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

### The Menace of COVID-19
**Source:** Zaeem Gondal, *Daily Times*, 2021-02-23
Dreading to wake up extremely early in the morning to proceed carrying out the daily algorithm of leaving the comfort of our houses to travel all the way up to a place where we were to spend the half of our day, spending hours with our friends playing football or cricket or going for a swim and being forcefully dragged to attend every marriage that there was to exist within our families, we all ha..... more >>

### Will we give the vaccine shots a shot?
**Source:** Dr Izza Aftab and Sadaf Akbar, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2021-02-23
Since the COVID-19 pandemic first hit Wuhan, China, in December 2019, scientists have been racing against time to develop and test novel vaccines to protect against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The speed of scientific discovery related to COVID-19 is unprecedented and even the most ardent optimist might not have expected to have a highly effective vaccine against a..... more >>

### Covid-19 and the national education policy
**Source:** Muhammad Jehangir Khan/Junaid Ahmed, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-02-24
The formulation of the National Education Policy 2021 is a challenging but important task for the current government. When the unprecedented school closure due to the pandemic challenged the conventional education system globally, governments looked to researchers to present ideas to improve learning access. In this regard, the consultative process for developing a new policy is undeniably importa.....more >>

### Restaurants on road
**Source:** Farhat Rasheed, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2021-02-24
Challenges provide space to opportunities. I do have certain physical limitations and have many challenges but I always create opportunities out of these challenges. Being a wheelchair-bound person and having a Gold Medal in my MBA, I have never let my disabilities overshadow my abilities. It is important to accept that people are not disabled, rather differently-abled. Covid-19 has completel.....more >>

### Vaccine concerns
**Source:** Editorial, *The News, International*, 2021-02-25
As the rollout for the vaccine to combat Covid-19 begins in earnest in the country, with the government announcing vaccine centres and dates for frontline health workers, all other health workers, followed by people over 65 and then people over 60, there seems to be no sense of excitement in the country. Certainly, there is no major demand for the vaccine, with vaccination centres reporting low tu..... more >>

### Work from home
**Source:** Editorial, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2021-02-25
During the long-persisting coronavirus pandemic, digital platforms have enabled workers to work from home, thus saving them from being idlers. The internet revolution has played a significant role in mitigating the economic impact of the novel coronavirus, as now a great many people are earning their livelihood by working from home through the net. The Covid-19 pandemic has acted as a strong catal..... more >>
Covid-19 and conspiracy theories
Source: Professor Dr Maqsudul Hasan Nuri, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
Termed by the UN Chief as “infodemic”, conspiracies around Covid-19 have drawn many conjectures. Through misinformation, disinformation and ‘fake’ information many rumors and conspiracy theories were rampant before the onset of virus and are still circulating after introduction of the vaccine. Conspiracy theories have been prevalent since olden times but are getting so.....
more >>

Ehsaas averted civil war-like situation
Islamabad: The successful execution of Ehsaas emergency cash assistance programme helped Pakistan to successfully avert a civil war-like situation last year in the wake of anti-Coronavirus lockdown rendering almost two-third part of its population jobless. *Almost two-third portion of the Pakistani population, which is associated with the non-formal sector and earn their income on a ..... more >>

NCOC decision
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
In a big step towards bringing official, commercial and entertainment activities to pre-Covid normal, mass gatherings are being allowed in the country from March 15. Under a decision taken by the NCOC on Wednesday, there will be no restrictions on holding wedding ceremonies indoors from the mentioned date, with SOPs followed; restaurants will also be allowed to offer indoor dining; cinemas and shr.....
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Child labour and pandemic
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
Opinions may differ on various aspects of child labour, but the entire humanity agrees that it is an undesirable thing and should be eliminated. Of the 215 million child labourers worldwide, 12.5 million are in Pakistan, and it is among countries where this scourge is more prevalent, though globally the number of child labourers has declined from 200 million in 2000 to 168 million in 2014. The Int.....
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Easing Restrictions
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
As the global lockdown is fast approaching its one-year anniversary, the world over, countries are starting to shift focus to vaccine procurement and release, and deliberate on ways to open up their respective economies and societies in a responsible way. In Pakistan, after months of confusion and uncertainty over when schools and workplaces will go back to more usual schedules, the government has.....
more >>

Vaccine uptake
Source: Maha Rehman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
BY FEB 24, 2021, Pakistan had vaccinated 72,882 front-line healthcare workers utilising part of the 500,000 Sinopharm vaccine doses it had received from China. This means 0.03 doses have been administered per 100 citizens in the country. Bangladesh stands at 1.4 doses per 100 and India at 0.83. While the supply is constrained for developing countries, the roll-out has had challenges of its own. T.....
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## National News

### Balochistan

**NP wants provision of free Covid-19 vaccine**  
Source: Staff Reporter, [Dawn, Islamabad](https://www.dawn.com), 2021-02-24  
QUETTA: A meeting of the National Party (NP) held on Tuesday discussed policies regarding procurement and administration of coronavirus vaccine and management of the impact of Covid-19 on economy and education sector in Balochistan. The party demanded that the government take special measures to safeguard the lives of people, especially doctors and paramedical staff. Moreover, the vaccine should .....[more >>](https://www.dawn.com)

### Islamabad

**Healthcare workers told to get vaccinated**  
Source: Kalbe Ali, [Dawn, Islamabad](https://www.dawn.com), 2021-02-23  
ISLAMABAD: After receiving his first dose of Sinopharm vaccine on Monday, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan urged healthcare workers and all those eligible to come forward and get themselves vaccinated. “I would again request healthcare workers and all those eligible to get vaccinated for your own protection, for the protection of your family, friends and a.....[more >>](https://www.dawn.com)

**Covid-19 claims 16 more lives with 1,160 fresh cases**  
Source: news Desk, [Daily Times](https://www.dailytimes.com.pk), 2021-02-23  
The coronavirus pandemic has claimed another 16 lives in the past 24 hours in the country, surging the overall death toll to 12,617, said the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday. According to the latest data, 1,160 fresh infections were reported and the national tally of cases has reached 572,334. A total of 32,313 tests were conducted across the country during the aforementioned.....[more >>](https://www.dailytimes.com.pk)

**Dr Faisal gets vaccinated against Covid-19**  
Islamabad: Dr Faisal Sultan received the first dose of Sinopharm vaccine—not in his official capacity as the Prime Minister’s Special Assistant on Health but as a medical practitioner—here at the Vaccination Centre of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) on Monday. “Every available vaccine against COVID-19 is effective against the disease and offers 90 percent .....[more >>](https://www.thenews.com.pk)

**Covid-19: A total of 55,508 people vaccinated, NA told**  
Source: Naveed Butt, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](https://www.businessrecorder.com.pk), 2021-02-23  
ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination Dr Nausheen Hamid on Monday informed the National Assembly during question hour session that a total of 55,508 persons have being vaccinated so far in the country to save them from the Covid-19. Responding to various supplementary questions of the members, she said in Pakistan, the initial results fo.....[more >>](https://www.businessrecorder.com.pk)

**Dr Faisal urges health professionals for Covid-19 vaccination**  
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-23  
ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Dr Faisal Sultan, Monday, while urging the health professionals to administer with the Covid-19 vaccine, said he has administered the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. Talking to the media persons here, Dr Faisal said he got Covid-19 vaccine as a health professional not as the SAPM. He further announced that P.....[more >>](https://www.businessrecorder.com.pk)
Dr Faisal urges eligible people to register for COVID-19 vaccination
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-23
ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Health Services (NHS) Dr. Faisal Sultan on Monday urged eligible people to register themselves for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination. Dr. Faisal Sultan said this while getting himself vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine SinoPharm to encourage healthcare workers for vaccination. Talking to media after vaccination, t.... more >>

Health ministry dissatisfied with vaccination pace
Source: DNA, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services has expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of vaccination of the frontline health workers against the coronavirus in Islamabad. In a letter to the capital’s public and private hospitals, the ministry said the vaccination pace is slow as less than half of the total registered health workers have been inoculated against the virus as yet. I..... more >>

41 corona deaths, 1,050 fresh cases reported countrywide
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday reported 41 coronavirus deaths and 1,050 fresh cases taking the nation’s death tally to 12,658, and cases tally to 573,384, since the outbreak of pandemic in the country. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), during the past 24 hours, Punjab and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) reported the more deaths as Punjab Health Department report..... more >>

Pakistan reports 1,050 new Covid-19 cases, 41 deaths
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Tuesday morning reported 1,150 new coronavirus cases, taking the country’s Covid-19 tally to 573,384. The country’s death toll climbed to 12,658 after 41 more people succumbed to the deadly disease, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Meanwhile, 752 patients recovered from the deadly disease in a day taking total recoveries to 536..... more >>

Russian researchers discover predisposition to COVID-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
islamabad - HSE University researchers have become the first in the world to discover genetic predisposition to severe COVID-19. The results of the study were published in the journal Frontiers in Immunology. T-cell immunity is one of the key mechanisms used by the human body to fight virus infections. The staging ground for cell immunity development is the presentation of virus peptides on t..... more >>

Pakistan ranks low on list of countries with most tests
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Daily Times, 2021-02-24
ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan continues to see a fall in Covid-19 cases, a website has placed the country on the 29th position in the list of 30 countries that have conducted the most number of tests per million population (PMP). The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has, meanwhile, recorded 1,050 patients who contracted the virus and 41 deaths over the last 24 hours. Also, Pakistan is ..... more >>
COVID-19 claims 41 lives, infects 1,050 more people
Source: APP, Daily Times, 2021-02-24
The national tally on Tuesday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 24,483 with 1,050 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 752 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Forty one corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 38 of them were under treatment in hospital and three in their respective quarantines and homes on Monday, according to the latest update.....
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Slow-paced vaccination dissatisfies ministry as 41 more die of Covid-19
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-02-24
The Ministry of National Health Services has expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of vaccination of frontline health workers against the coronavirus in Islamabad. In a letter to the capital’s public and private hospitals as well as labs, the ministry pointed out that the vaccination pace is slow as less than half of the total registered health workers have been inoculated against the virus.....
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Indoor weddings to be allowed from March 15
ISLAMABAD: The National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday decided to ease some of the coronavirus restrictions that it earlier put in place after carefully reviewing the existing non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs or alternate measures to treat Covid-19 other than medical treatment). The NCOC added that the decisions could be reviewed again in view of the increased disease p.....
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NCOC lifts curb on commercial activities amid decline in Covid-19 cases
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
With the novel coronavirus cases dropping across the country, the federal government on Wednesday decided to lift the time limit from commercial activities and amusement parks as well as the condition for public/private offices to enforce 50% work-from-home policy for staff. According to the fresh directives from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) – the nerve centre of the gov.....
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Senior citizens to get vaccine from March 2
Source: APP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services Dr Nausheen Hamid on Wednesday said that citizens above the age of 65 years would get Covid jabs from March 2. Under Covax programme, Pakistan would get 2.8 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine after which inoculation of the registered senior citizens would start, she said while speaking to the media. The health parliame.....
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Effective from March 15, 2021;NCOC decides to lift some restrictions
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
ISLAMABAD: The National Command Operation Centre (NCOC) Wednesday, while reviewing existing non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) decided to lift some of the coronavirus restrictions effective from March 15, 2021. The NCOC added that the decisions could be reviewed again in view of the increased disease prevalence, whenever deemed necessary. According to the NCOC, provinces can; however, en.....
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NCOC lifts time-limit from commercial activities
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
ISLAMABAD - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday took a comprehensive review of the existing Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) and decided to lift time-limit from commercial activities, remove condition of 50 percent work from home, allowed indoor wedding ceremonies from March 15, 2021 with stringent Covid-19 SOPs. However, the indoor dining to be allowed from 15th o....
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Poor countries need $410m for COVID-19 vaccine logistic, cold chain: UNICEF
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
ISLAMABAD - United Nations International Fund for Children (UNICEF) has called for US$410 million assistance to help low-income countries with in time logistics and availability of Covid-19 vaccines, and therapeutic and diagnostic tools in 2021. UNICEF has estimated a funding gap of US$133 million to cover in-country vaccine logistics and the required cold chain equipment for the poorest 9.....
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Experts discuss opportunities post-Covid
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
ISLAMABAD: Timely measures taken by Pakistan government including providing construction incentives, 10-billion-tree tsunami, etc, have played a crucial role in combating Covid-19, said Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moinul Haque. Speaking at a webinar on “Post-Covid Global Investment Climate and Opportunities for Pakistan”, he said that the economy was showing signs of improvement as.....
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Pakistan marks its Covid-19 anniversary
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
ISLAMABAD/ KARACHI/ LAHORE: Far from the finish line, Pakistan's fight against the novel coronavirus began exactly one year ago today. A household name now, the Covid-19 virus was first detected shortly after 22-year-old Yahya Jaffery arrived from Iran. At the temperature screening gates at Karachi’s international airport, Jaffery was allowed to pass through despite showing early sign.....
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64 coronavirus deaths, 1,361 fresh cases reported
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday reported 64 coronavirus deaths and 1,361 Covid-19 cases, taking the national death tally to 12,772, and cases tally to 575,641, since the pandemic’s outbreak in the country. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), during the past 24 hours, Punjab and Sindh reported the most deaths as the Punjab Health Department reported 39 deaths a.....
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64 more die of Covid-19 during last 24 hours
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
ISLAMABAD - As many as 64 more people died of Covid-19 and 1,361 new cases were reported across the country over the last 24 hours, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). According to the latest statistics, 539,888 patients have so far recovered from this disease and total active Covid-19 cases in Pakistan are 23,281. According to the NCOC, Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir.....
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Covid-19 isolation linked to increased domestic violence
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
ISLAMABAD - While Covid-19 related lockdowns may have decreased the spread of a deadly virus, they appear to have created an environment for increased domestic violence, a new study suggests. The study, published in the journal American Behavioral Scientist, indicates that 39 per cent respondents reported having experienced violence in their relationship and 74 per cent of those people were w.....

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Schools back to regular classes from March 1
Source: Kashif Abbasi, Daily Times, 2021-02-26
ISLAMABAD: With the number of Covid-19 cases declining across the country, federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood on Thursday announced that the restrictions imposed on schools in some major cities to conduct three-day classes in a week had been removed. During the ongoing second wave of the pandemic, the country saw over 3,000 cases daily — the number has now come down to around 1,.....

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Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Anti-corona vaccination drive begins in Mansehra
MANSEHRA: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department initiated the anti-coronavirus vaccination drive for the frontline workers here on Tuesday. "We are going to administer the Covid-19 vaccine to around 600 frontline workers of the health department," Dr Qasim Ali Khan, the deputy commissioner, told reporters after the inaugural ceremony of the anti-Covid-19 vaccination at the King Abd.....

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School sealed
MANSEHRA: The district administration on Tuesday sealed Government Higher Secondary School for a week after four of its students tested positive for the Covid-19. The tehsil municipal administration also started disinfecting the building and imposed the restrictions on the entry of people into its premises. .....

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250 frontline medical staff to get vaccine in Mohmand
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
Mohmand - In the first phase 250 frontline medical staff of the health department will be vaccinated and by the end of June in the second phase the general population over the age of 60 will also be vaccinated. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ghulam Habib, District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Hayat Afridi, MS District Headquarter Hospital Ghalanai Dr Sameen Shinwari, DPO Salahuddin Khan and other official.....

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Covid vaccination begins in Mansehra
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
MANSEHRA: The health department began the coronavirus vaccination campaign for its frontline workers here on Tuesday amid the sealing of a government school over virus detection among four students. “We will administer the Covid-19 vaccine to around 600 frontline health workers of the health department,” deputy commissioner Dr Qasim Ali Khan told reporters after inaugurating the vacci.....

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Health workers start getting Covid vaccine in four districts
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
CHITRAL: The health department started vaccination of its staffers in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday. A vaccination campaign in Chitral was inaugurated at a function held at the district headquarters hospital. Lower Chitral deputy commissioner Hassan Abid inaugurated the campaign. District health officer Dr Haider Mulk and hospital’s medical superintendent Dr Shamim.....
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Punjab

NAB to seek Covid vaccine purchase record from private lab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-23
LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Monday decided to seek the record from a known private laboratory about procuring Covid-19 vaccine from Russia and its proposed plan to charge over $100 [per head] profit. The NAB Lahore has initiated a probe into a complaint that the private laboratory plans to charge over $100 profit from per person for Covid-19 vaccine after procuring it from.....
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5 die of COVID-19
Rawalpindi:After two days without reporting of any death from Islamabad Capital Territory due to coronavirus illness, COVID-19, the virus claimed four more lives from the federal capital in the last 24 hours while one patient died of the illness from Rawalpindi district taking death toll from the region to 1,115. Data collected by ‘The News’ on Monday reveals that as many as 90 new pa.....
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Four more die from corona
LAHORE:Around four COVID19 patients died and 474 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Monday, the toll of fatalities reached 5,208, while confirmed cases became 167,819 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 10,310 tests have been conducted.....
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Punjab reports 474 fresh Covid-19 cases, 4 deaths
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-23
LAHORE: Out of 10,310 corona tests conducted across the province during the last 24 hours, as many as 474 fresh Covid-19 cases and 4 deaths were reported taking the provincial tally of cases to 167,819 and death toll to 5208. With the recovery of 737 more virus patients, the number of recovered patients in the province has reached to 155,632. As per breakup of corona cases and deaths in .....
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Highest number of COVID-19 cases in a day after January 10
Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another life from Islamabad Capital Territory in the last 24 hours taking death toll from ICT to 493 while no death due to the illness has been reported from Rawalpindi district from where as many as 623 patients have already lost their lives due to the disease. It is however important that the highest number of patients have been tested posit.....
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29 more die from corona
LAHORE: Around 29 corona patients died and 529 new infections were confirmed in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) report issued on Tuesday, the toll of fatalities reached 5,237, while confirmed cases reached 168,403 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 12,157 tests have been conducted i..... more >>

First round of vaccination completes in Sahiwal
LAHORE: The District Health Authority (DHA) of Sahiwal has achieved 100 percent Covid-19 vaccination coverage of registered healthcare workers within time to complete the first round of vaccination. As Covid-19 vaccination drive for healthcare workers was initiated across Punjab from first week of February, District Health Authorities (DHAs) of Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Nankana Sahib, Chiniot, Sa..... more >>

Punjab sees highest number of deaths in 24 hours: NCOC
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
ISLAMABAD: Punjab recorded the highest number of Covid-19 deaths over the last 24 hours, followed by Sindh, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) informed on Wednesday. Pakistan recorded at least 50 more fatalities on Tuesday, out of which 32 occurred in Punjab. The country's death toll has now reached 12,708. The country's nerve centre for Covid-19 response added that the tota..... more >>

Senior citizens to get Covid-19 jabs
Source: Adnan Lodhi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
LAHORE: The Punjab government has developed a vaccination strategy to conduct the second phase of the anti-coronavirus inoculation drive whereby senior citizens over the age of 65 years would be administered shots from March onwards. In this connection, the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Captain (retd) Muhammad Usman had written a letter to the provincial ..... more >>

Govt not to disrupt education again Closure of institutions last year affected 40m students in Punjab
Source: Yousaf Abbasi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
LAHORE: The provincial authorities have decided not to shut educational institutions to deal with a situation like the coronavirus outbreak in future. Senior officials decided in a meeting that the educational institutions in Punjab will be kept open this year in the light of the ongoing measures taken by the government to curb the coronavirus. The participants were informed that almost a whole e..... more >>

Coronavirus SOPs; 23 shops, stores, marriage halls sealed
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
LAHORE: The City District Administration has sealed 23 shops, stores, marriage halls and imposed Rs80,000 fine on violations of coronavirus related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) here on Tuesday. According to a spokesperson of the District Administration, Assistant Commissioner Cantonment Zoha Shakir sealed six shops in his jurisdiction area and imposed Rs70,000 fine on overcharging, an..... more >>
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<td>Punjab launches safe campuses programme</td>
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<td>5 departments of Pakistan Medical Commission sealed after confirmation of COVID-19 cases</td>
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<td>Muhammad Qasim, The News, International, 2021-02-25</td>
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32 more die of Covid in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Daily Times, 2021-02-25
LAHORE: With 543 new infections, the Covid-19 claimed 32 more lives in Punjab during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 5,269. According to the new updates released on Wednesday, the number of the total confirmed cases in Punjab has reached 168,891. Most of them – 406 – were reported from Lahore which has been at the top among other districts. Others were reported from Jhan.....
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Four die of Covid-19 in Rawalpindi
Source: Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
RAWALPINDI: The district saw four more casualties and another 32 Covid-19 infections on Wednesday as 44 people recovered from the deadly virus and were discharged from hospitals. Nisar Ahmed, 55, a resident of Raniyal Chakri Road, was brought to Hearts International Hospital on Feb 23 where he died on Wednesday. Zeenat Saleem, 78, from Satellite Town, passed away in Pims on Tuesday night where s.....
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Punjab sees highest corona deaths in single day
Source: Tahir Niaz, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
ISLAMABAD - The Punjab province recorded the highest number of Covid-19 deaths over the last 24 hours, followed by Sindh, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Wednesday. The NCOC said that the country reported 50 more deaths on Wednesday morning, out of which 32 occurred in Punjab only. It said of the 50 fatalities reported, eight were reported from Sindh, seven in KP, one in I.....
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One death, another 179 test positive
Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another life from Rawalpindi district in the last 24 hours taking death toll from the district to 628 while as many as 494 patients from Islamabad Capital Territory have already died of the illness since the advent of coronavirus in Pakistan. The virus claimed no life from ICT in the last 24 hours however it is alarming that the number .....
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40 more die from corona
LAHORE: Around 40 corona patients died and 583 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 toll of fatalities reached 5,308 in Punjab, while confirmed cases became 169,474 in the province. As per the spokesperson for Corona Monitoring Room at P&SHD, 16,002 tests have been co.....
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Punjab barred from hindering trade on SOPs pretext
LAHORE: Hearing a petition, Justice Shahid Karim on Thursday directed the Punjab government not to create hindrance to the businesses on the pretext of COVID-19 SOPs. Representing a trader, Advocate Sheraz Zaka contended that the police officials were seeking illegal gratification from the petitioner and other traders. He said the police officials were not allowing the traders to open their.....
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Anti-corona vaccine; Drive for people above 60 years from March 8: Buzdar
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
LAHORE: Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said on Thursday that the foundation of a transparent Pakistan has been laid under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. “The PTI-led government is most transparent in the country’s history and not a single scandal has been exposed in its two and a half years,” he said. The CM maintained that Pakistan had been bestowed w.....
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Nine shops, stores sealed in City
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
LAHORE - The city district administration sealed nine shops, stores and imposed Rs 22,000 fine over corona SOPs violation here on Thursday. According to spokesperson of the district administration, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt Zoha Shakir sealed three shops, Master paints, Sajid Pan Shop and Moosa Mobile Shop and imposed Rs 22,000 fine on them. Assistant Commissioner City Faizan Ahmed sealed .....
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Footprints: A year, a man and a nation
Source: mran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
MEET the 23-year-old entrepreneur. He’s not a celebrity, neither a man of news nor even a socially active young man. But exactly a year ago, his mild fever and coughing shook more than 220 million people across the country. From people in power corridors to the security establishment and from national economic managers to health experts, his health became a point of concern for everyone. I.....
more >>

Sindh

853 health warriors vaccinated in Larkana
Source: Correspondent, Daily Times, 2021-02-23
As many as 853 frontline health warriors have so far been vaccinated against coronavirus viral disease here till Monday since February 17 when 2,500 vials of Sinopharm injections were supplied to Larkana division. Vaccination started at the Divisional Adult Vaccination Centre (DAVC) established at Chandka Medical College Hospital here for health workers of the entire Larkana division where approxi.....
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Covid kills one more as another 225 test positive
One more person has died due to Covid-19 and 225 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 4,293 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Monday that 9,869 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 225 people.....
more >>
Sindh posts 225 new cases of Covid-19
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-23
KARACHI: As many as 225 new cases of Covid-19 emerged while one more patient died overnight, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in a statement issued here on Monday. He added that the death toll lifted to 4,293 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Murad Ali Shah said 9,869 samples were tested which detected 225 cases that constituted 2.3 percent current detection rate. He added.....
more >>

COVID-19 claims one more life, infects 225 others
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-23
KARACHI - As many as one more patient of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,293 and 225 new cases emerged when 9,869 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Monday. He added that one more patient of COVID-19 lost his life lifting the death toll to 4,293 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Murad Al.....
more >>

Covid kills nine more as another 296 test positive
Nine more people have died due to Covid-19 and 296 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 4,301 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 9,077 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 296 peo.....
more >>

Nearly 300 new infections detected
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-24
KARACHI: Covid-19 claimed nine more lives in Sindh on Tuesday, when 296 new infections were confirmed, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on the day. The CM said the results of 9,077 samples were released on the day and of those nearly 300 were found infected, lifting the Covid-19 tally in the province to 256,740. Besides, he added, with nine more deaths, the cor.....
more >>

Health workers refusing Covid-19 jab to be sacked, warns minister
Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho has threatened to sack healthcare workers who would refuse to get themselves vaccinated against Covid-19. “We have started the process of Covid-19 vaccination in Sindh where all healthcare workers are being registered for the vaccination. All those healthcare workers who do not take part in the process of vaccination and get themselves vaccinated would .....
more >>

Registration of people over 60 for vaccination under way, SHC told
As many as 21,126 people of over 65 years have been registered by the government for Covid-19 vaccine AstraZeneca, which is safer for the above-60-year-old age group, the Sindh health secretary told the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday. Filing comments before the SHC that had directed the health department to apprise it about the vaccination policy for senior doctors and surgeons who were over.....
more >>
Coronavirus claims 14 more lives, infects 348 others
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 4,315. In the meantime, 410 patients remained under treatment at different hospitals, of whom the condition of 372 patients was stated to be critical and 50 of them were on life support. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday in his ....
more >>

Healthcare staff skipping vaccination drive to be sacked in Sindh
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
KARACHI: SindhHealth Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho warned healthcare workers opting against participating in the Covid-19 vaccination drive of being sacked, on Thursday. The provincial minister's caution came during a meeting held with district health officers. As many as 198,484 healthcare staffers have been registered at both the government and private levels for the campaign, Pechuho ..... more >>

Pandemic claims 14 more lives in Sindh
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
KARACHI: Sindh reported 348 new Covid-19 cases and 14 coronavirus-related deaths on Wednesday, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on the day. The CM stated that following the detection of new cases and recent deaths, the Covid-19 death toll in Sindh had climbed to 4,315 and the infection tally 257,088. According to him, 183 new cases were detected in Karachi, 25..... more >>

COVID-19 claims 14 more lives, infects 348 others
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
KARACHI - As many as 14 more patient of coronavirus died overnight in Sindh, lifting the death toll to 4,315 while 348 new cases emerged when 10,918 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that 14 more patient of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,315 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah said ..... more >>

Covid-19 kills seven more as another 319 test positive
Seven more people have died due to Covid-19 and 319 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 4,322 in the province. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Thursday that 8,709 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting i..... more >>

COVID-19 claims 7 more patients, infects 319 others
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
KARACHI - As many as 7 more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 4,322 and 319 new cases emerged when 8,709 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Thursday. He added that 7 more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 4,322 that constituted 1.6 percent death rate. Shah said ..... more >>
### International News

#### Countries News

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<tr>
<th><strong>WHO slams rich states for hogging vaccines</strong></th>
<th>Source: AFP, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-02-23</th>
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<td>GENEVA: The World Health Organisation on Monday blasted wealthy countries for not only hogging Covid vaccines but in doing so, hindering the pathway for poorer nations to get them too. WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said some rich countries’ direct deals with manufacturers had meant that previously-agreed vaccine allocations for poorer countries, via the Covax programme, we.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<th><strong>Johnson sets out cautious lockdown exit plan</strong></th>
<th>Source: Reuters, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-02-23</th>
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<td>LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson unveiled a map out of lockdown for England on Monday that would keep some businesses shuttered until the summer, saying caution was necessary to ensure there were no reversals on a “one-way road to freedom”. After imposing one of the strictest lockdowns in the western world last month to counter a highly contagious variant of the coronavirus.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<th><strong>US crosses 500,000th Covid-19 death</strong></th>
<th>Source: Reuters, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2021-02-23</th>
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<td>NEW YORK: The United States crossed the staggering milestone of 500,000 Covid-19 deaths on Monday — just over a year since the coronavirus pandemic claimed its first known victim in Santa Clara County, California. The country had recorded more than 28 million Covid cases and 500,054 lives lost as of Monday afternoon, although daily cases and hospitalisations have fallen to the lowest level .....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<th><strong>A day that will live in infamy: US nears 500,000th COVID-19 death</strong></th>
<th>Source: Agencies, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2021-02-23</th>
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<td>The United States on Monday closed in on the staggering milestone of 500,000 COVID-19 deaths just over a year to the day since the coronavirus pandemic claimed its first known US victims in Santa Clara County, California. The country had recorded more than 28 million COVID-19 cases and 499,510 lives lost as of Monday morning, according to a Reuters tally of public health data, although daily deaths and hospitalisations have fallen to the lowest level .....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<th><strong>Sri Lanka Muslims protest Covid cremations as PM Imran arrives</strong></th>
<th>Source: AFP, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em>, 2021-02-23</th>
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<td>COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's minority Muslims demonstrated in Colombo on Tuesday demanding an end to forced cremations of Covid-19 victims as Prime Minister Imran Khan arrived on an official visit. Dozens of Muslims carried a mock janazah, or coffin, denouncing the Sri Lankan government's policy of banning burials of virus victims disregarding their funeral rites. The demonstration was aimed at t.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Muslims demonstrated in Colombo on Tuesday for an end to forced cremations of Covid-19 victims as Prime Minister Imran Khan arrived on an official visit. The demonstrators carried a mock janazah, denouncing the Sri Lankan government's policy of banning burials of virus victims disregarding their funeral rites. The demonstration was aimed at the visit of Imran Kha.....more &gt;&gt;</td>
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Ghana first to get vaccines under global Covax scheme
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
ACCRA: Ghana became the first country to receive vaccines from the global Covax scheme on Wednesday, paving the way for poorer nations to catch up with inoculation drives in wealthier parts of the world to stamp out the coronavirus pandemic. But Europe's vaccine rollout faced fresh woes after AstraZeneca said it would only be able to deliver half its promised doses to the EU, deepening ongo.....
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Malaysian king allows parliament to sit
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia’s king said on Wednesday parliament can sit during a state of emergency, in a blow for the embattled prime minister whose government is on the verge of collapse. Parliament has been suspended since the king declared a national emergency last month to fight the coronavirus, following a request from Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin as cases spiralled out of control. The.....
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Some common-cold antibodies may help fight Covid-19, reveals study
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
The following is a roundup of some of the latest scientific studies on the novel coronavirus and efforts to find treatments and vaccines for Covid-19, the illness caused by the virus. Some common-cold antibodies might help fight Covid-19 Antibodies to the six coronaviruses that cause common colds cannot "neutralize" the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, but antibodies to two of them mi.....
more >>

IMF MD warns Covid-19 leaving some states behind
Source: Reuters, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
WASHINGTON: Group of 20 countries should take strong policy actions to reverse a "dangerous divergence" that threatens to leave most developing economies languishing for years, the head of the International Monetary Fund said in a blog on Wednesday. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said "much stronger international collaboration" was needed to accelerate the roll.....
more >>

Vaccines first and foremost for the rich?
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
The World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General (DG) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a virtual press conference with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on February 22, 2021 has blasted wealthy countries for hogging Covid vaccines, which is depriving poorer countries from getting them. So far we were privy to concerns that the rich and poor within countries may get unequal treatment in ter.....
more >>

WHO slams rich states for hogging vaccines
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-02-23
The World Health Organization on Monday blasted wealthy countries for not only hogging Covid vaccines but in doing so, hindering the pathway for poorer nations to get them too. WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said some rich countries’ direct deals with manufacturers had meant that previously-agreed vaccine allocations for poorer countries, via the Covax programme, were being.....
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Prioritise vaccine contracts with COVAX initiative: WHO chief
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2021-02-24
The head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) has called on manufacturers to prioritise contracts with the UN-led equitable vaccines initiative, COVAX, declaring that it’s “not a matter of charity, it’s a matter of epidemiology”. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was speaking at WHO’s regular bi-weekly briefing for journalists on the latest efforts to curtail the Covid-19.....
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US govt gifts IT Wall to Punjab Health Dept to fight Covid-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2021-02-26
Lahore - The United States government has provided Punjab Health Department IT Wall to better equip its Covid-19 Command and Control Centre in recording coronavirus statistics in the province. The United States Agency for International Aid (USAID) has collaborated with the Federal Health Ministry to strengthen Command and Control Centers at the provincial health secretariats of the country. The IT.....
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SDPI Engagements

Researchers Articles

Could the impact of Covid-19 lead to a technology transformation in Pakistan?
Source: Brigadier Mohammad Yasin (Retired), The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-23
Alongside the huge socio-economic repercussions, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought about technological transformations in every walk of life. Technology has never been used at such a massive scale before to keep people engaged and updated regarding the existential threats and counter measures being taken to eradicate the harmful effects of this virus. Information and Communication Technologies (IC.....more >>

Inadequate conservation
Conservation strategies in Pakistan have remained problematic both for the government and for communities living in the protected areas. State conservation policies do not support the inclusion of local communities in the process of decision-making, and national parks are created without consulting them and taking their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), regarding boundaries, regulations an.....more >>

China debt relief diplomacy and shared prosperity
Source: Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Daily Times, 2021-02-23
To understand the term “debt relief diplomacy” we first need to understand the ontology of Chinese international relation and its comparison with Western ontology. Zhao Tingyang, 2006 defined the major difference as Chinese ontology is “ontology of relation” while the Western is “ontology of things”. According to him Chinese model strive for transformation of re.....more >>

Related News

ANF Holds Leadership Training For GCU Students
Source: APP, Urdu Point, 2021-02-23
LAHORE, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 23rd Feb, 2021 ) :The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF)academy, Punjab, organised a three-day intense multi-sectoral leadership training for the students of Government College University (GCU) Lahore on the request of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asghar Zaidi. Besides the members of the University’s Anti-Narcotics Society, the presidents of other leading soci.....more >>

Leadership training for students organised
LAHORE: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Academy, Punjab organised a three-day intense multi-sectoral leadership training for the students of Government College University (GCU) Lahore on the request of Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi. Besides the members of the University's Anti-Narcotics Society, the presidents of other leading societies, including Debating Society and Dramatics Club ar.....more >>
Call for integrating private sector demands with PSDP
Islamabad: Member (Private Sector Development) at the Planning Commission Asim Saeed on Wednesday said the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives is the investment arm of the government and is keen to align private sector demands in PSDP. He was addressing a meeting of Industry and Enterprise Sub-Committee meeting of National Advisory Committee of Planning Commission th.....

Speakers Suggest Integrating Private Sector With PSDP As A Step Forward To Industry
Source: APP, Urdu Point, 2021-02-25
ISLAMABAD, (APP – Urdu Point / Pakistan Point News - 24th Feb, 2021 ): Member, Private Sector Development, Planning Commission, Asim Saeed said that “Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives is the investment of the government and is keen to align private sector demands in PSDP. This was stated in a press release issued on Wednesday, however, to do the needful, private se.....

Fine on ‘defiling’ water to go up to Rs10m from Rs1,500
Source: Rizwan Shehzad, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2021-02-25
ISLAMABAD: In 1860, a fine of Rs500 for polluting water of any public spring or reservoir was a stupendous amount. However, in the 21st century, there are several crimes that seem big and make headlines but the sentences and fines that they carry are just a sad reminder that we are still living in the 19th or 20th century. One such crime is fouling water of public spring or reservoir which had s.....