**E-Newsletter on COVID-19**

**Vol. 02, No, 11**

**Issue: 02-05 February, 2021**

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Vulnerable to the virus
The thousands of workers who pick, pack, and process our food have become eligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine in many states. But they still face obstacles to actually getting the vaccine, as companies sort out their vaccination policies and advocates struggle to secure enough doses for a workforce that ranks among the most vulnerable to the coronavirus. Labor organizations and the fo.....more >>

Registration for vaccination
The arrival of half a million doses of Covid-19 vaccine gifted by China is good news. SAPM on health Dr Faisal Sultan and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi deserve some accolade for their efforts to procure this much-needed gift from China. Accordingly, we owe a big thanks to our ever-green friend for its generosity. Apparently, Sinopharm's vaccine has passed all necessary tests and medi.....more >>

Next act is ours
Source: Muhammad Hamid Zaman, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
The vaccines are here. Some are in the country, others are about to be here. This is a big step in the right direction. There is ample criticism that can be levied against the government in handling Covid — some of it is partisan and not grounded in understanding of the disease, but some is legitimate (e.g. coordination between provinces or the lack of clarity on school closures). But now th.....more >>

Impact of Covid-19 on mental health highlighted
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
KARACHI: “It is a completely different world we are living in now, restrictions, social distancing, series of lockdowns, increasing numbers of deaths, loss of jobs/incomes and socio-economic impact of pandemic has a correlation with the increasing number of mental health. According to the survey results collected from different parts of the world, during the lockdown and pandemic, anxiety pe.....more >>

For the rich
In October 2020, diplomats from South Africa and India approached the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with a revolutionary proposal. Together, the two countries argued that countries should be allowed to ignore any patents related to Covid-19 vaccines, for the duration of the pandemic. In other words: everyone should be allowed to manufacture the vaccine, without penalty. In their official.....more >>

Complexity and collaborative policy
Making appropriate policies to address complex issues is not a simple thing. If inappropriately addressed, according to H L Mencken, the complexities of an issue can result in answers to difficult problems that are “clear simple and wrong.” Complex issues include problems like stabilizing the global economy and curtailing the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. In contemporary tim.....more >>
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<td><strong>Chinese ‘co-macy’ in the Middle East</strong></td>
<td>Arhma Siddiqa, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2021-02-03</td>
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<td>There is no doubt that the Covid-19 pandemic has crippled economies the world over. At the moment, the market leader in global commodity demand is the Covid vaccine. Seventy-three varieties are already in development. While many Western governments are amassing millions of doses in line with ‘vaccine nationalism’, authorities in Beijing have been engaged in vaccine diplomacy by manufa.....</td>
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<td><strong>Pandemic and mental disorder</strong></td>
<td>Editorial, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2021-02-03</td>
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<td>What the common people and laymen have feared in the wake of the long-persisting coronavirus pandemic has now been confirmed by global mental health experts. A survey conducted by the WHO has established that in 93% of countries, the pandemic has thrown crucial mental health services into disorder. The Covid-19 has had more serious effects on health professionals than the common man, because the f.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>As the rich thrive during Covid</strong></td>
<td>Zahid Hussain, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2021-02-03</td>
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<td>WHILE the Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on the lives and livelihoods of people across the world, the health crisis has been a boon for the richest. Millions have died and the global economy has shrunk pushing more people into poverty. Yet the fortunes of the planet’s richest have seen an astronomical rise over the past one year. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the poor h.....</td>
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<td><strong>Vaccination for Pakistan</strong></td>
<td>M Waqar Bhatti, <em>The News, International</em></td>
<td>2021-02-05</td>
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<td>Despite issuance of Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to three vaccines developed by European, Chinese and Russian companies, Pakistan has so far been able to get a donation of only half a million doses of Chinese vaccine Sinopharm, which will be used to inoculate 250,000 frontline healthcare workers while the same number of doses would be required to vaccinate all the frontline healthcare workers.....</td>
<td>more &gt;&gt;</td>
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National News

Balochistan

**Covid-19 vaccination drive being launched in Balochistan today**
Source: Saleem Shahid, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-02-03
QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Health Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi has said that Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan will launch a drive for vaccination against Covid-19 on Wednesday (today). She said 10,000 doses of vaccine had been provided to Balochistan for first phase of the drive. Dr Buledi said the health staff had been trained for vaccination and an emergency cold chain strategy had been formula.....

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**K-P, Balochistan begin inoculation**
Source: Mohammad Zafar/Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-02-04
QUETTA/ PESHAWAR: The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan governments initiated the coronavirus inoculation programmes under the leadership of their respective chief ministers on Wednesday. Frontline health workers in both the provinces were the first ones to get the Covid-19 shots. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa The vaccination process for health workers started in the province on Wednesday as a formal in.....

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Islamabad

**NAHE holds roundtable on developing linkages for faculty development**
Islamabad: The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) has organised a series of workshops entitled, ‘Collaboration for Excellence, a Roundtable on Developing Linkages for Faculty Development in Higher Education.’ The series of these workshops is one of ongoing NAHE endeavours to facilitate capacity building of faculty in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), says a press ..... *

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**First batch of 0.5m doses of Sinopharm vaccine arrives**
Source: Ali Hussain, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-02-02
ISLAMABAD: The first batch of 500,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine arrived in Pakistan on Monday as a gift from China to be used to inoculate the frontline health workers to protect them from COVID-19 at initial stage. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi received the first batch of 500,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine from the Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong at a ceremony held at the Nur Khan Airbase. ..... *

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**Covid-19 pandemic; $5bn stimulus packages by Pakistan lack aviation-specific benefits: ADB**
Source: Tahir Amin, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-02-02
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan had announced COVID-19 economic stimulus packages valued at $5 billion however there was no aviation-specific benefits, where most jobs were at risk among the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) countries. This has been stated in a report “the impact of Covid-19 on CAREC aviation and tourism” released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Acc.....

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Pakistan thankful as first batch of Covid vaccine arrives from China
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times , 2021-02-02
The first batch of Covid-19 vaccine arrived in Pakistan on Monday from China via a special PAF plane. The first tranche contains 500,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine that has been gifted by China. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health (SAPM) Dr Faisal Sultan announced the development in a tweet and expressed his gratitude to the Chinese government and everyone who made this happen.
more >>

Over half a million Covid-19 patients recover amid 90 percent revival ratio
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2021-02-02
The country on Monday surpassed half a million mark of recovered coronavirus patients with national tally of total active Covid-19 cases recorded at 33,493 as 1,615 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,278 people recovered from the disease. Twenty-six patients, 24 of whom were under treatment in hospitals and two in their respective homes or quarantines, died, according to the l
more >>

As vaccine arrives, inoculation process to start tomorrow
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Daily Times , 2021-02-02
ISLAMABAD: Following the arrival of half a million doses of Covid-19 vaccine from China, the vaccination drive is set to begin across the country on Wednesday. The first batch of the vaccines reached Islamabad early Monday morning from Beijing on a special Pakistan Air Force plane. The process of dispatching the doses to the provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir has bee
more >>

FBISE to conduct exams sans practicals
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2021-02-02
ISLAMABAD - Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) will conduct the annual examination at SSC and HSSC level without practical exams in the middle of 2021. The FBISE announced date of annual examinations of SSC and HSSC and exams will commence in the months of May and June respectively. The notification issued by FBISE said that the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) e
more >>

DHO monitors implementation on SOPs
Islamabad : District Health Officer (DHO) Islamabad Dr Muhammad Zaeem Zia visited different educational institutions here on Tuesday to monitor implementation on SOPs regarding COVID-19 pandemic. The DHO along with his surveillance teams visited different government and private educational institutions in Humak, Sihala, Alipure Farash, Kuri, Golra and several other areas of Islamabad. He 
more >>

Pakistan starts Covid vaccination with health workers getting the shots first
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2021-02-03
Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday kicked off the coronavirus vaccination drive with the first shot administrated to a doctor in Islamabad. Addressing the ceremony to mark the launch of the campaign, the premier felicitated his health team for securing the vaccines and thanked China for donating 500,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine. PM’s aide on health Dr Fasial Sultan among other offi
more >>
Coronavirus vaccination drive launched
Source: Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has launched the coronavirus vaccination campaign in the country after witnessing the vaccine administered to a doctor on Tuesday. Speaking after the launching campaign, the prime minister said that health workers would be vaccinated first followed by that age group which is more vulnerable against coronavirus. “I will ask all the health workers.....

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Covid-19 campaign; Ministry urges ECC to help it get Rs141m
Source: Mushtaq Ghumman, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoI&B) has sought help of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet for allocation of Rs 141 million to be released to media for Covid-19 campaign, official sources told Business Recorder. Pakistan is among the countries severely hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. In the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak in Pakistan, a National Coo.....

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PM launches corona vaccine drive
Source: Maqbool Malik, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday formally kicked off the country-wide coronavirus vaccination campaign with the first shot administrated to a doctor in Islamabad. “The more you abide by coronavirus safety measures, the easier it will be to protect everyone from the virus,” said Prime Minister while addressing the vaccine launching event. PM's Adviser on Healt.....

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Pakistan begins vaccine roll-out
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
ISLAMABAD: Nearly a year after the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) that claimed 11,746 lives and infected more than half a million in the country, the government began vaccinating the frontline warriors on Tuesday, with a 50-year-old doctor being the first health care worker (HCW) in the country to get the jab. While a countrywide campaign is going to start for.....

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SITUATIONER: Govt confident of vaccinating all citizens by year-end
Source: Fahd Husain, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
ISLAMABAD: With the vaccination process officially launched by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday, the government is confident that Pakistani citizens will be fully inoculated by the end of the year. The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) has drawn up detailed plans for procuring the vaccine, distributing it and administering it to the citizens on a clearly defined priority list. The.....

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Covid-19 patient recovery rate rises in Pindi
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
RAWALPINDI: As many 25 people tested positive in the district and 39 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovery. Nine of the new patients reached hospitals from cantonment areas, five from Potohar Town, three from Rawal Town, two patients each from Gujar Khan, Kahuta and Murree and one from Taxila. There are at present 294 active patients and 56 of them are in hospitals and 216 patie.....

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Pakistan kicks off Covid vaccinations
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-02-03
Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday launched vaccination against the deadly coronavirus, initially for health workers, and urged the people to strictly adhere to the Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) to stop its spread. After witnessing the administration of Covid-19 vaccine to health workers here, the prime minister said in the first phase, health workers, who are on the frontline i.....
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Religious ministry to consult NCOC for coronavirus vaccine
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
ISLAMABAD - The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony would consult NCOC (National Command and Operation Centre) for devising mechanism for the administration of the coronavirus vaccine to intending pilgrims of government hajj scheme, Joint Secretary Haj Shahid Ahmed Sindhu said on Tuesday. Speaking in a consultative meeting held to discuss hajj arrangements, he said no compro.....
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Pakistan reports lowest number of daily Covid cases since Nov 2
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Tuesday morning reported the lowest number of daily Coronavirus cases for the first time in three months. As many as 1,220 cases were reported in the past 24 hours taking the total number of cases in the country to 547,648. In comparison, 1,246 cases were reported on November 2, 2020, the data suggests. The death toll in the country has hit 11,746. Out of the total number o.....
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SIAL trying to get rid of virus effects'
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
Sialkot - Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL) Chairman Mian Naeem Javed said on Tuesday that Sialkot International Airport was trying its best to get rid of the effects of coronavirus. In a press statement, he said that good news for the people of Sialkot and adjoining districts, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir, was that two major airlines, Qatar Airways and Gulf Airways, which had cance.....
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70pc population to be administered Covid-19 vaccine by year end: Dr Faisal
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan said on Wednesday that 70 per cent of the country's population will receive the Covid-19 vaccine by the current year's end. "The vaccines will be administered in a phased process, with frontline healthcare workers being the first ones to receive the doses," Dr Faisal said while addressing a pressence.....
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Nationwide immunisation drive begins
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Wednesday simultaneously initiated the national immunisation drive against coronavirus across the country with all federating units, including that of AJK and GB. The NCOC held the inaugural ceremony of national COVID immunisation programme with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar in cha.....
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2 more die of COVID-19
Islamabad: Another two deaths due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have been reported from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 594 while no death has been registered from Islamabad Capital Territory due to the illness on Wednesday like the previous four days though a total of 475 patients have so far died of the disease in the federal capital. Data collected ..... more >>

National coronavirus vaccination drive begins
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday started the national coronavirus vaccination drive with administering a Covid-19 vaccine to health workers in the first phase, here in Islamabad. In this connection, a special session of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was commenced which was chaired by Chairman NCOC Asad Umar and joined by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Nat..... more >>

Pakistan starts Covid-19 vaccination drive with Chinese shots
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
ISLAMABAD - The national immunization drive against Covid-19 formally began across the country on Wednesday. The healthcare staffers were administered with first shots of Sinopharm vaccine at a special ceremony held at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in Islamabad, according to the officials. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Planning and Development, Asad Umar said the h..... more >>

Over 100,000 people will be vaccinated daily in coming days: Ch Fawad
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Science and Technology Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said Wednesday that more than 100,000 people would be able to be vaccinated daily in the coming days. In a tweet, the federal minister stated that the COVID-19 vaccination has been started from today and 40,000 health workers will be vaccinated today. However, more than 100,000 people would be vaccinated daily in t..... more >>

People benefiting from PM's pandemic tackling strategy: Shibli
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
ISLAMABAD - Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz said on Wednesday that people were benefiting from successful strategy of Prime Minister Imran Khan regarding coronavirus vaccination and tackling the pandemic. In a tweet, he said that starting vaccination campaign simultaneously in all provinces was a practical step that the federal government was providing equal cha..... more >>

Ministry of HR, UNDP launch report on Covid-19, disaster vulnerability in country
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
Ministry of Human Rights, UNDP launch report on Covid-19 and disaster vulnerability in country
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
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No side effects of Chinese corona vaccine appear, says Dr Imran
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
ISLAMABAD: The first person vaccinated with Chinese Sinopharm vaccine for Covid-19 in the country, Prof. Dr. Imran Sikandar, on Wednesday encouraged all health workers to come forward and get vaccinated. In a conversation with The Nation, the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Head for Anesthesia and critical care medicine Prof. Dr. Imran Sikandar while encouraging other healthcare ..... more >>

PIMA for joint approach on use of Covid-19 vaccine
Islamabad: The Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) has stressed the need for an integrated and systematic system for the use of corona vaccine, saying that national harmony should be demonstrated beyond politics, regionalism and self-interest. In a press release issued on Thursday, PIMA pointed out that the stages of the vaccine’s procurement, booking and delivery appear slo..... more >>

Vaccination begins
Source: EDITORIAL, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
THE next phase in Pakistan’s fightback against the novel coronavirus has begun with appropriate fanfare. On Tuesday at the PM Office, in the presence of Prime Minister Imran Khan, anaesthetist and critical care specialist Prof Rana Imran Sikandar became the first person in the country to be vaccinated against the disease. The first batch of Covid-19 vaccines, totalling half a million doses ..... more >>

PAC seeks briefing on expenses incurred on fighting Covid-19
Source: Malik Asad, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-05
ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Thursday sought a briefing from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the expenditures incurred on countering the Covid-19 pandemic. NDMA chairman Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz informed the committee that since he had recently assumed the office, the departmental accounts committee (DAC) could not examine audit paras before the PAC meeting. ..... more >>

Chinese vaccine not recommended for people age[d] above 60
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-05
ISLAMABAD: The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services, Dr Faisal Sultan, on Thursday said the Chinese made Covid-19 vaccine, Sinopharm, was not recommended for the people above 60 years of age. Talking to reporters here after inaugurating three initiatives including the National Health Laboratory (NHL), the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Secretariat, ..... more >>
Five women die of Covid-19 in Pindi
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-05
RAWALPINDI: Five women died of Covid-19 in Rawalpindi on Thursday while 16 more people tested positive and 49 patients were discharged from hospitals after their recovery from the disease. Kamal Khatoon, 76, a resident of New Lalazar, was taken to Fauji Foundation Hospital on Feb 2 where she died on Thursday. Irshad Begum, 57, a resident of Bahria Town, died at Bahria Hospital where she was admi.....
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Sinopharm’s Covid vaccine dependable and safe: SAPM
Source: Inp, Daily Times, 2021-02-05
The efficacy of Sinopharm’s Covid-19 vaccine is between 79-86 per cent and it is safe and dependable, said Special Assistant to Prime Minister Dr Faisal Sultan. "We are planning to buy it in sufficient quantity as 110 million out of 220 million of total Pakistan’s population need Coronavirus vaccine," Dr Faisal Sultan said, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on ..... more >>

Pfizer vaccine likely to be available in a month: Dr Faisal
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-05
Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on national health services (NHS) Dr Faisal Sultan Thursday has said after the emergency approval of Chinese, United kindom and Russian-based novel coronavirus vaccines the government is likely to get US-based vaccine pfizer in upcoming month. The SAPM informed that pfizer may become available in limited quantities in coming month. The official ..... more >>

Sinopharm not recommended for people aged above 60: Dr Faisal
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-02-05
The Chinese Sinopharm vaccine for COVID-19, which started being administered in Pakistan this week, is not recommended for people older than 60 years, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan said on Thursday. Speaking to reporters in Islamabad, he said the government’s expert committee while considering the preliminary analysis of Sinopharm data had recommended 1..... more >>

Covid-19 immunisation drive kicks off in all federating units
Source: news Desk, Daily Times, 2021-02-04
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday simultaneously initiated national immunisation drive against coronavirus in all federating units, including that of AJK and GB. The NCOC held the inaugural ceremony of national COVID immunization programme with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar in the chair, flanked by National Coordinator NCO..... more >>

PRCS holds camp to address serious shortage of blood amid Covid-19
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times, 2021-02-04
Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) on Wednesday organized a donation camp in the federal capital to help address serious shortage of blood amid depleted donations due to coronavirus pandemic. National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri was chief guest on the occasion. PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq and other senior officials were also present at the camp which was organized in F-7 Markaz. Spe..... more >>
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<td>Ministry of Human Rights &amp; UNDP launch report on Covid-19 and Disaster Vulnerability in Pakistan</td>
<td>news Desk, Daily Times</td>
<td>2021-02-04</td>
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<td>PTCL provides face masks, hand-sanitisers to Islamabad Traffic Police frontline officers</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2021-02-05</td>
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<td>27 more test positive for Covid-19 in Nowshera</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-02-02</td>
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<td>Several LRH doctors test positive for coronavirus</td>
<td>Bureau Report, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-02-02</td>
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<td>Two Saudi-bound passengers arrested over fake Covid-19 test reports</td>
<td>Inp, Daily Times</td>
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<td>Vaccination of 30,000 health workers in KP begins today</td>
<td>Ashfaq Yusufzai, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2021-02-03</td>
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<td>K-P, Balochistan begin inoculation</td>
<td>Mohammad Zafar/Our Correspondent, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em></td>
<td>2021-02-04</td>
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<td>Over 40 fined for violation of corona SOPs</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, <em>The News, International</em></td>
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<td>KP launches corona vaccination drive</td>
<td>Amjad Ali Shah, <em>Business Recorder, Islamabad</em></td>
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Covid-19 vaccine safe for all, claims physician
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-02-05
PESHAWAR: The provincial government is reviewing the Covid-19 vaccination guidelines to allay fear among health workers about immunisation, according to officials. The guidelines prohibit people with health conditions from vaccination. However, a renowned physician has claimed that the vaccine is safe for everyone. "We are reviewing the Covid-10 vaccination guidelines and a clearer and det.....
more >>

Covid-19 tops the stress chart
Source: Umer Farooq, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-02-05
PESHAWAR: Stress has emerged as the only constant during the unpredictable Covid-19 health crisis. Medical experts inKhyber Pakhtunkhwa(K-P) see an exponential increase in stress levels which translate into a wide range of health issues. Over the last ten months, medical practitioners believe the province has witnessed an increase in the number of patients who are dealing with stress-related hea.....
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Punjab

One COVID-19 death
Rawalpindi:Another confirmed patient of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Rawalpindi district died of the illness in the last 24 hours while 65 new patients have been tested positive for the disease from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi combined that is the lowest number of patients reported from the region in a day after October 12, 2020. Earlier, in the last 113 days, the lowe.....
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COVID-19 kills 11 more
LAHORE:Around 11 COVID-19 patients died and 443 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Monday, the toll of fatalities reached 4,747, while confirmed cases reached 157,796 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 11,431 tests have been co.....
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Campuses re-open amid Covid-19 SOPs
LAHORE:All the public and private schools in Punjab reopened for Pre-1 to Class-8 while the universities also reopened in a phased manner here on Monday. Punjab University partially opened for students and the face-to-face classes of students of selective semesters began along with an option to adopt online classes with concession in fee on Monday. PU Vice-chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmad and P.....
more >>

Punjab all set to introduce coronavirus vaccine
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-02-02
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yamsin Rashid has said on Monday Punjab would start vaccinating people for coronavirus in the next two days. Speaking at a Press Conference at the Directorate General Health Services on Monday, the health minister said people must follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) to save themselves from the pandemic. In the last 24 hours, as many as 443 people tested.....
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Screening students for Covid a herculean task
Source: Yousaf Abbasi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
LAHORE: Screening of students for coronavirus infection as per directions of the National Command and Operations Centre has become a big challenge for educational institutions in Punjab, including universities. About 200,000 students are returning to the 30 government universities in the province. Another 70,000 students will attend classes in 700 colleges, while 38,000 primary and 7,000 elementary.....

Covid-19 vaccination drive kicks off tomorrow: minister
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Monday that corona vaccination drive is starting from Wednesday for which 189 health vaccination centers have been established across the province. Talking to media persons, she said that nationwide vaccination drive will begin from Wednesday and 17 million more jabs will soon arrive in the country. She said that the coronavirus vaccine.....

Vaccinate against coronavirus at ‘your own risk’, warns minister
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2021-02-02
quackster-is-big-problem-in-punjab-dr-ysmin-rashidPunjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Monday warned of the ‘side effects’ of coronavirus vaccines, advising people to vaccinate against Covid-19 at their ‘own risk’, a private TV channel reported. Speaking to media in Lahore, Dr Yasmin Rashid said it is not yet possible to say for sure how long the coronavirus vaccine.....

Punjab all set to introduce corona vaccine
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said here on Monday that Punjab will start vaccinating people for corona in the next two days. Speaking at a press conference at the Directorate General Health Services Punjab here on Monday, she said that coronavirus was very much here and people must follow safety precautions. In the last 24 hours, as many as 443 people tested positive and 11 peo.....

11 more deaths, 443 new COVID-19 cases in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
LAHORE - The COVID-19 pandemic claimed another 11 lives in the last 24 hours and 443 new virus cases were reported across the province on Monday, taking the death toll to 4,747 in the province. 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 had reached 157,796. The P&SHD co.....

Covid-19 cases detectedA
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
ATTOCK: Six people were diagnosed with Covid-19 on Monday in Attock, taking the tally of cases reported in the district since the beginning of the pandemic to 1,210. Whilst giving details, District Health Authority Chief Executive Dr Jawad Elahi said out of the newly reported cases five belong to Attock city and one is from Hazro. The number of active patients in the district, all of whom are un.....
No death due to COVID-19
Rawalpindi: As many as 99 new patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking the tally to 54,048 however the virus did not claim any life from the twin cities and it happened only for the fourth time since October 18, 2020, that a day has passed without reporting of any death due to COVID-19.....
more >>

Vaccination of every Pakistani priority: Sarwar
LAHORE:Punjab Governor Chaudhry Sarwar has said that vaccination of every Pakistani against coronavirus is the first priority of the government. Providing COVID-19 vaccine to Pakistan is a testament of Pak-China perennial friendship. He said this while addressing the launching ceremony of a book on Telemedicine at King Edward Medical University on Tuesday. Vice-Chancellor KEMU Prof Dr Khal.....
more >>

Corona claims 46 more lives
LAHORE:Around 46 COVID-19 patients died and 424 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Tuesday, the death toll reached 4,793, while confirmed cases reached 158,220 in the province. .....more >>

Punjab reports 424 fresh corona cases, 46 deaths
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
LAHORE: Out of 14,879 coronavirus tests conducted across the province in the last 24 hours, 424 fresh Covid-19 cases and 46 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 158,220 and fatalities to 4793 with positivity of 2.84 percent. With the recovery of 663 more people from the virus, the number of recovered patients in the province has reached 143,652. On the other hand, 1285.....
more >>

Punjab considers three proposals for dispensation of 70,000 Covid jabs
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
LAHORE: The Punjab government has prepared multiple proposals to effectively dispense and administer the 70,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses it has received from the federal authorities to the healthcare professionals of the public and private institutions and diagnostic centres across the province. The first consignment of the coronavirus vaccine had reached Lahore on Monday and was stored at the ware.....
more >>

Coronavirus claims 46 more lives in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
LAHORE: The coronavirus reportedly killed 46 patients in various parts of Punjab during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 4,793. It is said to be the highest number of deaths reported in a day in Punjab during the last three weeks or so. Of them, most deaths occurred in Lahore where the total number of casualties reached 1,901, according to the official figures released by the health d.....
more >>
COVID-19: E-Newsletter

Coronavirus vaccination in all provinces begins today
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Chairman Asad Umar Tuesday announced starting coronavirus vaccination in the federal capital while in the provinces it will start today (Wednesday). Asad Umar, who is also federal minister for planning and development, took to social media site Twitter to make this announcement, saying that the coronavirus vaccination campaign in all the.....

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COVID-19 vaccination for every Pakistani is our priority: Governor
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2021-02-03
Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that vaccination of every Pakistani against Coronavirus is the first priority of the government. Provision of COVID 19 vaccine to Pakistan is a testament of Pak-China perennial friendship. He said this while addressing the launching ceremony of a book on Telemedicine at King Edward Medical University on Tuesday. Vice-Chancellor KEMU Prof. Dr. Khali.....

more >>

Covid-19 claims 46 more lives in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
Lahore - The coronavirus claimed another 46 precious lives in 24 hours whereas 424 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Tuesday across the province which turned the death toll to 4,793. According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached to 158,220. The Punjab health.....

more >>

Every Pakistani to get COVID vaccine: Governor
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
LAHORE - Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar Tuesday said that vaccination of every Pakistani against Coronavirus was the first priority of the government. "Provision COVID 19 vaccine to Pakistan is a testament of Pak-China perennial friendship", he said while addressing the launching ceremony of a book on Telemedicine at King Edward Medical University on Tuesday. Vice-Chanc.....

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COVID-19 claims 46 more lives, 424 new cases in Punjab
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
LAHORE - The coronavirus claimed another 46 precious lives in 24 hours whereas 424 new cases of coronavirus were reported on Tuesday across the province which turned the death toll to 4,793. According to the data shared by the spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached to 158,220. The P&SHD conf......

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MPAs grill health minister for giving ‘irresponsible’ remarks about vaccine
Source: Hassaan Ahmed, Daily Times, 2021-02-03
The MPAs in Punjab Assembly from both the treasury and opposition benches criticized Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid over her ‘irresponsible’ remarks about the Covid-19 vaccine. The MPAs from both side of the aisle came down hard on health minister on Tuesday during the session of Punjab Assembly as they said that Dr Yasmin Rashid gave very irresponsible remarks regarding the Covid-1.....

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<td>Corona vaccination starts at Mayo</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-02-04</td>
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<td>CM’s Corona Fund to be used for vaccine procurement, says minister</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-02-04</td>
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<td>13 more die from COVID-19 in Punjab</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-02-04</td>
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<td>Security cover for vaccine transportation</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-02-04</td>
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<td>7,280 beds dedicated for corona patients in Punjab</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2021-02-04</td>
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</table>
Strict security arranged for vaccine
Source: Muhammad Ilyas, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
LAHORE: Coronavirus vaccine has been delivered to all 36 districts of Punjab amid strict security arrangements. The provincial primary and secondary healthcare departments sought cooperation from all relevant agencies for the transportation, storage and management of the vaccine. According to the health secretary, the high demand for the vaccine and the importance of the exercise for the countr.....
more >>

Governor, CM launch Covid-19 vaccination campaign
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
LAHORE: While the COVID-19 vaccination drive started in Punjab on Wednesday, the positivity rate of coronavirus cases remained 4.39% in the province, as out of 13,047 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, 573 fresh virus cases and 13 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 158,793 and fatalities to 4806. With recovery of 556 more people from the virus, the number of r.....
more >>

Another five die of COVID-19 in Faisalabad
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
FAISALABAD - Coronavirus claimed five more lives while 47 new cases were reported in the district during the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for the health department said on Wednesday the death toll due to COVID-19 rose to 425 in the district. He said that 554 tests for coronavirus were conducted in public and private sectors labs during the same period. He said that so far 7,374 patients had recov.....
more >>

Punjab begins COVID-19 vaccination of frontline workers
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
LAHORE - The COVID-19 vaccination process of frontline workers formally started in Punjab under the supervision of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and Governor Chaudhary Muhammad Sarwar at a ceremony held at Punjab House, Islamabad on Wednesday. It started with the vaccination of Dr Faraz and lady doctor Samavia Akbar of Rawalpindi Institute of Urology. Addressing the ceremony, th.....
more >>

9 deaths, 107 new cases
Rawalpindi: As many as nine confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have died of the illness from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours which is the highest number of deaths caused by the disease in a day from the region in the year 2021. Earlier on December 29 last year, the virus claimed 12 lives in a day from the twin cities. It is importa.....
more >>

15 more die from corona in Punjab
LAHORE: Around 15 patients died from COVID-19 and another 518 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to report issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) on Thursday, the death toll reached 4,821, while confirmed cases became 159,311 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 18,235 tests have.....
more >>
DC tests positive for Covid
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-05
GUJRAT/SHEIKHUPURA: Deputy Commissioner Saif Anwar Jappa has been tested positive for Covid-19 after which he suspended all his official activities and went into quarantine on Thursday. The district has witnessed a sharp increase in Corona positive cases during the last few days as 254 positive cases have been reported since Jan 22 last. Gujrat chief executive officer health Dr Latif Afzal t.....
more >>

Sindh

Sindh to get 83,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine from Centre today
Around 83,000 doses of Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine, donated by the Chinese government, are expected to arrive in Karachi on a commercial flight today, after which vaccination would commence during a ceremony at the Chief Minister’s House on Wednesday morning, officials said on Monday. A team from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) visited various vaccination centers set ..... more >>

Another physician, eight others succumb to Covid-19
Nine more people, including a physician, have died due to Covid-19 and 478 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 4,004 in the province. A Pakistan Paediatric Association office-bearer said on Monday that renowned paediatrician Dr Nazim Panjwani had lost his battle against Covid-19, ..... more >>

‘Mental health issues seeing sharp rise due to Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown’
It is a completely different world we are living in now; restrictions, social distancing, series of lockdowns, increasing number of deaths, loss of jobs/incomes, and the socio-economic impact of the pandemic have a correlation with the increasing number of mental health issues. These observations were made by Dr Afzal Siddiqui, consultant psychiatrist, Camden Primary Care, Mental Health Ne..... more >>

‘Mental health issues on the rise during pandemic’
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
KARACHI: The pandemic has disrupted critical mental health services in 93 per cent of countries according to a new survey by the World Health Organisation, said Ziauddin University Professor Rubina Hussain on Monday inKarachiwhile addressing an online seminar organised by the varsity on the impact of Covid-19 on mental health. Joining in the webinar from London, Dr Afzal Siddiqui discussed how e..... more >>

15 Covid-19 vaccination centres set up across Sindh
Source: Rija Fatima/Tufail Ahmed, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
KARACHI: With theSindhgovernment set to begin vaccination for Covid-19 on Wednesday, preparatory measures for the purpose are near completion in Karachi and rest of the province. A total of 15 vaccination centres have been set up across Sindh, with 10 of them established in the metropolis. A team of the National Command and Operation Centre, accompanied by Sindh Health Services DG Irshad Memon, ..... more >>
Sindh confirms 478 fresh Covid cases
Source: PPI, The News, International, 2021-02-02
KARACHI: Sindh reported another 478 coronavirus cases and eight new fatalities on Monday lifting the provincial covid tally and death toll to 247,726 and 4,004, respectively. According to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, 10,355 samples were tested and 478 persons tested positive for the contagion, indicating a current detection rate of 4.6 per cent. A total of 2,736.....
more >>

Covid-19; Ten vaccination centres set up in Karachi
Source: INP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
KARACHI: Sindh’s health authorities on Monday set up 10 coronavirus vaccination centres in the six district of Karachi. As per details, three vaccination centres have been set up in district central of Karachi, two in east and two in the south district of the metropolis. One each centre has been established in west district, Malir, Korangi. The Sindh health department has establish.....
more >>

Umar accuses PPP leaders of telling lies, playing politics over Covid vaccine
Source: News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
SHIKARPUR: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has said that Sindh government should be ashamed of playing politics on Covid vaccine and accused Pakistan Peoples Party leaders of telling lies before media that their government is buying the boosters from its own resources while in reality it is receiving all the doses from the federal government. Meanwhile.....
more >>

COVID-19 claims eight more lives, infects 478 others, says CM
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-02
KARACHI - As many as 8 more patients of coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 4,004 and 478 new cases emerged when 10,355 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Monday. He added that eight more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,004 that constituted 1.6 percent death rat.....
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CM to open Covid-19 inoculation drive today as Chinese vaccine arrives
The Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine's first consignment containing 83,000 doses arrived at the Karachi airport on Tuesday evening. The consignment was received by Sindh health secretary Kazim Jatoi, Project Director Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) Dr Akram Sultan and other officials at the airport, from where it was shifted to the EPI storage centre in the city. “We have....
more >>

29 more fall prey to coronavirus in Sindh
The novel coronavirus has claimed 29 more lives in Sindh during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 4,033 in the province. With the passing away of 29 more patients, the death toll in the province reached 4,033, constituting a 1.6 per cent mortality rate, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his daily Covid-19 situation report on Tuesday. Another 543 positive cases emerged w.....
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<td><strong>Covid claims 29 more lives in Sindh</strong></td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-03</td>
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<td>Sindh reported 29 more deaths and 543 fresh coronavirus cases on Tuesday. According to a statement issued by Chief Minister's House on the day, the provincial pandemic tally stands at 248,269 while the death toll has climbed to 4,033. Another 314 persons also recovered from the contagion overnight, bringing the number of total recoveries in the province to 225,297, read the statement. It add.....</td>
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<td><strong>‘If pandemic escalates, school would have to be closed again’</strong></td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-03</td>
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<td>Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani warned on Tuesday that schools would have to be closed for a third time in case the pandemic escalated again. The word of warning came from the provincial minister during a press conference, where he stressed the need for the implementation of pandemic-related standard operating procedures (SOPs) a day after the reopening of schools. &quot;Educational institutio.....</td>
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<td><strong>Vaccine doses arrive in Karachi Jabs stored in health dept’s depot at optimum temperature</strong></td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-03</td>
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<td>KARACHI: The first tranche of Sinopharm vaccine doses, numbering 83,000, was handed over to the Sindh Health Department on Tuesday. The doses, which were sent via an aeroplane, have been stored in the provincial health department’s depot, where temperature has been regulated to ensure that it is suitable for storing the vaccine doses. The doses were received by Expanded Programme on Immunis.....</td>
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<td><strong>Frontline health workers to be vaccinated today: Hyderabad DC</strong></td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-03</td>
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<td>HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Fuad Ghaffar Soomro today visited the Divisional Covid Vaccination Center at Jamshoro and reviewed the situation of center; where after vaccination of frontline health workers of Hyderabad district against Coronavirus, the vaccination campaign against Covid19 would be inaugurated on February 3, 2021. Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Fuad Ghaffar Soomro di.....</td>
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<td><strong>AGP allowed to import Russian vaccine</strong></td>
<td>Equities Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-03</td>
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<td>KARACHI: AGP Pakistan Ltd — a listed pharmaceutical company — announced that the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) had granted emergency use authorisation (EUA) for ‘Gam-COVID-Vac’ combined vector vaccine to prevent coronavirus infection caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus (Sputnik V) to the company. In a filing with the PSX on Tuesday, the company said that it had also .....</td>
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<td><strong>Sindh govt gets Covid-19 doses, launches vaccination drive today</strong></td>
<td>Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-03</td>
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<td>KARACHI: The Sindh government is set to launch a Covid-19 vaccination drive in the province on Wednesday (today) as it received the first batch of the Sinopharm vaccine from the federal government on Tuesday. The consignment of 84,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine — part of the half a million doses gifted by the Chinese government to Pakistan — was handed over to the Sindh health departme.....</td>
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**Covid deaths**  
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-02-03  
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said that 29 more patients of Covid-19 died and 543 new cases emerged when 9,018 tests were conducted. According to the chief minister, out of 543 new cases, 350 have been detected in Karachi, of them 161 in East, 132 in South, 25 in Malir, 22 in Central and five each in Korangi and West. ...  
more >>

**Covid-19 pandemic caused alarming rise in mental illnesses across globe, say experts**  
Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2021-02-03  
KARACHI: The prolonged social restrictions imposed due to Covid-19 pandemic have greatly affected mental health across the globe, causing a significant increase in psychological illnesses, noted speakers at a webinar organised by Ziauddin University (ZU) on Monday. The event was the first of a live interactive series titled 'Impact of Covid-19 on mental health'. Sharing data on the r.....  
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**COVID-19 claims 29 more lives, infects 543 others: CM**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-02-03  
KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 29 more patients of COVID-19 died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,033 and 543 new cases emerged when 9,018 tests were conducted. In a statement issued from CM House, he said that 29 more patients of coronavirus lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,033 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Mr Shah said that .....  
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**DC reviews arrangements at ‘Divisional COVID Vaccination Centre’**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-02-03  
HYDERABAD - Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hyderabad Fuad Ghaffar Soomro on Tuesday visited “Divisional COVID Vaccination Centre” established at Liaquat University Hospital, Jamshoro and reviewed arrangements for vaccination process to be started from today (Feb 03). COVID-19 vaccination process will be started by vaccinating front line health workers of district Hyderabad today at divi.....  
more >>

**Covid-19 inoculation drive commences in Pakistan**  
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-02-03  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s nerve centre for Covid-19 response on Wednesday simultaneously initiated the national immunization drive for the novel coronavirus across all federating units of the country. The inaugural ceremony of the national immunization program was held at the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC). Federal Minister Asad Umar, present on the occasion, lauded the country &r.....  
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**Chinese vaccine not suitable for people above 60, pregnant women: SAPM Dr Sultan**  
KARACHI: Although, Pakistani authorities have started vaccinating their frontline healthcare workers with Chinese vaccine Sinopharm all over the country, but that is not suitable and recommended for people above 60 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers, under 18 year-olds among others, the country’s top health authorities warned on Wednesday. Confirming that Sinopharm vaccine s.....  
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| **Sindh starts vaccinating frontline healthcare workers against Covid-19**  
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<td>Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, along with provincial health minister Dr Azra Pechuho, inaugurated the first Covid-19 vaccination campaign of the province at the Ojha Campus of the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) in Karachi on Wednesday. The first coronavirus vaccine was administered to Dr Tanveer Ahmed, Dr Anila Sadaf Mengal and Dr Sadam Hussain. Health secretary Kazim .....</td>
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| **Coronavirus claims three more lives, infects 649 others**  
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<td>The novel coronavirus has claimed three more lives in Sindh during the past 24 hours, bringing the death toll in the province to 4,036. The condition of 654 patients is stated to be critical, and 69 of them are on ventilator. In addition to three more deaths overnight, 649 new cases emerged when 12,035 tests were conducted, said Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his daily Covid-19 situ.....</td>
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| **Vaccination drive kicks off in Sindh**  
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-04 |
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<td>HYDERABAD/ SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: As many as 979 frontline health workers were vaccinated for Covid-19 in Sindh on Wednesday, as inauguration ceremonies in different cities marked the commencement of the vaccination drive. In Karachi, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazl Pechuho inaugurated the campaign, with the first shot of the Sinopharm vaccine administe.....</td>
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| **In pictures: Covid-19 inoculation in Karachi**  
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-03 |
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<td>KARACHI: As the Covid-19 inoculation drive started in Sindh, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah thanked the Chinese government for providing the vaccine doses to Pakistan. CM Murad said Sindh received 83,000 doses, which would be administered to front-line health care workers only. “There are 320,000 health workers in Sindh out of which 180,000 are front-line health workers,” CM Murad sai.....</td>
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| **Sindh CM inaugurates Covid-19 vaccine campaign**  
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-04 |
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<td>KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah along with Health Minister Sindh Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho on Wednesday inaugurated the Covid-19 Vaccine Campaign in Sindh. The first Covid-19 vaccine in Sindh was administered to Dr Tanveer Ahmed at Dow University Hospital Ojha campus where they were present along with Chinese Consul General, Secretary Health Sindh Dr Kazim Jatoi and other officials. .....</td>
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| **Pakistan should have launched anti-COVID-19 vaccine drive earlier: CM**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-04 |
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<td>KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that being a nuclear country, we should have launched vaccination drive much earlier but thanks to the Chinese government that finally we have made it. This he said while addressing the launching ceremony of Sinopharm (anti-COVID-19) vaccine at Dow University Hospital, Ojha Campus on Wednesday. Minister Health Dr Azra Pechuho, Co.....</td>
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Sindh reports 649 new COVID-19 cases, 3 deaths
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-04
Karachi - Sindh has confirmed 649 new cases of the coronavirus, taking the provincial tally to 248,918 according to Chief Minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah. Three more people lost their lives due to the virus, with Sindh’s death toll climbing to 4,036. A total of 12,035 tests were carried out in the province in the last 24 hours, Shah said in a statement. Karachi recorded 359 cases from the ..... more >>

Covid kills 23 more as another 579 test positive
Twenty-three more people have died due to Covid-19 and 579 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 4,059 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Thursday that 11,125 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, res..... more >>

23 more Covid deaths reported
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-05
KARACHI: As many as 23 more patients of coronavirus died overnight and 579 new cases emerged when 11,125 tests were conducted. This was stated by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He said that currently 19,024 patients were under treatment, of them 18,362 were in home isolation, 15 at isolation centres and 647 at different hospitals, a..... more >>

Covid-19 vaccination drive picks up pace in Karachi despite concerns
Source: Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-05
KARACHI: Despite some hiccups, including reluctance among healthcare providers, the Covid-19 vaccination drive is slowly picking up pace in the city, sources toldDawnon Thursday. They also pointed to the lack of clarity in the registration process, lack of consultation with stakeholders as well as apprehensions about the government policy towards the private sector as factors affecting the drive...... more >>

23 more patients die of COVID, 579 new cases emerge
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-05
KARACHI - As many as 23 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,059 and 579 new cases emerged when 11,125 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. Murad said that 23 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,059 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. ..... more >>

979 health workers inoculated with COVID vaccine in Sindh
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-05
KARACHI - As many as 979 frontline health workers were inoculated with a COVID-19 vaccine in Sindh during the past 24 hours, the provincial health department said on Thursday. The vaccination drive commenced simultaneously across the country the other day. Of the total, 108 health workers were vaccinated at Karachi’s Khaliqdina Hall vaccination centre, 102 at Dow University of Health Sc..... more >>
### International News

#### Countries News

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Britain's centenarian fundraiser Captain Tom in hospital with Covid-19</strong></td>
<td>Agencies, <a href="https://www.dailytimes.com.pk/">Daily Times</a> , 2021-02-02</td>
<td>2021-02-02</td>
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<td>British centenarian Captain Tom Moore, who raised millions of pounds for the health service by walking laps of his garden in last year's lockdown, has been admitted to hospital after testing positive for Covid-19, his daughter said on Sunday. The World War Two veteran caught the public's imagination in April, just before his 100th birthday, when he was filmed doing laps with the help o.....</td>
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| **Saudi Arabia suspends entry from 20 countries, including Pakistan** | News Report, [The News, International](https://thenews.com.pk/) , 2021-02-03 | 2021-02-03 |
| RYADH: Saudi Arabia said on Tuesday it was suspending entry to the Kingdom from 20 countries, except for citizens, diplomats, health workers and their families, to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Ministry of Interior said it would bar entry of people arriving from the UAE, Egypt, Lebanon, and Turkey, as well as the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, Swit..... | more >> |

| **Decline in global coronavirus cases shows variants can be controlled: WHO Share:** | Agencies, [The Nation, Islamabad](https://thenation.com.pk/) , 2021-02-03 | 2021-02-03 |
| UNITED NATIONS - For the third week in a row, the number of new coronavirus cases reportedly fell globally, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said Monday, while stressing continued vigilance against the deadly virus. “There are still many countries with increasing numbers of cases, but at the global level, this is encouraging news”, he said, s..... | more >> |

| **Dubai starts administering China’s Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to residents** | Agencies, [The Nation, Islamabad](https://thenation.com.pk/) , 2021-02-03 | 2021-02-03 |
| DUBAI - The Dubai Health Authority (DHA) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has started administering China’s Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to Emirati citizens and Dubai residents who are aged 60 and above. The DHA said that the move, which started from Jan. 31, is “in line with its keenness to provide the public with an opportunity to select between various types of vaccines availabl..... | more >> |

| **Russian vaccine scores 91.6pc as global inoculations top 100m** | AFP, [Dawn, Islamabad](https://dawn.com/) , 2021-02-03 | 2021-02-03 |
| PARIS: Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine was found to be 91.6 percent effective against symptomatic Covid-19 in trial results published on Tuesday, as the number of vaccinations administered worldwide passed 100 million. But none of the world’s 29 poorest countries has formally started mass vaccination drives, while the richest nations — despite finger-pointing over delivery delays &md..... | more >> |

| **UK’s record-breaking fundraiser Captain Moore dies aged 100** | Reuters, [Dawn, Islamabad](https://dawn.com/) , 2021-02-03 | 2021-02-03 |
| LONDON: Captain Tom Moore, the British World War Two veteran who raised millions of pounds for health service workers on the frontline of the battle against the coronavirus, has died aged 100 after contracting Covid-19, his family said on Tuesday. Moore struck a chord with locked-down Britain by walking around his garden with the help of a frame to raise 38.9 million pounds ($53 million) for the ..... | more >> |
Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine 91.6pc effective
Source: Agencies, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
PARIS - Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine is 91.6 percent effective against symptomatic Covid-19, according to an analysis published in The Lancet on Tuesday that independent experts said allayed transparency concerns over the jab, which Moscow is already rolling out. The preliminary findings show that the two-dose Sputnik V “has shown high efficacy” and was well tolerated for participants over.....
more >>

US House Democrats ready first step toward $1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-02-03
The Democratic-led US House of Representatives prepared to take the first step forward on President Joe Biden’s $1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package on Tuesday, with a key vote expected to fast-track the measure through Congress. A fiscal 2021 budget measure, with coronavirus-related spending instructions for congressional committees, headed for a House vote that would help unlock a legisl.....
more >>

US promises undocumented migrants equal access to COVID-19 vaccines
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-02-03
The US government on Monday promised undocumented migrants the same access to COVID-19 vaccines as other civilians, and said inoculation centres would be immigration enforcement-free zones. The announcement marked the latest in a series of moves by President Joe Biden to reverse the hardline strategy on immigration adopted by his predecessor Donald Trump. “It is a moral and public health imp.....
more >>

City of Germany’s patient zero says Covid-19 fight not over
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-02-03
A year after Germany’s first Covid-19 patient was admitted to a Munich hospital, its exhausted doctors say the fight against the virus is far from over, despite a recent decline in cases. “The situation is easing up a bit but our teams are tired and the virus hasn’t disappeared yet,” said Clemens Wendtner, a professor of infectious diseases at the Munich Clinic (MMHG). The.....
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Sinopharm’s Covid-19 vaccine remained active against S.Africa variant, effect reduced - lab study
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-03
BEIJING: Two Covid-19 vaccines from Chinese companies including Sinopharm triggered immunity against a highly transmissible coronavirus variant first found in South Africa, but their effect appeared weaker, a small-sample lab study released on Tuesday showed. Variants of the virus have stirred concern that they might weaken effects of vaccines and treatments developed prior to their emergence. Tw.....
more >>

4,000 Covid-19 variants emerge as UK explores mixed vaccine shots
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-05
LONDON: The world faces around 4,000 variants of the virus that causes Covid-19, prompting a race to improve vaccines, Britain said on Thursday, as researchers began to explore mixing doses of the Pfizer and AstraZeneca shots in a world first. Thousands of variants have been documented as the virus mutates, including the so-called British, South African and Brazilian variants, which appear to spr.....
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**China-Pakistan vaccine cooperation reflects joint efforts to fight Covid-19**

Source: Agencies, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-02-02

BEIJING - Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Monday said that the vaccine cooperation between Pakistan and China not only reflected the sincere mutual assistance between the two all-weather strategic cooperative partners, but also reflected the duo's efforts to promote vaccines as a global public product and improve the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in.....

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