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December 26, 2020: National / International [Current Affairs](#)

1. IMF allows govt to delay sales, income tax measures

- At a time when the economy is grappling with second wave of Covid-19, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has accepted Pakistan`s plea to delay implementation of some significant tax measures for a period of six months.
 - The agreement was reached during technical-level talks on delaying tax measures in the sales tax act and on changes in the personal income tax slabs, well-placed sources in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).
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2. PTA issues notice to Wikipedia, Google

- The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has issued notices to Google Inc. and Wikipedia for `disseminating sacrilegious content`.
 - `PTA has been receiving complaints about misleading search results associated with Present Khalifa of Islam and unauthentic version of the Holy Quran uploaded by the Ahmadiyya Community on Google Play Store.
 - `Being a matter of very serious nature, PTA has approached Google Inc. with the directions to immediately remove the unlawful content,` the statement said
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3. Air Sial launches Karachi-Islamabad service

- Air Sial on December 25, 2020 started its Karachi-Islamabad flights operation using Airbus A320XLR.
 - Prime Minister Imran Khan had inaugurated Air Sial on Dec 9, the third private airline of Pakistan, which had been launched and operated by Sialkot`s business community, initially with three Airbus A320XLRs.
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4. DRAP`s mobile App starts receiving drug reaction complaints

- The MED safety mobile application of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan`s (DRAP) has started receiving complaints on adverse drug reactions (ADRs) from citizens across the country for taking action.
 - Sharing details of the mobile App with the APP, Director Pharmacy Services DRAP Dr Abdur Rashid December 24, 2020 said in case of any such grievance, the victims could lodge a complaint with DRAP through the App
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5. Legendary writer Shamsur Rehman Faruqi succumbs to virus

- Celebrated Urdu critic Shamsur Rehman Faruqi, who began his literary journey by waiting for many an editor`s rejection slip and discovered his early success printed on a grocer`s paper bag, succumbed to complications from coronavirus on December 24, 2020, a month after apparently recovering from it. He was 85.
 - Among Urdu`s most respected literary critics, poets and authors, Mr Faruqi died at his home in Allahabad shortly after being brought there by his family from Delhi
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6. Tunisia extends 5-year-old state of emergency

- The Tunisian presidency announced a six-month extension of the country`s state of emergency, in place since a 2015 attack on a presidential guard bus claimed by the Islamic State group.
- President Kais Saied “decided on the six-month extension of the nationwide state of emergency, from December 26, 2020, to June 23, 2021,” a statement said. The measure,

extended continuously since late 2015, grants exceptional powers to the country's security forces

7. Khalifa Haftar urges troops 'drive out' Turkish forces

- Eastern Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar has called on his fighters to "drive out" Turkish forces backing the UN-recognised government, as talks drag on to end long-running war in the oil-rich nation.
 - "There will be no peace in the presence of a coloniser on our land," Haftar said, in a speech to mark Libya's 69th anniversary of its independence on Thursday. "We will therefore take up arms again to fashion our peace with our own hands... and, since Turkey rejects peace and opts for war, prepare to drive out the occupier by faith, will and weapons," Haftar said
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8. Scientists chemically age quantum dots in a test tube

- Researchers from MIPT and the RAS Institute of Problems of Chemical Physics have proposed a simple and convenient way to obtain arbitrarily sized quantum dots required for physical experiments via chemical aging.
 - The study was published in Materials Today Chemistry. Colloidal quantum dots are nanosized crystals whose size determines the frequency at which they emit and absorb electromagnetic radiation.
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9. Boko Haram kills 11 in Christmas Eve attack

- Nigeria-Boko Haram militants killed at least 11 people, burnt a church and seized a priest on Christmas Eve in Nigeria's restive northeast.
- Security agencies had in recent days warned of an increased risk of attack during the holiday season.
- Fighters in trucks and motorcycles stormed Pemi, a predominantly Christian village in Borno state Thursday, shooting "indiscriminately" and setting buildings on fire, said Abwaku Kabu, a militia leader

10. Ex-England batsman Edrich passes away

- Former England batsman John Edrich, who made more than 100 first-class centuries, has died at the age of 83, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).
 - Edrich scored more than 5,000 runs for England during a 77-match Test career, including 12 centuries. The former Surrey captain notched 103 hundreds and more than 39,000 runs in first-class cricket
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