reveals that another 145 patients ha.....

[more >>](#)

**69 shops, restaurants sealed for SOPs violation**

Source: [APP, The News, International](#), 2021-01-21

LAHORE: The city district administration sealed 69 shops, stores, restaurants and imposed Rs 54,000 fine on violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Wednesday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Model Town Zeeshan Ranjha sealed 10 restaurants and cafes in Model Town area while AC Raiwind sealed 10 sh.....

[more >>](#)

**Punjab witnesses gradual decrease in Covid deaths**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

LAHORE: As many as 16 people died of Covid-19 in Punjab during the last 24 hours, showing a gradual decrease in [death] cases this month. According to the official figures, the daily death toll due to the virus witnessed a decrease, particularly, during the last two weeks or so. On Jan 14, a total of 28 critical patients had breathed their last in Punjab, on Jan 15, 22 expired while 17 had died .....

[more >>](#)

**Corona positivity rate remains 4.09pc in Punjab**

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus cases remained 4.09% in Punjab, as out of 14,007 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 573 fresh virus cases and 16 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 150,889 and fatalities to 4,476. With recovery of 583 more people, the number of recovered patients has reached to 135,425 in the province. As per break up of cases a.....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims two lives in Faisalabad**

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

FAISALABAD - The coronavirus claimed two lives taking the death toll tally in Faisalabad to 377, while 59 new cases were reported during the last 24 hours. According to health department spokesperson, 865 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector labs during the period. He said that total active cases in Faisalabad were 373, while 7,118 patients recovered. He said that 550 beds.....

[more >>](#)

**Corona claims 16 more lives, 573 new cases in a day**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

LAHORE - The COVID-19 pandemic claimed another 16 lives while 573 new cases were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (PP&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 150,889 while total deaths were recorded 4,476. The PP&SHD confirmed that 323 new case.....

[more >>](#)

### **One more dies of corona**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-22

Rawalpindi: One more confirmed patient of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 died of the disease from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours where a total of 31 patients were undergoing treatment at the healthcare facilities while the virus claimed no death from Islamabad Capital Territory though a total of 1,039 patients have already lost their lives due to coronavirus illness in the twin cities. ....

[more >>](#)

### **Over 65 shops sealed for SOPs violation**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-22

LAHORE: The district administration continued its drive against implementation of Corona SOPs and sealed over 65 shops in various localities of the City here on Thursday. The operation was carried out on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Lahore Mudassar Riaz Malik. He said 65 shops, stores and cafes were sealed while fines of Rs 64,000 were imposed. AC Model Town Zeeshan Nasrullah Ranjh.....

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### **25 corona patients die in Punjab**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-22

Around 25 patients died of COVID19 and 714 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 4,501 while confirmed cases reached 151,603 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 16,635 tests have been conducted in the las.....

[more >>](#)

### **SED conducts random Covid tests in schools**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

LAHORE: Punjab School Education Department (SED) is conducting random Covid-19 tests in schools of the province as sampling to fulfil the requirement to open schools for primary and middle classes under the second phase. The government has imposed a condition [for opening schools] from grade 1-8 that the school education department will conduct random sampling of the students, teachers and other .....

[more >>](#)

### **Corona positivity rate witnesses slight surge in Punjab**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

LAHORE: The positivity rate of coronavirus witnessed slight increase from 4.09% to 4.29% as out of 16,635 tests conducted across the province in the last 24 hours, 714 fresh virus cases and 25 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 151,603 and fatalities to 4,501. With the recovery of 467 more people from the virus, the number of recovered patients has reached 135,892 in.....

[more >>](#)

### **81 shops, restaurants sealed over corona SOPs violations**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

LAHORE - The City district administration sealed as many as 81 shops, stores, restaurants and imposed Rs 74,000 fine on violations of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Thursday. According to spokesperson of the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Model Town Zeeshan Ranjha sealed eight shops in Model Town area, while AC City Faizan Ahmed Sealed 19 shops an.....

[more >>](#)

**22 more die from COVID-19 in Punjab**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-16

LAHORE: Around 22 corona virus patients died while 555 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department, Punjab, on Friday, the death toll so far 4,523 while confirmed cases reached 152,158 in the province. ....

[more >>](#)

**22 more deaths, 555 new cases of coronavirus reported in Punjab**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

LAHORE - The pandemic COVID-19 claimed another 22 lives whereas 555 new cases were reported on Friday in the province. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (PP&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 152,158 and total deaths were recorded 4,523. The PP&SHD confirmed that 365 new cases of the .....

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## Sindh

**Burden on hospitals increasing as 1,443 new Covid cases detected in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-16

The COVID-19 positivity rate continues to rise in Karachi as around 16 per cent positivity was recorded in the city on Friday. In the meantime, the burden of serious Covid-19 patients on the hospitals has also been increasing. On Friday, the number of hospitalised patients infected with the novel coronavirus in Sindh reached 946, of which a majority was admitted to health facilities in Karachi, sa.....

[more >>](#)

**Over 1,400 new Covid cases, 14 deaths reported 500 cops infected over the past week**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

KARACHI: Another 14 coronavirus-related deaths were reported in Sindh on Friday, when 1,443 new Covid-19 cases emerged in the province, according to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. The CM said that following these development, the Covid-19 death toll in the province had climbed to 3,769 and the infection tally had risen to 233,369. Of the new cases, 1,140 were dete.....

[more >>](#)

**Inter, matric classes to resume from Monday**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

KARACHI: After an announcement on the resumption of classes at educational institutions in the country made by Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood on Friday, Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani confirmed later in the day that in-class sessions for grades nine to 12 will resume from January 18. Speaking to media persons, he further stated that physical classes for the students of grades o.....

[more >>](#)

**Oxford-Astrazeneca's Covid-19 vaccine allowed in Pakistan**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-17

KARACHI: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Saturday gave emergency use authorization to Oxford-Astrazeneca's AZD1222 in Pakistan following recommendations by a six-member panel of health experts. A private firm has been allowed to import the COVID-19 vaccine in the country. "The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has given the emergency use authoriza.....

[more >>](#)

### 17 COVID patients die

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-17

LAHORE : As many as 17 COVID-19 patients died and 535 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 4,387 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 148,488 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room.....

[more >>](#)

### Covid-19 kills 18 more in Sindh as another 922 test positive

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-18

Eighteen more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 922 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,793 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Sunday that 10,945 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 922 people, or 8.42 p.....

[more >>](#)

### <https://www.dawn.com/news/1601988/at-full-throttle>

Source: [Dilawar Hussain](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

The KSE-100 index is doddering at the 32-month high of 46,000 points. Yet optimists, mainly brokerage houses, have projected the benchmark will settle between 52,400 and 60,000 points by the end of December. If that seems too high, one ought to have heard former finance minister Dr Salman Shah tell a TV show host that it should not take much of strength for the index to reach 80,000 points by the.....

[more >>](#)

### Online moot held on Covid-19 norms

Source: [News Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

KARACHI: A two-day online conference on the theme of new norms for Covid-19 pandemic organised by APPNA Institute of Public Health, Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) Karachi, concluded on Saturday, according to a press release issued here. On the first day, 20 'best' research works made in the country were presented on medical, psycho-social and institutional effects of Covid-19.....

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### Sindh urges Centre to allow provinces to procure Covid-19 vaccines

Source: [News Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho urged the federal government on Saturday to allow Sindh to procure a vaccine for the novel coronavirus as she criticised the Centre for a slow approach in ordering vaccines, cautioning that a delay on this front would make Pakistan a "pariah" country. Talking about prime minister's aide on health Dr Faisal Sultan's statement that the federal.....

[more >>](#)

### Sindh posts 622 new cases of Covid-19

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

KARACHI: Sindh has witnessed 622 new cases of Covid-19 while 18 more patients died overnight, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah told. In a statement issued here from the CM House on Sunday, the chief minister said the death toll has touched to 3,793 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah told that 922 cases were found positive out of 10,945 samples tested that constituted 8.4 per.....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 18 more lives, infects 922 others, says CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 18 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,793 and 922 new cases emerged when 10,945 samples were tested. A statement issued from CM House on Sunday, he said that eighteen more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,793 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Syed Murad Ali Shah .....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 14 more lives, infects 1,443 others: CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

KARACHI - As many as 14 more patients of COVID-19 died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 3,769 and 1,443 new cases emerged when 13,340 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Friday. He added that 14 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,769 that constituted 1.6 percent death .....

[more >>](#)

**DC Sukkur urges following SOPs**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

SUKKUR - Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Rana Adeel Taswar has asked the staff district headquarters hospital Sukkur, polio workers and teaching hospital Sukkur to exercise extraordinary care from Covid-19 as the life of everyone was equally important. Speaking to the staff during his visit on Friday, the DC urged them to follow the guidelines issued by the government. ....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 6 more lives, infects 1,258 others: CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

Karachi - Sindh has reported 1,258 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the provincial tally to 234,654, Chief Minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah said in a statement. The province also recorded six more deaths. Sindh's death toll from COVID-19 has reached 3,775. A total of 13,936 tests were carried out in the province during the last 24 hours. Out of the 1,258 new cases, 985 ar.....

[more >>](#)

**Sindh seeks Centre permission to allow vaccine procurement: Pechuho**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

KARACHI - Sindh's Health Minister Azra Pechuho has asked the federal government to allow the province to procure the coronavirus vaccine itself. Provincial Health Minister Azra Pechuho talking to media, has said that the province has repeatedly asked from the Centre but yet to receive an appropriate reply over the matter. "It seems Pakistan will receive the vaccine after all othe.....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 20 more lives, infects 954 others: CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 20 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,813 and 954 new cases emerged when 10,600 samples were tested. A statement issued from CM House on Monday, he said that twenty more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,813 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr Shah said that 10,600 samp.....

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### **Sindh to establish vaccine fund as Centre delays getting Covid-19 vaccine, says Azra Pechuho**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-19

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to establish a 'Covid-19 vaccine procurement fund' with an initial capital of Rs1.5 billion for the procurement of vaccine for its frontline healthcare workers and the government has already started negotiating with private parties and manufacturers of the two vaccines, given emergency use authorization in Pakistan by the Drug Regulatory Author.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 kills 20 more in Sindh as another 954 test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-19

Twenty more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 954 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,813 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Monday that 10,600 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 954 people, or nine per.....

[more >>](#)

### **HiClean sanitizers effective against coronavirus**

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

KARACHI: As the world struggles to come to grips with the new mutation of Coronavirus, the use of hand sanitizers has increased by two-folds. However, it is important to note that the frequent use of such sanitizers does not come without its own set of problems. Frequently rubbing hands with an alcohol-based product tends to cause dryness, which irritates the skin and increases the risk of sk.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 claims 20 more lives, infects 954 others in Sindh**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 20 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,813 and 954 new cases emerged when 10,600 samples were tested. A statement issued here from CM house on Monday, he said that eighteen more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,813 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah said that 10,600 s.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 claims 17 more lives, infects 778 others in Sindh**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 17 more patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,830 and 778 new cases emerged when 11,208 samples were tested. A statement issued here from CM house on Tuesday, he said that 17 more patients lost their lives overnight lifting the death toll to 3,830 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah said that 11,208 sample.....

[more >>](#)

### **Monetary policy on 22nd**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday said the monetary policy will be announced on Friday. SBP Governor Dr Reza Baqir will address the media after announcing the policy rate, which has been kept unchanged since July at 7 per cent. The upcoming monetary policy is highly important for the financial sector as well as the entire economy since inflation slipped slightly in December an.....

[more >>](#)

**Qureshi says Pakistan's focus has shifted to geo-economics**

Source: [Peerzada Salman](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

KARACHI: A nasty and vulgar cyberspace invasion from Indian individuals tried, but failed, to sabotage a webinar on 'Reset of US-Pakistan Relations' organised by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR) on Tuesday evening as the event went on successfully. The principal speaker was Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. He said Indian leaders have publicly spoken about their de.....

[more >>](#)

**Doctor dies of Covid**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

KARACHI: Senior doctor and renowned academician Dr Muhammad Saleh Soomro died of Covid-19 on Tuesday, his colleagues and friends said. They said that Dr Soomro was admitted to high dependency unit (HDU) of Expo Centre Isolation Centre after testing positive a few days ago but later he was moved to ventilator after his health condition deteriorated. Dr Soomro, they said, was currently associated .....

[more >>](#)

**'Waste water surveillance can predict Covid-19 cases in Karachi'**

Source: [F.H. Mughal](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

KARACHI: The city currently generates an estimated 472 million gallons daily of waste water (sewage). The quantity of waste water treated is 50mgd and about 422mgd remains untreated. Most people infected with Covid-19 will shed the virus, or pieces of the virus like RNA, in their stool. The virus can be shed in stool whether or not the person experiences symptoms. These pieces of genetic material.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid kills 17 more in Sindh as another 778 test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-20

Seventeen more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 778 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,830 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 11,208 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 778 people, or seve.....

[more >>](#)

**Sindh to raise funds to buy Covid-19 vaccine**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

The Sindh Health Department has decided to collect funds for the procurement of Covid-19 vaccine. Making the announcement on Tuesday - just days after Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazl Pechuho decried the delay by the Centre in the purchase of Covid-19 jabs and demanded procurement rights for provinces - the provincial health department issued a statement revealing that it had contacted Britain .....

[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 17 more lives, infects 778 others, says CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

UMERKOT - Chairman Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has to give answers regarding questions about funding allegedly from India and Israel to PTI, which has formed government in Pakistan. Addressing a grand rally in Umerkot on the occasion of the first anniversary of the late party leader and former provincial minist.....

[more >>](#)

### **Aijaz Jakhrani skips assets case hearing after testing positive for COVID-19**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

SUKKUR - Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) leader Aijaz Jakhrani on Tuesday skipped a hearing of assets beyond known sources of income. Jakhrani's advocate appeared before the Sindh High Court (SHC) Circuit Bench Sukkur and stated that his client has tested positive for the COVID-19 and unable to appear before the court. He also presented the test report before the court. Meanwhile, .....

[more >>](#)

### **SOPs to be effectively implemented: Commissioner**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

SUKKUR - Commissioner Sukkur Shafique Mahesar on Tuesday has directed that the SOPs should be effectively implemented and the people should remain careful to protect themselves and others from the pandemic. Presiding over a meeting with health department to review steps taken for dealing with the coronavirus at his office, he said the district administrations were fulfilling their duties but the.....

[more >>](#)

### **If bought in bulk quantity: Firm offers to provide Oxford-Astrazeneca's vaccine for \$6-7 per dose**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-21

KARACHI: A Pakistani firm, authorised to import Oxford-Astrazeneca's Covid-19 vaccine, has offered to provide it at the cost of USD 6-7 per dose to the federal and provincial governments if they procure it in bulk quantity, The News has learnt. But it refused to give a proper timeline as to when it would be able to supply the vaccine in the country. The local firm, Sindh Medical Stor.....

[more >>](#)

### **Coronavirus kills 13 more in Sindh as another 1,162 test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-21

Thirteen more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 1,162 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,843 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Wednesday that 13,632 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 1,162 people, or.....

[more >>](#)

### **13 more die of Covid-19, 1,162 new cases emerge**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

KARACHI: As many as 13 more patients of Covid-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,843 and 1,162 new cases diagnosed when 13,632 tests were conducted. In a statement issued here from the CM House on Wednesday, Murad Ali Shah said that 13 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,843 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah said that 13,632 samples w.....

[more >>](#)

### **COVID-19 claims 13 more lives, infects 1,162 others, says CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

KARACHI - As many as 13 more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,843 and 1,162 new cases diagnosed when 13,632 tests were conducted. In a statement issued from CM House on Wednesday, he said that 13 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,843 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr Shah said that 13,632 samples were tested which.....

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**Covid-19 kills two doctors among 12 patients in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-01-22

Twelve more people, including two doctors, have died due to Covid-19 and another 716 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,855 in the province. A health department official said 55-year-old Khairpur Additional District Health Officer Dr Abdus Sattar Phulpoto had been under treatment at the Sindh Infectious Diseases.....

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**No change expected in interest rate**

Source: [Salman Siddiqui, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

KARACHI: Pakistan's central bank is scheduled to meet on Friday (Jan 22) to determine the benchmark interest rate for the next two-month amid a situation whereby the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic still poses risk to economic activities. Moreover, the government has increased power tariff by Rs1.95 per unit to resume the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) loan programme. It has also.....

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**12 deaths, 716 new corona cases reported in Sindh**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

KARACHI - As many as 12 more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,855 and 716 new cases diagnosed when 6,380 tests were conducted. According to a statement issued here from CM House on Thursday, said that 12 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,855 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr Shah said that 6,380 samples were tested.....

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## International News

### Countries News

#### **Biden unveils plan to pump \$1.9trn into pandemic-hit economy**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

WILMINGTON, Del.: President-elect Joe Biden outlined a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package proposal on Thursday, saying bold investment was needed to jump-start the economy and accelerate the distribution of vaccines to bring the coronavirus under control. Biden campaigned last year on a promise to take the pandemic more seriously than President Donald Trump, and the package aims to put that pledg.....[more >>](#)

#### **The vaccine rollout**

Source: [Eve Ottenberg](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-17

At the rate we're vaccinating against Covid in the US, it will take 10 years for the entire population to receive shots. To counter this, on January 12, the Trump regime announced that it would expand vaccination, regardless of whether second doses are available. Biden had earlier said he would do this too. The reasons for this scientifically questionable move are debatable. Much of the vacc.....[more >>](#)

#### **India starts huge vaccine drive as global virus deaths top 2 million**

Source: [AFP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

NEW DELHI: India kicked off one of the world's largest coronavirus vaccination drives Saturday as the pandemic spread at a record pace and global Covid-19 deaths surged past two million. The World Health Organization has called for accelerating vaccine rollouts worldwide as well as ramping up efforts to study the sequencing of the virus, which has infected more than 93 million people gl.....

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#### **A 'success' story?**

Source: [Yara Hawari](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-18

On December 19, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on live television. This kicked off a high-paced national vaccination campaign that has seen more than a million Israelis, some 12 percent of the country's population, receive the jab in less than two weeks – the highest rate in the world. Multiple factors paved the wa.....

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#### **Covid-19 pressures US retail sales; manufacturing shines**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

US retail sales fell for a third straight month in December as renewed measures to slow the spread of Covid-19 triggered job losses, further evidence that the wounded economy lost considerable speed at the end of 2020. The downturn in sales reported by the Commerce Department last week is, however, unlikely to push the economy back into recession, with other data showing production at factories a.....

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#### **Biden to address Covid, racism on first day in office**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

WASHINGTON: Joe Biden's top aide said on Saturday the incoming president would sign about a dozen executive orders on his first day in office, as police fearing violence from Trump supporters staged a nationwide security operation ahead of the inauguration. Authorities in Washington, where Wednesday's inauguration will take place, said they arrested a man with a loaded .....

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**Dutch police use water cannon on anti-govt protesters**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

OTTERLO: Police in Amsterdam turned a water cannon on hundreds of demonstrators who were taking part in a banned protest on Sunday against the Dutch government and its tough coronavirus lockdown. Police on horseback also moved in to break up the demonstration on a large square ringed by museums, including the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum. Amsterdam municipality said riot police took action to.....

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**Covid-19 vaccines: From labs to jabs**

Source: [Michael Ovaska and Prasanta Kumar Dutta](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

From labs to jabs The journey of COVID-19 vaccines from creation to inoculation By Michael Ovaska and Prasanta Kumar Dutta PUBLISHED DEC. 30, 2020 The frontrunners in the global COVID-19 vaccine race have emerged and the first injections have been administered in Britain, the United States and elsewhere. But the route to distribute these much-anticipated v.....

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**Iranian women's group empowers amid pandemic by making masks**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

As the coronavirus pandemic ravages Iran, home to the Mideast's worst outbreak, a women's group hopes to empower its members by helping them make and sell face masks. The organisation called "Bavar", or "Belief" in Farsi, was formed in 2016, allowing women looking for work to make handicrafts with donated sewing machines. It gave widows and others a way to ear.....

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**Australian Open to go ahead despite Covid quarantines**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

MELBOURNE: Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley has confirmed the year's first Grand Slam will go ahead from February 8 despite anger from players forced into hard quarantine in Melbourne due to positive Covid-19 cases on their charter planes. Seventy-two players and their entourages have to isolate for two weeks in their hotel rooms in Melbourne and are no longer able to le.....

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**India hails 'life saving' Covid-19 vaccine rollout, but concerns remain about homegrown shot**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

India's Covid-19 vaccination drive had a successful start with more than 190,000 people receiving their first jabs and no one hospitalised for major side effects, the health ministry said, but reports emerged about concerns over the homegrown vaccine. Authorities have given emergency-use approval for two vaccines — Oxford-AstraZeneca and the homegrown "Covaxin", which has yet to.....

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**'Trauma stays with you': Prince William worried about strain on UK emergency workers**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-17

Prince William says he is concerned about the mental health of UK ambulance drivers, police officers and other first responders who are being exposed to extraordinary levels of trauma and death as coronavirus cases soar. William, a former search and rescue helicopter pilot, told emergency workers on a video call that they must not be afraid to ask for help despite their inclination to help others.....

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### India's Modi kicks off 'world's largest' vaccination campaign

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched on Saturday one of the world's largest vaccination campaigns, as part of efforts by the populous nation to bring the Covid-19 pandemic under control starting with two locally-manufactured shots. Modi, who addressed healthcare workers through video conferencing, will not immediately take the vaccine himself as India is initially prioritising nurses,.....

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### First Pakistani receives Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine in Shanghai

Source: [INP](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-01-18

BEIJING: Zahid Iqbal has become the first Pakistani citizen to receive Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine in Shanghai, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN). Zahid, about 44 years of age got second dose of vaccine this week and felt excited. Talking to CEN, he said that he is very satisfied that the Chinese company developed this vaccine and China is also working to provide.....

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### Pandemic's robot 'heroes' highlight their value at tech show

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-18

Robots that helped people survive and stay safe over the past year are touting their value at the tech industry's annual extravaganza amid a pandemic which has given fresh momentum to the robotics sector. The Consumer Electronics Show, which is being held online this year due to the global crisis, includes robots that have become "heroes" for many during the coronavirus pandemic.....

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### Dutch govt quits over child benefits scandal

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

THE HAGUE: Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's government resigned on Friday over a child benefits scandal, threatening political instability as the country battles the coronavirus pandemic. Thousands of parents were wrongly accused by Dutch authorities of fraudulently claiming child allowance, with many of them forced to pay back large amounts of money and ending up in financial ruin. The f.....

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### Fearful US consumers await Biden stimulus injection

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

WASHINGTON: President-elect Joe Biden's stimulus plan could spur hesitant US consumers to start spending again, analysts said on Friday, as the government reported falling sales in December, but they warned it may not be enough to overcome surging coronavirus cases. Biden on Thursday unveiled a \$1.9 trillion package aimed at getting the world's largest economy back on its feet af.....

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### Vaccine rollout delayed in Europe; global Covid deaths near two million

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-01-16

PARIS: Pfizer-BioNTech said on Friday deliveries of its leading coronavirus vaccine to Europe will be delayed in the weeks ahead, hampering the rollout as global deaths from the pandemic close in on two million. News of the vaccine setback came as World Health Organisation experts were working on advice to fight new strains of the disease feared to be more contagious. The soaring number of fatal.....

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### Japan PM vows Olympics will be proof of victory against virus

Source: [Agencies](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

TOKYO: Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga vowed on Monday to forge ahead with preparations to hold the Tokyo Olympics this summer, in the face of growing public opposition as Japan battles a surge in coronavirus infections. In a speech opening a new Parliament session, Suga said his government would revise laws to make anti-virus measures enforceable with penalties and compensation. Early in the pand.....

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### China's latest Covid outbreak worst since March 2020

Source: [News Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

China is battling the worst outbreak of Covid-19 since March 2020, with one province posting a record daily rise in cases, as an independent panel reviewing the global pandemic said China could have acted more forcefully to curb the initial outbreak. State-backed tabloid theGlobal Times has defended China's early handling of the pandemic, saying no country had any experience in dealing with.....

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### China's latest Covid outbreak worst since March 2020

Source: [all updates\( corona news\)](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-19

ABOUT 2 HOURS AGO Islamabad, GB, AJK report 92 new cases, 2 deaths Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan have collectively reported 92 cases of the novel coronavirus over the past 24 hours. AJK also reported two deaths, while no casualties were reported in the federal capital and GB. Facebook Count Twitter Sha.....

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### UK registers record 1,610 Covid deaths in one day

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-20

LONDON: Britain on Tuesday registered another 1,610 fatalities from coronavirus, a record high over 24 hours since the pandemic arrived in 2020, but the number of new cases fell. The UK's total Covid-19 death tally now stands at 91,470, with a further 33,355 new cases also reported over the last day, taking the total number of infections to nearly 3.5 million. But the number of new cases o.....

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### WHO provides technical, operational support to Pakistan for COVID-19 preparedness

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-20

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has provided technical and operational support to the Government of Pakistan for COVID-19 pandemic preparedness and response at Points of Entry (POE) in compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR). According to WHO, the assistance included strengthening capacities for entry and exit screening for early detection, active case finding and referral o.....

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### New Covid-19 variant defeats plasma treatment, may reduce vaccine efficacy

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-21

JOHANNESBURG: The new Covid-19 variant identified in South Africa can evade the antibodies that attack it in treatments using blood plasma from previously recovered patients, and may reduce the efficacy of the current line of vaccines, scientists said on Wednesday. Researchers are racing to establish whether the vaccines currently being rolled out across the globe are effective against the so-ca.....

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### **Five killed in fire at Indian vaccine plant**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

MUMBAI: Five people died as a fire tore through a building in the world's biggest vaccine manufacturing hub in India on Thursday, but the company insisted that the production of drugs to counter the coronavirus pandemic would continue. Rescue workers discovered five bodies in the under-construction building after the blaze at the Serum Institute of India was brought under control, media rep.....

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### **Pfizer cuts vaccine deliveries by half to some EU countries**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

BUCHAREST: Pfizer has slashed in half the volume of Covid-19 vaccines it will deliver to some EU countries this week, government officials said on Thursday, as frustration over the US drugmaker's unexpected cut in supplies grows. Romania will get 50 percent of its planned volume this week and supplies will only improve gradually, with deliveries not returning to normal until the end of Marc.....

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### **EU summit eyes border curbs amid worrying Covid signs**

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

BRUSSELS: European Union leaders assessed more measures to counter the spread of coronavirus variants during a video summit on Thursday as the bloc's top disease control official said urgent action was needed to stave off a new wave of hospitalisations and deaths. The 27 leaders were looking at further border restrictions, better tracking of mutations and improving coordination of lockdowns.....

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### **Macron offers subsidised meals to Covid-hit pupils**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-22

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday promised all students in France two square meals a day for just one euro (\$1.21) each to help them cope with Covid-19 restrictions. He said students would also be given subsidies to pay for professional counselling if they felt overwhelmed by the restrictions, which include closed universities, a 6:00 pm nationwide curfew and diminishing opportunities .....

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## Donors News

### **WHO rules out Covid herd immunity this year**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-18

WHO Scientists at the World Health Organization warned Monday that mass vaccinations would not bring about herd immunity to the coronavirus this year, even as one leading producer boosted its production forecast. England meanwhile launched the first of its mass-inoculation sites in major cities, racing to get ahead of the rapid spread of a new strain of the disease there. The pandemic has infect.....

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### **A new COVID-19 challenge: Mutations rise along with cases**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-20

The race against the virus that causes COVID-19 has taken a new turn: Mutations are rapidly popping up, and the longer it takes to vaccinate people, the more likely it is that a variant that can elude current tests, treatments and vaccines could emerge. The coronavirus is becoming more genetically diverse, and health officials say the high rate of new cases is the main reason. Each new infection g.....

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## SDPI Engagements

### Researchers Articles

#### Year 2020: China Triumph from COVID-19 to RCEP & CAI

Source: [Shakeel Ahmad Ramay](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-22

China entered 2020 with trouble knocking at the door. The deadly attack of COVID-19 shook the country. It started from Wuhan and encompasses the whole country. China had to fight multifaceted fight. China was struggling to understand the pandemic and devising strategies to save the people and contain the virus. China was expecting cooperation if not help during the testing times. Unexpectedly, it wa.....

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