



E-Newsletter on **COVID - 19**



Issue: May 9, 2020
Vol. 1, No, 4, 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

Fractures in many nations widen as virus lockdowns ease

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Regional and political rifts are emerging in many countries over how fast to lift the lid on the coronavirus lockdowns, as worries about economic devastation collide with fears of a second wave of deaths. French mayors are resisting the government's call to reopen schools, while Italian governors want Rome to ease lockdown measures faster. As the British government looks to reopen the economy.....[more >>](#)

Global coronavirus toll crosses 262,000: Countries easing lockdowns with caution

Source: [Jamila Achakzai](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

Islamabad : The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has increased the transgender persons' socioeconomic vulnerability and isolation, so short and long-term measures, especially by the government, are imperative to support them and ensure alternate means of livelihood in the changing environment. This was the crux of the presentations made by the representatives of the transgender communit.....

[more >>](#)

Corona cases surge ahead of lockdown ease: Pakistan slips two points in two days

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's position in the global ranking in respect of COVID-19 dropped from 24th to 22nd on Friday after the number of positive cases increased to 26,806 with addition of 1,791 new cases. The country ranked 20th and 29th in the global ranking on May 6 after reporting 1,000 positive cases and 20 deaths daily in five days. With the lockdown set to ease today (Saturday), the coron.....

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COVID-19 death toll tops 274,000

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

ISLAMABAD: At least 274,625 people have died of the novel coronavirus since the epidemic surfaced in China late last year, according to international media reports. There have been more than 3,984,488 officially recorded cases spanning 195 countries and territories. The United States is the worst-hit country, with 77,914 deaths. Britain follows with 31,241, then Italy with 30,201 deaths, S.....

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Will Covid-19 reshape Afghan peace?

Source: [Sherry Rehman](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

The writer is the PPP parliamentary leader in the Senate, president of the Jinnah Institute, and served as Pakistan's ambassador to the US. Pandemics have a way of sharpening existing social trends and political faultlines. As the Covid-19 virus sows its deadly harvest both in Pakistan and South-Central Asia, the prospect of renewed regional volatility hangs in the balance. Afghanis.....

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3 more die of COVID-19 in Pindi

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

Rawalpindi : The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 claimed three more lives here in the district in last 24 hours taking total number of deaths so far caused by the disease in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to 48 while 148 new patients have been tested positive in the region taking total number of patients so far confirmed to 1478. Data collected by 'The News' has reve.....

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Coronavirus cases reach 208 in Mardan

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

MARDAN: The number of coronavirus positive cases reached 208 in Mardan district while the test reports of 684 people came back negative, health sources said. So far, 11 people have died of coronavirus in the district. The sources added that 1,149 tests were conducted in the district so far while the reports of 265 suspected patients were still awaited. A total of 310 suspected coronavirus

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Pakistan sees biggest daily jump in coronavirus cases

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

A day after Prime Minister Imran Khan announced to ease lockdown restrictions in the country, around 2,000 new cases were recorded along with at least 20 fatalities on Friday. This was the highest jump recorded in a single day

so far. The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 26,955, with 10,033 cases reported in Punjab, 9,691 in Sindh, 4,327 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,873 in Balochistan, 3.....

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Sindh to ease restrictions from Monday; Balochistan goes for 'smart lockdown'

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

In the wake of federal government's decision to end countrywide lockdown in phases starting today, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah Friday announced that the province will ease lockdown from Monday. Speaking at a media briefing, the chief minister, however, said there will be a '100% lockdown' on Saturdays and Sundays in the provinces. He said industries related to the construc.....

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Pakistan calls for global war on Covid-19

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi Friday stressed the need for a multi-stakeholder global perspective approach to address the Covid-19 pandemic keeping in view its socioeconomic impact across the world. He was addressing foreign intellectuals through video link under his 'FM Connect Digital with Global Thought Leaders' initiative. The guests included Dr William Ury (Harvard Universi.....

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PM for out-of-box solutions to meet coronavirus economic challenges

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said out-of-box solutions are needed to meet the present day economic challenges in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak. He was chairing a meeting to review the economic situation and future outlook of the economy in the wake of Covid-19 situation. A detailed presentation was made by the Finance Ministry about the overall situation and the performance of various macroecon.....

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COVID-19 shutdown a boon for migratory birds in Pakistan

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

The abrupt silence caused by restrictions to stem the spread of coronavirus may have hit economies hard, leaving people jobless, but it has come as a boon for migratory birds, especially in Pakistan. With hunters and those dealing engaging in the sale of exotic birds have been forced to stay at home, migratory birds are making hay in Pakistan's warm waters. To avoid a stinging winter of Sibe.....

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Doctor, four paramedics of CMCH's ENT Department test positive for COVID-19

Source: [Jamal Dawoodpoto](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

The operation theatre and dressing room of the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Department of the Chandka Medical College Hospital (CMCH), Larkana, have been locked by paramedics after a lady doctor and four paramedics were tested COVID-19 positive on Friday. Dr Habib Soomro, Additional Medical Superintendent, CMCH, said that anti-bacterial spray has been carried out in the entire ward yesterday and today.....

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Casinos become food banks as Las Vegas workers wait out lockdown

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Michelle Manning pulled up at the Las Vegas casino around 2:30 am feeling confident. She and her sister were not planning to roll dice or play poker at the Palace Station, which like every gambling establishment in the desert city is shut due to coronavirus. Instead they arrived early enough to beat the six-mile (10-kilometer) line of cars that, each week, snakes around and out the sprawling park.....

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Hoping to cure virus, Syria labs churn out anti-malarial drug

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

In central Syria, factory owner Rashid al-Faysal watches his staff working tirelessly to churn out a controversial antimalarial drug that Damascus hopes can help treat the novel coronavirus. There is no proof yet hydroxychloroquine works to prevent or cure COVID-19, but Syrian doctors have been told to join others around the world in prescribing it for the time being. Faysal's.....

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Grim economic data reveals virus devastation

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

A new raft of bleak economic data laid bare the crippling worldwide impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Thursday, as hard-hit Europe moved to further ease lockdown measures in a bid to get people back to work. The United States said another 3.2 million people filed unemployment claims last week, while Germany and France reported major slumps in industrial production and Britain said its economic[more >>](#)

No apparent harm or benefit from hydroxychloroquine: study

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

A study performed in New York hospitals found no evidence of either harm or benefit from giving the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine to severely ill coronavirus patients. "The risk of intubation or death was not significantly higher or lower among patients who received hydroxychloroquine than among those who did not," the authors of the study said. They said the study, published on Thursday.....

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Up to 190,000 could die in Africa if virus containment fails: WHO

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Up to 190,000 people in Africa could die of coronavirus in the first year of the pandemic if containment measures fail, the World Health Organisation warned on Thursday. The UN health agency cited a new study by its regional office in Brazzaville which found that between 83,000 and 190,000 could die and 29 to 44 million be infected during the period. The research is based on prediction modelling and.....

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Neighbours help out as fighting virus trumps old rivalries

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Face masks are delivered across dividing lines in Ireland and Cyprus, the United Arab Emirates sends medical supplies to rival Iran, and China and Japan exchange rare warm words. The coronavirus pandemic may have exacerbated global tensions, especially between the United States and China. But in some cases it has also sparked cooperation between longtime rivals. In one ray of light amid the gloom, N.....

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Europe marks 75 years since end of WWII under virus shadow

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Europe marks 75 years since the end of World War II in a sombre mood Friday as the coronavirus pandemic forces the cancellation of elaborate ceremonies even as Berlin declares an exceptional holiday for the first time. Chancellor Angela Merkel will join President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in laying wreaths at Neue Wache — Germany's main memorial to the victims of war and dictatorship, fol.....

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Opposition slam govt for not handling COVID-19 properly

Source: [Hassaan Ahmed](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

The opposition in Punjab Assembly criticised the COVID-19 handling of the government while demanding safety kits for the medics of the province. The lawmakers from the opposition benches came down hard on the government for not providing facilities to the patients in the quarantine centers as there are reports that corona patients protested in several quarantine centers over lack of facilities. Acc.....

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Coronavirus deals 'powerful blow' to Putin's grand plans

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

The bombastic military parade through Moscow's Red Square on Saturday was slated to be the spectacle of the year on the Kremlin's calendar. Standing with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron,

President Vladimir Putin would have overseen a 90-minute procession of Russia's military might, showcasing 15,000 troops and the latest hardware. But that was before

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Back to business as usual?

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

It's back to business alright but not quite business as usual. That is how the world is treating these one-to-two weeks which are going to be central to the international fight against the coronavirus. There must be a reason that a number of countries from Asia Pacific to North America have chosen some time between the last week of April and the second week of May to relax their lockdowns. A.....

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Doctrine, policy, and strategy: COVID-19 fallout — An enhanced new normal!

Source: [Saad Masood](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

During peak holiday period, a person visiting a mega mall surprisingly finds a lot of empty areas, lesser people in the food court, enough space on the elevators and almost empty shops with nearly a third less people than expected. This is how the near future will look like after the Coronavirus pandemic! The English expression, "May you live in interesting times" is purportedly and ir.....

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PTI government willing to debate 18th Amendment revision

Source: [S M Hali](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Despite the country being hit by the pandemic COVID-19, the government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is continuing its relief efforts but is also considering the commencement of a debate on striking down the 18th Amendment to its Constitution. In past 12 years, Pakistan has observed that provincial Governments are enjoying full autonomy and power because of the 18th Amendment. Federation has

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COVID-19: Calls for prioritized research in developing countries

Source: [JAVAIRIA KHALID](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

COVID-19 has unveiled the frailty of our societies to global shocks such as disease or climate crisis. Public health experts are projecting that the center of the outbreak will shift from the United States and Europe and soon overwhelm developing countries throughout Africa, Latin America, South and Southeast Asia. The pandemic has emerged and spread amidst a scenario previously marked by overwhelm.....

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Is dystopia becoming current affairs?

Source: [Muhammad Omar Iftikhar](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

The depiction of dystopia in novels and movies has always mesmerized audiences. Such narratives provide a possible insight into what the world may seem like a half a century or more into the future. George Orwell's 1984, that he originally wrote and published in 1949, depict a totalitarian government in place in the year 1984. The government of Oceania monitors the verbal and physical action.....

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Talking about Kashmir in the time of coronavirus

Source: [Syed Ali Zia Jaffery](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Needless to say, the machinations of the powers that be, coupled with the COVID-19-induced insularity, will push the Kashmir cause farther from the table and off the radar. While the task to keep the issue alive is a gargantuan one in an inhospitable international landscape, it is certainly not impossible. Regardless of the difficulties involved in keeping the conundrum on the agenda of those that.....

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From Lockdown to Breakdown

Source: [Dr Shuja Ahmed Mahesar](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

It can be argued that the recent outbreak of Coronavirus has endangered lives of people across the world; disrupting the global economy and causing social disorganisation. Covid-19 has pushed mankind to face unprecedented social and economic challenges in its fight against the unseen enemy. In the war against the virus, Pakistan ramped up various strategies, which were mainly focused on lockdowns

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115 policemen infected with Covid-19 in Sindh

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn](#) , 2020-05-09

KARACHI: The number of coronavirus-infected policemen has gone up to 115, a police spokesperson said on Friday. "So far, 115 policemen and officers have been infected with the contagion." Out of them, five new cases emerged on Friday. The majority of the policemen belonged to Karachi. As many as 97 police personnel were under treatment at different hospitals while 15 policemen have b.....

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Five books to read as we struggle to survive the lockdown

Source: [Minaal Mohsin Maan](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

As the corona pandemic cases continue to mount higher and we are forced to stay inside our homes, it is becoming increasingly important to occupy ourselves in a way that both stimulates our mood in such a way that does not drain us. Reported cases of anxiety and depression are rising continuously due to the single undeniable fact that there is nothing to do, nowhere to go and no one except the pe.....

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Pakistan and Central Asian countries can beat Covid-19

Source: [Xinglan Hu / Kirthi Ramesh / Mariya Khatiwada Savchuk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

A forward-looking, regional approach is needed for countries in Central Asia to respond to the pandemic and prepare for future public health threats. From Ulaanbaatar, across the Central Asian Republics, and through the South Caucasus to the Black Sea — growing ties, trade and tourism have propelled the region's economic growth. Regional platforms such as the Central Asia Regional.....

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And we all fall down

Source: [Farrukh Khan Pitafi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

Pakistan is not the first country that comes to mind when you discuss Covid-19. The infection numbers are still relatively low here. The novel coronavirus related deaths are almost negligible. However, with a limited capacity to test it is hard to ascertain the true extent of the spread. A compounding factor is an even more limited capability to treat extreme cases. When the virus started spreadin.....

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Of issues, activism and Covid-19

Source: [Allia Bukhari](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

The need for activism in times of Covid-19 is greater than ever. Activists have expressed concern that the pandemic's impact would further exacerbate inequalities and rights violations. UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed called Covid-19 "a threat multiplier" fearing that health, humanitarian and development emergencies will aggravate the existing inequalities. This is pre.....

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Confirmed cases of coronavirus in Pakistan surge to 27, 474

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

The tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country has risen to 27, 474 with 1,637 new cases reported during the last twenty-four hours. 10,471 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 9691 in Sindh, 4327 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1876 in Balochistan, 421 in Gilgit Baltistan, 609 in Islamabad and 79 in Azad Kashmir. 7,756 patients have so far recovered from the virus whilst the death tol.....

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Pakistan and COVID-19; enabling peace in Afghanistan?

Source: [Remshay Ahmed](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

Pakistan which has been a harbinger of peace in Afghanistan; even before 9/11 necessitated the coining of the term. Pakistan now finds itself at a crossroads – wrestling with the COVID-19 pandemic with its role in Afghanistan far from over, even after the signing of the Doha Peace Deal. The US-Taliban Talks marked the advent of insurgent diplomacy as a useful tool in negotiating an armistice.....

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Fighting Polio

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

Another four cases of polio in Balochistan underline the need to refocus on the urgency of the polio threat in Pakistan. This year's vaccination efforts have been completely derailed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the extended lockdowns. Our collective focus has been understandably diverted, but another round of cases is cause enough to take stock of what we stand to lose if we

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Covid-19: Socio and macroeconomic impact

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

A report prepared by the sub-committee of the National Coordination Committee for Covid-19 titled "Covid-19: Preliminary macroeconomic and socio-economic assessment" has projected a cumulative loss of 628 billion rupees by June not including the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) shortfall projected at 600 billion rupees. The projections are preliminary because there is considerable.....

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Free market tanks

Source: [Syed Bakhtiyar Kazmi, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

"A quarter of French adults smoke. Many people were surprised, therefore, when researchers reported late in April that only 5% of 482 Covid-19 patients who came to the Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital in Paris between February 28th and April 9th were daily smokers. The ratios of smokers to non-smokers in earlier tallies at hospitals in America, China and elsewhere in France varied.....

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Tally of confirmed cases surges to 558 in capital

Source: [Fazal Sher, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 cases are rising sharply in the capital and the tally of confirmed cases surged to 558 on Friday, while the government has announced to further ease lockdown from today (Saturday). The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration had imposed partial lockdown in the city on March 24 closing shops, markets, shopping centers, and offices except for emergency service,.....

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Five more fall prey to coronavirus in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

With more five people falling victim to the novel coronavirus in a day, the death toll rose to 176 in Sindh on Friday. Four out of the deceased diagnosed with the COVID-9 belonged to Karachi. The new coronavirus cases which emerged in the province on Friday were 598. "Today is another unfortunate day when we have lost five lives – four in Karachi and one in Larkana – due

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Health governance

COVID-19 challenges: PM Imran Khan stresses out-of-box solutions

Source: [Mumtaz Alvi](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said out-of-box solutions were needed to meet the present day economic challenges in the wake of COVID-19 situation. He was chairing a meeting to review the economic situation and future outlook of economy in the wake of COVID-19 situation. A detailed presentation was made by the finance ministry about the overall situation and the performance o.....

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A bond broken

Source: [Aftab Siddiqui](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

A classic demonstration of the right hand not knowing what the left is doing was evident when Prime Minister Imran Khan appealed to Overseas Pakistanis (OPs) to donate generously to his PM Relief Fund for Covid-19 while leaving thousands of OPs from Britain, Canada, USA, EU, etc running around in circles trying to get a flight back to their home countries, right under his administration's no.....

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On our own

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

Was there a lockdown in the first place? This is the question that comes to mind while thinking about the easing of the lockdown announced by the prime minister on May 7. The National Coordination Committee (NCC) comprising top civil and military leaders, under the leadership of the PM have decided that the country would be opened in a "phased manner from Saturday". Small shops have be.....

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A shocking death and burial of a coronavirus patient

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

Rawalpindi : It was really a horrible experience to bury a confirmed patient of COVID-19, the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus as it was painful for the family members including sons who were unable to attend the funeral that was managed in a sense as a crime was committed, at least the behaviour of residents living around the graveyard convinced one to think so. Would you please d.....

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Impact of govt relief fails to trickle down to grassroots level

Source: [Khalid Iqbal, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

Islamabad : It has been rather unfortunate that despite a huge relief package of Rs50 billion for Utility Stores Corporation (USC) and a cut in POL products by almost 31 rupees in a month by the federal government, its impact has not trickled down to the grassroots level, as the general public is still buying daily use commodities at higher rates. Unfortunately, the federal government only.....

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Corona signifies importance of insurance

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

Islamabad: Chairman of the United International Group, Mian Shahid said Friday that the current economic meltdown because of coronavirus may impact the business volumes of the industry, which are yet to be ascertained. Speaking on the development, Mian Shahid said that we have planned to generate liquidity through divestment of some stake as the generation of internal capital has become es.....

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CM Usman Buzdar reviews virus control, lockdown

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

LAHORE:Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired a meeting at his office here Friday which was attended by Corps Commander Lahore Lt-Gen Majid Ehsan, GOC 10-Division Maj-Gen Aniq-ur-Rehman Malik, DG Rangers Punjab Maj-Gen Aamir Majeed, Chief Secretary Jawwad Rafique Malik, IG Police Shoaib Dastagir, ACS (Home), Commissioner Lahore, secretaries of health, food, agriculture and information departme.....

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2,201 FIRs on lockdown violation

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

LAHORE:Lahore police registered 2,201 FIRs against the people on different violations during the partial lockdown in the City. More than 223,930 citizens were checked at police pickets and 212,600 were issued warnings and they were told to contain their unnecessary movement. More than 4,445 citizens involved in unnecessary movement were arrested and released after taking warranty bonds

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Post-Covid planning

Source: [Arif Hasan](#), [Dawn](#) , 2020-05-09

BEFORE the coronavirus arrived, the directions for the development of Karachi had already been set in keeping with neoliberal thinking. The city was going to be 'gentrified', which meant taking away space from the poor both within the built city and in the rural areas for the use of elite functions. This also meant the development of fancy public spaces, parks and other follies that re.....

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UN appeals for \$6.7bn to fight Covid-19 in poor countries

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn](#) , 2020-05-09

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations called on governments, companies and billionaires on Thursday to contribute to a \$6.7 billion fund for immediate needs in fighting the coronavirus pandemic in vulnerable countries, warning that a failure to help could lead to a hunger pandemic, famine, riots and more conflict. UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said that Covid-19 has now affected every country a.....

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Buzdar reviews measures against coronavirus, roadmap of phased easing of lockdown

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired meeting at his office here on Friday which was attended by Corps Commander Lahore Lt. Gen. Majid Ehsan, GOC 10-Division Maj. Gen. Aniq ur Rehman Malik, DG Rangers Punjab Maj. Gen. Aamir Majeed, Chief Secretary Jawwad Rafique Malik, IG Police Shoaib Dastagir, ACS (Home), Commissioner Lahore, secretaries of health, food, agriculture and inform.....

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Murad Ali Shah for unity, identical narrative to fight coronavirus

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, addressing a press conference at Sindh Assembly building, said that there was a dire need of unity and identical narrative to fight coronavirus; otherwise we would not be able to get rid of this pandemic. "This is a war and in the war only those nations win who demonstrate national unity, cohesion, take timely decisions with collective wisdom." H.....

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Shibli Faraz discusses bilateral relations, COVID-19 situation with Japanese envoy

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Friday said it had been the endeavour of the government to care for both lives and livelihood following outbreak of coronavirus in the country. He said during a meeting with Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Kuninori Matsuda who called on him here. Matters relating to Pak-Japan bilateral relations, current COVID-19 situation and.....

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Doctrine, policy, and strategy: COVID-19 fallout — An enhanced new normal!

Source: [Saad Masood](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

During peak holiday period, a person visiting a mega mall surprisingly finds a lot of empty areas, lesser people in the food court, enough space on the elevators and almost empty shops with nearly a third less people than expected.

This is how the near future will look like after the Coronavirus pandemic! The English expression, “May you live in interesting times” is purportedly and ir.....

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Sindh govt wants to snatch Karachi traders' livelihood in the name of lockdown, claims Kamal

Source: [Azfar-ul-Ashfaque](#), [Dawn](#) , 2020-05-09

KARACHI: Lashing out at the Pakistan Peoples Party-led Sindh government, Pak Sarzameen Party chairman Syed Mustafa Kamal on Friday said that it appeared that the rulers of Sindh wanted to snatch the livelihoods of Karachi's business community in the name of lockdown measures to control the spread of coronavirus. He demanded that the government allow resumption of business activities by Mond.....

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Guidelines for protection of children during pandemic

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn](#) , 2020-05-09

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights on Friday issued guidelines for protection of children, during the Covid-19 pandemic, to create public awareness. According to the ministry's statement: “Parents can help children at home with their studies, due to closure of educational institutions. Parents must motivate their children to wash their hands again and again for twenty seconds. If any.....

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Sindh on same page as Centre on lifting lockdown

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

KARACHI: After weeks of sparring with the Centre on how to stem the tide of Covid-19 and stamp out the coronavirus pandemic, the Sindh government has finally agreed to follow the federal government's strategy and lift the lockdown in phases from Saturday (today). Similarly, Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa have also outlined their plans and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure t.....

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At least 1,000 Pakistani students in Wuhan to be repatriated

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

At least 1,000 Pakistani students stranded in Wuhan – once the epicentre of the novel coronavirus – will be repatriated via four special Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flights. The first special flight will depart for Wuhan on May 18. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Zulfikar Bukhari took to microblogging website T.....

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Between the devil and the deep sea?

Source: [M Ziauddin, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

The journey into the unknown is still on. The world still does not know when and how it would get rid of the devastating pandemic — Covid-19. Many countries have started claiming that within their borders the worst is over as the number of positive cases and deaths have gone down. Still, nobody seems sure if it is what it seems or just a deceptive pause. In Pakistan they say the worst is sti.....

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Frigid unconcern

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

Recently, a poor woman died due to heat and exhaustion after standing in a queue for hours at a NADRA office in Gujranwala to get her fingerprints verified so that she could receive the government aid under the Ehsaas Programme. Sahib Bibi fainted due to heat. She was rushed to the District Headquarter Hospital where she died. There have been reports in the media that people have to wait in long q.....

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COVID-19 – Using facts and information

Source: [Dr Obaid Ali, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

To take care of others, one needs to be aware of facts and real-time evidence. Calculations suggest that one among 200 or 300 or 600 people infected with corona died. This is calculated from battle zones such as the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, US, France, UK etc. This means if we have 200 or 300 patients, there is a possibility that two may go in critical condition. Treatment or a vaccine will sure.....

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Microbiology and biotechnology

Source: [Samson Simon Sharaf, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

Pakistan is caught in the midst of a pandemic. While the new tested cases and deaths are rising exponentially, the data is not conclusive. Testing through swabs and blood/faecal samples is like a drop in the ocean. Laboratories in Pakistan are under strain due to limited supply of imported testing kits and very limited capability in testing blood/faecal samples. Chinese testing kits are under crit.....[more >>](#)

Pakistan's testing capacity for COVID-19 is over 16,000 per day: WHO

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

Pakistan now has the capacity to perform over 16,000 tests a day for the coronavirus disease, as it pushes closer to its goal of carrying out 20,000 tests daily this month. The World Health Organisation's daily situation report, dated May 8, places the country's total testing capacity for the deadly virus at 16,596. Pakistan, as per the report, has 58 laboratories to date, majorit.....

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Rehman Malik demands free coronavirus testing for the poor

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan People's Party leader Senator Rehman Malik, on Friday, demanded of the government to ensure free coronavirus testing for the poor patients. He also submitted a resolution in the Senate so that the government could be advised not to take any fresh loans from international creditors. Malik Rehman, the Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior, asked the government.....

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Sindh govt won't lift lockdown on Monday

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has categorically said that Sindh was not ending the lockdown on Monday and "we are entering the second phase of lockdown with some extra restrictions, particularly at hotspots." he said According to a statement issued by the CM's House, the chief minister said that some media channels were giving the impression that the loc.....

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Around 108,592 Pakistanis seek repatriation to country

Source: [Ali Hussain](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

ISLAMABAD: Around 108,592 Pakistani nationals in various countries have sought repatriation back to the country, as coronavirus pandemic continues to impacts lives across the globe. In an informal virtual interaction with beat reporters on Friday, Foreign Office spokesperson Aisha Farooqui said that majority of those Pakistanis who have requested repatriation are those living in Gulf countri.....

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Partly Facetious;The corona challenge

Source: [Anjum Ibrahim](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

"Low income countries must ensure that Covid-19 containment strategies include the poor continuing to earn a living and access food. So in other words, these countries must ensure that some sectors remain open for the daily wage earners who in Pakistan are not registered and the food supply chain must not be disrupted." "You are twice noble." "What do you

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KP relaxes lockdown for construction sector industries

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-09

PESHAWAR: Advisor to KP CM on Information, Ajmal Khan Wazir has said that the provincial government has decided relaxation in lockdown for construction sector related industries. He said that under the second phase of

construction sector industries including steel, PVC pipes, electric equipment, ceramics, paint and aluminum manufacturing units would be opened. Similarly, he said sanitary, pa.....

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f precautions not followed, lockdown will have to be reimposed, says Shibli Faraz

Source: [Agencies](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Friday said people's cooperation is vital for the success of lifting the restrictions of lockdown. In a tweet, he said Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for various businesses will have to be implemented strictly. He said that lockdown would have to be imposed again if precautionary measures were not strict.....

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Experts call for providing COVID-19 patients at home with tele-consultation

Source: [M. Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

Expressing serious concern over dozens of unexplained deaths of asymptomatic COVID-19 patients in home isolation in Sindh, local and foreign health experts have advised the government to provide tele-consultation to the patients in home isolation on a regular basis. The experts also asked the patients and their family members to closely monitor their condition, and in case their health det.....

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Revenue dept proposes monetary reward for officials helping fight COVID-19

Source: [Salis bin Perwaiz](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

The Sindh revenue department has written a letter to Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah for sanctioning extra incentives to the officials and officers of different departments participating in the battle against COVID-19. The letter, which was sent to the CM on Friday, reads that as the coronavirus epidemic began, the health professionals became the front line force to combat it but

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Isolation ward handed over to Drosh hospital

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-09

CHITRAL: An isolation ward set up by Aga Khan Health Service at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital in Drosh, was handed over to the Health Department on Friday. District Health Officer Dr Shahzada Haiderul Mulk was chief guest at the ceremony in which AKHS representative Anwar Baig, Additional Assistant Commissioner Abdul Haq, hospital's medical superintendent Dr Ziaul Mulk were also prese.....

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Hoping to cure virus, Syria labs churn out anti-malarial drug

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

In central Syria, factory owner Rashid al-Faysal watches his staff working tirelessly to churn out a controversial antimalarial drug that Damascus hopes can help treat the novel coronavirus. There is no proof yet hydroxychloroquine works to prevent or cure COVID-19, but Syrian doctors have been told to join others around the world in prescribing it for the time being. Faysal's.....

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No apparent harm or benefit from hydroxychloroquine: study

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-09

A study performed in New York hospitals found no evidence of either harm or benefit from giving the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine to severely ill coronavirus patients. "The risk of intubation or death was not significantly higher or lower among patients who received hydroxychloroquine than among those who did not," the authors of the study said. They said the study, published on Thursd.....

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