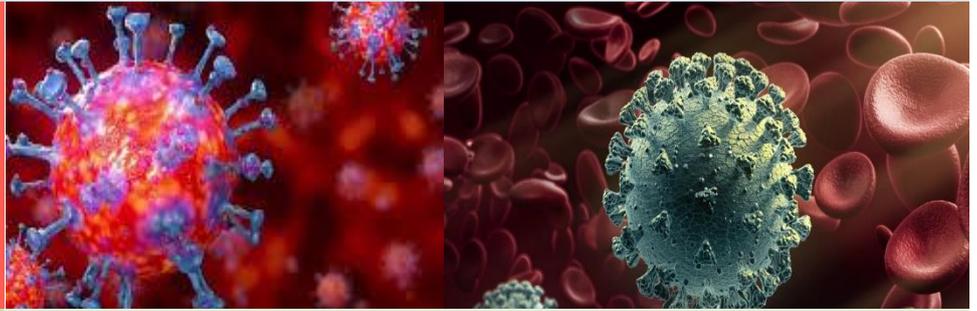


# E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 13



Issue: 09-12 February, 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>	• <a href="#">Donors News</a>
----------------------------------	-------------------------------

### SDPI Engagements

• Webinars News	• Researchers Articles
• Urdu Newspapers coverages	• SDPI: Other Engagement
• SDPI Related News	

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## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

**A socialist approach**

Source: [W T Whitney](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-09

Cuba's socialist approach to developing vaccines against Covid-19 differs strikingly from that of capitalist nations of the world. Cuba's production of four vaccines is grounded in science and dedicated to saving the lives of all Cubans, and to international solidarity. The New York Times's running report on the world's vaccine programs shows 67 vaccines having advanced to.....[more >>](#)

**Brand management**

Source: [Farooq Hassan](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

In the 21st century brands are the most important corporate assets. According to Interbrand, the top 100 brands (worldwide) are currently worth US\$1.2 trillion. Millward Brown concurs. Sometimes, brands suffer from unintended consequences. When the Corona pandemic broke out, one of my favorite brands "Corona" took a hit. They make the Corona cigars and the drink from malt and hops.....[more >>](#)

**Vaccination Drive**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

The government's success in the procurement of the Covid-19 vaccine, along with its promise of a healthier future, has been marred by the pitiable turnout for the first day of the vaccination drive. Not only is the fact that only 34 vaccines were disbursed worrying, but also that irregularities over who is receiving them are being reported in Sindh. Understanding just how vital this drive is.....[more >>](#)

**Vaccination Drive**

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

The government's success in the procurement of the Covid-19 vaccine, along with its promise of a healthier future, has been marred by the pitiable turnout for the first day of the vaccination drive. Not only is the fact that only 34 vaccines were disbursed worrying, but also that irregularities over who is receiving them are being reported in Sindh. Understanding just how vital this drive is.....[more >>](#)

**Clean chit: Viral rumours about the vaccine dispelled**

Source: [Hammad Sarfraz](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

KARACHI: The government's top health adviser on Tuesday put rumors about the coronavirus vaccine's safety to bed by saying 'it is safe and effective.' Shortly after the country received its first doses of the Covid-19 vaccine from China, news articles about the safety of the vaccine started doing rounds. Some reports even suggested Dr. Faisal Sultan, Special Assistant to th.....[more >>](#)

**From 'Great Lockdown' to 'Great Divergence'**

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director (MD) Kristalina Georgieva has raised a pertinent and important red flag by warning that low-income countries could suffer a "lost generation" unless advanced economies came to their aid right away. Speaking to reporters, she explained that while last year the "Great Lockdown" was in sharp focus, and very rightly so, th.....[more >>](#)

**Into the sunset**

Source: F.S. Aijazuddin, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

RETIREMENT is a dress rehearsal for death, but with the additional burden of recurring costs. Pakistan has a population of about 230 million, give or take 10m. Over 8.2m of them are already above the age of 65. Few of these senior citizens (other than those who have been in government service, or in uniform, or with golden parachutes) have the solace of a pension or, more importantly, access to t.....

[more >>](#)

**The future of work**

Source: Sikander Bizenjo, [The News, International](#), 2021-02-11

The dawn of technology is breaking rapidly; the speed at which the Covid vaccine was developed, the booming of e-commerce and explosion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is giving a new ray of hope to the age of technological enlightenment or what The Economist terms as, "the roaring twenties". Pakistan cannot afford to lag behind in this race. With over 60 percent of its populat.....

[more >>](#)

**The devil and the dystopian world**

Source: Azhar Dogar, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

Some years ago, a friend told me a parable of the devil and the religious scholars. A major interfaith congregation was being held in the Big Apple (i.e. New York). Prominent scholars from different religions engaged in a spirited discussion on the nature of good and evil and how the devil is the cause of all the ills of this world. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a seven feet tall guy with long golden .....

[more >>](#)

**SMEs in Covid-19**

Source: BR Research, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

Businesses across the globe have been under duress during the pandemic; the SME sector in the developing countries has been particularly grappling with the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. From contraction in demand, employment shocks, financial instability and disruptions across supply chains; 2020 was a testing time for small and medium enterprises in Pakistan as well largely due to the countrywide .....

[more >>](#)

**Honouring good work**

Source: Atle Hetland, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

It is often easier to criticise than to say something positive, honouring the hard and good work of others. Yet, the fact is that if we notice and honour what others do, better results can be achieved. If others tell us how we can improve what we do, we will do better. True, we must also criticise when we think things are not right, but done in such a way that others will actually listen, not be d.....

[more >>](#)

**Covid-19 vaccination campaign sans policy and vigour**

Source: Munir Ahmed, [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-11

Prime Minister Imran Khan launched the Covid-19 vaccination campaign on February 2 as 500,000 doses of the Sinopharm, a gift from the time-tested friend China, arrived in Pakistan on the last day of January. In the first week of the vaccination campaign in the federal capital Islamabad, only 34 frontline health workers inoculated. Quite strangely the vaccination campaign received very cold respon.....

[more >>](#)

**Opportunities in the times of Pandemic**

Source: [Ifrah Shaukat](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2021-02-12

Almost one year after COVID -19 seems like ages. This new era has brought new dimensions to the world which were pretty alien before pandemic. Nevertheless, half of the population wants to reinvent 2020, without the haunts of its economic, social and political recessions. Apparently pandemic has paralyzed global economy and has taken thousands of lives across the world. However, it is still too e.....

[more >>](#)

## National News

### Islamabad

#### Capital's frontline health workers adopt 'wait-and-see' approach to vaccine

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

ISLAMABAD: As majority of the frontline healthcare workers in the federal capital have adopted a 'wait and see' approach to get themselves vaccinated against Covid-19, only 34 so far received the vaccine since campaign was launched by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Feb 2. However, District Health Officer Dr Zaeem Zia expressed the hope that a large number of healthcare workers will be v.....[more >>](#)

#### Training held on monitoring of Covid immunisation affects

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-09

Islamabad: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), in collaboration with World Health Organisation, arranged a one-day training session on monitoring of Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) of COVID-19 vaccine here on Monday. Representatives from the Pakistan National Pharmacovigilance Centre (PNPC), DRAP, federal and provincial Expanded Programmes on Immunization, and foca.....[more >>](#)

#### China's CanSino Covid vaccine efficacy in Pakistan almost 75%: PM's aide

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Monday said that CanSino Biologics Inc's coronavirus shot has an efficacy rate of 65.7% at preventing symptomatic cases based on multi-country analysis, making it the latest vaccine candidate to show protection against Covid-19. He said that the interim analysis by the Independent Data Monitoring Committee showed 90.....[more >>](#)

#### National coronavirus death tally reaches 12,026: NCOC

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

ISLAMABAD: The national coronavirus death tally has crossed 12,000 mark and reached 12,026 as the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday reported 59 more Covid-19 deaths. According to the NCOC, Pakistan during the past 24 hours tested positive 1,037 more people for Covid-19, taking the national tally to 555,511, since the pandemic's outbreak in February 2020. The NC.....[more >>](#)

#### Country reports lowest number of Covid-19 cases in 3 months

Source: [Imran Mukhtar](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

ISLAMABAD - The country yesterday recorded lowest number of new Covid-19 cases in a single day since over the last three months with the total number of fatalities due to the infection crossed over 12,000. According to the latest figures released by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Monday, Pakistan reported 1,037 cases of Covid-19 in last 24 hours which is lowest daily rise.....

[more >>](#)

#### CanSino applies for emergency use authorisation of Covid-19 vaccine

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

ISLAMABAD-Another Chinese company CanSino has applied for the emergency use authorisation of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine with the Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Monday. The CanSino earlier also conducted COVID-19 trials in the country and it will be the second China based COVID-19 vaccine after the SinoPharm to be allowed emergency use in Pakistan. Other than S.....

[more >>](#)

### **ICT admin least interested to control corona**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-10

Islamabad : In order to control the spread of coronavirus illness, COVID-19, the federal government employed several means, but Islamabad Capital Territory administration despite repeated reminders has failed to take action against the spread of the illness through massage parlours working in Sector F-10. 'The News' repeatedly brought the matter into the notice of Deputy Commissio.....

[more >>](#)

### **Active Covid cases drop by 20,000 in two months**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

ISLAMABAD: While 1,008 Covid-19 cases and 40 deaths were reported across the country in a single day, the number of active cases has dropped by around 20,000 over the last two months. The number of active cases, which had reached 50,000 by the end of November 2020, dropped to 31,510 on Tuesday. It is the second time that active cases have witnessed a downward trend. During the first wave of Covid.....

[more >>](#)

### **System in place to monitor possible adverse effects of vaccine: ministry**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

ISLAMABAD: While Covid-19 vaccines are new and there are chances of adverse effects after vaccination, a comprehensive system has been put in place for monitoring post-immunisation events, said the Ministry of National Health Services. Moreover, World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) on Monday held a training session on monitoring of possible adverse .....

[more >>](#)

### **Sindh govt to buy 20m Covid-19 vaccine doses from China**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

KARACHI: The Sindh government would buy 20 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine from China, the health department stated on Monday. Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho held a meeting with Chinese Consul General Li Bijian and shared matters related to purchase of Covid-19 vaccine, training of healthcare providers and transfer of health technology. Secretary health Dr Kazim Jatoi was also in attend.....

[more >>](#)

### **1,008 new Covid-19 cases reported with 40 deaths**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's tally for confirmed coronavirus cases reached 556,519 after it recorded 1,008 new cases of the virus on Tuesday morning. Around 40 fatalities were also recorded, taking the country's death toll to 12,066. As many as 1,441 people also recovered from the virus during the past 24 hours. Pakistan has so far noted 512,943 recoveries. The federal territories collective.....

[more >>](#)

### **Pakistan ranks 3rd in govt support provided to SMEs to mitigate COVID-19 impact**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

LAHORE-Pakistan ranks 3rd in government support provided to SMEs to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, according to a recently launched "Impact of COVID-19 on SMEs" Survey Report conducted online by SMEDA, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and Asian Productivity Organization (APO). The survey was conducted by ADBI and APO in other countries from the region including; Indonesia, .....

[more >>](#)

### Registration for coronavirus vaccination of 65 and above persons to begin next week

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-10

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus vaccination for persons aged 65 and above will begin from next week in Pakistan. This was announced by the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar on Twitter Wednesday. "Inshallah will be opening up registration next week for covid vaccination for those 65 years and above. The vaccination of those.....

[more >>](#)

### 62 more die of Covid-19 across country

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

ISLAMABAD: Authorities have reported 62 coronavirus deaths and 1,072 more Covid-19 patients over the past 24 hours across the country. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) following the death of 62 more Covid-19 patients, the national coronavirus death tally has reached 12,128 and total cases 557,591. Active coronavirus cases nationwide at present stand at 30,512, as .....

[more >>](#)

### Elderly citizens' registration for Covid-19 vaccination begins next week, says Asad

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-11

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Wednesday said that registration for Covid vaccination for 65 years old and above citizens would be started from next week. "Inshallah will be opening up registration next week for covid vaccination for those 65 years and above," he said in a tweet. The minister informed that the vaccination would be start in Marc.....

[more >>](#)

### PM lauds permission to bury Muslim corona victims in Sri Lanka

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday welcomed his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa's assurance given in Sri Lankan Parliament allowing Muslims to bury those who died of COVID-19. "We welcome Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa's assurance given in Sri Lankan Parliament today allowing Muslims to bury those who died of COVID-19," said the Prime Minister i.....

[more >>](#)

### 62 more die of Covid-19 in a day

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

ISLAMABAD - As many as 62 more people died of Covid-19 across the country over the last twenty four hours, taking the death toll to 12,128 on Wednesday morning as vaccine registration for people aged 65 and above will start next week. According to the latest statistics, 1,072 new cases of coronavirus surfaced in the country after the tests of 31,713 individuals. As many as 514,951 people have so f.....

[more >>](#)

### No price cap on imported vaccine sale in local market

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

ISLAMABAD: While 1,502 more people were infected with coronavirus and 57 lost their lives across the country in a single day, the government has allowed private companies to import Covid-19 vaccine and exempted price cap on its sale in the local market. However, import of only registered vaccine of credible pharmaceutical companies will be allowed and its price will be fixed once the vaccine is e.....

[more >>](#)

### **Govt aims to vaccinate 30m people against Covid-19 by September: PTI**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi | Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

ISLAMABAD: The government is aiming to achieve herd immunity by vaccinating 70 million people against Covid-19 by the end of the current year. About 30 million people will be vaccinated by September. This was stated by representatives of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) about the ruling party's policy on vaccination and management of the impact of Covid-19 on education and economy at a sessio.....

[more >>](#)

### **Vaccine import: private sector to be exempted from price caps**

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2021-02-12

Pakistan will allow private companies to import coronavirus vaccines and has agreed to exempt such imports from price caps, according to documents reviewed by Reuters, even as the nation scrambles to secure supplies. The documents show the National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination division had sought a special cabinet exemption to allow for such imports while excluding the imported v.....

[more >>](#)

### **Australia's contribution for vaccine**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-02-12

Islamabad: The Australian High Commissioner, Dr Geoffrey Shaw has welcomed COVAX initial vaccine allocation to Pakistan. "I welcome COVAX announcement of initial vaccine allocations, including 17.2 million doses for Pakistan. Australia has contributed \$80 million to COVAX. We will continue to advocate for equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines," he said.....

[more >>](#)

### **Govt to allow private firms to import Covid shots, exempt from price caps**

Source: [Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is to allow private companies to import coronavirus vaccines and has agreed to exempt such imports from price caps, according to documents reviewed by Reuters, even as the nation scrambles to secure supplies. The documents show the National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination division had sought a special cabinet exemption to allow for such imports, while excludi.....

[more >>](#)

### **57 more corona deaths, 1,502 new cases reported: NCOC**

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday reported 57 more coronavirus deaths and 1,502 new cases, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said. According to the NCOC, following the death of 57 more Covid-19 patients, the national coronavirus death tally has reached to 12,185 and the total cases to 559,093. Active coronavirus cases nationwide at present stand at 30,225, as during the past.....

[more >>](#)

### **57 more die of Covid-19 during last 24 hours**

Source: [Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

ISLAMABAD - As many as 57 more people died of Covid-19 across the country over the last twenty-four hours, taking the death toll to 12,185. According to the latest statistics, 1,502 new cases of Coronavirus surfaced in the country after the tests of 37, 452. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Thursday morning said that 516,683 people have so far recovered from the disease. During .....

[more >>](#)

**Govt aims to achieve herd immunity by vaccinating 70pc population in 2021**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

ISLAMABAD - The PTI's government aims to achieve herd immunity by vaccinating 70 percent of the population in 2021. "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has issued a set of comprehensive policies on availability and use of coronavirus vaccination and management of impact of COVID-19 on economy and education," said PTI lawmakers in a discussion session organised by PILDAT. The ru.....

[more >>](#)

**Khyber Pakhtunkhwa****Another Covid-19 patient dies in Nowshera**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-10

NOWSHERA: An elderly woman infected by the Covid-19 died on Tuesday while 72 more reported positive for the viral infection during the last one week in the district. With the new casualty, the fatalities from the coronavirus reached 64 in the district. Briefing media, Deputy Commissioner Mir Reza Ozgen, District Health Officer Dr Gulman Shah and Dr Yaseen Khan said that 65-year old Fahmida Bibi, .....

[more >>](#)

**Health department yet to supply Covid vaccine to Bajaur**

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

BAJAUR: The provincial health department has not yet supplied Covid-19 vaccine to the local health department of Bajaur tribal district, health officials here said on Thursday. They claimed that vaccines had already been provided to almost all other districts about a week ago. They said that no frontline health worker in Bajaur could be vaccinated against the novel coronavirus as yet though the .....

[more >>](#)

## Punjab

### **Covid claims 24 more lives in Punjab**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

LAHORE: The Punjab government has reported that coronavirus has claimed 26 more deaths during the past 24 hours taking the tally of total deaths in Punjab to 4,880. As many as 418 new cases have been reported in Punjab during the past 24 hours making the total Covid-positive patients to 160,580 cases. The highest number of 197 new cases have been reported from Lahore, 52 from Faisalabad, 21 from.....

[more >>](#)

### **Five COVID-19 deaths, 71 cases from twin cities**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-02-09

Rawalpindi: After two days without reporting of any death from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19, the virus claimed another five lives in the last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 1085 while as many as 71 new patients have been confirmed positive from the region taking tally to 54,625. Data collected by 'The News' on M.....

[more >>](#)

### **Shaukat Khanum, other facilities vaccinate healthcare professionals against corona**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-02-09

LAHORE: Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) begins vaccinating its frontline healthcare professionals against Covid-19. A special Covid-19 vaccination camp has been installed outside the main hospital building where frontline healthcare professionals, who are directly working with Covid-19 patients, are being administered the vaccine. The Chief Medical Officer.....

[more >>](#)

### **20 more die from corona**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-02-09

LAHORE: Around 20 COVID-19 patients died and 355 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 death toll reached 4,900, while confirmed cases reached 160,935 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 11,809 tests have been conducted in the la.....

[more >>](#)

### **130,817 corona patients recover in Punjab**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-02-09

LAHORE: The Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department released the status of facilities for COVID-19 patients here Monday. As per the latest statistics released by Secretary Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department, Barrister Nabeel Awan, around 130,817 patients have recovered and returned to their homes in the pandemic so far in the province. Out of 7,280 reserved beds.....

[more >>](#)

### **108 Covid-19 patients on ventilators in Punjab**

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

LAHORE: As per statistics released by the health department, as many as 108 Covid-19 patients including 69 in Lahore are on ventilators in Punjab. As per the latest statistics released by Secretary Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department, in Punjab, the number of ventilators available is 407 out of 515 reserved for Corona patients. In Lahore's hospitals, 119 ventilators are a.....

[more >>](#)

### Status of facilities for COVID-19 patients in Punjab released

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

LAHORE - Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department released the status of facilities for COVID-19 patients here on Monday. As per the latest statistics, as many as 130,817 patients have recovered and returned to their homes in the pandemic so far in the province. Out of 7,280 reserved beds for COVID-19 patients, 6,377 are available. In Lahore's public sector hospitals, 1,.....

[more >>](#)

### Another three die of COVID-19

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-02-10

Rawalpindi : Another three patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 belonging to Rawalpindi district died of the illness taking the death toll from the district to 608 though the virus did not claim any life from Islamabad Capital Territory in the last 24 hours. It is pertinent to mention that to date; as many as 480 patients from ICT have lost their lives due to COVID-19. The number of active c.....

[more >>](#)

### Smart lockdown in four towns extended

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-02-10

LAHORE: The Punjab government has extended smart lockdown in the City's six hot spots in four towns, including Cantonment, Gulberg Town, Samanabad Town and Wagah Town. The smart lockdown has been imposed in the areas with maximum emergence of COVID-19 cases amidst the rising second wave of coronavirus. The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department issued a notification in this regard.....

[more >>](#)

### 19 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-02-10

Around 19 corona patients died and 412 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued Tuesday, the death toll reached 4,919, while confirmed cases became 161,347 in the province. ....

[more >>](#)

### 'Smart' lockdown imposed in six localities

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

LAHORE: Following a surge in coronavirus cases, local administration has decided to impose smart lockdown in various areas of the provincial capital on Tuesday. Selected areas and streets of the DHA Phase-III and V, Badian Road, Faisal Town, Allama Iqbal Town and Wahga Town have been sealed owing to spread in the pandemic. The decision to impose smart lockdown was made on Monday but so far hardly .....

[more >>](#)

### Smart lockdown in virus hotspots extended

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

LAHORE - Punjab government has extended smart lockdown in Lahore's hotspot areas with maximum emergence of COVID-19 cases amidst the rising second wave of coronavirus. According to a notification issued by Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), Punjab, on Tuesday, the smart lockdown has been imposed in hotspot areas of Lahore till 19.10.2021. The smart lockdown in Laho.....

[more >>](#)

### **29 deaths, 410 new cases of coronavirus**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

LAHORE: Showing a slight respite, Covid-19 claimed the lives of 29 critical patients in Punjab during the last 24 hours, taking the total number of victims in the province to 4,948. The total number of confirmed cases of the virus reached 161,757 after 410 more tested positive in the last 24 hours. According to official figures released on Wednesday, health teams performed 11,279 Covid-19 tests .....

[more >>](#)

### **Health workers demand payment of salaries**

Source: [Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

SAHIWAL: At least three dozen contractual employees of the primary and secondary healthcare department inducted under the New Management Structure (NMS) held separate rallies and demonstrations on Wednesday noon against the non-payment of their salaries for seven months. The protests were held at the DHQ and THQ hospitals in Pakpattan, Okara, Sahiwal, Arifwala, Chichawatni and Depalpur under the .....

[more >>](#)

### **PHC seeks registration for frontline health workers' vaccination**

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

LAHORE: The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) has directed the private Covid and non-Covid hospitals and approved laboratories to complete registration of their frontline healthcare workers at the earliest to become eligible for vaccination against Covid-19 on priority. As per a letter dispatched by the Commission, all staff of such healthcare establishment which are providing treatment to Covid.....

[more >>](#)

### **Pandemic slowed down pace of development, welfare projects: minister**

Source: [Correspondent, Daily Times](#), 2021-02-11

TAXILA: Economic growth slowed down during the pandemic which has negatively impacted projects related to development and public welfare, Punjab Minister for Revenue retired Col Mohammad Anwar Khan said on Wednesday. He was addressing a function arranged on the eve of the inauguration of rehabilitation of Kunnat Road in Pindigheb. Rehabilitation of the 1km-long road, for which Rs10.09 million had.....

[more >>](#)

### **One more dies of COVID-19, 117 test positive**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-02-11

Rawalpindi : Another confirmed patient of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory died of the disease in the last 24 hours while the virus claimed no life from Rawalpindi district though a total of 117 new patients have been tested positive from the region taking the tally to 54,845 on Wednesday. To date, a total of 1,089 patients belonging to ICT and Rawalpindi district ha.....

[more >>](#)

### **Hospitals asked to register health workers for vaccination**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-02-11

LAHORE: The Punjab Healthcare Commission has directed all private COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 hospitals and approved laboratories of the province to complete registration of their frontline healthcare workers at the earliest to become eligible for vaccination against Covid-19 on priority. As per a letter, all staff of such healthcare establishment which are providing treatment to Covid-19 pa.....

[more >>](#)

**29 more die from corona in Punjab**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-11

LAHORE: Around 29 corona patients died and 410 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Wednesday, the death toll reached 4,948, while confirmed cases became 161,757 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 11,273 tests have been conducted in the la.....

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**Coronavirus; Punjab reports 29 fatalities, 410 cases**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

LAHORE: Out of 11,273 coronavirus tests conducted across the province during the last 24 hours, as many as 410 fresh COVID-19 cases and 29 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 161,757 and death toll to 4948. With the recovery of 722 more patients, the number of recovered patients in the province has reached to 149,268. As per breakup of coronavirus cases and deaths in .....

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**Covid claims 29 lives, 410 new cases in Punjab**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

Lahore - The pandemic Novel Coronavirus claimed another 29 precious lives whereas 410 new cases were reported on Wednesday in the province which turned the death toll to 4,948. According to data shared by a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (PP&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 161,757. The PP&SHD confirmed that 235 n.....

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**14 shops, restaurants sealed in Lahore**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

Lahore - The district administration sealed 14 shops, stores, restaurants and imposed Rs 30,000 fine on violation of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Wednesday. According to a spokesperson for the district administration, Assistant Commissioner Cantt Zoha Shakir sealed 12 shops and two restaurants in Cantt area besides imposing Rs10,000 fine for overcharging a.....

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**Aslam asks people to follow anti-corona precautions**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

LAHORE - Provincial Minister for Industries & Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal handed over 1,166,700 face masks and 15,394 hand sanitisers to CEO TEVTA (Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority) Akhtar Abbas Bharwana at Punjab Skills Development Authority (PSDA) office on Wednesday. Meanwhile, PVTC (Punjab Vocational Training Council) Chairman Maj. (R) Shahnawaz also received 466,650 f.....

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**PHC directs HCEs for registration of medics for Covid-19 vaccination**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

LAHORE - The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) has directed all private Covid and non-Covid Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) hospitals and approved laboratories of the province to complete registration of their frontline healthcare workers at the earliest to become eligible for vaccination against Covid-19 on priority. As per a letter, all staff of such healthcare establishment which are providin.....

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### **Virus claims 29 lives, 410 new cases in Punjab**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

LAHORE - The pandemic Noval Coronavirus claimed another 29 precious lives whereas 410 new cases were reported on Wednesday in the province which turned the death toll to 4,948. According to data shared by a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (PP&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 161,757. The PP&SHD confirmed that 235 n.....

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### **UHS set to launch trial of new vaccine**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

LAHORE: The University of Health Sciences (UHS) is all set to launch the phase-III trial of a new Chinese vaccine 'ZF2001' for prevention of Covid-19 among local population, involving 1,000 volunteers, from the next week. This was stated by UHS Vice-Chancellor Prof Javed Akram while presiding over a meeting on Thursday at the varsity. The university had earlier ran the trial of CanSin.....

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### **34 more die of Covid in Punjab**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

LAHORE: The death toll in Punjab reached 4,982 after 34 more patients breathed their last across the province during the last 24 hours. According to the official figures released by the government, 634 more people tested positive for the virus during the same period, taking the total number to 162,391. Most of the new cases [292] were reported from Lahore where the total number of the positive p.....

[more >>](#)

### **Two die of COVID-19, another 120 test positive**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-12

Rawalpindi : Another two confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Rawalpindi district died of the illness in the last 24 hours while another 120 patients have been tested positive for the disease from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi showing little increase in number of patients being tested positive from the region. It is important that in the last week of January this .....

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### **34 COVID-19 patients die**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-12

LAHORE: As many as 34 COVID-19 patients died and 634 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to a Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Thursday, the toll of fatalities rose to 4,982 in Punjab, while confirmed cases of coronavirus reached 162,391 in the province. According to a spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at Primary.....

[more >>](#)

### **UHS all set to launch trial of 2nd vaccine**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-12

LAHORE: University of Health Sciences (UHS) Vice-Chancellor Professor Javed Akram has said that his varsity is all set to launch the phase-III trial of another Chinese coronavirus vaccine from next week. The university earlier ran the trial of Can Sino vaccine developed by Beijing Institute of Biotechnology. The trial registered 18,000 volunteers and is in the follow-up stage at the moment. While .....

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**UHS all set to launch another Covid-19 vaccine trial**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

LAHORE - University of Health Sciences (UHS) is all set to launch the phase-III trial of another Chinese coronavirus vaccine from next week. The university earlier ran the trial of Can Sino vaccine developed by Beijing Institute of Biotechnology. The trial registered 18,000 volunteers and is in the follow-up stage at the moment. While presiding on a meeting in this regard on Thursday, UHS Vi.....

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## Sindh

**PTI submits resolution in PA to seek answers over misuse**

Source: [Zia Ur Rehman](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-09

Amid media reports about the administration of China's Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine to relatives of former Sindh governor Mohammad Zubair and resultantly the suspension of a district health official, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders submitted a resolution in the Sindh Assembly on Monday, seeking answers from the provincial government. PTI parliamentary leader in the Sindh Assembly Bila.....

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**Sindh to procure 20 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine directly from China**

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-09

The Sindh government has said it will procure 20 million doses of the Chinese Covid-19 vaccine directly from China to vaccinate all of its adult population, and in this regard it is in contact with the federal government for necessary approvals, provincial health minister Dr Azra Pechuho said on Monday. Following a meeting with Chinese Consul General Li Bijian at the Chinese Consulate Gene.....

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**Coronavirus kills 13 more as another 387 test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-09

Thirteen more people have died due to Covid-19 and 387 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 4,132 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Monday that 10,205 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 387.....

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**PNSC management undertakes timely crew changeover on 9 vessels**

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

KARACHI: During the ongoing second wave of Covid-19, the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) management has undertaken timely crew changeovers on its 9 out of 11 vessels. Though the Pandemic restrictions have become more stringent due to severity of second Covid wave, PNSC was able to effect crew change using all its resources and efforts including deviations in vessels' voyag.....

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**16,948 health workers vaccinated in Sindh**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

KARACHI - At least 16,948 frontline healthcare workers have been vaccinated in Sindh province, an official at Sindh health department told media on Monday. As per statistics issued by Sindh health department, a total of 16,948 healthcare professionals have been vaccinated in Sindh province in last five day out of which 2,203 were healthcare professionals vaccinated at Khaliq Dina Hall Vaccination .....

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### **COVID-19 claims 13 more patients, infects 387 others**

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

KARACHI - As many as 13 more coronavirus patients died overnight raising the death toll to 4,132 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate and 387 new cases emerged when 10,205 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Monday. Shah said that 10,205 samples were tested which detected 387 cases that constituted 3.8 percent current detection rate. He....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid kills 25 more as another 324 test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2021-02-10

Twenty-five more people have died due to Covid-19 and 324 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 4,157 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 9,599 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in .....

[more >>](#)

### **Coronavirus claims 25 more lives in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

The pandemic claimed 25 more lives and 324 fresh cases were detected in Sindh, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's House on Tuesday. The provincial death toll stood at 4,157 while the tally of confirmed cases rose to 251,757. As many as 228,592 persons in the province have recovered from the contagion, including 644 overnight, said CM Syed Murad Ali Shah. He informed that a.....

[more >>](#)

### **COVID-19 in Sindh claims 25 more lives, infects 324**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

KARACHI - As many as 25 more patients of coronavirus died in Sindh overnight lifting the death toll to 4,157 and 324 new cases emerged when 9,599 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Tuesday. He added that 25 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,157 that constituted 1.6 percent death r.....

[more >>](#)

### **Record Rs51bn financing in a week under Temporary Economic Refinance Facility**

Source: [Shahid Iqbal, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

KARACHI: The Temporary Economic Refinance Facility (TERF) has recorded the highest increase of Rs51 billion during one week, which ended on January 28, while the total amount has reached over Rs374bn. The TERF facility had been introduced to counter the negative impact of Covid-19 on the economy. The State Bank of Pakistan said the TERF had shown significant growth over the last 10 months, as re.....

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### **About 27,000 healthcare workers vaccinated, 77pc in Sindh**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

ISLAMABAD: While around 27,000 frontline healthcare workers (HCWs) have been vaccinated against Covid-19 across the country in over one week, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday released a video to motivate HCWs for vaccination. As many as 77 per cent of the vaccinated HCWs belong to Sindh. The NCOC's vaccine nerve centre has identified violations and irregulariti.....

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**Covid-19 claims 14 more lives in Sindh, infects 538 others**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-11

Covid-19 claimed 14 more lives in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the viral disease in the province to 4,171 in the province, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday in his daily statement on the pandemic situation in the province. He added that currently, 561 patients infected with the novel coronavirus were under treatment at various health f.....

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**Virtual seminar 'Reality or myth of Covid-19 vaccine' held at ZU**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

KARACHI: "DRAP has approved three vaccines till now. The first is Sinopharm vaccine, second is research project of Oxford University – Astrazeneca vaccine being produced by Serum Institute of India, and third is Sputnik-V, manufactured by Russian State Institute. For health workers currently we are using the Sinopharm vaccine, and soon we will get the Astrazeneca and also Russian Sputn.....

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**Another 14 die of corona in Sindh, 538 new cases emerge**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

KARACHI - As many as 14 more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,171 as well as 538 new cases emerged when 11,015 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Wednesday. He added that 14 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,171 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate.....

[more >>](#)

**Speakers call for prioritising public health, environment**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-12

KARACHI: Highlighting the devastating effects of Covid-19 on health, economic activity and life in general, speakers at the inaugural session of a three-day virtual symposium held at the Aga Khan University on Thursday underscored the need for prioritising public health and environment to manage pandemics in the making. Human actions such as deforestation, encroachment on diverse wildlife habitat.....

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**Covid kills 12 more as another 423 test positive**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-12

Twelve more people have died due to Covid-19 and 423 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 4,183 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 10,864 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in .....

[more >>](#)

**12 more patients die of corona, 423 new cases emerge**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

KARACHI - As many as 12 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,183 and 423 new cases emerged when 10,864 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that 12 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,183 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah sa.....

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## International News

### Countries News

#### US congressman dies after Covid diagnosis

Source: [AFP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

WASHINGTON: A Republican congressman from Texas who was being treated for Covid-19 has died, his office said Monday, the first sitting member to lose his life after battling the coronavirus. House of Representatives lawmaker Ron Wright, 67, who had also suffered from cancer in recent years, died Sunday in a Dallas hospital, where he and his wife were taken after catching the virus. His death .....

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#### Covid may have taken 'convoluted path' to Wuhan: WHO

Source: [Reuters](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

WUHAN, (China): The head of a World Health Organization-led team probing the origins of COVID-19 said bats remain a likely source and that transmission of the virus via frozen food is a possibility that warrants further investigation, but he ruled out a lab leak. Peter Ben Embarek, who led the team of independent experts in its nearly month-long visit to the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the o.....

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#### Pakistan for debt relief to help poor countries rebuild Covid-hit economies

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for finding a "long-term and comprehensive" solution of the debt problem for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as part of the efforts to build back better from the wreckage left behind by of the devastating coronavirus pandemic. "We need to find a permanent, comprehensive, and inclusive solution for this problem," Aamir Khan, depu.....

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#### 'Extremely unlikely' Covid-19 virus spread from laboratory: WHO

Source: [Wang Xiaoyu | Zhang Zhihao | Liu Kun, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-09

It is "extremely unlikely" that the novel coronavirus spread to humans from a laboratory leak, a team of international experts from the World Health Organization said on Tuesday, adding that future studies into the origin of the virus will head "wherever indicated" and not be "geographically bound". No known viruses being identified or researched in laboratories arou.....

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#### Sri Lanka to lift ban on burial of Muslim coronavirus victims

Source: [Anadolu Agency](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

COLOMBO: Sri Lankawill allow the burial of Covid-19 victims, the country's premier said on Wednesday, following months of outcry over a ban. In response to a question raised by lawmaker S M Marikkar, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said in parliament the bodies of virus victims will be allowed to be buried, according to the ColomboPage news website. In March last year, the Health Ministr.....[more >>](#)

#### All Covid-causing virus in the world would fit in a coke can

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-11

LONDON: All the COVID-causing virus circulating in the world right now could easily fit inside a single cola can, according to a calculation by a British mathematician whose sum exposes just how much devastation is caused by minuscule viral particles. Using global rates of new infections with the pandemic disease, coupled with estimations of viral load, Bath University maths expert Kit Yates work.....[more >>](#)

**WHO mission member says 'don't rely' on US virus intelligence**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-11

US intelligence on the supposed origin of the coronavirus pandemic was not reliable, a member of the special WHO mission to China said Wednesday, after Washington cast doubt on the transparency of the probe. The World Health Organization mission ended Tuesday without finding the source of the virus, but members had to walk a diplomatic tightrope during their stay, with the US urging a "robust....

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**Businesses dismayed by lockdown**

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-02-12

BERLIN: The German business community expressed consternation on Thursday after Chancellor Angela Merkel and regional leaders agreed to extend the coronavirus lockdown until March 7. Under the agreement reached on Wednesday, hair salons will be allowed to reopen from March 1 but the threshold for a gradual re-opening of the rest of the economy has been tightened: an infection rate of no more than....

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**Donors News****WHO trashes notion virus leaked from Chinese lab**

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn](#), [Islamabad](#), 2021-02-10

WUHAN: The coronavirus most likely first appeared in humans after jumping from an animal, a team of international and Chinese scientists looking for the origins of Covid-19 said on Tuesday, dismissing as unlikely an alternate theory that the virus leaked from a Chinese lab. A closely watched visit by World Health Organisation experts to Wuhan the Chinese city where the first coronavirus cases were....

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No News items

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