



E-Newsletter on **COVID - 19**



Issue: May 6, 2020
Vol. 1, No, 1, May 2020

.....About Newsletter

In order to keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI brings out a Daily E-Newsletter on "COVID-19". It carries reference information's to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.

Diseases

96 locals tested positive taking tally to 1,144

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-06

Rawalpindi :: The confirmation of patients for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 set a new record regarding number of patients tested positive for the disease in one day in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as 96 locals were confirmed positive for the disease in last 24 hours while another 117 travelers who reached Rawalpindi from Abu Dhabi were also tested positive. Data collected b.....

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Comstech virtual seminar on COVID-19 today

Source: [APP, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-06

Islamabad: Comstech is arranging an online seminar on COVID-19 epidemiology and its ramification for wider public health and health sciences particularly for the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states today (May 6). Prof Dr Saad B Omer will conduct the seminar and will give insights of COVID-19 epidemiology globally with prospects of vaccine development. Prof Omer is the[more >>](#)

Webinar on role of media during COVID-19 crisis

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-06

Islamabad : A webinar on 'Press Freedom and Journalism During Crisis' was held here in partnership with the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan and Media Matters for Democracy. It was attended by more than 50 participants from civil society, media professionals, academia, international organisations and.....

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Funds for Covid-19 tests

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-06

LAHORE: A non-governmental organization is providing financing to a private lab to initiate Covid-19 testing at subsidized rates. With this funding, the lab's capacity will increase to carry out an estimated 500 tests daily and more than 10,000 tests a month. The NGO, Karandaaz Pakistan, in addition to the financing at zero percent mark-up, will provide the private lab a grant for sub.....

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Plan to ease lockdown aims to mitigate miseries of poor: governor Sarwar

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LAHORE:Governor Ch Muhammad Sarwar has said the government's plan to further ease lockdown is aimed at mitigating miseries of the poor and daily wage earners. He said hunger has also started posing a big threat to people in the country. The governor said the existing lockdown period is ending on May 9 and there were reports that the coronavirus cases may increase. "War against.....

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Another dies of corona in Takhtbhai

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Corona victim laid to rest under WHO's protocols

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Karachi's seven COVID-19 treating hospitals have only 76 reserved ventilators altogether

Source: [M. Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-06

In Karachi, a city of around 20 million people, there are only 76 ventilators or intensive care unit (ICU) beds at the seven public and private hospitals for serious patients who require life-support after contracting the coronavirus, The

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Worldwide virus deaths top 256,000

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COVID-19 positive doctor exposes poor state of affairs at PIMS

Source: [Shahina Maqbool](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-06

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PM, cabinet responsible if corona situation worsens: Qamar Zaman Kaira

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-06

LAHORE: Pakistan Peoples Party Central Punjab President Qamar Zaman Kaira has said if the situation worsens due to coronavirus, responsibility will fall on the prime minister and his cabinet, demanding the federal government should release the entire share to Punjab under the NFC. Addressing a press conference after the PPP Lahore Division (Rural) video link meeting in the PPP Punjab Secre.....

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Source: [Dr Manzoor Ali Isran](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-06

The writer works as professor in the department of management sciences at SZABIST, Karachi. The Covid-19 pandemic is relentless. It does not recognise cast, colour, class, age and region. It is everywhere – exposing the vulnerabilities of the global capitalist system driven by the neoliberal order that emerged in the post-cold war era as a panacea to all the social economic and health.....

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Democracy in a pandemic

Source: [Fahd Humayun](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-06

Pakistan still has a long way to go in the fight against Covid-19, with almost 20,000 confirmed cases, and doctors and hospitals facing a harrowing shortage of testing kits and PPEs. The downstream consequences of the pandemic now include the inevitability of an economic contraction. Data from the Ministry of Health suggests that over 150,000 citizens will be infected with the virus by the.....[more >>](#)

Covid-19 and us

Source: [Sultan Muhammad Khan](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-06

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Covid disparities

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Repatriation of coronavirus-positive expats: FO takes up issue with UAE

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ISLAMABAD/DUBAI: Pakistan has raised concerns with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that workers are returning home from the Gulf nation with alarmingly high prevalence rates of COVID-19 and highlighted that crowded living conditions in the UAE may be helping the contagion to spread, the Foreign Ministry said. "It has been taken up officially with UAE authorities," Foreign Office.....

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Risks in pursuing a unilateral agenda

Source: [Talat Masood, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-06

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Pims seals MCH, operating theatre after 15 staffers test positive

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Twin cities witness record rise in virus cases

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn](#), 2020-05-06

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: The twin cities saw a record rise in Covid-19 cases on Tuesday. Islamabad witnessed a spike in the number of patients as 49 new cases were reported in a single day, taking the tally to 464. The number of suspected patients also increased from 1,820 to 1,874 in the capital, officials said. In Rawalpindi, another 47 people were diagnosed with Covid-19, most of them from the

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Villain of the crisis

Source: [Faisal Ali Raja, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-06

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Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-06

Instead of putting up a joint fight against the coronavirus, our political leadership is fighting against each other. While the PPP that rules Sindh province insists on a strict, curfew-like lockdown to contain the spread of the virus and is trying to go about it as well, the PTI that leads the Centre as well as the provinces of Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa is more concerned about the sinking eco.....

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Funding a vaccine

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-06

A global effort to research, manufacture, and distribute treatment and a hypothetical future vaccine for the coronavirus crossed \$8 billion in pledged funds in a matter of hours. The effort was led by the EU, the UK, Norway and Saudi Arabia. Leaders from Japan, Canada, South Africa and dozens of other countries also participated in the virtual summit. China was represented by its ambassador to the.....

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40 deaths, 1,049 new cases by coronavirus in Pakistan over past 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-06

Forty deaths due to coronavirus and 1049 new confirmed cases have been reported in the country during past 24 hours. The total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country have mounted to 22,550. Of these, 8,189 were reported in Sindh, 8,420 in Punjab, 3,499 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,495 in Balochistan, 485 in Islamabad Capital Territory 386 in Gilgit-Baltistan, and 76 in Azad Kashmir. Over six.....

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Unlocking the economy: Keep going

Source: [Dr Kamal Monnoo](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-06

These days there is this pointless war of words going on in the political arena and also, to some extent, in the civil society. A segment of some pseudo socialist writers and opinion-makers are accusing the government of not enforcing the lockdown the way it should have been done and for allowing key businesses to operate. They claim that this is just because the government wants to support the co.....

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Number of Covid-19 cases increasing in KP: PPP

Source: [Naveed Butt](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-06

ISLAMABAD: Senior leaders of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) have said that due to low testing capacity in the province, the number of the Covid-19 patients is increasing. "The whole of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, except Peshawar, cannot be tested for coronavirus. The whole world is praising the Sindh government for taking precautionary measures against the coro.....

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Smart way to relax lockdown

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-06

Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar was right when he observed that many thousands of people had died so far in Europe and the US yet they were 'relaxing their lockdowns to run their economies', implying that the same should be done in Pakistan despite all the risks, but he missed a few rather important points. While for some unexplained reasons, the coronavirus has hit parts o.....

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Covid-19 has killed the IMF backlash?

Source: [Dr Sajjad Akhtar](#) , [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-06

Just as Covid-19 may have killed the tech backlash (as reported in The Economist), it may have also killed the IMF backlash (on-going since August'19) in this country. The politicians, media, gurus, businessman and speculators are

heaving a sigh of relief at reading the obituary of structural reforms, in the form of 'hold' put on the EFF programme. Hopefully, this obituary.....

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Pakistan to seek \$305mIn loan from ADB

Source: [Mehtab Haider](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-06

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is to seek another \$305 million of loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support its preventive and response efforts to fight the novel coronavirus outbreak, it was learnt on Tuesday. Officials said the government approved concept clearance paper for seeking loan from the Manila-based ADB for emergency assistance and fighting against COVID-19 pandemic. A meeting.....

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Diplomatic Initiatives

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-06

While the world suffers through a global pandemic, Pakistan's Foreign Office and diplomatic strategies continue to handle existing challenges, as well as take on new initiatives. One of these initiatives is the plan to spearhead a global effort to achieve lenient economic terms for developing countries, which are already suffering due to the pandemic. This plan has demonstrated Prime Mi.....

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Country records highest virus infections in single day

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-06

LAHORE - As authorities are preparing to announce more relaxation in the lockdown, the cases of coronavirus infections are rising to an alarming level across the country. According to figures released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), twenty-four deaths caused by coronavirus and 1,315 new infections were reported in country during the past 24 hours. The total confirmed cas.....

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Health Governance

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Nationalisation of hospitals?

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-06

The Sindh chapter of the Young Doctors Association has demanded of the federal and provincial governments to nationalise private hospitals during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, claiming that private hospitals were focusing more on making money than on treating patients. Undoubtedly, the demand is driven by humanitarian concerns. The idea appears to be noble, but before deciding to nationalise p.....

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40 deaths, 1,049 new cases by coronavirus in Pakistan over past 24 hours

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-06

Forty deaths due to coronavirus and 1049 new confirmed cases have been reported in the country during past 24 hours. The total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country have mounted to 22,550. Of these, 8,189 were reported in Sindh, 8,420 in Punjab, 3,499 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,495 in Balochistan, 485 in Islamabad Capital Territory 386 in Gilgit-Baltistan, and 76 in Azad Kashmir. Over six.....

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Unlocking the economy: Keep going

Source: [Dr Kamal Monnoo, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-06

These days there is this pointless war of words going on in the political arena and also, to some extent, in the civil society. A segment of some pseudo socialist writers and opinion-makers are accusing the government of not enforcing the lockdown the way it should have been done and for allowing key businesses to operate. They claim that this is just because the government wants to support the co.....

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Smart way to relax lockdown

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-06

Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar was right when he observed that many thousands of people had died so far in Europe and the US yet they were 'relaxing their lockdowns to run their economies', implying that the same should be done in Pakistan despite all the risks, but he missed a few rather important points. While for some unexplained reasons, the coronavirus has hit parts o.....

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Covid-19 has killed the IMF backlash?

Source: [Dr Sajjad Akhtar, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-06

Just as Covid-19 may have killed the tech backlash (as reported in The Economist), it may have also killed the IMF backlash (on-going since August'19) in this country. The politicians, media, gurus, businessman and speculators are heaving a sigh of relief at reading the obituary of structural reforms, in the form of 'hold' put on the EFF programme. Hopefully, this obituary.....

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Pakistan to seek \$305mIn loan from ADB

Source: [Mehtab Haider, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-06

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is to seek another \$305 million of loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support its preventive and response efforts to fight the novel coronavirus outbreak, it was learnt on Tuesday. Officials said the government approved concept clearance paper for seeking loan from the Manila-based ADB for emergency assistance and fighting against COVID-19 pandemic. A meeting.....

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Coronavirus: a simulator to sensitize climate crisis

Source: [Fayaz A Soomro, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-06

Countries around the world are fixed around one particular question that how to have immediate recovery from the pandemic. Recovery from the pandemic is more of an enigma. It is one of the biggest challenges of 21st century to solve this mystery and put the genie of corona virus back into the bottle. The tiny virus made all human agendas stand still, under one roof. It sealed the borders, distance.....

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The COVID-19 Pandemic

Source: [Fahad Hassan Chohan, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-06

The world is facing a global pandemic called the novel coronavirus or COVID-19. What started off as a disease spread by, reportedly, bats in Wuhan, China, has now become, unarguably, one of the greatest threats to the world. The disease was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, capital of China's Hubei province, and resulted in the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. As of April 29, 2020.....

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Diplomatic Initiatives

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-06

While the world suffers through a global pandemic, Pakistan's Foreign Office and diplomatic strategies continue to handle existing challenges, as well as take on new initiatives. One of these initiatives is the plan to spearhead a global effort to achieve lenient economic terms for developing countries, which are already suffering due to the pandemic. This plan has demonstrated Prime Mi.....

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Working Together

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-06

That 105 Pakistanis flown back to the country on a repatriation flight from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) tested positive for the coronavirus shows the lack of a comprehensive global strategy to curtail the spread of the virus. If things carry on like this, neither any state nor a so-called collective response will succeed in bringing down the number of infections anywhere. Since the governm.....

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Coronavirus: NCC to decide about relaxation in lockdown today

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-06

A meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) will be held in Islamabad on Wednesday to take decision regarding relaxation in lockdown after Saturday. This was stated by Information Minister Shibli Faraz while briefing media in Islamabad about decisions made in the cabinet meeting. He said all four chief ministers will attend the meeting to deliberate on next strategy. Shibli Faraz

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Country records highest virus infections in single day

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-06

LAHORE - As authorities are preparing to announce more relaxation in the lockdown, the cases of coronavirus infections are rising to an alarming level across the country. According to figures released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), twenty-four deaths caused by coronavirus and 1,315 new infections were reported in country during the past 24 hours. The total confirmed cas.....

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Medicine

The hunt for the vaccine

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-06

Finally, leaders of some of the world's richest nations have pledged billions of dollars not for some fancy weapons to be used in an artificially cooked up, politically correct war against a poor country with starving people, as usual, but rather for research to find a vaccine for the coronavirus pandemic. In the early days of the outbreak most people thought, quite naturally, that it would

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