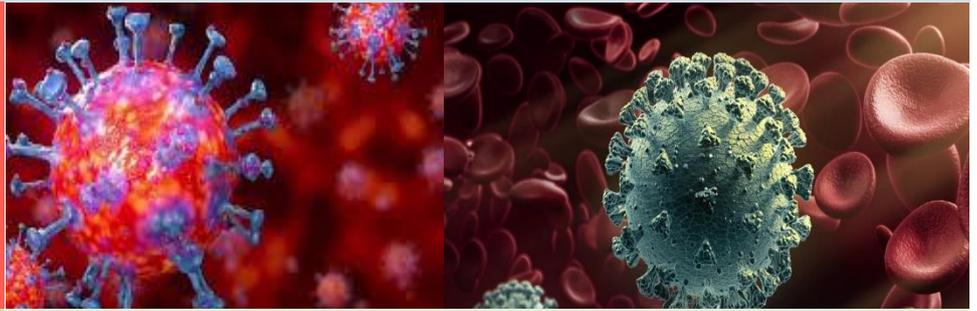


# E-Newsletter on COVID-19



Vol. 02, No, 15



Issue: 16-19 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

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## Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

### Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

#### Beyond Covid-19

Source: [Samar Quddus](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-16

The 21st century mainly gave us the unabated war on terror, civil conflict, political disruption, climate change, and above all global epidemics that have now placed a chokehold on well-functioning economies of the world. In this regard, the last 15 months have proved to be the most challenging, unpredictable and uncertain what with the outbreak of Covid-19. The unique novel virus has had .....[more >>](#)

#### Creating more have-nots

Source: [Muhammad Hamid Zaman](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

It may not always be possible to identify early on whether a public health policy or programme is good. Experts may debate or disagree on whether a particular policy is going to be good for the public in the long run or not. It is, however, quite easy to see early on when something is a bad idea from the start. The criterion is simple. Any policy that further widens the gap between haves and have-nots.....[more >>](#)

#### Conflicting indicators

Source: [Dr Hafiz A Pasha](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

The economy is in a state of transition from the deep recession during March to June 2020 after COVID-19 to a phase of recovery. The second attack of the pandemic has made the revival of different parts of the economy more difficult. The consequence is that there are mixed and conflicting signals from different economic indicators. Some of these contrasting developments are discussed below. T.....[more >>](#)

#### On vaccine diplomacy

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

It is thanks to a sizable donation from China that “vaccination” against Covid-19 started in Pakistan earlier this month. That gift of half million Sinopharm doses from the Iron Brother is part of what observers refer to as “vaccine diplomacy”. And it turns out China is not alone in doling out those jabs – our eastern neighbor India is also a top contender among the v.....

[more >>](#)

#### Gaining Ground

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

Things look a little more positive as the Pakistan government has decided to open up state vaccination for people aged 65 or above in the coming weeks. Additionally, private sector vaccinations may also become possible since the commercial import of Sputnik V has officially been allowed. However, with private sales, the hardest responsibility the government must fulfil is that the vaccines .....

[more >>](#)

#### Vaccine concerns

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-17

IT is reassuring to see the Covid-19 vaccine recipient pool expanding further. Thus far, around 38,000 healthcare workers have been inoculated against the virus as the first group in order of priority, with individuals 65 years and above to follow in the second phase. The government on Monday opened registration for senior citizens to get in the queue for vaccination which is projected to start in.....

[more >>](#)

### Construction incentives

Source: [Hassan Baig](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-17

A lacklustre economic performance and Covid-19 were compelling factors to announce a special incentive package for the construction sector by the prime minister on April 3, 2020. Promotion of construction as an industry was the hallmark of this announcement. The recently announced extension in the incentive package for another year, along with an amnesty for another three months, has also .....

[more >>](#)

### EU rescue in Chinese vaccines

Source: [Muhammad Faisal](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-17

Except others, European Union is in dire straits grappling to seek timely and adequate supply of COVID-19 vaccine to inoculate its more than 450 million populations. Given the staggering scramble, EU is also facing worst challenge that involves threats of new emerging variants of virus, monopolization of pharmaceutical firms for not having patent-sharing strategy and top of them vaccine's ma.....

[more >>](#)

### Stopping the pandemic

Source: [Stephen Cockburn](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-18

Just over a year ago, the world looked on in shock as the Chinese city of Wuhan imposed the first coronavirus lockdown. Since then, people around the world have made extraordinary sacrifices and have shown great solidarity in containing the spread of the virus. Yet, when it comes to rolling out vaccines, the world's political leaders seem to have forgotten that we are all in it together. The.....

[more >>](#)

### Cautious hope

Source: [EDITORIAL](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

IT appears that Covid-19 cases in Pakistan are falling after a terrifying winter spike, with the positivity ratio close to 3pc this week as compared to 8pc in December. A year into the pandemic and despite some frightening peak periods, Pakistan's coronavirus trajectory has overall been far less disastrous than the one seen in Europe, the US and even neighbouring India. Although smart lockdo.....

[more >>](#)

### Vaccines for the rich

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-19

According to the chief of the UN, so far 186.5 million doses of the vaccine against Covid-19 have been delivered in 102 countries. But 75 percent of these vaccines have been given out and in only 10 nations, while there are 130 countries which have had no vaccines at all. This simply shows the inequity of the global vaccine programme and the vast difference between delivery to rich and poor countr.....

[more >>](#)

### The 'inequality virus'

Source: [Syed Mohammad Ali](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

While many prominent people have been infected by Covid-19, poor people are bearing the brunt of its impact. This pandemic has glaringly revealed how our existing systems of health, education, and production continue to disadvantage poorer people. Covid-19 has thus rightly been dubbed the 'inequality virus'. Emerging research indicates that inequality within many rich countries has in.....

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### **RDA and rising remittances**

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2021-02-19

The Roshan Digital Account for overseas Pakistanis is indeed one good opportunity that the Covid-19 crisis has brought with it for a country awfully desperate for foreign exchange. Since the launch of the scheme by the SBP in collaboration with major commercial banks in September 10, 2020, as many as 87,833 Pakistanis residing in 97 foreign countries have opened RDAs with deposits amounting to \$50.....

[more >>](#)

### **2021: Trajectory, triangulation & transformation**

Source: [Naseem Javed, Daily Times](#) , 2021-02-19

Pakistan is on the move; mostly below the radar, invisible and in silence. The youthful population gradually advancing, geographic location percolating and the world more aligned to differentiate good, bad behavior, and most importantly global populace getting smarter to recognize emerging nations, their potentials and collaborative offerings. The pandemic changed the world rapidly, developed econ.....

[more >>](#)

### **Lagging green spending globally**

Source: [Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2021-02-19

'The world's leading economies have announced economic stimulus packages that will pump approximately US\$4.6 trillion directly into sectors that have a large and lasting impact on carbon emissions and nature, namely agriculture, industry, waste, energy and transport, but less than US\$1.8 trillion has been green. These flows compare with a total stimulus to date of US\$14.9 trillion, and.....

[more >>](#)

## National News

### Balochistan

#### **Three vocational centres to be set up in Hub for women**

Source: [Correspondent, Daily Times](#), 2021-02-16

QUETTA: The Hub Power Company (Hubco) on Monday announced it would set up three vocational training centres for women living in three villages of the Hub area. The vocational centres will be set up in Goth Qadir Bakhsh Gadoor, Goth Allana Gadoor and Goth Abbas Gadoor in the Hub area. The announcement was made at the inauguration ceremony of a school jointly set up by Hubco and TCF. Nepra Chairma.....[more >>](#)

#### **2nd stage of vaccination against Covid begins**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

PESHAWAR: The Health Department has started vaccination of other health workers across the province after the vaccination of frontline health workers deployed in Intensive Care Units (ICU) and high dependency units. Government has also approved the inoculation of staff of the private hospitals too whose vaccination has already been started. Sources told The Express Tribune that around 1200 heal.....[more >>](#)

## Islamabad

### Vaccine registration for people over 65 years opens

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

ISLAMABAD: With 37,289 healthcare workers having been inoculated against Covid-19 across the country since the launching of the vaccination drive, the government on Monday opened registration for people aged 65 years and above. On the other hand, the country reported another 1,048 cases and 26 deaths in a single day. Meanwhile, the representative body of doctors, Pakistan Medical Assoc.....

[more >>](#)

### One COVID-19 death, 105 cases from twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-16

Rawalpindi: Another confirmed patient of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from Islamabad Capital Territory has died of the illness in the last 24 hours while 105 new patients have been tested positive for the disease from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi combined taking tally to 55438 on Monday. It is worth mentioning here that COVID-19 has already claimed as many as 614 lives from R.....

[more >>](#)

### Nadra blamed for delay in vaccination of capital's healthcare workers

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

ISLAMABAD: Despite efforts by the health department to expedite the process of vaccination and supply ample quantity of doses to the federal capital, only around 700 healthcare workers got themselves vaccinated against Covid-19 during the last two weeks. Those who got the shots blamed National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) and lack of awareness for the delay. Though 14 adult vaccina.....

[more >>](#)

### 'Economy coming out of Covid-19 impact'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-16

LAHORE: Pakistan's economy is reviving and coming out of Covid-19 impact which adversely affected every segment. Talking to the media at inauguration of a new store at MM Alam Road here on Monday evening, Bata Pakistan Managing Director Imran Malik said industry was hopeful that economy will bounce back while the customers' footfall at stores was gradually improving and likely to retur.....

[more >>](#)

### Covid-19 vaccination; Registration of people aged 65 and above starts

Source: [Abdul Rasheed Azad](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) Chairman, Asad Umar, Monday announced starting corona vaccination registration for citizens aged 65 and above. The chairman NCOC, who is also Federal Minister for Planning and Development, took to Twitter to make the announcement, adding that citizens who wanted to register for the vaccination should SMS their CNIC number to 1166 for re.....

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### **Pakistan reports lowest number of coronavirus cases since Nov**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

Pakistan has reported 47 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 564,824. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 12,380 on Tuesday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 958 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandem.....

[more >>](#)

### **6m people infected, 140,000 died in region due to Covid-19: WHO**

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

ISLAMABAD - World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari on Monday said 20 countries in the region are expecting an estimated 46 to 56 million doses of AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine by COVAX facility during the first half of this year. He said this in a virtual press conference held under the title of update on COVID-19 in the Eastern Medi.....

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### **PMA demands price cap on COVID-19 vaccine imported by private companies**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

Islamabad-Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) on Monday demanded a price cap on novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine imported by private companies. A statement released by the PMA said that it appreciates the federal government's decision for allowing private companies to import vaccine, but the decision of excluding the imported vaccines from the strict price cap regime that is typically app.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid brought major change in internet viewership: report**

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-17

ISLAMABAD: Amid threats of Covid-19 and lockdowns, the year 2020 witnessed a significant change in internet viewership as searches like sadqa, pet, cooking, mental health, gender equality, kids' home activities, etc, at Google were among the top trends in Pakistan. Areporttitled "What is Pakistan Searching for?" captures the collective trending searches and sheds light on what c.....

[more >>](#)

### **Two more die of COVID-19, 138 test positive**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-17

Rawalpindi : Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another two lives from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking the death toll from the district to 616 while as many as 486 patients from Islamabad Capital Territory have already lost lives due to the illness. The virus did not claim any life from ICT in the last 24 hours however it is important that the number of active cases .....

[more >>](#)

### **Fewer than 1,000 Covid cases reported for second day**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-17

ISLAMABAD: Fewer than 1,000 coronavirus cases have been reported across country for two days in a row. According to data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday, as many as 958 cases and 47 deaths were reported over the past 24 hours. The country had reported 837 infections on Feb 14. Less than 1,000 cases i.e. 977 were reported on Oct 31 last year. According to .....

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### **Pakistan: Coronavirus waste brings pollution to next level**

Source: [Asifa Idrees](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-17

As the world is anxiously awaiting the results of the global mass inoculations to contain the surging coronavirus pandemic, yet another threat is lurking. Uncountable used face masks, gloves, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other COVID-19 related waste have brought the escalating danger of pollution to the next level, experts fear. The looming fear is further strengthened by European Un.....

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### **At least 528,545 COVID-19 patients recover across Pakistan**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-17

ISLAMABAD: In a clear indication that Pakistan is on the path to overcoming the COVID-19 infections, 528,545 people have recovered from the disease across the country. As per the latest data released by the National Command & Operation Centre (NCOC), there is no Corona patient on the ventilator in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Balochistan. According to the statistics, the numbe.....

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### **Pakistan reports 837 more corona cases Share:**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan reported less than 1,000 coronavirus cases for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, revealed the official data. The country reported 837 and 958 Covid-19 infections on February 14 and February 15 respectively, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). This is the first time since October last year that Pakistan has reported less than 1,000 coronavirus ca.....

[more >>](#)

### **Face masks mandatory PSL spectators**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for limited crowd of the sixth season of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2021 matches, to be started from February 20. According to the NCOC, the purpose of the guidelines, which were based on comprehensive input from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), was to outline the procedures.....

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### **Frontline health workers asked to get registered for vaccine**

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) has asked all the frontline healthcare workers to register themselves for anti-Covid vaccine administration in their respective areas. Chairing the NCOC meeting here on Wednesday, Minister for Planning Asad Umar said all efforts will be made for the safety and protection of the healthcare workers so that they can work with same comm.....

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### **Jamaat-e-Islami issues policies on coronavirus vaccination, impact on economy and education**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

ISLAMABAD - Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) has issued a set of comprehensive policies on the procurement and administration of coronavirus vaccine, and on the management of the impact of COVID-19 on economy and education. In an exclusive working session (organised by PILDAT) of JIP's Policy Planning Wing held in Islamabad, the party's policies were discussed and finalised by the par.....

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**COVID-19 cases: IMCG, G-9/2 sealed**

Source: [Khalid Iqbal, The News, International](#), 2021-02-18

Islamabad : The District Health Office (DHO) has advised to seal Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) (VI-XII) G-9/2, after COVID-19 cases surfaced at the college on Wednesday. The DHO has written a letter to Deputy Commissioner (DC), Islamabad and strongly recommended to seal (IMCG) (VI-XII) G-9/2, immediately. It is hereby advised to close down the premises immediately till further intimati.....

[more >>](#)

**Only 52,768 healthcare workers vaccinated**

Source: [Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

ISLAMABAD: With only 52,768 healthcare workers (HCWs) having been vaccinated across the country over the past two weeks, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday asked all frontline HCWs to register themselves for Covid-19 vaccination in their respective areas and centres. The government data shows that 32,860 HCWs have been vaccinated in Sindh, 15,494 in Punjab, 1,639 in Khy.....

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**Phase II: Pakistan to start vaccinating citizens over 65 years on receiving 2.8m doses around March 2, says SAPM**

Source: [news Desk, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Thursday shared that Pakistan would receive 2.8 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine through the Covax programme around March 2 after which the next phase of vaccinations against the coronavirus would begin. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he said: "According to our information, 2.8m .....

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**Govt decides to inoculate elderly people with AstraZeneca vaccine**

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has announced that people aged over 65 will be administrated UK'sOxford-AstraZenecaCovid-19 vaccine from next month. "We are hopeful that the next phase of vaccination drive will commence from next month and Pakistan will receive 2.8 million doses of AstraZenaca in March under COVAX facility," Dr Faisal said w.....

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**Covid-19 vaccine;Frontline health workers urged to register themselves**

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Chairman Asad Umar has urged all the frontline health workers to register themselves for the coronavirus vaccine. In a statement, Asad Umar said that the institution will take every step to ensure the safety of healthcare workers. "Frontline healthcare workers are our priority," said Umar. According to the NCOC's d.....

[more >>](#)

**Two more COVID-19 deaths, 123 test positive**

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2021-02-19

Islamabad : Another two deaths due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have been reported from Islamabad Capital Territory and Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking death toll to 1105 while 123 new patients have been confirmed positive from the region taking tally to 55,836 on Thursday. It is important that the total number of patients so far tested positive for COVID-19 from the fe.....

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### COAS thanks Chinese envoy for vaccine assistance

Source: [Nuzhat Nazar](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

Islamabad: Chief of Army staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s successful completion "will bring more benefits and prosperity to the people of both the countries." According to military media wing, the army chief expressed his gratitude to China as Nong Rong, the ambassador of Pakistan's "iron brother&.....

[more >>](#)

### Vaccination of senior citizens against Covid-19 to begin in March

Source: [Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

ISLAMABAD - The government is likely to start receiving free novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine from the COVAX body in the beginning of next month. The government has already started registration of Healthcare Workers (HCWs) and people aged above 65 years for their COVID-19 vaccination. Officials at the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) and National Institute of Health (NIH) infor.....

[more >>](#)

## Punjab

### Seven more areas under lockdown

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

LAHORE: The Punjab government has imposed a lockdown in seven more areas of the city after they reported a surge in coronavirus cases. A notification was issued with directions to the district and police authorities to seal the localities to stop the movement of people and business activities as per the standard operating procedures. The lockdown was proposed in some localities of Askari 10, Dife.....

[more >>](#)

### Raas tests positive for COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-16

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for School Education Dr Murad Raas has been tested positive for COVID-19. In a statement on Monday, Dr Murad Raas confirmed that he had been tested positive for coronavirus and advised the people, who have come in contact with him in the past few days, to undergo COVID-19 tests. ....

[more >>](#)

### Smart lockdown imposed in 7 hotspot areas

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-16

LAHORE: The Punjab government has imposed smart lockdown in hotspot areas with maximum emergence of Covid-19 cases amidst rising second wave of coronavirus. The smart lockdown has been imposed in seven hotspot areas in two towns including Cantonment and Shalimar Town. According to a notification issued by P&SHD, Punjab here on Monday, the smart lockdown has been imposed in hotspot areas of Laho.....

[more >>](#)

### 14 more die from corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-16

LAHORE: Around 14 corona patients died and 435 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to P&SHD report issued on Monday, the death toll reached 5,051, while confirmed cases reached 164,268 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 11,541 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, which raised the total number of tests t.....

[more >>](#)

**Coronavirus claims 14 more lives in Punjab**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

LAHORE - The pandemic of novel coronavirus claimed another 14 lives in 24 hours, whereas 435 new cases of COVID-19 were reported on Monday across the province pushing the death toll to 5,051. According to data shared by a spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of coronavirus cases in the province reached 164,268. The P&SHD confirmed tha.....

[more >>](#)

**Daanish Schools complete entry tests for 16 campuses**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

LAHORE -Entry testsfor Class 6th in 16 Daanish Schools located in various districts of Punjab has been conducted while adhering to laid down COVID-19 SOPs. In total, 10 thousand 5 hundred students appeared in the entry test conducted at various campuses. There are 110 seats in each campus reserved for boys and girls for fresh intake in Class-6th. Out of the total 1,760 seats in 16 Daanish Schools,.....

[more >>](#)

**33 more Covid fatalities in Punjab**

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-17

LAHORE: The Covid-19 claimed lives of 33 more people during the last 24 hours in Punjab, taking the death toll to 5,084. Meanwhile, the total number of confirmed cases in Punjab reached 164,696 across the province after 428 more people tested positive for the virus during the same period. Of the new cases, 260 were reported from Lahore where the total number of confirmed cases reached 83,433 and.....

[more >>](#)

**Fresh Covid-19 cases drop to three-digit after 3.5 months**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-17

Pakistan has recorded three-digit single-day coronavirus cases for the first time during the last three and a half months, as last time cases below 1,000 were reported on October 30. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Tuesday that the country recorded 958 fresh infections during the last twenty-four hours. Forth-seven more coronavirus-related deaths were reported in the past.....

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**Scotmann Pharma provides Vitamin D3 to front line COVID-19 nursing stars**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-17

LAHORE PR - Scotmann Pharmaceuticals is working to help slow down the second wave of Covid-19 that has hit us back again. In an immunity driven campaign, Scotmann Pharmaceuticals provided free vitamin D (SunnyD) supplements in line with the recent global research on the effectiveness of Vitamin D amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

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**30 more die from corona**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-18

LAHORE:Around 30 corona patients died and 504 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 5,114 in Punjab, while confirmed cases reached 165,200 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 10,775 tests have been conduct.....

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### **Punjab reports 504 fresh Covid-19 cases, 30 deaths**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

LAHORE: Out of 10,775 corona tests conducted across the province during the last 24 hours, 504 fresh Covid-19 cases and 30 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 165,200 and fatalities to 5114. With recovery of 544 more virus victims, the total number of recovered patients has reached 152,869. As per break up of virus cases and deaths due to corona in major cities o.....

[more >>](#)

### **24 more die from corona in Punjab**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-19

Around 24 corona patients died and 516 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Thursday, the death toll reached 5,138, while confirmed cases became 165,716 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 12,269 tests have been conducted in the last 24 h.....

[more >>](#)

### **457 POs arrested in current year**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-19

LAHORE :Lahore Police during a crackdown on the persons involved in heinous crimes arrested 988 proclaimed offenders, court absconders and target offenders in the current year. DIG Operations Lahore Sajid Kiani said that out of the total 988 arrested offenders, as many as 457 were proclaimed offenders whereas 236 were target offenders and 295 court absconders. Sajid Kiani said that Lahore police .....

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## **Sindh**

### **Covid claims seven more lives**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-16

Covid-19 claimed seven more lives in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the viral disease in the province to 4,226. In the meantime, 479 patients of the disease remained under treatment at various health facilities, of whom the condition of 436 was said to be serious and 56 of them were on life support. This was stated by Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Monday in h.....

[more >>](#)

### **Sindh orders withdrawing cases of violations of Covid SOPs**

Source: [Salis Bin Perwaiz](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-16

The Sindh government has ordered the relevant quarters to withdraw cases that were registered over violations of coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs). A letter has been issued to this effect on directives from Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shahi. It has been moved by the prosecutor general of the Criminal Prosecution Services Department. The directives are also addressed to the Sindh.....

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### **Pak-China ties strengthened during Covid-19: KU VC**

Source: [INP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

KARACHI - The Confucius Institute of the University of Karachi organized a function to celebrate the 'Happy Spring Festival' to mark the Chinese New Year, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor (VC) of the Karachi University Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said without any doubt, China was one of the most trusted friends of P.....

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**COVID-19 claims 7 more patients, infects 254 others**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

KARACHI - As many as 7 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,226 and 254 new cases emerged when 10,609 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Monday. He added that 7 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,226 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah.....

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**Sindh reports 18 virus deaths in single day**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

KARACHI - As many as 18 more coronavirus patients died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,244 and 270 new cases reported among 9,504 people tests during this time span. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Tuesday. He added that 18 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,244 that constituted 1.6 percent de.....

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**Coronavirus claims 19 more patients, infects 392 others**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

KARACHI - As many as 19 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,263 and 392 new cases emerged when 10,691 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Wednesday. He said that 19 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,263 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. S.....

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**Covid-19 kills 19 more, infects 392 others in Sindh**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-18

Covid-19 claimed 19 more lives in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the viral disease in the province to 4,263. In the meantime, 461 patients remained under treatment at various health facilities in the province, of whom the condition of 423 was said to be serious and 56 of them were on life support. In addition to 19 more deaths during the previous 24 hours.....

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**SHC asks law officer to explain policy on doctors' vaccination**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-18

The Sindh High Court directed the provincial law officer on Wednesday to explain the government policy on the vaccination of surgeons and other doctors above 60 years of age. The directive came at a hearing of a petition seeking a court order for hospitals to provide first aid to every patient in the initial stage without asking for a Covid-19 test result. The petitioner's counsel sa.....

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**In pictures: Pakistan launches Covid-19 vaccination drive, days after receiving doses from China**

Source: [AP | AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

Pakistan on Wednesday started vaccinating frontline health workers against the coronavirus amid a steady decline in confirmed cases and fatalities. The start of the vaccine campaign comes days after Pakistan received half a million doses of the Sinopharm vaccine donated by China. At a ceremony in Islamabad, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar paid tribute to the .....

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### **SHC seeks Sindh gov't's policy on Covid vaccines**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-18

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court sought on Wednesday the Sindh government's policy pertaining to provision of coronavirus vaccines to citizens. During the hearing of a petition filed against closure of the outpatient department during the pandemic, the petitioner, advocate Aasim Iqbal, contended that health workers and other staff are being given the coronavirus vaccine but doctors don't.....

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### **Command and control centre set up to reinforce Covid response**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

KARACHI: The United States government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), has established a command and control centre (CCC) for the Sindh health department, so as to assist it in responding to the coronavirus pandemic. Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazl Pechuho and USAID provincial director for Sindh and Balochistan James Parys attended the semi-virtual inauguration ce.....

[more >>](#)

### **Sindh reports over 350 Covid cases**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

KARACHI: Sindh reported four coronavirus-related fatalities and over 350 fresh cases on Thursday. As many as 361 coronavirus cases emerged when 10,863 samples were tested, apprised Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on the day. Thus far, 2,914,327 tests have been conducted out of which 255,038 samples tested positive for the contagion, said Shah elaborating further. The pandemic .....

[more >>](#)

### **Four die of Covid-19 in Sindh, 361 others infected**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-19

Covid-19 claimed four more lives in Sindh during the previous 24 hours, raising the death toll due to the viral disease in the province to 4,267. In the meantime 445 patients remained under treatment at various health facilities, of whom the condition of 406 patients was said to be critical and 55 of them were put on life support. In addition to that, 361 new cases of Covid-19 emerged in the prov.....

[more >>](#)

### **Covid-19 claims 4 more lives, infects 361 others in Sindh**

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

KARACHI: As many as 4 more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,267 and 361 new cases emerged when 10,863 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that 4 more patients of Covid-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,267 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. ....

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### **USAID inaugurates CCC for Covid-19**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

KARACHI - The United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), inaugurated a state-of-the-art Command and Control Center (CCC) to the Sindh Health Department to respond to COVID-19 cases across the province. Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Sindh Minister for Health and Population Welfare, and the USAID Provincial Director for Sindh and Balochistan, James Parys, part.....

[more >>](#)

**Four more killed due to coronavirus in Sindh**

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

KARACHI - As many as four more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,267 and 361 new cases emerged when 10,863 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that four more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,267 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Sha.....

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## International News

### Countries News

#### South African hotel turns to robot hospitality to beat pandemic

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

JOHANNESBURG: Staff at Hotel Sky in Johannesburg's wealthy Sandton district adhere to strict Covid-19 protocols, wearing masks and physically distancing from guests as much as possible; all, that is, except Lexi, Micah and Ariel. For the three concierges couldn't breathe germs on you even if they wanted to: they're robots. Robot hospitality is not new — Japanese hotels ha.....[more >>](#)

#### AstraZeneca's vaccine gets UN approval for emergency use

Source: [Ap](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-16

TORONTO: The World Health Organisation has granted an emergency authorisation to AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine, a move that should allow the UN agency's partners to ship millions of doses to countries worldwide as part of a UN-backed programme to tame the pandemic. In a statement Monday, the WHO said it was clearing the AstraZeneca vaccines made by the Serum Institute of India and.....[more >>](#)

#### South Korea eases coronavirus curbs, to announce vaccine plan

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-16

South Korea eased some of its strictest social distancing rules for businesses on Monday, but kept limits on private gatherings as authorities prepared to unveil plans for the roll out of the first coronavirus vaccines later this month. The decision comes after a subdued Lunar New Year holiday last week. Daily coronavirus infections rebounded to above 400 ahead of the break, but have dropped sinc.....[more >>](#)

#### Biden to discuss pandemic, economy and China in Friday G7 meeting

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-16

President Joe Biden will hold his first event with other leaders from the Group of Seven nations in a virtual meeting on Friday to discuss the coronavirus pandemic, the world economy and dealing with China, the White House said on Sunday. The meeting is the first by top leaders from the G7 group of rich democracies since April, it said. "This virtual engagement with leaders of the world&rs.....

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#### Hamas slams Israel for blocking vaccines to Gaza

Source: [Agencies](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-17

GAZA CITY: Hamas on Tuesday blasted Israel's refusal to allow some 2,000 coronavirus vaccine doses destined for Gaza health workers through its blockade of the territory and termed the move a "violation" of international law. The Palestinian Authority, based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, had planned to send the Russian Sputnik V doses through Israel to Gaza, a separate terr.....

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#### Snowfall blankets Acropolis, halts vaccinations

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-17

ATHENS: Heavy snowfall blanketed the Acropolis and other ancient monuments in Athens and halted Covid-19 vaccinations in the Greek capital on Tuesday as the weather brought many services across the country to a standstill. The snow, an unusual sight in the city of more than three million residents, also stopped most public transport services, while toppled trees caused blackouts in several mounta.....

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**Dutch court orders govt to end virus curfew**

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-17

THE HAGUE: A Dutch court ordered the government on Tuesday to lift a nationwide coronavirus curfew that sparked riots in the Netherlands, as frustration mounts throughout the world against virus measures almost a year into the deadly pandemic. Government's face pushback from populations tired of measures aimed at slowing the virus's relentless spread, and countries were scrambling to .....

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**Zero Covid in Europe: Possible or pipe dream?**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-17

Hit the virus quick and hard, undergoing drastic short-term measures in order to allow life to return to normal. Several nations in Asia and Oceania have pursued "Zero Covid" strategies. Can European countries do likewise? 'Three-fold advantage' In Auckland, two million New Zealanders have been confined to their homes since Monday because of three confirmed Covid-19 .....

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**Hamas condemns Israel over blocking vaccines to Gaza**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-17

Hamas on Tuesday blasted Israel's refusal to allow some 2,000 coronavirus vaccine doses destined for Gaza health workers through its blockade of the territory as a "violation" of international law. The Palestinian Authority, based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, had planned to send the Russian Sputnik V doses through Israel to Gaza, a separate territory run by Islamist movemen.....

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**Coronavirus vaccine turns people gay: Iranian cleric**

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

In a bizarre claim, an Iranian cleric has said that people who are vaccinated for coronavirus have become homosexuals and asked his followers not to interact with them. Ayatollah Abbas Tabrizian from holy city of Qom wrote on his Telegram social-media platform: "Don't go near those who have had the Covid vaccine. They have become homosexuals," according to a report published inJ.....

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## Donors News

**Covid infections falling, but WHO warns against apathy**

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

LONDON: Reported daily coronavirus infections have been falling across the world for a month and on Tuesday hit their lowest since mid-October, but health experts warned against apathy even as vaccines are being rolled out worldwide. Falls in infections and deaths coincide with lockdowns and severe curbs on gatherings and movement as governments weigh the need to stop successive waves of the pand.....

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## SDPI Engagements

### Webinar News

#### Research on household debts has a critical role to play for evidence-based policies: Experts

Source: [DNA News](#), [DNA News](#), 2021-02-16

ISLAMABAD, FEB 16 – The research on household debts and indebtedness in Pakistan could play a critical role in envisaging evidence-based policies and decision-making. The experts from financial and economic sectors said this while sharing their views with the participants of the webinar and launch of study 'Household debt and indebtedness in Pakistan: estimates and implications,' .....[more >>](#)

#### Research on household debts has a critical role to play for evidence-based policies: Experts

Source: [DNA News](#), [DNA News](#), 2021-02-16

ISLAMABAD, FEB 16 – The research on household debts and indebtedness in Pakistan could play a critical role in envisaging evidence-based policies and decision-making. The experts from financial and economic sectors said this while sharing their views with the participants of the webinar and launch of study 'Household debt and indebtedness in Pakistan: estimates and implications,' .....[more >>](#)

#### Research On Household Debts Has Critical Role To Play For Evidence-based Policies: Experts

Source: [APP](#), [UrduPoint](#), 2021-02-17

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 16th Feb, 2021 ):The research on household debts and indebtedness in Pakistan can play critical role in envisaging evidence-based policies and decision-making. The experts from financial and economic sectors said this while sharing their views with the participants of the webinar and launch of study 'Household debt and indebtedness in Pakist.....[more >>](#)

#### 'Repaying personal debt always important issue for families'

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-17

Islamabad : Dr Ali Kemal, former Economic Policy Advisor, Federal SDGs Unit, Planning Commission, has said that repaying debt in Pakistan always was a pertinent issue for families. Dr Kemal was addressing a webinar and launch of a study 'Household debt and indebtedness in Pakistan: estimates and implications' organised by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboratio.....[more >>](#)

#### Research on household debts vital for policy-making: Experts

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-17

The research on household debts and indebtedness in Pakistan could play a critical role in envisaging evidence-based policies and decision-making. The experts from financial and economic sectors said this while sharing their views with the participants of the webinar and launch of study 'Household debt and indebtedness in Pakistan: estimates and implications,' organised by the Sustain.....[more >>](#)

#### CPEC to uplift economic and trade activities in entire region: governor

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-17

Governor Balochistan Amanullah Khan Yasinzai on Tuesday said the completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project would not only end economic stagnation in the world but also make the entire region a hub of economic and trade activities. He stressed for speeding up the work in the Bostan Industrial Zone (BIZ) so that local traders and industrialists could take full advantage of the i.....

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## Researchers Articles

### **CPEC, debt trap or debt relief**

Source: [Shakeel Ahmad Ramay](#), [Daily Times](#), 2021-02-17

Before, delving into, either CPEC is a debt trap or not, let's try to understand the debt trap concept and how it works. In lay man language or simplest way to explain is, a debt which borrower cannot pay without taking new loans. It initiates a vicious cycle of borrowing, which goes on. Subsequently, the nation become hostage to lender which leads to desired goal of policy trap by lender. I.....[more >>](#)

## SDPI's Related News

### **Privatisation will save Pakistan's power sector, says Miftah Ismail**

Source: [Press Release](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2021-02-19

KARACHI-Former finance minister Miftah Ismail has said the power sector in Pakistan should move towards the privatisation in order to solve its long-standing issues. Ismail said this during a webinar titled: "Pakistan's Power Policies—Ensuring Access and Affordability" on Wednesday. When asked if it would be difficult to do so, the former finance minister said it was a chal.....[more >>](#)

### **'Govt needs to get out of power business'**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2021-02-19

KARACHI: The government needs to get out of the power sector's business to bring perennial structural problems to an end once and for all, energy experts said on Wednesday. Speakers, during a webinar, agreed that the government should gradually privatise power sector to improve its efficiency. "Overreaching influence of the government and the ministry is creating problems for institu.....[more >>](#)

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