

# E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 09



Issue: 26-29 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

## Contents.....

Subscribe

### Op-Eds

[Articles/Editorials/News comments .....02](#)

### National News

|                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • <a href="#">Islamabad</a>          | • <a href="#">Punjab</a> |
| • <a href="#">Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</a> | • Gilgit Baltistan       |
| • <a href="#">Sindh</a>              | • AJK                    |
| • Balochistan                        | •                        |

### International News

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| • <a href="#">Countries News</a> | • Donors News |
|----------------------------------|---------------|

### SDPI Engagements

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| • Webinars News             | • Researchers Articles                   |
| • Urdu Newspapers coverages | • <a href="#">SDPI: Other Engagement</a> |

A Product of ASRC-SDPI

### Team:

**Data Managed by:**  
Shahid Rasul , Abid Rasheed

**Compile & Layout Design by:**  
Ali Aamer Javed

## Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

10-D West, 3rd Floor, Taimoor Chamber, Fazl-ul-Haq Road,  
Blue Area, Islamabad. Pakistan,

Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,

## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

**Virus of inequality**

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2021-01-26

While 1000 of the world's richest people have already been able to recover from the losses caused by the Covid-19 pandemic which swept around the world through 2020, causing millions of losses to many, it is the poor who continue to suffer in almost every country in the world. The rich benefit from the fact that taxes were reduced during the pandemic, allowing them to increase their gains. Als.....[more >>](#)

**A job in time**

Source: [Mahir Ali, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

ACCORDING to an academic study released this week by the International Chamber of Commerce, if the present pattern of vaccine distribution persists, with supplies largely monopolised by rich countries, the global economy should brace for a \$9 trillion hit. The idea is to appeal to the economic self-interest — rather than the charitable inclinations — of wealthy nations to facilitate a.....[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 in the UK**

Source: [Kenneth Surin, The News, International](#), 2021-01-28

The number of people in the UK who have died after testing positive for Covid-19 has risen to 97,936 (as of January 24), and will pass 100,000 in a few days. There has been an increase of 610 in the death toll over 24 hours. The real figures for the daily death toll are certainly higher, as indicated by Office for National Statistics records. Adjusted for population size, the US equivalent.....[more >>](#)

**Vaccine for the wealthy**

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2021-01-28

The WHO has said it is now quite obvious that there is a huge divide between rich and poor countries in their ability to access and give out the Covid-19 vaccine to their people. The WHO has said that in the longer term, this could have devastating impacts on the economy of the entire globe, costing it around \$9.2 trillion. The WHO says it needs \$26 billion this year for vaccine management and del.....[more >>](#)

**Long-term care**

Source: [Linda McQuaig, The News, International](#), 2021-01-27

When it became clear last fall that the province's long-term care (LTC) homes were about to be engulfed by the second wave of the pandemic, the Ford government swung into action. Wasting no time, it promptly introduced legislation – legislation that gave the corporate owners of long-term care homes extra protection from lawsuits that were accumulating against them. Tragically,.....

[more >>](#)

**Solutions without violence**

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2021-01-27

The problems that students are facing this year, in particular due to the Covid-19 pandemic, online classes, and the natural reluctance to gather together in a closed space for exams, is a phenomenon not suffered by Pakistan alone, but experienced around the world. However, most countries have been able to find solutions of one kind or the other without resorting to the kind of violence we saw on .....

[more >>](#)

**Debt relief call**

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

Prime Minister Imran Khan has made another appeal to wealthy nations to provide more debt relief to poor countries. Speaking at a UN conference, he cited the continuing — and arguable worsening — Covid-19 pandemic and the debt impact on the attainability of the sustainable development goals by 2030. Last year, PM Imran and other world leaders made similar appeals, which garnered signif.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 vaccination**

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-28

While Pakistan has yet to start a Covid vaccination drive, signs are emerging that it's going to happen pretty soon. After China's announcement of 'gifting' 500,000 doses of a vaccine to Pakistan by the end of January, another good news on free-of-cost availability of a vaccine has come from the World Health Organization. In a statement last Sunday, the world body has annou.....

[more >>](#)

**disinformation**

Source: [Pauline Froissart, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-28

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 publically advocating that the inoculations are co.....

[more >>](#)

**The traps of antiquity**

Source: [Malik Muhammad Ashraf, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-29

Since its onset, COVID-19 has reportedly affected 99,830,738 people, consumed 2,144,313 lives while 71,830,048 have defeated the virus. The virus has also ravaged economies around the world, particularly of developing countries. It is believed that the economic impact on the world's economy was greater than the great depression. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), durin.....

[more >>](#)

**COVID vaccines: Israeli hasbara versus reality**

Source: [Dr James J. Zogby, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-26

Israelis love to use their hasbara machinery to get good press. But, as is the case with propagandists, the stories they generate frequently fail to reflect reality. Israel's handling of the coronavirus has provided several examples. In the very early stages of this pandemic, there were press reports that Israeli scientists were on the verge of developing a vaccine against the disease. ....

[more >>](#)

**Genetic variation in the virus**

Source: [Khalid Munir, Isra Munir and M. Akram Muneer, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-26

A new Coronavirus disease was reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO) on December 31, 2019. It is referred to as Covid-19 and is primarily caused by severe respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Recently a new strain of it was reported in the United Kingdom (UK). Coronaviruses contain large RNA genomes with limited proof-reading ability and, like many other RNA viruses, they acqu.....

[more >>](#)

### Global Cooperation

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

While addressing the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), PM Imran Khan pushed for the importance of striving for global welfare in the midst of a disabling pandemic. In recognition of the barriers that developing countries still have to overcome, he urged the international community to incorporate special provisions in their foreign policies to provide relief to all those struggling t....

[more >>](#)

## National News

### Islamabad

#### Clear policy, rational distribution of COVID-19 vaccination urged

Source: Afshan S. Khan, [The News, International](#), 2021-01-26

Islamabad: The stakeholders speaking at a webinar suggested that 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. They urged for controlled mech.....[more >>](#)

#### Nations urged to be well equipped for tackling future pandemics

Source: Our Correspondent, [The News, International](#), 2021-01-26

Islamabad: Speakers at an international workshop held here Monday urged the nations to be well equipped for tackling the future pandemics through capacity building and developing institutional infrastructure. The workshop titled 'Fundamental Techniques in Viral Diseases Diagnostics' kicked off at Comstech. More than 300 virologists, scientists and students from around the OIC me.....[more >>](#)

#### WHO issues guidelines for patients facing long-term problems

Source: Ikram Junaidi, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organisation (WHO), while issuing revised clinical management guidelines, has recommended that patients who have Covid-19 — both confirmed and suspected — should have access to follow-up care if they have persistent, new or changing symptoms. Evidence was gathered on the post-coronavirus condition, initially termed 'long Covid', where people who.....[more >>](#)

#### Finance ministry optimistic about economic revival

Source: Staff Reporter, [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-27

ISLAMABAD: The country's fiscal deficit widened to 1.8 per cent, or Rs822 billion, of GDP in the first five months of FY21 compared to 1.6pc (Rs676bn) in the corresponding period last year. The Ministry of Finance in its monthly economic update and outlook, released on Tuesday, observed that the current outlook ensures economic revival on the basis of continued recovery seen in recent month.....

[more >>](#)

#### Twin cities see fall in Covid-19 cases

Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

ISLAMABAD: The twin cities saw another 108 people contracting Covid-19 while one patient lost his struggle against the virus on Tuesday. Islamabad, however, saw a decline in the number of positive cases as 77 cases were reported in a single day compared to 102 the previous day. Officials of the capital administration said the positivity rate fell to 1.33pc from 2.3pc calculated on Monday. Simil.....

[more >>](#)

#### Covid-19 vaccination drive to kick off from next week: Asad

Source: Our Correspondent, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Wednesday said that Pakistan will start its Covid-19 vaccination drive next week, starting with the front-line health workers. "God willing, the vaccination of frontline health workers will start next week," Asad Umar, who oversees the country's efforts to stem the coronavirus pandemic, said.....

[more >>](#)

### **Pakistan registers 400,000 health workers for corona vaccination: SAPM**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-28

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has registered 400,000 health workers for coronavirus vaccination, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services, Dr Faisal Sultan said. He said this while attending an online workshop pertaining to health challenges, adding that China has gifted half million doses of the vaccine to Pakistan, which will be made available to the people free of c.....

[more >>](#)

### **NCOC announces reopening of educational institutes**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-28

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), after a detailed discussion with all the stakeholders on Wednesday, decided that all the remaining educational institutes, particularly primary and middle schools, as well as universities, shall resume classes from February 1. The forum decided that students in Karachi, Hyderabad, Lahore, and Peshawar would attend classes with 50 pe.....

[more >>](#)

### **TI-P tells govt; Vaccine procurement not exempted from PPRA law 2002**

Source: [Mushtaq Ghumman](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

ISLAMABAD: Trans-parency International-Pakistan (TI-P) has conveyed to the government that the procurement of Covid-19 vaccine is exempted from the PPRA Rules, 2004 not the PPRA Ordinance 2002, according to which Integrity Pact from the suppliers is mandatory to prevent corruption in procurement. In a letter to the Prime Minister's Secretary, Azam Khan, TI-P has referred to the Cabinet Di.....

[more >>](#)

### **Pakistan to approve Russian Sputnik Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-26

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is all set to approve the Russian Sputnik Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use, a government official said on Monday, a week after China's Sinopharm and Oxford University's AstraZeneca vaccine got a similar authorization. The Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan (DRAP) has accepted the data submitted by the Russian candidate, a spokesman for the authority told Reut.....

[more >>](#)

### **Upcoming Covid-19 vaccination drive; Health professionals provided training, NCOC told**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-26

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) was informed on Monday that the authorities have provided necessary training to the health professionals from provincial to tehsils level to carry out a swift upcoming Covid-19 vaccination drive. The meeting held here under the chairmanship of the NCOC national coordinator Lt-Gen Hamooduz Zaman Khan, was also informed that Pakistan, .....

[more >>](#)

### **'Pandemic has knock-on impact on food security'**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-29

Islamabad : Saying the COVID-19 crisis has a knock-on effect on food security, UK British High Commissioner Dr. Christian Turner CMG on Thursday announced £3.5 million UK humanitarian aid for Balochistan to help with recovery from the pandemic. The announcement came during his first visit to Quetta. The envoy said rates of malnutrition and food insecurity in Balochistan were already .....

[more >>](#)

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

### PDA demands corona allowance for doctors, paramedics

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-26

PESHAWAR: Provincial Doctors Association (PDA) has said that doctors and paramedics are fighting against coronavirus in the frontline but the government has not yet provided them corona allowance. Speaking at a news conference in the Peshawar Press Club on Monday, PDA leader Dr Abdul Manan Khan and other office-bearers observed that the government should have recognised services of doctors.....

[more >>](#)

### Woman dies of Covid-19 in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-26

NOWSHERA: A woman has died from the coronavirus, bringing the number of deaths from the fatal disease to 60 in the Nowshera district. The deceased woman identified as Riaz Bibi, 58, was under treatment at the Qazi Medical Complex. Officials said that the cases of the coronavirus were on the rise in Nowshera as 51 more people have tested positive for the contagious disease. The latest figures have ra.....

[more >>](#)

## Punjab

### 6 die of COVID-19, 108 test positive in a day

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-26

Rawalpindi: The number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district is on a decline for the last one month though the number of deaths caused by the virus is still significantly higher from the region. In the last 24 hours, another six patients died of COVID-19 from ICT and Rawalpindi district taking death toll .....[more >>](#)

### Seven more die from COVID19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-26

LAHORE: Around seven patients died from COVID19 and 607 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Monday, the death toll reached 4,568, while confirmed cases reached 154,017 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 15,760 tests have been conducted.....[more >>](#)

### Hotels, shops sealed for SOPs breach

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-26

LAHORE: The district administration continued its operations to implement corona SOPs and sealed shops and businesses here on Monday. DC Lahore Mudassar Riaz said Corona SOPs were being implemented without any discrimination. Assistant Commissioner Cantt Sakhi Shakir sealed three hotels, 11 shops and stores while a fine of Rs 15,000 was imposed for overcharging and Rs 10,000 for violating c.....[more >>](#)

### Eight teachers test positive in random checking

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

LAHORE: Eight teachers of various educational institutes of the city tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday. Officials of the District Education Authority (DEA) and town administrations conducted random Covid-19 tests of the teachers in the schools to fulfill the requirement to open schools for primary and middle classes under the second phase. The government has imposed a condition for open.....

[more >>](#)

### **Five injured, one critical as students stage protest against online exams**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

Several private university students sustained injuries after they got into a clash with security guards during demonstrations against in-person examinations. The students have been demanding online exams because classes were also held virtually. Students were present outside a university located on Jinnah Road in Johar Town since morning. According to police, between 300 and 350 students partook .....

[more >>](#)

### **Punjab education ministry bars staff from vaccination duties**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-28

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab education ministry has taken stern notice of deployment of school monitoring staff for vaccination and monitoring duties. The district administrations regularly muster the education department employees for polio vaccination duties, typhoid inoculation drives, monitoring and implementation of standard operating procedures for the prevention of the novel coronavirus, price mo.....

[more >>](#)

### **497 fresh cases, 38 deaths reported in Punjab**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-28

LAHORE: The corona positivity rate declined to 2.97% in the province, as Punjab has reported 497 fresh corona cases and 38 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally of cases to 155,214 and total fatalities to 4,646. With 2,081 recoveries reported across Pakistan over last 24 hours, the total number of recoveries has now reached to 492,207. In Punjab, with 455 recoveries, the tot.....

[more >>](#)

### **LUMS to open campus as per SOPs from Feb 1st**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-26

LAHORE: The Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) has announced to open its campus from February 1 as per the Higher Education Commission (HEC) guidelines after the students staged a peaceful protest in front of campus against online classes. Students staged the protest outside LUMS to press their demands as the university was reluctant to open the on-campus classes. LUMS spoke.....

[more >>](#)

### **Punjab reports 607 Covid-19 new cases, 7 deaths**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-26

LAHORE: The positivity rate of Covid-19 witnessed a slight decline to 3.85 percent, as out of total 15,760 tests conducted across Punjab during the last 24 hours, as many as 607 fresh corona cases and seven deaths reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 154,017 and fatalities to 4,568. With recovery of 1216 more people, the number of recovered patients has reached to 138,894. With 2,4.....

[more >>](#)

### **Punjab to purchase gene sequencing technology to track COVID-19 variants**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-28

On Thursday, Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar approved Rs50 million in funds for the provincial health department to place an order for genetic sequencing technology. "Punjab will be the first province to buy a gene sequencing machine," said Captain (r) Muhammad Usman Younis, secretary of the primary and secondary healthcare department, in a press statement. The machine will al.....

[more >>](#)

## Sindh

**Covid-19 kills eight more as another 854 test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-26

Eight more people have died due to Covid-19 and another 854 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease reaching 3,900 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Monday that 11,497 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 854 people, or 7.43 per .....

[more >>](#)

**Site body slams gas ban**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-27

KARACHI: The SITE Association of Industry (SAI) has feared shifting of export orders due to the government's decision of discontinuing gas supply to general industries from Feb 1 and export-oriented sectors from March 1. SAI President Abdul Hadi in a statement on Tuesday said the government knew that due to Covid-19 issues the export orders of India and Bangladesh had been diverted to Pakis.....

[more >>](#)

**Pandemic, soaring prices hit gold jewellery sales**

Source: [Aamir Shafaat Khan](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

KARACHI: Conflicting claims have emerged over the revival of gold jewellery sales since the start of the wedding season from Sept 15, 2020, with many jewellers painting a gloomy picture while others not so despondent. Talking to Dawn, jewellers commented that affluent families continued to buy gold jewellery sets despite the cash crunch felt by most amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Upper-middle and mi.....

[more >>](#)

**Profit repatriation jumps 26pc in July-December**

Source: [Shahid Iqbal](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

KARACHI: Repatriation of profits was 26 per cent higher than the inflow of foreign investment during the first half of the current fiscal year. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported on Tuesday that the total outflow of profits and dividends was \$892 million while the total foreign investment was \$708m during the July-December period of 2020-21. Moreover, the profits on foreign direct investm.....

[more >>](#)

**Fauji Fertiliser posts profit**

Source: [Equities Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

KARACHI: The winter results season kicked off on Tuesday with Fauji Fertiliser Bin Qasim (FFBL) announcing profit-after-tax (PAT) at Rs2.192 billion for the CY20, translating into earnings per share (EPS) at Rs1.70 as against loss of Rs5.92bn (EPS: Rs4.60) in CY19. "Better DAP offtake, up 35pc year-on-year, and improved margins due to Gas Infrastructure Development Cess elimination in .....

[more >>](#)

**Delivering the goods — amid Covid-19 online services provide much-needed relief**

Source: [Peerzada Salman](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

KARACHI: An understatement: the pandemic has turned things topsy-turvy for mankind. Life, at least in the last one hundred years, has never been so confined and contained. People in most parts of the world are afraid of stepping out of their houses. They're frightened of the virus which has so far taken over two million lives. The situation has affected, pretty badly, the economic well-being.....

[more >>](#)

**Virus and security make Pakistan a tough tour, says Boucher**

Source: [AFP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-26

KARACHI: Coronavirus restrictions and thousands of security staff made for challenging conditions for South Africa on their tour of Pakistan, head coach Mark Boucher said Monday. The team is on its first tour of the country in 14 years, after international cricket in Pakistan was suspended in the aftermath of terror attacks on the Sri Lankan side in 2009. Pakistan has staged various limi.....

[more >>](#)

## International News

### Countries News

#### **Dutch govt won't bow to rioters: ministers**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-27

THE HAGUE: The Dutch government will not back down on its coronavirus curfew despite three nights of rioting by “scum”, ministers said on Tuesday after the worst unrest to hit the Netherlands for four decades. Dutch police arrested a further 184 people overnight, taking past 400 the number detained after the Netherlands imposed its first nationwide curfew since World War II. At least....

[more >>](#)

#### **Ambassador Akram re-emphasises equitable access to Covid vaccine for health, economic recovery**

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-28

GENEVA/UNITED NATIONS: The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) president, Ambassador Munir Akram of Pakistan, has renewed the call for ensuring equitable access and distribution of the coronavirus vaccine, saying it was “vital” to control the deadly pandemic and for quick recovery of the virus-hit world economy. “If the vaccine is not available through[out] a large part of .....

[more >>](#)

## SDPI Engagements

### Other SDPI Engagements

#### **Women Affectees Of Climate-induced Migration Demand Role In Decision Making: Study**

Source: [APP](#), [Urdu Point](#), 2021-01-28

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 28th Jan, 2021): The women affected due to climate change-induced migration in Tharparkar and Muzzaffargarh have demanded role in decision making aimed to cope with adverse impacts of natural disasters. A recent study conducted on Climate-induced Migrations affecting all genders particularly women and girls by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (.....[more >>](#))

© 2013 - 2021 All rights reserved

Designed & Developed by NK-MIS Web Team, ([SDPI](#))

Newsletter generate and disseminate by AS RC Team SDPI

**SUBSCRIBE**  
to our E - Newsletter on  
**"COVID - 19"**

[Send Mail](#)