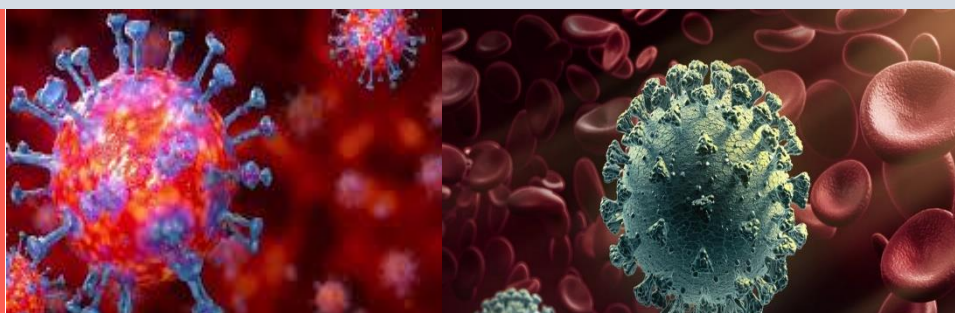


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 08



Issue: 23-25 January, 2021

.....About Newsletter

In order to keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI brings out a Bi-weekly E-Newsletter on "COVID-19".

It carries reference information's to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.

Newspapers Covered:

- Dawn
- The News
- The Express Tribune
- The Nation
- Business Recorder
- Daily Times
- Pakistan Observer
- Pakistan Today
- Urdu Point

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Procuring vaccines

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2021-01-23

While countries in the neighbourhood, including India with its massive population, have begun dishing out the Covid-19 vaccine to millions of people, with India setting particularly ambitious targets for itself and also providing vaccine to neighbouring countries including Bhutan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Seychelles, we get no images from Pakistan of people rolling up their sleeves t.....[more >>](#)

The other have-nots

Source: [Zehra Waheed, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

COVID-19 has impacted us all. From personal isolation to affecting our health and well-being to changing the way we work and live, Pakistan has seen it all. Beyond the need to normalise lives while social distancing, the necessity to work using remote technology is both a challenge and an opportunity for industry, educationists and policymakers. While increased local adoption of technology contin.....[more >>](#)

Cheating on online exams

Source: [Pervez Hoodbhoy, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

COVID-19 has made in-person exam proctoring impossible and so normal safeguards have disappeared. My inbox is full of anguished emails from university students across Pakistan bemoaning the use of unfair and unethical means by their class fellows. Upon combining these complaints with those of my colleagues in various universities, and adding in my own online teaching experience, a frighteningly di.....[more >>](#)

Challenges and prospects of Education Policy 2021: University of Education broaches Ministry of Education

Source: [Dr Afaf Manzoor, Daily Times](#), 2021-01-23

Policymaking is certainly a multifarious procedure; however, its implementation is more complex. Education policy is far more difficult task to formulate especially for developing country like Pakistan with intricate challenges of poverty, low literacy rate and political instability. Pakistan has a strong history for education development with the beginning of its first National Education Confere.....

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Private schools are worst hit

Source: [Arsalan Haider, The News, International](#), 2021-01-24

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected everything and everyone around the globe one way or the other. Globally, schools and colleges have had to be shut down to curtail the spread of disease. In Pakistan, the education sector is amongst the worst hit due to the virus-caused lockdown and school closures. Pakistan was one of the first countries in the world to institute widespread school closures due

[more >>](#)

Dealing with the coronavirus pandemic

Source: [Syed M Hamza, The News, International](#), 2021-01-24

Covid-19 has undoubtedly changed the course of the 21st century. It has stilled the clatter and the traffic of the world and its inhabitants. There struck a sombre 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. Even to this day, in the midst of.....

[more >>](#)

Questions about the vaccine

Source: Kamal Siddiqi, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

Amidst all the questions being raised over why Pakistan hasn't started giving its citizens Covid-19 vaccines, the good news is that China has announced that it will provide a batch of Covid-19 vaccine to us as aid and will actively coordinate with the relevant Chinese enterprise to speed up the export of vaccines. It has promised to provide 500,000 doses of a coronavirus vaccine to Pakistan.....

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Back to governance

Source: Maleeha Lodhi, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

DESPITE sporadic agitational activity by the opposition, Prime Minister Imran Khan has enough political space to consider acting on a number of fronts to repurpose his government. His government has a window of opportunity to take initiatives and focus on governance rather than the opposition. This will also demonstrate that it has gone past the phase of its unifocal preoccupation with the opposit.....

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Crossing the line

Source: Huma Yusuf, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

DEMOCRACY is dying. This may seem a strange thing to say as the world breathes a sigh of relief, buoyed by the pro-democracy paean that was US President Joe Biden's inaugural speech. But as important as they are, beautiful speeches cannot resuscitate dying political systems. And dying they are. In How Democracies Die: What History Reveals About Our Future, Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt.....

[more >>](#)

Inequality virus

Source: Zofeen T. Ebrahim, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

PINE as we may, we cannot return to pre-coronavirus times. And we should not. It was an unequal, skewed world. The Covid-19 pandemic, which has taken over two million lives worldwide so far, will be remembered for how inequality rose in almost every country on earth at the same time and also showed that no state, no institution and no individual can take on such cataclysmic fights alone. It also

[more >>](#)

Monetary stability and economic recovery

Source: Mohiuddin Aazim, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

In a little over six months of this fiscal year (until Jan 8), banks' net lending to the private sector totalled Rs215.5 billion. In full 2019-20, banks had lent only Rs196bn to the private sector. This indicates the economy that shrank at least 0.4 per cent in 2019-20 is well on its path of recovery. Lax monetary policy and targeted concessional financing to the private sector under the gov.....

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COP-26 UK: Questions need answers

Source: Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-25

COP-26 is going to be organized sense of hope and maturity. The hope is derived from the positive developments during the last few months. The worst opponents of climate change are vacating the power houses. World is coming out of COVID-19 with the realization that we can manage our lifestyle to check the rampant GHG emission and environmental degradation. It will only require adjustment to lifest.....

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The changeover in the US

Source: [Dr Zia Ul Haque Shamsi](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-01-25

Every four years on 20th January, winner of the Presidential elections held in November of the previous year, is sworn in as the US President. He could be a new face or the sitting President who can return to White House for a maximum of one more term. This year's 20th January and the events of the day were unique and vastly different than any of the previous occasions. The sacred event of the.....

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National News

Islamabad

Covid-19 claims 47 lives in 24 hours

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-23

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases Friday reached 34,916 after 1,745 more people tested positive for the deadly virus while 2,075 recovered during the last 24 hours. Forty-seven corona patients, 40 among them under treatment in hospital and seven in their homes or quarantines, died on Thursday, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Oper.....[more >>](#)

Pakistan to get CanSino vaccine's 20m doses on preferential basis

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

Chinese pharmaceutical company — CanSino Biologics Inc — has offered 20 million shots of its Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan as it gets ready to release efficacy results “in a few days” from phase-III trials that have recently been completed in the country, its local partner told Bloomberg on Friday. The Chinese maker of the single-shot vaccine will be giving Pakistan preferent.....[more >>](#)

118 more people contract virus

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

ISLAMABAD: The novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases continued to surge in the federal capital as 118 more people have tested positive during the last 24 hours, National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Friday. According to an official of NCOC, as many as 126 cases were reported on Thursday while 127 cases were reported on Wednesday. He said so far 40,548 Covid-19 infection case.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19: Pakistan reports 1745 new cases, 47 deaths

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

ISLAMABAD: According to the latest statistics of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) released here on Friday, the Covid-19 has claimed 47 more lives and infected 1,745 new people across the country. During the past 24 hours, 2,075 patients have recovered from the deadly virus while 2,362 patients are in critical condition including 27 new cases. The total count of active cas.....[more >>](#)

Relatively spared by Covid-19, Pakistanis drop their guard

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

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 six cents 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 said. Nearby, doz.....

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COVID-19 claims 47 lives, infects another 1,745 in a day

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-23

The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in the country on Friday reached 34,916, with another 1,745 people testing positive for the deadly virus in a day and 2,075 people recovering from the disease. Forty-seven corona patients, 40 among them under treatment at hospitals, died on Thursday, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). During.....

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47 more lose lives: 1,745 more people test positive to Covid-19

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

ISLAMABAD - The coronavirus second wave continues taking toll on the people in Pakistan as 47 more people lost their lives to the virus during the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, 1,745 more people tested positive to Covid-19 as the nationwide infections jumped to 528,891 and with 47 new deaths, the toll jumped to 11,204 on Friday morning. According to the latest figures displayed on National Coronavirus.....

[more >>](#)

Two more die of COVID-19, 108 test positive

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-24

Islamabad:Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another two lives from Islamabad Capital Territory while no death due to the illness has been reported from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours. Data collected by 'The News' on Saturday reveals that another 108 patients have been tested positive for the disease from the twin cities taking tally to over 53,000 of which 1,0.....

[more >>](#)

Pakistani origin Russian scientist invents medicine for COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-24

Islamabad:Pakistani origin Russian scientist Prof. Dr. Jan Alam Saturday introduced the media to a mineral-based medicine invented by him for the treatment of coronavirus. Based on nanotechnology, Minerolytevir is a 5th generation medicine that has been registered by the Drug Regulation Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, Dr. Jan claimed.....

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Pakistan's Covid-19 positivity ratio at 3.96%: NCOC

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-24

ISLAMABAD: According to the National Command and Operation Centre's (NCOC) update released on Sunday,Pakistan's current Covid-19 positivity ratio stood at 3.96 per cent. The highest positivity ratio was observed inHyderabadat 11.57 per cent, followed byPeshawarat 11.29 per cent andKarachi at 10.68 per cent, the NCOC revealed. The positivity ratio in various federating units was observed

[more >>](#)

Russian-Pakistani 'invents Covid cure'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-24

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani origin Russian scientist Prof Jan Alam on Saturday claimed that mineral based medicine is effective for Covid-19 treatment in Pakistan. Addressing a press conference, he claimed that he has invented mineral based medicine for the novel coronavirus disease, which is based on nanotechnology and a medicine of fifth generation. He said that his medicine has no side effects and

[more >>](#)

Pakistan sees 1,927 new coronavirus cases, 43 deaths

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-24

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday morning reported 1,927 new coronavirus cases and 43 deaths. With new infections reported during the past 24 hours, Pakistan's Covid-19 tally climbed to 530,818. Meanwhile, the death toll stands at 11,247. During the past 24 hours, Islamabad and AJK reported 98 cases and 6 deaths while Gilgit-Baltistan did not repor.....

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As Covid-19 effects ebb: Economy on upward trajectory

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-25

ISLAMABAD: The government's top guns claim that economy is on the upward trajectory, as many economic indicators are witnessing positive vibes after facing severe blow in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic. In background discussions, the government top guns take the stance that economic activities have kick-started, as the Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) has achieved significant grow.....

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Another 3 COVID-19 deaths, 101 cases from ICT and Rawalpindi

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-25

Rawalpindi: Another three confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district died of the disease in the last 24 hours taking death toll to 1047 while confirmation of another 101 cases took the total number of patients so far registered from the region to 53,129. Data collected by 'The News' on Sunday has revealed that COVID-19 c.....

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Covid infections decline in capital: report

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

ISLAMABAD: The weekly positivity ratio of the novel coronavirus infections has dropped significantly in the federal capital in January from 6.83 per cent to 1.75 per cent, the District Health Authority (DHA) informed on Sunday. The District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Zaeem Zia said that the drop in infection rate is a big success and it came about as a result of cooperation among several entities. A.....

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Educators demand Covid package

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

ISLAMABAD: Hundreds of teachers and parents participated in a demonstration calling for 'Teacher Ko Izzat Do' or give respect to teachers outside National Press Club on Sunday. They paid tribute to the teachers and demanded a special package for the educators affected during the coronavirus lockdown. The Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association President Malik Abrar Hussain

[more >>](#)

National Covid-19 positivity ratio drops to 3.96pc

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

ISLAMABAD: While 1,594 more people tested positive for coronavirus and 48 patients died in a single day, the national average positivity ratio remained at 3.96 per cent on Sunday. Most deaths were reported from Punjab i.e. 24. Sindh reported 13 deaths, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) recorded six, while Islamabad and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) reported the death of two patients each, and Balochist.....

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

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-25

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

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Another 48 die in a day as Pakistan's COVID-19 positivity ratio hits 3.96%

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-25

At least 48 corona patients, including 39 people getting treatment at hospitals, died on Saturday, as Pakistan's current COVID-19 positivity ratio hits 3.96 percent, according to the National Command and Operation Centre's (NCOC) update released on Sunday. The highest positivity ratio was observed in Hyderabad at 11.57 percent, followed by Peshawar at 11.29 percent and Karachi at 10.6.....

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Clear Covid-19 vaccination policy, rational distribution urged

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-25

The stakeholders speaking at a webinar have suggested the Covid-19 vaccine donors to strictly monitor the distribution and administration of free doses being donated to the Pakistan government. They feared that free vaccine doses might be grabbed by the sides of those in power and sold on high prices as it was done in the case of Covid-19 free testing-kits. The trust deficit between the people an.....

[more >>](#)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Three more die of corona in KP

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-24

PESHAWAR: At least three more people died of coronavirus infection, taking the total numbers of deaths to 1826 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so far. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department on Saturday said that 294 new cases of the virus have been reported from the province during 24 hours, which has taken the number of total cases to 64,945. It said that 284 patients recovered from the disease during the

[more >>](#)

Punjab

3 more deaths, another 135 COVID-19 new cases

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-23

Rawalpindi: Another three patients from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district have lost their lives due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the region to 1,042 that makes 9.3 per cent of the total deaths so far caused by the virus across Pakistan. Data collected by 'The News' on Friday reveals that 135 new patients have

[more >>](#)

51 shops sealed for violation of corona SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-23

LAHORE: The district administration has sealed 51 businesses for violation of corona SOPs here on Friday. Deputy Commissioner Lahore Mudassar Riaz Malik said that the officers of District Administration Lahore were active in implementing COVID-19 SOPs. He said that a total of 51 shops and stores and restaurants were sealed and a fine of Rs 18,000 has been imposed on the violators. AC Model.....

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Fresh SOPs issued for crew of direct flights from UK, South Africa

Source: [Mohammad Asghar](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

RAWALPINDI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued a fresh standard operating procedure (SOP) for the crew of direct flights from the United Kingdom (UK), South Africa and category 'C' countries. The authority has already imposed temporary restrictions on passengers coming from the UK and South Africa. Under the new guideline, the flight crew will only be allowed to travel to P.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims four more lives in Faisalabad

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

FAISALABAD - The coronavirus claimed four lives taking the death toll tally in Faisalabad to 385, while 42 new cases were reported during the last 24 hours. According to health department spokesperson, 1069 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector labs during the period. He said that total active cases in Faisalabad were 433, while 7,125 patients recovered. He said that 550 b.....

[more >>](#)

Shops, restaurants sealed over coronavirus SOPs violations

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

LAHORE - The city district administration sealed as many as 51 shops, stores and restaurants, and imposed Rs 18,000 fine over violations of coronavirus Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), here on Friday. According to spokesperson of the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Model Town Zeeshan Ranjha sealed 16 restaurants and cafes in Model Town area while AC Shalimar Mans.....

[more >>](#)

81 shops sealed over violation of corona SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-24

LAHORE: District Administration Lahore continued its operation to implement Corona SOPs and sealed 81 businesses in various city localities here on Saturday. DC Lahore Mudassar Riaz said that implementation of Corona SOPs was being ensured. He said that a total of 81 shops, stores and restaurants across the city have been sealed and a fine of Rs 74,000 was imposed on the violators. Assista.....

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14 more die of COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-24

LAHORE :As many as 14 patients died of COVID-19 and another 767 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Saturday, the toll of fatalities was raised to 4,537 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 152,925 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Moni.....

[more >>](#)

Many shops, stores sealed in Lahore

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-24

LAHORE: In a crackdown against violators of Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs), the Lahore district administration has sealed 81 shops, stores and restaurants in the provincial capital. As per the details released by the administration here on Saturday, the Assistant Commissioner Model Town sealed six shops in Shadman area while the Assistant Commissioner Shalimar sealed 42 shops a.....

[more >>](#)

Virus claims 14 more lives, infects 767 more people

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-24

LAHORE - The COVID-19 pandemic claimed another 14 lives in the last 24 hours while 767 new virus cases were reported across the province, pushing the death toll to 4,537. According to the data shared by a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 152,925. He confirmed that 467 new cases of COVID.....

[more >>](#)

24 more die from COVID-19 in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-25

LAHORE:Around 24 patients died from COVID-19 and 485 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 4,561, while confirmed cases reached 153,410 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 19,090 tests have been conducted i.....

[more >>](#)

Punjab Covid death toll rises to 4,561

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

LAHORE: The death toll due to coronavirus tipped at 4,561 after 24 more deaths were reported inPunjabduring the last 24 hours, official data outlined. According to the data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Sunday, the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 153,410 after the registration of 485 new cases. The P&.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh

Covid-19 claims 20 lives in Sindh as another 748 infected

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2021-01-23

Covid-19 claimed 20 more lives in Sindh during last 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the viral disease in the province to 3,875. In the meantime, 961 patients infected with the novel coronavirus remained under treatment at various health facilities, of whom the condition of 874 was stated to be serious and 84 of them were put on life support. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister

[more >>](#)

Covid claims 20 more lives in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

KARACHI: Another 20 coronavirus-related deaths were reported in Sindh on Friday, when 748 new infections were confirmed in the province, according to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. Following the recent deaths, the province's coronavirus death toll had increased to 3,875, and Covid-19 tally to 239,934, said the CM. Besides, he said, with 943 fresh recoveries, t.....

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Restrictions flouted as Covid-19 numbers spike

Source: [Aamir Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

KARACHI: As provincial coronavirus case count climbs to 238,000, Karachi's residents seem to have adopted a devil-may-care attitude towards all pandemic restrictions. In violation of government directives, various streets and markets in the financial capital can be seen abuzz with shoppers till late night. Similarly, malls, hotels and other public places in the city continue to be frequented.....

[more >>](#)

Sindh records 748 new cases of Covid-19

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

KARACHI: As many as 748 new cases of Covid-19 emerged while 20 more patients died overnight in Sindh, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah told in a statement issued here on Friday. The chief minister added that death toll lifted to 3,875 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. He said new 742 cases out of 6,651 samples constituted 11.2 percent current detection rate. He added that so far.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 20 more patients, infects 748 others

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

KARACHI - As many as 20 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,875 and 748 new cases emerged when 6,651 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Friday. He added that 20 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,875 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr

[more >>](#)

Russian Covid-19 vaccine allowed in Pakistan

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2021-01-24

KARACHI: Pakistani health authorities have granted emergency use authorization to Russian COVID-19 vaccine, Gam-COVID-Vac or Sputnik V to be used in Pakistan, hoping that the first shipment of the vaccine would reach Pakistan by the end of current month, The News has learnt. In all likelihood, double dose of Sputnik V in Pakistan would cost double the rates at which it is available in India.....

[more >>](#)

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

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-24

KARACH: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 Stores.....

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Sindh reports 13 corona deaths, 635 fresh cases

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-24

KARACHI: As many as 13 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,888 and 635 new cases emerged when 6,041 tests were conducted across Sindh. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Saturday. He said that 13 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,888 that constituted 1.6 percent.....

[more >>](#)

COVID-19 claims 13 more patients, infects 635 others: Sindh CM

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-24

KARACHI - As many as 13 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,888 and 635 new cases emerged when 6,041 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Saturday. He added that 13 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,888 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Sy.....

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Covid-19 kills four more as another 630 test positive

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2021-01-25

Four more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 630 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,892 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Sunday that 9,228 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 630 people, or 6.8 per cent of th.....

[more >>](#)

Global sharing of ideas for common good

Source: [Jawaid Bokhari](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-25

Economists say that every crisis brings an opportunity that should not be missed. And a growing number of economists are identifying new ways of doing things, sharing innovative ideas and current relevant practices that would work so that the crisis is not wasted. Though many countries may have benefited from each other's experience in their bilateral relations in the past, the exchange of

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International News

Countries News

China to 'speed up' export of Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

Beijing will "speed up" the export of Covid-19 vaccine doses to Islamabad and will also provide a batch of to Islamabad "as aid", said the country's foreign ministry. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had announced that China will gift half-million doses of the vaccine to Pakistan by the end of January. The announcement came after the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan[more >>](#)

British prime minister says evidence UK virus strain more deadly

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

The coronavirus strain that has swept Britain and beyond in recent months could be more deadly as well as more transmissible, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Friday. The sobering news came as the UK sees record deaths from Covid-19, following a surge in cases and hospitalisations since the variant was first identified in southeast England in September. The strain has also spread to more tha.....[more >>](#)

China to coordinate with companies to 'speed up' vaccine export to Pakistan

Source: [News Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

The Chinese government will provide a batch of Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan "as aid" and will "actively coordinate with the relevant Chinese enterprise to speed up export of vaccines to Pakistan", Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a press briefing on Friday. "Since the outbreak of Covid-19, China and Pakistan have been working together to overcome difficult.....

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Tokyo head slams Olympics cancellation report

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

TOKYO: The head of Japan's national Olympic committee on Friday dismissed media reports that the Japanese government has privately concluded it will have to cancel the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and said preparations were under way for the Games to go ahead as planned. "We are planning how to hold a safe and secure Games in great detail, working closely with the International Olympic Committ.....

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UK imams mobilise to counter Covid-19 vaccine disinformation

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

Imams across Britain are helping a drive to dispel coronavirus disinformation, using Friday sermons and their influential standing within Muslim communities to argue that Covid-19 vaccines are safe. Qari Asim, chairman of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) which is leading a campaign to reassure its faithful, is among those publicly advocating that the inoculations are compatib.....

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In Spain, hospitals pay price for Christmas festivities

Source: [AFP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-23

Less than a month after Christmas, staff in the intensive care unit at Barcelona's Hospital del Mar are working non-stop. Electronic bleeps alert them to the multiple needs of patients in their care, most of whom are intubated and unconscious. At one bed, several staff are turning a patient face down to facilitate breathing, while others check an X-ray showing lungs whitened by pneumonia.

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Israel includes teens in COVID-19 vaccination drive

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-25

Israel has started administering COVID-19 vaccines to teenagers as it pushes ahead with its inoculation drive. A quarter of the population is now vaccinated, health officials said. Expanding the campaign to include teens in 11th and 12th grade came days after Israel, on Tuesday, extended its third national coronavirus lockdown until the end of the month due to a surge in coronavirus infe.....

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China to direct firms to speed up export of corona vaccines to Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-24

BEIJING: China has said that it will provide a “batch of vaccines” to Pakistan as “aid” and assured that it will direct Chinese companies to “speed up the export of vaccines to Pakistan”. “In order to support our brothers and sisters in Pakistan, the Chinese government has decided to provide a batch of vaccines as aid and will actively coordinate with the r.....

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Oil prices edge lower as Covid-19 lockdown concerns overshadow demand prospects

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

SINGAPORE: Oil prices slipped for a second straight session on Monday as renewed Covid-19 lockdowns raised fresh concerns about global fuel demand. Brent crude futures for March fell 8 cents, or 0.1%, to \$55.38 a barrel by 0717 GMT, while USWest Texas Intermediate crude for March was at \$52.26 a barrel, down 1 cent. “Signs of weaker demand weighed on the market,” ANZ analysts said,

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Leaving the UK for good

Source: [News Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

Covid-19 has sparked the largest fall in Britain’s population since the Second World War as 1.3m immigrants left the UK between the third quarter of 2019 and the same period in 2020, reports the Financial Times.

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Villagers torch virus testing centre in Netherlands

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

URK (The Netherlands): Rioting youths protesting on the first night of a Dutch curfew torched a coronavirus testing facility and clashed with police in a fishing village. Police said on Sunday they fined more than 3,600 people nationwide for breaching the curfew that ran from 9pm on Saturday until 4:30am on Sunday and arrested 25 people for breaching the curfew or for violence. Video from the vi.....

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Czech trainers teach dogs to sniff out Covid

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

KLNY: In a dog training centre built inside a shipping container located in a Czech mountain village, Renda, Cap and Laky are being put to the test. They sniff at six vessels, each containing a piece of cloth with scent from patients with Covid-19, negative donors, or fake samples. “Good boy!” exclaims Lenka Vlachova, a trainer working at Prague’s fire brigade, as jagdterrier R.....

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US passes 25m Covid-19 cases

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

WASHINGTON: More than 25 million Covid-19 cases have been recorded in the United States since the pandemic began, Johns Hopkins University said on Sunday, just days after President Joe Biden's inauguration. The milestone was reached only five days after the US, the world's wealthiest and hardest-hit nation, recorded 400,000 deaths from the disease. Biden has made fighting the coronav.....

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Johnson presses Biden for new trade deal

Source: [Agencies](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

WASHINGTON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson made clear to President Joe Biden on Saturday that he's eager to forge a new US-UK trade deal. The push for a new deal came in a broad-ranging call between the two leaders that touched on the global response to the coronavirus pandemic as well as the Biden administration announcing this week that the US would rejoin the Paris climate accord a.....

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Fourth Zimbabwean cabinet member dies of Covid-19 amid surge

Source: [A P](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-25

HARARE: Four Zimbabwean cabinet ministers have died of Covid-19, three within the past two weeks, highlighting a resurgence of the disease that is sweeping through this southern African country. President Emmerson Mnangagwa said the coronavirus is reaping a grim harvest in the country. "The pandemic has been indiscriminate. There are no spectators, adjudicators, no holier than thou. No sup.....

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Tears and fears as India's huge coronavirus vaccine push falters

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-25

India's huge coronavirus vaccination drive is behind schedule, with a third of recipients not showing up for appointments because of safety fears, technical glitches and a belief that the pandemic is ending. After a week, India has vaccinated 1.4 million people, or 200,000 people per day. It had initially hoped to process 300,000 per day before ramping up the rollout and inoculating 300 mil.....

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UK vaccination drive expands as virus toll nears 100,000

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-25

Britain is expanding a coronavirus vaccination program that has seen almost 6 million people get the first of two doses – even as the country's death toll in the pandemic approaches 100,000. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said Sunday that three-quarters of the U.K.'s over-80s have received a vaccine shot. He said three-quarters of nursing home residents have also had their first

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Portugal chooses a president amid a severe pandemic surge

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-25

Portugal held a presidential election Sunday, with the moderate incumbent candidate strongly favored to earn a second five-year term as a devastating COVID-19 surge grips the European Union nation. The head of state in Portugal has no legislative powers, which lie with parliament and the government, but is an influential voice in the running of the country. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, 72, is regard.....

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Donors News

Pfizer to supply 40m Covid shots for poor nations

Source: [Ap](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-23

GENEVA: Pfizer on Friday committed to supplying up to 40 million doses of its Covid-19 vaccine this year to a World Health Organisation-backed effort to get affordable shots to poor and middle-income countries. The deal is a boost to the global programme known as Covax, as wealthy nations have snapped up most of the millions of coming shots. The commitment, announced at a virtual press conferenc.....

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SDPI Engagements

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