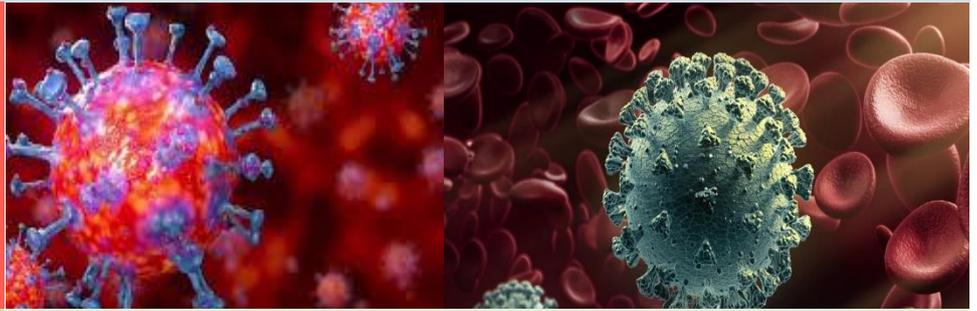


# E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 10



Issue: 30 Jan - 01 Feb, 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 href="#">SDPI Related News</a>	

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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

**A multilateral world**

Source: [Amanat Ali Chaudhry](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-30

The writer, a Chevening scholar, studied International Journalism at the University of Sussex. The corona pandemic has changed the world drastically. While humanity is still in the midst of overwhelming the virus through accelerated vaccine production programs, the resurgence of Covid-19 has proven to be far deadlier than during the first wave. Even if the virus is defeated down the line, .....[more >>](#)

**'Russian roulette' in Europe as needle shortages hamper Covid-19 shots**

Source: [Matthias Blamont and Caroline Copley](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

Laurent Fignon, a geriatric doctor in the south of France, is having to improvise as he gives shots of the COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech to care home residents and health staff because supplies of the right needles and syringes are short. Getting the full six doses from vials of the Pfizer/BioNTech shot - as allowed this month by the European Union's health regulator - requi.....[more >>](#)

**The vaccine rollout**

Source: [Dean Baker](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

The vaccine rollout process has been painfully slow in the United States. More than 40 days after the first vaccine was approved for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration, just over 6.0 percent of our population has been vaccinated. And that is with just the first shot, very few having gotten the two shots needed to hit the targeted levels of immunity. Thankfully the pace of the vaccin.....[more >>](#)

**Cure in reach**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

Federal Minister Asad Umar has relayed the good news that vaccines for the Covid-19 pandemic will soon be available in Pakistan and frontline workers will be amongst the first to receive it. After a year where the country lost over 10,000 souls, forced the entire nation into a lockdown, plummeted the economy into recession for the very first time, this news is like sighting the light at the end of.....[more >>](#)

**Covid-19: fortifications and new wars**

Source: [Dr Rana Jawad Asghar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

Back in 2018, I submitted an idea for a special session of "TED Talks" in the United States. I raised the issue that today's public health is still stuck in the methods of controlling outbreaks which are more than a century old. The world is much different now and measures which were effective then may not produce the same results today. With the Covid-19.....

[more >>](#)

**Inequity of access to Covid vaccines**

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

In his keynote address on Monday to a virtual session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, among other proposals for tackling a series of interlinked and unprecedented public health and economic crises, Prime Minister Imran Khan called for a viable framework for equitable and affordable supply of Covid-19 vaccine to developing countries. The prime minister pointed out that Covid-19 vacci.....

[more >>](#)

**Vaccine thieves**

Source: [Ruth H Hopkins, The News, International](#), 2021-02-01

The former head of a Canadian casino company and his wife, an actress, were recently charged under Yukon Territory's Civil Emergency Measures Act for chartering a private plane to fly into the tiny community of Beaver Creek to receive Covid-19 vaccines meant for vulnerable Indigenous people who live there. Among those scheduled to be vaccinated were elders from the White River First .....

[more >>](#)

**Covid aftermath**

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2021-02-01

As per a Gallup survey, two percent of Pakistanis have had to cut back on their food supplies to meet basic household needs amid the economic hardships that arose during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the survey, three percent of the participants interviewed had opted for cheaper food to meet their basic needs. This comes after a recent Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) survey that showed t.....

[more >>](#)

**Education emergency**

Source: [EDITORIAL, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

RECENTLY, on the International Day of Education, UN Secretary General António Guterres commended students and teachers for their resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic, which has disrupted education and learning for countless students around the world. However, an estimated 44pc of all Pakistani children between the ages of five and 16 were not even going to school in the first place, and .....

[more >>](#)

**Engaging with energetic students of foreign policy in Washington DC**

Source: [Hassan Khan, Daily Times](#), 2021-02-01

While on an official trip to the United States covering the US Presidential Elections in November 2020, I was invited to address students over video conferencing at the School of International Service (SIS), American University, Washington DC. Being one of the leading schools on foreign policy in the world, it was truly a huge honour and privilege for me. Notably, this was the second time I was ad.....

[more >>](#)

**Economic fallout: Travel bans, lockdowns shrink job opportunities for expats**

Source: [Waqar Ahmed, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

ISLAMABAD: Thepandemic-inducedtravel bans and lockdowns have direly reduced job opportunities for overseas Pakistanis. Due to the prevalent situation, only 224,000Pakistanis got employment opportunities abroad in 2020 — a significant reduction from the pre-Covid times. According to an official document received by The Express Tribune, Saudi Arabia reduced its work visas to Pakistanis by 19.....[more >>](#)

**Vaccine woes**

Source: [BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

Sars-Cov-2 continues to humble science, even though it's been a year since it started spreading across the world. Back when first vaccines had started getting approved in November and December, the world thought the end of Covid-19 was nigh. Now it is learnt that several mutations of the same virus, some more infectious and deadlier, have intensified the pandemic and put question mark over v.....[more >>](#)

## National News

### Islamabad

#### 63pc Pakistanis think asymptomatic people can't spread Covid-19: survey

Source: [Gallup Survey](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-30

ISLAMABAD: Despite the looming threat of COVID-19 in Pakistan, 63 percent of the population thinks that people showing no symptoms cannot spread the disease. A survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan, in collaboration with Jang-Geo News Polls, in which around one thousand people took part from across the country. Respondents were asked to answer different questions related to their percept.....[more >>](#)

#### 4 deaths, another 112 COVID-19 cases

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-30

Islamabad : As many as four more confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 belonging to Islamabad Capital Territory died of the disease in the last 24 hours taking death toll from ICT to 476 though no death was reported from Rawalpindi district from where a total of 589 patients have already lost their lives due to the illness since the advent of coronavirus in Pakistan. It is im.....[more >>](#)

#### Necessary measures taken to store incoming Covid-19 vaccine

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Saturday was apprised by authorities concerned that all necessary measures had been put in place for Covid-19 vaccine storage in Islamabad. The first shipment of a Chinese Covid-19 vaccine is expected to arrive by January 31 (Sunday) in Pakistan. During today's session, the forum deliberated about vaccine administration strateg.....

[more >>](#)

#### Morgah SHO loses battle to coronavirus

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

RAWALPINDI: Sub-inspector Asim Rasheed passed away on Friday after losing the battle to the novel coronavirus. He was stationed at Morgah as the station house officer, a police official said. It was shared that the sub-inspector was undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Health (NIH) since January 14. He left behind a mother, a wife, and a son and a daughter. The funeral prayers for .....

[more >>](#)

#### Pakistan reports 1,644 new Coronavirus cases, 46 deaths

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Friday morning reported 1,644 new Coronavirus cases, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 541,031. Meanwhile, the country's death toll climbed to 11,560 after 46 more people succumbed to the deadly disease during the past 24 hours. Meanwhile, 2,167 patients recovered from the deadly disease in a day taking total recoveries to 496,754. At least 599 new Coronavi.....

[more >>](#)

#### People pin hope on Chinese Covid-19 vaccine Share:

Source: [INP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

ISLAMABAD - As the world competes fiercely for the early acquisition of the Covid-19 vaccines, Pakistani officials, healthcare workers and common people have pinned their hope on Chinese CanSino Biologics anti-coronavirus. Health experts say that the CanSino vaccine, with promising results during its clinical trials, would be the best option for Pakistanis, having been tested over the indigen.....

[more >>](#)

### First coronavirus vaccine tranche to arrive in Pakistan from China today

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

A special plane has been sent to China to bring back to Pakistan its first tranche of coronavirus vaccines, Radio Pakistan reported on Sunday. The development was discussed at a meeting of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) held in Islamabad. The coronavirus monitoring centre discussed in detail about the government's vaccine administration strategy across Pakistan, admin.....

[more >>](#)

### Polyclinic sets up corona vaccination centre

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

Islamabad : The Federal Government Polyclinic has become the first hospital in Islamabad to have developed a coronavirus vaccination centre for frontline workers. The centre will become functional in the first week of February 2021, says the spokesperson for Polyclinic. He said the hospital had also developed the typhoid conjugated vaccination centre, where the children aged from nine mon.....

[more >>](#)

### FDE issues school timings, COVID-19 guidelines

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

Islamabad : The Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) has notified timings of educational institutions, which are to reopen tomorrow (Monday) after prolonged closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to a notification of the FDE, for single shift institutions, the timings are 08:30am to 01:30pm (Monday to Thursday and Saturday) (morning shift) and 08:30am to 12:30pm (Friday) (ev.....

[more >>](#)

### Highest number of deaths recorded in Punjab for Jan 30: NCOC

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

ISLAMABAD: The highest death-toll recorded over the last 24-hour period due to the Covid-19 pandemic was recorded in Punjab followed by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), said the National Command and Operation Centre. The country's nerve centre for Covid-19 response added that the total number of cases in the country stands at 33,182, with at least 1,599 cases recorded over the last 24-hours. As many .....

[more >>](#)

### Pakistan extends Covid-19 SOPs for inbound flights till February 28

Source: [APP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has extended standard operating procedures (SOPs), introduced for all inbound flights to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus in the country, till February 28. According to two separate notifications shared by the Aviation Division on Sunday, the negative PCR test requirement for the category B and C country passengers had been reduced from 96 to 72 hours. ....

[more >>](#)

### 75,000 Afghan refugee families impacted by Covid-19 receive emergency cash

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

ISLAMABAD-The UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, completed the disbursement of emergency cash assistance for 75,000 vulnerable Afghan refugee families that have been the hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. More than 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees are hosted in Pakistan. Due to the pandemic, their ability to work and earn a minimum livelihood, mainly as daily wage earners, has been s.....

[more >>](#)

### **Govt fails to register those to be vaccinated**

Source: [Muhammad Saleh Zaafir](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

ISLAMABAD: The first batch of corona vaccine is reaching Pakistan today (Monday) from China under special arrangements made by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) but the government has failed in starting registration of people, especially senior citizens, who are supposed to be vaccinated on priority basis. Interestingly, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) asked the government to initiate .....

[more >>](#)

### **Govt should've purchased COVID-19 vaccine from China earlier, says Ahsan Iqbal**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-01

LAHORE: Senior PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday said that the PTI government, instead of wasting time, should have brought the COVID-19 vaccine from China at discounted rates to control the situation in a timely fashion. Taking to his Twitter account, Ahsan Iqbal said that Prime Minister Imran Khan's government "kept waiting for charity-based vaccine" from the World Health Organisations.....

[more >>](#)

### **Plane arrives from China today with 0.5m doses of vaccine**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

ISLAMABAD: A special Pakistan Air Force (PAF) plane was due to leave Beijing for Islamabad on Monday (today) with around half a million doses of Covid-19 vaccine gifted by China. In another development, the government has decided to start registration of citizens over 65 years in the next two weeks. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), on the other hand, reported that another 1,599 .....

[more >>](#)

### **PTI activist dies of Covid-19**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

RAWALPINDI: PTI activist and Insaf Lawyers Wing chairman Advocate Shahid Naseem Gondal passed away at the Military Hospital Rawalpindi on Saturday night following complications arising from Covid-19. Gondal was also serving as the chief legal adviser of the Capital Development Authority. According to his nephew, Ihteshamul Haq Matoo, the PTI leader was undergoing treatment for complications arising.....

[more >>](#)

### **Islamabad to inoculate healthcare workers at 9 centres**

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

ISLAMABAD: With over 17,000 frontline healthcare workers having registered for inoculation, the federal capital is all set to start its Covid-19 vaccination at nine centres set up in the city. As many as 450 healthcare workers will be vaccinated daily for a few days. On the other hand, the twin cities reported two deaths and 118 new cases. In Islamabad, 6,713 samples were collected on Saturday .....

[more >>](#)

### **Special PAF plane brings first tranche of COVID-19 vaccine**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-01

A special Pakistan Air Force (PAF) plane carrying the first batch of coronavirus vaccine landed in Islamabad Sunday night. Earlier in the evening, National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar had said that loading of the vaccine containers into the plane was underway. The state-run news agency reported that the NCOC informed in a brief statement that as per the National Vaccine Strategy.....

[more >>](#)

**First batch of Covid-19 vaccine arrives in Pakistan**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan Air Force (PAF) IL-76 brought back the first batch of Sinopharm vaccine doses on Monday from China. On January 28, the federal government gave the green light for three Covid-19 vaccines including Russia's Sputnik-V, China's Sinopharm and UK's Oxford-AstraZeneca for emergency use in the country for which a step-by-step guide was also issued. Special Assistant.....

[more >>](#)

**Pakistan reports 26 Covid-19 related deaths in last 24 hours**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday reported 26 Covid-19 related deaths during the last 24 hours, taking the country's total death toll to 11,638. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), most deaths were reported in Punjab, followed by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The NCOC added that 15 out of the 26 Covid-19 patients died on the ventilator during the last 24 hours. The highest number .....

[more >>](#)

**Govt extends Covid-19 SOPs for inbound flights till 28th**

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has extended the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), introduced for all inbound flights to prevent the spread of fatal coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country, till February 28. According to two separate notifications shared by the Aviation Division here on Sunday, the negative PCR test requirement for the category B&C country passengers.....

[more >>](#)

**Capital records 104 fresh corona cases in 24 hours: NCOC**

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

ISLAMABAD: Covid-19 cases continued to surge in the federal capital as 104 new Corona cases were reported from the city during the last 24 hours, National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Sunday. According to an official of NCOC, as many as 79 cases were reported on Saturday while 100 cases were reported on Friday. He said so far 41,359 cases were reported from the federal cap.....

[more >>](#)

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

### **Six held for using fake corona-negative certificates**

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

PESHAWAR: Federal Investigation Agency offloaded and arrested six persons travelling on fake Corona-negative reports from Bacha Khan International Airport, it was learnt. Those detained by the FIA authorities were identified as Zahid, Abdul Malik, Lal Mohammad, Asif, Rabnawaz and Hanif. It was learnt they were travelling abroad and were possessing fake negative reports from a local laborat.....

[more >>](#)

### **Corona vaccination centres set up in 280 hospitals**

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-01

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakht-unkhwa Health Minister, Taimur Khan Jhagra Sunday said that health department has setup Corona vaccination centers in 280 hospitals of the province. He said that Corona vaccination was going to start from next week in the country for which he lauded the efforts of National Command Operation Center, Asad Umar and Dr. Faisal Sultan. He said that training had been given.....

[more >>](#)

### **'Two arrested over forged Covid-19 test reports at Peshawar airport'**

Source: [Umer Farooq](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

PESHAWAR: Health officials arrested two people at the Bacha Khan International Airport on Monday for presenting forged Covid-19 test reports. "We have arrested two people for carrying fake test results and they have been handed over to the police," a senior officer at the airport told The Express Tribune. The officer, who requested anonymity since he was not entitled to speak to med.....

[more >>](#)

## Punjab

### 24 shops sealed for violation of corona SOPs

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-30

LAHORE: District administration of Lahore continued its operations on violation of Corona SOPs and sealed 24 shops in the city here on Friday. DC Lahore Mudassar Riaz said that corona SOPs were being strictly implemented. He said that a total of 24 shops, stores and restaurants have been sealed and fines worth Rs 25,000 were imposed for not complying with corona SOPs. Assistant Commissione.....

[more >>](#)

### 20 more die from COVID-19 in Punjab

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-30

LAHORE: Around 20 COVID-19 patients died and 599 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Friday, the death toll reached 4,681, while confirmed cases reached 156,404 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 16,970 tests have been conducted in the la.....

[more >>](#)

### Morgah SHO loses battle to coronavirus

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

RAWALPINDI: Sub-inspector Asim Rasheed passed away on Friday after losing the battle to the novel coronavirus. He was stationed at Morgah as the station house officer, a police official said. It was shared that the sub-inspector was undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Health (NIH) since January 14. He left behind a mother, a wife, and a son and a daughter. The funeral prayers for .....

[more >>](#)

### Not a single penny spent from CM's COVID-19 fund, PA told

Source: [Iqtidar Gilani](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

LAHORE - The Punjab Assembly was told on Friday that not even a single penny has been spent from Chief Minister's COVID-19 Fund. Finance Minister Makhdoom Hashim Jawan Bakht told the House during question hour that over Rs1.1 billion generated by deducting salaries of government employees. The one day salary was deposited in the fund from the employees of grade 1 to 16. Two days salary wa.....

[more >>](#)

### Another 20 deaths, 599 new COVID-19 cases reported in Punjab

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

LAHORE - The pandemic COVID-19 claimed another 20 precious lives whereas 599 new cases were reported on Friday in the province which turned the death toll to 4,681. According to data shared by the spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (PP&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 156,404. The PP&SHD confirmed that 342 new cases o.....

[more >>](#)

### One dies of COVID-19

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

Rawalpindi : Another confirmed patient of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Rawalpindi district died of the disease in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the district to 590 while after readjustment of the federal capital's dashboard, the number of deaths so far caused by the disease from ICT got to 475 from the figure of 476 on Friday. It is important that to date, a tota.....

[more >>](#)

### COVID claims 35 more lives

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

LAHORE : As many as 35 COVID-19 patients died and 524 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Saturday, the toll of fatalities was raised to 4,716 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 156,928 in the province. As per the spokesperson of Corona Monitoring Room a.....

[more >>](#)

### 40 shops sealed over corona SOPs violation

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

LAHORE : District Administration sealed 40 businesses during the implementation of corona SOPs here on Saturday. DC Lahore Mudassar Riaz said that a total of 40 shops and stores and restaurants have been sealed and a fine of Rs 25,000 was imposed. Assistant Commissioner Cantt Sakhi Shakir sealed 12 shops and stores and 02 restaurants while imposed a fine of Rs 15,000 for overcharging and R.....

[more >>](#)

### Coronavirus claims 35 more lives | 524 new cases reported

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

LAHORE - The pandemic COVID-19 claimed another 35 lives in last 24 hours, whereas 524 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Saturday across the province which pushed the death toll to 4,716. According to data shared by spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 156,928. The P&SHD confirmed tha.....

[more >>](#)

### Another death due to COVID-19

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-01

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 22 patients were undergoing treatment at the healthcare facilities on Saturday though the number of admitted patients from the district jumped to 25 on Sunday. The virus, however, claimed no life from Islamabad Capital Territory in the .....

[more >>](#)

### Fresh SOPs issued as schools reopen in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

LAHORE: As the educational institutions are opening after a long break on Monday (today), the Punjab primary and secondary healthcare department has issued fresh instructions for the observance of SOPs to keep masses from the still raging coronavirus infection. After getting formal approval from the chief minister, the primary and secondary healthcare department has instructed that all public and.....

[more >>](#)

### IGP asks officials to complete promotions to fill vacancies

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

LAHORE: Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Inam Ghani has directed field unit officials to complete departmental promotions within 15 days to fill all vacant posts in their respective areas. He issued these instructions in a wireless message to all command officers, including regional police officers, unit heads, city police officers, and district police officers. He also said that departme.....

[more >>](#)

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

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-01

LAHORE: Around 20 patients died from COVID-19 and 425 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 4,736, while confirmed cases reached 157,353 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 14,708 tests have been conducted .....

[more >>](#)

**Campuses re-open today amid strict SOPs**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-01

LAHORE: In the second and last phase of reopening of educational institutions, all public and private universities as well as schools for Pre-1 to Class-8 will reopen today (Monday). In the first phase, public and private schools were reopened for Class 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th on January 18. It is pertinent to mention here that universities being autonomous bodies have set phased entry of .....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 claimed 723 lives in January**

Source: [Adnan Lodhi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

LAHORE: January proved to be a perilous month with respect to the coronavirus pandemic in Punjab with the disease claiming 723 lives and inflicting 19,407 people. A new type of coronavirus was reportedly identified in the province and most of the critically ill patients admitted to hospitals were above 50 years of age. Health specialists said the situation was still alarming and there was a need.....

[more >>](#)

## Sindh

**13 more fall prey to Covid-19, another 635 test positive in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

Covid-19 has claimed 13 more lives in Sindh during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll to 3,888 in the province while, said the chief minister in his daily coronavirus situation report on Saturday. In addition to 13 more deaths overnight, 635 new cases emerged when 6,041 tests were conducted, he added. Shah noted that 13 more patients lost their lives over the past 24 hours, bringin.....[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 claims 17 more lives, another 1,323 found infected in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-30

The novel coronavirus has claimed 17 more lives in Sindh during the last 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 3,986 in the province. In addition to the 17 deaths, 1,323 new cases emerged when 12,642 tests were conducted in the province, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his daily Covid-19 situation report on Friday. He maintained that 17 more patients of the coronavirus lost thei.....[more >>](#)

**COVID-19 claims 17 more lives, infects 1,323 others: CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 17 more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,986 and 1,323 new cases emerged when 12,642 tests were conducted. In a statement issued from CM House, he said that 17 more patients of coronavirus lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,986 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr Shah said that 12.....[more >>](#)

**Sindh set to launch vaccine drive from next week**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

KARACHI - Sindh government has announced to start COVID-19 vaccination of frontline healthcare workers, including doctors, paramedics, laboratory technician and covid test collection teams deputed to conduct test at door to door, from coming Wednesday in 10 severely COVID-hit districts of the province. The vaccination will be started in seven districts of Karachi, Hyderabad, Shaheed Benazirab.....[more >>](#)

**Pakistan to get 6m AstraZeneca vaccines by March: Asad Umar**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

KARACHI: Special Adviser to Prime Minister on Planning Asad Umar has announced that 17 million doses of AstraZeneca would also be made available to Pakistanis and their delivery would begin in Feb. On his twitter handle, Umar said, "Good news on Covid vaccine front. Received letter from Covax of indicative supply of up to 17 million doses of AstraZeneca in 1st half 2021. About 6 million will .....[more >>](#)

**Covid kills six more as another 774 test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

Six more people have died due to Covid-19 and 774 others have tested positive for the disease during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral coronavirus infection reaching 3,992 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Saturday that 12,698 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in.....[more >>](#)

**Pakistan updates Covid health advisory for Saudi travellers**

Source: [DNA](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines(PIA) has issued a travel advisory for visitors to Saudi Arabia and directed passengers to fill the new health declaration form related to coronavirus pandemic. A notification was issued

by PIA's Flight Services department, which stated that the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) updated its health disclaimer form for all airlines operatin.....[more >>](#)

### **COVID-19 claims six more lives, infects 774 others: CM**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

KARACHI - As many as six more patients of coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 3,992 and 774 new cases emerged when 12,698 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Saturday. He added that six more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,992 that constituted 1.6 percent de.....[more >>](#)

### **Four Covid-19 patients die overnight in Sindh**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

KARACHI: Four patients of coronavirus died in Sindh overnight and 812 new cases emerged when 11,031 tests were conducted during the period. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He said the death of four more patients of Covid-19 overnight lifted the toll to 3,996 constituting a rate of 1.6 per cent. Mr Shah said that 11,031 samples we.....[more >>](#)

### **Karachi's senior physician, three others succumb to Covid-19**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-01

Four more people, including a senior physician, have died due to Covid-19 and 812 others have tested positive for the disease during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral coronavirus infection reaching 3,996 in the province. Dr Mujahid Humail had been receiving treatment at a private hospital in Karachi after contracting Covid-19, but he succumbed to the disease .....[more >>](#)

### **Pakistan's digital landscape post-Covid**

Source: [Muslim Mooman](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

KARACHI: Digitisation is one of the key buzzwords in the post-Covid world. From online shopping for basic commodities to the digitisation of banking transactions, Pakistan has shifted towards an online mode. The pandemic has revealed the real potential of digital payments and mobile wallets and the current environment provides an excellent opportunity for fintechs to operate and ramp up their cont.....[more >>](#)

### **SHCC teams find 27 out of 176 clinics SOP-compliant**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

KARACHI: The Sindh HealthCare Commission's Anti-Quackery Directorate teams found only 27 clinics following standard operating procedures out of 176 inspected in the past week, according to a statement issued by the regulatory body on Saturday. Besides, the statement added, the body has decided to set up an online portal for healthcare workers. Warnings were issued to 54 doctors during these i.....

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### **Sindh records 812 new Covid-19 cases**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

KARACHI: As many as 4 more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 3,996 and 812 new cases emerged when 11031 tests were conducted here in Sindh including Karachi. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Sunday. He added that 4 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 3,996 that constituted .....[more >>](#)

## International News

### Countries News

#### Five COVID-19 patients die in Romania hospital fire

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

Bucharest - A fire broke out early Friday in Romania's main hospital for coronavirus patients, killing five of them in the second such incident in three months. Emergency responders found three dead patients at the Matei Bals hospital in the capital Bucharest, and could not resuscitate a fourth, Raed Arafat, secretary at the interior ministry told reporters. The body of a fifth victim w.....[more >>](#)

#### Biden, Democrats push for Rs2,400 per hour minimum wage

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

WASHINGTON: The Democratic push to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 (Rs2,400) an hour has emerged as an early flashpoint in the fight for a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, testing President Joe Biden's ability to bridge Washington's partisan divides as he pursues his first major legislative victory, foreign media reported. Biden called for a \$15 hourly minimum wage .....[more >>](#)

#### China gene firm providing worldwide COVID tests worked with Chinese military

Source: [Reuters](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

SYDNEY: BGI Group, the world's largest genomics company, has worked with China's military on research that ranges from mass testing for respiratory pathogens to brain science, a Reuters review of research, patent filings and other documents has found. The review, of more than 40 publicly available documents and research papers in Chinese and English, shows BGI's links to the People'.....[more >>](#)

#### WHO team visits Wuhan hospital that took in first Covid-19 patients

Source: [Agencies](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

Wuhan, China-The team of World Health Organization experts investigating the origins of the coronavirus met staff Saturday at the Wuhan hospital which received the first confirmed Covid-19 cases, on day two of fieldwork on their highly scrutinised visit to China. The group was driven to the Jinyintan Hospital, the first hospital to receive officially-diagnosed Covid-19 patients in late 2019, .....

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#### Swedish nurse wins a week of isolation, films amid pandemic

Source: [Ap](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

GOTEBORG: Scandinavia's largest film festival is exploring the social isolation resulting from Covid-19 by setting up a temporary cinema-for-one on a desolated island in the North Sea with the only companionship the events entire movie selection and enough food to last the week. Lisa Enroth was selected among 12,000 volunteers to spend a week on the island of Hamneskar at Pater Noster, a fo.....

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#### WHO mission at ground zero China market as nations tighten virus curbs

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

WUHAN: WHO experts on Sunday visited the market in central China linked to the first known Covid-19 cluster, seeking clues about the outbreak of the pandemic as a number of nations further tightened restrictions to stop the coronavirus. France's borders were to close at midnight to non-European countries, a day after Germany imposed a ban on most travellers from nations hit by new, more con.....

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**Covid-19 vaccine not only permissible but also obligatory, say Muslim scholars**

Source: [Anwar Iqbal](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-01

WASHINGTON: A Covid-19 vaccine is not only permissible in Islam, but also obligatory as it has the potential to stop the spread of an extremely dangerous disease, says an edict issued by the Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America (AJMA). On Saturday, the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) arranged a seminar which also concluded that there's no religious restriction on taking the vaccine .....

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**South Korea to extend Covid-19 curbs into Lunar New Year holidays**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-01

South Korea will extend its social distancing curbs by two weeks until the end of the Lunar New Year holidays as new infection clusters emerge in the country, Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said on Sunday. The announcement dashed earlier expectations that the government would ease the rules from the current highest levels, which include a restaurant curfew and a ban on gatherings of more than four.....

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**Perth in lockdown, ending Australia's two-week run without Covid-19**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-01

The Australian city of Perth was ordered into lockdown on Sunday after a security guard working in hotel quarantine tested positive for Covid-19, ending the country's longest coronavirus-free run. From Sunday evening until Friday, people in the city of 2 million must stay home, except for essential work, healthcare, grocery shopping or exercise, with visits to hospitals and nursing homes ba.....

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## SDPI Engagements

### Other SDPI Engagements

#### **Pakistan's think tank gets int'l recognition SDPI ranked first in Pakistan, 11th in South East Asia & the Pacific**

Source: [Zubair Qureshi](#), [Pakistan Observer](#), 2021-01-30

With 11 points improvement, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) is ranked 90th among 100 non-US global think tanks while it retained first position in Pakistan for the last many years. With improvement of four points it ranked 11th among the South East Asia and the Pacific region, according to the 15th edition of University of Pennsylvania Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI) rel.....[more >>](#)

#### **'SDPI among 100 non-US global think-tanks'**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-30

ISLAMABAD: With 11 points improvement, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) stood 90th among 100 non-US global think tanks, according to the 15th edition of University of Pennsylvania Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI) released across the world. It retained its first position in Pakistan for the last many years, and with improvement of four points it ranked 11th among the South .....[more >>](#)

#### **SDPI ranked 1st amongst Pak think tanks**

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-01-31

Islamabad : With 11 points improvement, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) ranked 90th among 100 non-US global think tanks, retaining its 1st position in Pakistan for the last many years, and with improvement of four points it ranked 11th among the South East Asia and the Pacific region, according to the 15th edition of University of Pennsylvania Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGT.....[more >>](#)

#### **With 11 points improvement, SDPI ranked 90th among top 100 global think tanks: 1st in Pakistan, 11th in South East Asia & the Pacific**

Source: [Tariq Ullah Wardak](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-01-30

With 11 points improvement, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) ranked 90th among 100 non-U.S. global think tanks, retained its 1st position in Pakistan for the last many years, and with improvement of four points it ranked 11th among the South East Asia and the Pacific region, according to the 15th edition of University of Pennsylvania Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI) release.....[more >>](#)

#### **Speakers Stress On Inclusion Of Vulnerable Migrant Women In NSER**

Source: [APP](#), [UrduPoint](#), 2021-01-30

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 30th Jan, 2021 ) :Speakers at a workshop titled 'Climate induced migration inPakistan' organized here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) stressed upon the need that the vulnerable migrant womens must be included in the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER). This step would enable them to receive support through national.....[more >>](#)

#### **Need for inclusion of vulnerable women migrants in National Socio-Economic Registry stressed**

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-01-31

ISLAMABAD-Speakers at a workshop titled 'Climate induced migration in Pakistan' organised here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) stressed upon the need that the vulnerable migrant women must be included in the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER). This step would enable them to receive support through national and local level social protection schemes such as B.....[more >>](#)

**'Migrant women more exposed to harassment'**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-01-31

Vulnerable migrant women must be included in the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) to enable them to receive support through national and local social safety schemes such as the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme. This was stressed by the speakers during a workshop titled 'Climate-induced migration in Pakistan,' arranged by the Sustain.....[more >>](#)

**SDPI's Related News****Smoking cessation: NGOs start providing innovative solutions**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-02-01

ISLAMABAD: Two non-governmental organizations have started providing innovative solutions for smoking cessation in Pakistan. According to the experts, Pakistan has witnessed tobacco harm reduction in the form of e-cigarettes users in the last five years and most of them are 18-35 years, who are urbanites, educated, and well-off. Currently, there are two non-governmental organizations-ARI and PAN.....[more >>](#)

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