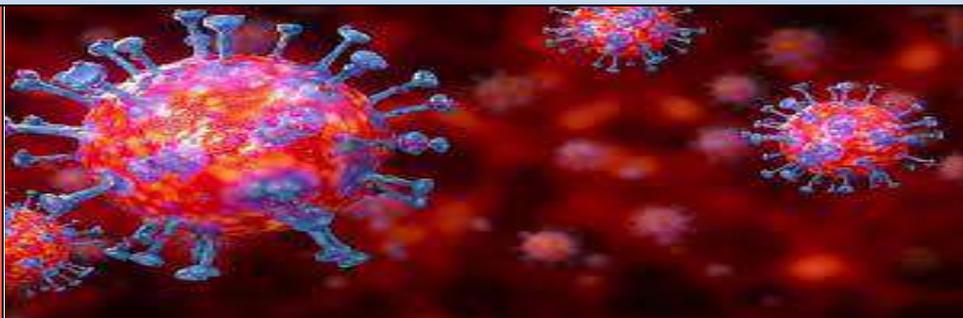


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



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Vol. 01, No, 08



.....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.

Newspapers Covered:

- Dawn
- The News
- The Express Tribune
- The Nation
- Business Recorder
- Daily Times
- Pakistan Observer
- Pakistan Today
- Urdu Point

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

The value of life

Source: [SYED BAKHTIYAR KAZMI](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

If you party for four days, strict abstinence for the remaining three days will probably not get you off the hook. In substance, you have a lockdown or you don't – the virus is not going to take "off days" whilst its hosts go on a shopping spree, so this debate is now useless. The lockdown is over, we have already decided that Covid-19 is too serious a business to be left to the doctors – accordingly, let's sta.....[view more](#)

Premature lockdown easing

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

Since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, the debate about the correct course to follow to meet the challenges thrown up by the crisis has been bogged down in uncertainty, confusion, contradictory policies, political point scoring and an absence of a coherent national policy. If proof were required for the above statement, the easing of the lockdown provided it in ample measure. As soon as smaller bazaars and shops opened countrywide, people and.....[view more](#)

Blindly to oblivion

Source: [Irfan Husain](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

EVER since I started reading the newspapers, the phrase 'Pakistan at the crossroads' has entered my consciousness and my vocabulary. Except this time, it's where the whole world finds itself. And it's not just the Covid-19 pandemic I'm talking about. We are at the intersection of multiple crises that threaten our planet as we know it. And the fact that they are of our own making should make us reflect. Consider: ap.....[view more](#)

Vaccine for success

Source: [Fahd Husain](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

IN the fight against Covid-19, some countries have registered certified successes while many others have been spectacular failures. On this spectrum, where is Pakistan located? In order to make this assessment, it may be prudent to first lay out some caveats. First, since the global struggle against the virus is nowhere near an end, success and failure are relative in terms of time and scale. Second, the first round of this war — which is[view more](#)

Some take science seriously

Source: [Pervez Hoodbhoy](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

WHEN the coronavirus suddenly emerged in Wuhan province, panicked Chinese authorities botched it badly and were sharply criticised internationally. Yet rapid self-correction led to a systematic, comprehensive and coordinated response. Soon China 'flattened the curve' drawing praise from everywhere (except the US). Now, by sending thousands of ventilators and millions of masks overseas, China is re-imaging itself as a world leader batt.....[view more](#)

Violating SOPs

Source: [Editorial, Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

A VIRUS which has wreaked havoc in far more developed countries is gaining ground in Pakistan, yet the public largely appears to have thrown caution to the wind and is resuming commercial activities as if it is somehow immune to the coronavirus. Even as daily new cases rise, the relaxations in the lockdown continue and the public seems to be in no mood to comply with SOPs. A record jump in Covid-19 cases was reported only days after the reopening.....[view more](#)

Time to act in unison

Source: [Majid Siddiqui, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

There is little denying that the ruling PTI stands exposed today over its vociferous claims of turning things around in Pakistan. During its nearly two-year-long life in power so far, the Imran Khan party has terribly failed to tackle the very many problems facing the country. While its performance, pre-Covid, was nothing much to write home about, its inexperience and incompetence are laid bare post-Covid. Since the novel coronavirus cr.....[view more](#)

What is wrong with us?

Source: [Farrukh Khan Pitafi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

Deconstruct this. The authorities are gradually relaxing the lockdown restrictions. This was to be expected. How long can a society suspend its economics and shutter its businesses? Not indefinitely. But when the threat is so widespread, self-evident and every day marks a new spike in the spread of the virus you expect some measure of common sense to prevail. The purpose of any lockdown or restrictions is to ensure the safety of the citizens. The.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: controlling the xenophobic momentum

Source: [Raja Khalid Shabbir, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

As an emergency room doctor, I have witnessed on many occasions an aspect of the coronavirus pandemic which I feared for long: panic and the resultant stigma. The moment a patient coughs in the ER, the people closest take retreating steps and the patient turns into a social outcast. This goes to the extent that he finds it impossible to get a cab back home. That cough can be the result of a million things. Maybe he ate a peanut, the specks[view more](#)

Not all wounds are visible

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

The coronavirus lockdown which has effectively imprisoned an entire country is now nearly three months old and the WHO has warned that there are risks of a global mental health crisis. In a statement, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres pointed out that decades of underinvestment in mental health means that the pandemic is hitting families and communities hard; and grief, anxiety and depression will continue affecting populations even after the.....[view more](#)

Not with a bang but a whimper

Source: [Sarwar Bari / Paul Scott, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

Do we have a new global dividing line marked by a pre-virus and post-virus world? Will the world be what it once was before the virus spread? It may be shocking to say but we hope not. Yes, we understand and deeply sympathise with the death and loss caused by Covid-19. But this pandemic is also the wake-up call. Quickly returning to business and behaviour as usual will cure nothing. Hopefully the damage caused by the virus can help create a world.....[view more](#)

How China won the battle against COVID-19

Source: [Arshad Bhatti](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

Coronavirus has shaken up the world upside down. All the developed and developing nations seem helpless in controlling the epidemic to date. Reportedly, almost 4.5 million people fell prey to the pandemic while around three hundred thousand lost their lives across the globe. The world economies are facing the worst ever economic crisis, people are losing jobs and companies are shutting down their businesses. And, in this bleak time, there ar.....[view more](#)

Focusing on food security or the pandemic?

Source: [Samson Simon Sharaf](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

Heads I win, tails you lose! The game cannot get crueller and more self-defeating; a tragedy most Pakistanis have adapted as fait accompli. With the ghost of COVID-19 haunting every house, old habits still prevail. This means laissez faire or business as usual. Cognisant that the health, political and economic impacts of COVID-19 are still a mystery for the world's best-known virologists, research organisations and economic planners, a.....[view more](#)

Living with the virus

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Just a couple of days after the World Health Organisation (WHO) finally conceded that a cure or vaccine for the coronavirus might not come anytime soon – seeing even estimates of something in the market in 12 to 18 months with skepticism for the first time – Prime Minister Imran Khan has also told the nation that, for all intents and purposes, it seems we will just have to live with this virus for the foreseeable future. This realisation.....[view more](#)

How threatening is the Corona Virus?

Source: [Shaukat Qadir](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Among the few things that former soldiers, like myself, are familiar with, is the subject of threat analysis. I claim no expertise on the subject, but merely aver that I have been frequently called upon to analyze threats, during my years in uniform. Moreover I have also had to select, or helped in the selection of, responses to the threat assessment. Therefore progressing further, let me attempt to formulate a hypothesis of nature. Perhaps, being[view more](#)

What is wrong with Pakistan coronavirus control strategy?

Source: [Dr Rana Jawad Asghar](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

For living I work on outbreaks detection and control systems, including pandemic preparedness. Over the years I have taught young public health officers across the globe how to detect outbreaks quickly and contain them locally. Part of our standardized training curriculum is what not to do if there is a major outbreak or a pandemic. In Pakistan everyone has a say on how to best control this pandemic in our country. It does not matter what this pe.....[view more](#)

Rethinking COVID-19 crisis

Source: [Munir Ahmed](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

COVID-19 infection is rising worldwide with the US on top of the most infected countries followed by Russia, the UK, Spain, Italy, Brazil, France, Germany, Turkey and Iran. These countries were reluctant on lockdown or secretly

pursuing the 'herd immunity'. But now the coronavirus is out of control in those countries despite taking all the remedial measures. Pakistan is now the 19th most affected country with about 38,000 cases. J.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan: Short time forecast

Source: [Dr Farhan Saif](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

The COVID-19 causes severe acute respiratory syndrome. It have been linked to a live animal seafood market in Wuhan, pointing to a zoonotic origin of the epidemic. Human-to-human transmission, however, has driven its spread in the strongly interconnected human world community. On December 27, 2019, a hospital in Wuhan reported the first COVID-19 case to the center of disease control (CDC) in the capital. On January 8, 2020 a new coronavirus was i.....[view more](#)

Battling Pandemic

Source: [Amna Ejaz Rafi](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

The WHO officially pronounced COVID-19 virus as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. The pandemic has infected nearly four million people, with the death toll reaching 2,79000. The virus has affected living globally while people are adjusting to a new way of life. People are working from home, university professors are taking online classes and online buying and selling of products have started. This shows a new way of life with more reliance on technolo.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 highlights vulnerabilities

Source: [Nadia Agha](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

The spread of Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the society's vulnerable groups – including women and girls – to various socio-economic challenges. The pandemic is expected to hamper socio-economic development as well as further widen gender gaps. Effects of this catastrophe need to be examined carefully because the measures to contain the virus have reduced women's mobility and weakened their economic ability. The poverty rat.....[view more](#)

Women at work and the pandemic

Source: [Dr Lubna Naz](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

In Pakistan, only 22 percent of women of age 17 years and above participate in the formal labour market. This can create the impression that women are either not working or are prohibited to take part in economic activities. This inference is both right and wrong at the same time. What is wrong about this perception? Women perform many tasks from dawn to dusk at homes; in some cases, they work for more hours than their male counterparts. However.....[view more](#)

Women and the informal economy

Source: [Ume Laila Azhar](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Workers in the informal economy do not have employment-based social protection as the businesses employing them are not incorporated or registered. They make up 74 percent of the labour force nationwide. Most of the women workers fall in this category. They are employed as home workers, domestic workers, contract workers in factories and in rural economy. Home-based workers subcontracted by national and international supply chains report that fo.....[view more](#)

Epidemics in South Asia — II

Source: [Yaqoob Khan Bangash](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Cholera, a disease with origins in South Asia, was the biggest medical and political concern of the British in the nineteenth century. Called the “scourge of India,” it killed nearly forty million people across British India from 1817 to 1947. Cholera’s onset was usually sudden and its symptoms literally chilling. A medical journal in 1831, quoted by David Arnold, stated: “within the annals of medicine there are few, if i.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 and informal settlements

Source: [Iman Khan](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Covid-19 has laid bare the inequalities embedded in social systems around the world. It has also unravelled many of the assumptions the pre-Covid world had rested upon. These include the idea that governments can provide for citizens even without a robust welfare framework and that policy interventions can work even when they are not participative or consultative. It has also provided a unique opportunity for reflection at individual as wells as[view more](#)

A pandemic wasted

Source: [Ghazi Salahuddin](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

An additional regret in these testing times is that we are wasting this momentous ‘gift’ of a pandemic. It seems that we are not paying sufficient attention to what Covid-19 is doing to us and how it has exposed our systemic deficiencies. A monumental challenge is staring us in the face – and we are furtively looking sideways. Yes, a refusal to learn from history and from extraordinary experiences is almost our badge of[view more](#)

End the lockdown

Source: [Dr Farrukh Saleem](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Pakistan is very different from Europe and North America. The UK with a population of 67 million has suffered more than 33,000 coronavirus-related deaths. Pakistan with a population of 220 million has suffered around 800. The US with a population 33 percent larger than Pakistan’s has suffered 85,000 corona-related deaths as opposed to around 800 Pakistan. The US with a population 33 percent larger than Pakistan’s is experiencing a tho.....[view more](#)

Truth prevails

Source: [Bilal Kayani](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Tell a big lie. Then repeat it, tweet it, retweet it, post it, broadcast it, forward it, shout it from atop a container every day and regurgitate it multiple times on talk shows every evening. Do this often enough, loudly enough and, before you know it, you have tricked people into believing it is the truth. This phenomenon has a name – the ‘illusory truth effect’ – and in the age of social media and unbridled misi.....[view more](#)

Living with coronavirus

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

With the permission to operate flights from five major airports of the country, it appears that the so-called ‘smart lockdown’ is also coming to an end. The federal government has been reluctant to enforce a strict lockdown in the country right from the first case that emerged in Pakistan. Now the prime minister has announced further relaxation in the lockdown despite the increasing number of covid-19 cases across the country. Airport.....[view more](#)

Development and policies -Part I

Source: [Dr Naazir Mahmood, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

As Covid-19 has shattered many myths of development, it has also upended some basics of development policy. Both developed and developing countries are now faced with some new challenges that call for a radical rethink in development policy. What does it entail for countries such as Pakistan? In a series of articles, we will discuss the likely impact of Covid-19 on development policy and its implications for future. First for starters, so.....[view more](#)

Terrorism under Covid-19

Source: [Muhammad Amir Rana, Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

WHILE the world continues its struggle against the pandemic, nations and organisations are also evaluating its human, economic and socio-psychological costs. The security threat matrix is increasingly being oriented around the perils of the virus, placing less focus on other non-traditional security challenges. Though the threat of terrorism has not shown any visible retreat — in some places it has even enlarged such as in Afghanistan &mdas.....[view more](#)

Poor, crude spin won't do

Source: [Abbas Nasir, Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

A FRIEND has shared an image of a board game with 'monotony' written across it rather than 'Monopoly', in a reflection of the challenges, including lockdowns, being faced by people around the world owing to the coronavirus contagion. Yes, all those personally unaffected by Covid-19 have concerns other than their own and their loved ones' health, with governments across the globe also split between those putting publ.....[view more](#)

The density debate

Source: [Arif Hasan, Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

AMONG professionals, a debate on post-corona-related planning, especially on density issues, has begun. They are out to create a new and more humane world. I would like to vulgarise this debate by injecting an element of reality by asking what happens to the existing city? Do we demolish and reconstruct it? According to the Sindh Building Control Authority, settlements of 80 square yards are to have a density of not more than 500 persons per acr.....[view more](#)

Hastening the end

Source: [Shahzad Chaudhry, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

There are three established ways for Covid-19 to end, and then one more. The first is how New Zealand rid itself off the virus — locked itself down for four weeks; separated the healthy from the sick; treated the sick as it tested around for more carriers; and voila, they were done and out in six weeks. Any function within the lockdown period was strictly per parameters of safety in social conduct. Those, who did not follow this prescr.....[view more](#)

How US-China cold war will transform Pakistan

Source: [M Bilal Lakhani, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

"No one can serve two masters," reads a verse in the sixth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. "For either he will hate one and love the other, or he will hold onto one and despise the other. You can't worship God and Money both." Becoming a frontline state in the emerging US-China cold war will force Pakistan to negotiate the strategic interests of two competing superpowers. How Pakistan plays its cards in the next fe.....[view more](#)

Transgender rights during times of Covid-19

Source: [Foreign Envoys](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

The Covid-19 pandemic is not only a health crisis, it is also an economic, social and a human rights crisis. Standing up for the most vulnerable groups of the society in times of such crisis is a test of our values, our leadership and our commitment to human rights. This includes standing up for transgender and sexual minorities. While it is true that we are all in this Covid-19 crisis together, transgender and people from other sexual minor.....[view more](#)

Towards normalcy?

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

We are pretty much back to normal activity. Coronavirus closures are being done away with slowly and gradually almost all across the country. Parts of the industry are allowed to function. There is no ban on private vehicles plying on the roads. Domestic flights operations have resumed in a phased manner. Some government offices are also working. Worship places are holding near-normal gatherings, except for Friday prayers in some parts. Even baza.....[view more](#)

Be better

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

The world is upside down. You know it is when you misdirect your anger at those trying to help you. The novel coronavirus pandemic has simultaneously brought out the best and the worst in humanity. On one side you have the selfless ones — the doctors, paramedics and nurses that have been working round the clock to contain the virus at a great cost to their own health and personal relationships; and the old patients who have nobly offered up.....[view more](#)

Listen to your Prime Minister, Pakistan

Source: [Mehr Tarar](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

There is no vaccine for the novel coronavirus. There will not be one for months, perhaps a year. Once the vaccine is found, its production will take a long time. Once the production is done, its global distribution for the 7.59 billion humans of the Earth will take a longer time. The world is waiting with a breath that is ragged. The exhaustion is multi-layered, mollifying fear so cleverly it is as if the coronavirus is no longer terrifying.[view more](#)

What are clinical trials?

Source: [Dr Muhammad Nauman Zahid](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

Everyone is waiting for a magical drug against COVID-19. Scientists are testing many drugs and we read every other day that a new drug is undergoing a clinical trial, just like Remdesivir is under clinical trial phase III. This article will help you to understand what these clinical trials are and after how many phases is a drug ready to be used by a patient. Clinical trials are performed to collect evidence for a drug to determine whether it is[view more](#)

A dysfunctional social contract?

Source: [Saad Rasool](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

Coronavirus has exposed the frail nature of the modern state structure, all across the world. Countries that took great pride in their technology, service delivery systems, and governance matrix, have all been made to kneel – in humility – at the feet of this growing epidemic. Collapse of global healthcare systems, coupled with sprawling economic fallout, have forced the formidable West to rethink its governance priorities, and to re-.....[view more](#)

Reinstating Public Transport

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

It is easy enough to call for the closure of all public transport when private vehicles are so commonplace in urban centres, but we often tend to forget that a vast majority in our biggest cities travel to work using the public system. The decision to reinstate public transport by the KP and Punjab authorities comes as a result of the suggestion of the federal government. At this point with private cars on the road in numbers, not allowing for p.....[view more](#)

Need for unity in the corona war

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah was spot on when he said that there was an urgent need for unity and an identical narrative in the fight against the coronavirus. "This is a war and only those nations win who demonstrate national unity, cohesion [and] take timely decisions with collective wisdom," he rightly said, while stressing that entering the second phase of the lockdown on Monday, with some extra restrictions, does not mean i.....[view more](#)

Domestic flights and public transport?

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

It's quite understandable why there's very little anybody can do about having to go on with life even if there's no cure coming for the coronavirus, but perhaps the government is being a little quick in taking the foot off the breaks when it comes to resuming domestic flights and public transport. First the flights. These are clearly not about keeping daily wagers from starving to death. And while one understands the need to ope.....[view more](#)

Economic imperatives

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

The biggest problem facing all countries of the world right now, on top of the pandemic of course, is the economic deflation caused by it. That is why government after government is coming out with one stimulus package for the economy after another. The focus so far has been on maintaining just enough liquidity to keep markets from drying up completely. But this will only work so long.....[view more](#)

The Pandemic: facts and issues

Source: [Iftikhar Ahmad, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Looking at the activity in public spaces in general, and markets in particular, sadly the people have ignored the instructions regarding preventive measures. The public is non-serious about COVID-19. They are neither practicing social distancing nor following standard operating procedures (SOPs). The government knew that complete lockdown would affect ordinary people adversely, hence it was decided to ease the lockdown. The people were supposed t.....[view more](#)

CoVID-19: a blessing in disguise for China

Source: [Haider Ali, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Life was usual yesterday as everyone was busy in their normal routines when we heard about a breakout of a virus in Wuhan China. At first place, no one was bothered. People at large didn't give a damn to it and never anticipated the repercussions of this malediction. World turned a deaf ear when first heard about novel coronavirus in Wuhan in

December 2019. Many jokes were exchanged against Chinese People. Regrettably, at this crucial momen.....[view more](#)

Globalisation in the Post COVID-19 Pandemic World

Source: [Dr Sadiq Ali](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

The Coronavirus pandemic has brought the world to a standstill and the activities of global institutions to a grinding halt. States across the globe have closed their borders to protect themselves from the contagious virus, which has taken thousands of lives and has severely affected hundreds of thousands of people. The raging contagion has conspicuously exposed the world's uneasiness to cope with the global health crisis. The international.....[view more](#)

The Phase One Agreement: An American project gone rogue?

Source: [Waleed Yawer](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

As American officials hurl accusations at China, most of which are apocryphal at best as they stand now, Chinese tabloids are responding in kind. Letting these theatrics play their course, however, Robert Lighthizer and his team at the Office of the United States Trade Representative need to sharpen their pencils. The Phase One Trade Agreement was never meant to be a win-win; rather almost a state dependant memory. It was essentially an American[view more](#)

Missed opportunity

Source: [Waqas Younas](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

EVEN in this day and age, many businesses ignore technology and neglect to invest in it. In normal times, such ignorance can put businesses and their consumers at a disadvantage. In a 21st-century pandemic, this ignorance can end many businesses and put consumers at risk and leave them at a loss. Most industries are faring poorly right now due to Covid-19. Technology could have helped businesses, which provide services essential to daily life to.....[view more](#)

Emerging realities

Source: [Huma Yusuf](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

THE pandemic still rages, but we are an impatient race, and eager to look ahead. One burning question is whether Covid-19 will usher in a new global order, and if so, what it will look like. Whatever the answer, Pakistan is likely to be ill-prepared — unless it rallies and rejigs its anachronistic foreign policy approach. The geopolitical question is sparked by intensifying US-China tensions. Pre-coronavirus tariff and trade scuffles have[view more](#)

Lessons from Kerala

Source: [Umair Javed](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

AMONG a variety of state and subnational responses to the pandemic across the world, one that stands out in particular is what's being done in the Indian state of Kerala. Kerala's track record as a social-democratic, welfare-oriented polity is fairly well known. Its exceptional track record of delivering on human development, such as universal literacy (above 95 per cent), public health (life expectancy above 72), and reproductive hea.....[view more](#)

Role reversal

Source: [Maleeha Lodhi, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

TWO developments last week exposed the state of play in the country even as it reels from the pandemic and rising coronavirus cases. The first was the spectacular lack of unity displayed in the specially requisitioned meetings of the National Assembly and Senate. And second was the lack of social discipline evidenced by crowded scenes in markets and bazaars across the country following an easing of the lockdown announced by the federal government....[view more](#)

Countries reopen

Source: [Editorial, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

AFTER some success in lowering the daily deaths and new cases of coronavirus, several countries are slowly relaxing lockdowns in an attempt to revive economic activity. In Europe, the hardest-hit countries which include the UK, Italy, Spain and France, are rolling out plans for some sectors such as construction and primary schools to open up after nearly seven weeks of closure. In the US, the president has left it to the governor of each state to....[view more](#)

Mental health helpline

Source: [Editorial, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

LAST week, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah announced the launch of a mental health helpline in the province, in light of the psychological toll being wrought on citizens by the Covid-19 pandemic. This facility has been established by the Sindh Mental Health Authority, which was constituted in September 2017, five years after the passage of the Sindh Mental Health Act. If this timeline is indicative of the low-priority status given to mental health[view more](#)

What will post-Covid-19 Karachi look like, surmise master architects

Source: [Peerzada Salman, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

KARACHI: What will Karachi look like in the post-coronavirus world? What changes will or should its urban infrastructure undergo? And have we learnt anything from this crisis? These are some of the questions that are frequently being asked by those who study or are interested in the socio-physical development of the city by the sea. Architect and town planner Arif Hasan said: "It is difficult to say what's going to happen. I think wo....[view more](#)

Monetary easing amid Covid-19

Source: [Mohiuddin Aazim, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

THE State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has cut its policy rate once again by a full percentage point to eight per cent. The central bank has reduced the interest rate by 5.25 percentage points since March 17, in four instalments, pulling it down from its peak of 13.25pc. The obvious purpose is to enable households and businesses to get cheaper finance from banks to survive during the economic disruption caused by Covid-19. How fast banks actually fina.....[view more](#)

Punjab to tighten its belt

Source: [Nasir Jamal, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

COVID-19 has emerged as one of the biggest healthcare and economic crises the world has faced in many decades. No country, least of all struggling economies like Pakistan, was prepared to tackle a challenge of this magnitude. The global economic recession, and lockdown restrictions enforced by the country to stop the spread of the infection, has created new challenges and issues for both the federal and provincial governments. The health crisis h.....[view more](#)

Herding without shepherds

Source: [Zeeshan Salahuddin](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-18

The state is not the only party to the idea of the social contract. The citizen lies at the other end of that sacred agreement. We have rights, but also responsibilities. We have opportunities, but also obligations. Nowhere is this more relevant than the lunacy witnessed on the streets, markets and malls of Pakistan after the lockdown was lifted with initial aplomb, middling drama and eventual confusion between the center and the province.....[view more](#)

Time to reset

Source: [Anam Shahil Feroz & Nousheen Akber Pradhan](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-18

The Covid-19 pandemic has hit the whole world by surprise and has left us in a state of shock and despair. The illness curve is touching the peak, with a death toll exceeding 100,000 globally. As a result, health systems across the globe are overburdened, stock markets are collapsing and companies are facing bankruptcy. Lockdowns have been considered as the most viable option to curtail the virus transmission. To all of us, it is definit.....[view more](#)

Health toll

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-18

While the Covid-19 virus has already claimed hundreds of thousands of lives around the globe, it is also causing other, virtually invisible deaths. According to the British Journal of Surgery, 28 million surgeries have been canceled around the world – except in the case of emergency surgery which is necessary to save a life – because of a shortage of medical staff and because doctors do not want to expose patients to the virus. In ou.....[view more](#)

For relief-oriented budget: Duty cut on imported raw items on the cards

Source: [Mehtab Haider](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-18

ISLAMABAD: Amid preparations for net relief-oriented budget for 2020-21, the government is considering bringing down Additional Customs Duty (ACD) and Regulatory Duty (RD) on hundreds of imported items of raw material and inter-mediatory goods for the upcoming financial year. This reduction in import duty will help boost up economic activities and the dwindling exports. The government is making last-ditch efforts to convince the IMF to en.....[view more](#)

Chinese digital currency: challenge vs opportunity

Source: [Hassnain Javed](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-18

The outbreak of Covid19 has certainly turned the global dynamics and has given birth to new inventions, innovations, and most importantly restructuring from the institutional level to everyday lifestyles. The origin station of global shift China which is the second-largest world economy on a nominal basis in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and number one ranked in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) has launched its very own digital curre.....[view more](#)

The closure of educational institutions and the world!

Source: [Kashif Mirza](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-18

The government extended the closure of educational institutions until July 15 and cancelled all exams following a decision made by the meeting of interprovincial education ministers and the National Coordination Committee (NCC). Around 4.5 million students appear in board exams conducted by 29 educational boards across the country every year. The Higher Education Commission and universities will finalise standard operating procedures to deal with t.....[view more](#)

Police at the risk of pandemic

Source: [Tasneemur Rehman, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

The novel coronavirus has severely affected lives of human beings in all corners of the world. The situation is becoming worse day by day in most of the developing world and cases are increasing particularly in Pakistan. At present, there are nearly 34,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 737 fatalities according to the Ministry of National Health Services, Pakistan. The health professionals are constantly warning that such numbers would rise daily.....[view more](#)

COVID-19: Pakistan to Produce and Export Remdesiver

Source: [Sadiq Ali, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Remdesiver is an antiviral drug developed by a leading company, famous for antiviral drug manufacturing in California, the US. The FDA has authorised its emergency use for treatment in COVID patients; stating that the benefits of the drug outweigh the risks in patients. A double-blinded, randomised clinical trial by National Institutes of Health (NIH) on 1,063 patients in the US, Europe, and Asia showed moderate effectiveness in treating severely[view more](#)

Why “Herd Immunity” is a horrible idea for Pakistan?

Source: [Nusrat Ali, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Pakistan reported its first COVID-19 case on February 26. Since then, amid a poorly-executed countrywide lockdown, it has reached a total of 24,648 confirmed cases and 585 deaths, as of May 7. Although you may argue that these COVID-19 figures are low when compared to the US and Europe, they are certainly far from depicting the real picture. As of May 5, Pakistan has tested some 232,582 samples, which is alarmingly low when compared to other coun.....[view more](#)

Exposed health system

Source: [Maheen Dhanani, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

Fifteen years ago, if someone asked you if you're ready for a disaster what would your first thoughts be? A war or terror attack? Or a nuclear power accident? Or maybe even a catastrophic earthquake. Hourly drills in primary school to prepare for an earthquake are familiar to many. Little did we know, or little did our handicapped country know that in 2020 it would face a global catastrophe that the military cannot do much about. Even though.....[view more](#)

A hunger revolution in the offing

Source: [Arhama Siddiqi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

On April 29, a video clip from protests in Lebanon went viral. It showed a fraught-eyed protester screaming at the soldiers that he was starving. One of the officers responds in equal dejection: “I am hungrier than you.” Covid-19 has uncovered the fragility of the social security net across the Middle East. An increasingly redundant and hungry population in conjunction with opposing anti-elitist rhetoric and government negligence.....[view more](#)

Hope amid virus gloom

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

With pandemic gloom surrounding all of us, a ray of hope has lately emerged. A potentially promising therapy to treat patients infected with Covid-19 has yielded fruitful result this week following successful clinical trials. The first Covid-

19 patient, who had received plasma therapy, has fully recovered at isolation ward in Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) Jamshoro and was ready to be discharged. The patient whose successful recovery has kindl.....[view more](#)

Another cut in interest rate

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

The State Bank of Pakistan announced another cut, of 100 basis points, in its policy rate ahead of the weekend, bringing it down to 8% from 13.25% pre-Covid. The central bank hopes the cut will be enough to provide some support to the economy, which is being battered by the impact of the Covid-19 coronavirus lockdown. The bank's decision was helped by the fact that the inflation rate has also been on the decline, thanks largely to decreasin.....[view more](#)

Budgetary policies in times of virus

Source: [DR MANZOOR AHMAD, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's policymakers are in an unenviable position while formulating the upcoming fiscal year's budget. Everyone from small and medium enterprises to large-scale manufacturing industries is looking for relief measures to cope with the Covid-19 crisis. Even without the pandemic, many would expect some relief in the existing taxation regime as the government is reaching the halfway point of its tenure. Unfortunately.....[view more](#)

Will they...?

Source: [Andleeb Abbas, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

A new phase, a new reality. The virus is there to stay for sometime. Sometime can be spent on being locked down or locked in, but, not for long. Countries are grappling with the reality of the virus being a way of life and that life without a virus will not be possible for a while. Also is the pressing realization that life without living and earning is almost suicidal. The trend all over the world is that as the numbers of the virus infection be.....[view more](#)

Food exports performance under lockdown

Source: [BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

Not even the highest basmati – the crown jewel of Pakistan's foreign trade – in at least 8 years were able to keep the food group export from tumbling by over quarter in Apr-20; according to latest figures released by PBS. While the first instinct explanation may be the ban imposed on export of essentials such as wheat and sugar, a closer look reveals that perishables had a greater role to play. Does that mean Covid-19 rel.....[view more](#)

National News

AJK

Two new COVID-19 cases detected in AJK

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

MIRPUR (AJK) - With the appearance of two new cases of novel coronavirus during the last 24 hours in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the number of confirmed cases increased to 109 in the state on Saturday, AJK health department said. At the same time, the blood samples of 186 new suspects were tested across the state on Saturday. In an official statement on the updated situation of pandemic in AJK, the state health.....[view more](#)

EU parliamentary research report has exposed India: AJK president

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan while welcoming the report of the European Parliament's Research Service has said that it effectively highlights the horrendous Indian actions in occupied Kashmir and the worst discriminatory treatment towards the Indian Muslims. Tech Video[view more](#)

Police beat up Kashmiris protesting inadequate Covid-19 arrangements

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Indian police beat up and injured a girl in the premises of a quarantine centre in Nagam Chadoora, Budgam district of the occupied valley of Kashmir. Tech Video 00:03 /[view more](#)

Balochistan

'Strict lockdown in the offing if COVID-19 SOPs not followed'

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Balochistan government spokesperson Liaquat Shahwani has warned that the provincial government could "convert smart lockdown into strict lockdown" if standard operating procedures (SOPs) are not followed. Addressing the media in Quetta, he said that traders and people have until May 19 to ensure that they follow SOPs; otherwise the government will tighten the lockdown. "Easing of the lockdown depends on the people's level of[view more](#)

Islamabad

More than 23,000 overseas Pakistanis repatriated: SAPM Moeed Yusuf

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Security Dr Moeed Yusuf Friday said over 23,000 overseas Pakistanis have been repatriated from different countries since closure of international regular flight operations for containing the risk of coronavirus outbreak. Addressing a media briefing, the SAPM said the number of overseas Pakistanis have been brought back to the country was increased from 7,000 per week to 11,000 per week.....[view more](#)

'We will have to live with the virus': PM

Source: [SARDAR SIKANDER SHAHEEN](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said that there would be no cure for coronavirus this year, and "we will have to live with this virus" that has impacted 150 million in Pakistan, while dismissing the option of completely locking down the country as a precautionary measure against the pandemic. "The vaccine for coronavirus is not likely to be ready this year. The coronavirus is here to stay. We have to underst.....[view more](#)

COVID-19: 4,203 perish in a day

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-16

ISLAMABAD: The novel coronavirus has killed at least 307,285 people since the outbreak first emerged in China last December, according to a tally at 01:40 PST, Saturday. At least 4,605,499 cases of coronavirus have been registered in 196 countries and territories. Of these, at least 1,739,366 are now considered recovered. On Friday 4,203 people fall prey to the deadly virus. The tallies probably reflect only a fraction of the actual numb.....[view more](#)

ECC approves Rs75b cash assistance for labourers

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-16

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet has approved emergency cash assistance of Rs12,000 for labourers whose livelihood was affected by COVID-19 pandemic. The ECC in its meeting at the Cabinet Division on Friday approved the Emergency Cash Assistance (Criteria and Mechanism) to the labourers. The announcement was made earlier by Prime Minister Imran Khan and required the formal approval of the ECC. The meeting of t.....[view more](#)

The tasks ahead

Source: [Khalid Bhatti](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-16

The PTI government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan is facing the dual task of curbing the coronavirus and reviving the economy. The first task for the PTI government is to implement SOPs for the reopened markets, industries and businesses. Desperate to minimise further damage to an economy already in recession and a working people reeling from a loss of livelihood, the decision of PM Imran Khan to ease restrictions is not surprising. Th.....[view more](#)

Training programme launched for frontline health workers

Source: [Shahina Maqbool](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-16

Islamabad : The 'We Care' national training campaign targeting over 100,000 frontline health workers including doctors, nurses, paramedics, and support staff from all over Pakistan, was inaugurated at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) here on Friday. "A standardised national curriculum has been developed for this training and top medical universities all across Pakistan (one in each province) has been sel.....[view more](#)

Exams and pandemic

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

After days of suspense, the federal ministry of education announced on Thursday there would be no matriculation and intermediate exams this year in the country due to the coronavirus pandemic, and students of grades 9 to 12 would be promoted. The government has framed a new policy that will govern exams or promotions to the next class in the unprecedented situation. At a press conference in Islamabad, Federal Minister of Education Shafqat Mahmood.....[view more](#)

Confirmed coronavirus cases in Pakistan reach 38,799

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

The nationwide tally of coronavirus cases has soared to 38,799 with 1,581 new cases reported during the last 24 hours. Overall 14,201 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 14,916 in Sindh, 5,678 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,457 in Balochistan, 518 in Gilgit-Baltistan, 921 in Islamabad and 108 in Azad Kashmir. A total of 10,880 patients have so far recovered from the coronavirus whilst the death toll stands at 834 with 31 new deaths reported.....[view more](#)

Hospitals' situation totally under control: Asad Umar

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Friday said that keeping in mind the current pace of coronavirus cases in the country, the situation in hospitals would remain under control for at least next six weeks. "The government's decisions of maintaining balance between controlling coronavirus and easing lockdown has proved effective as we are not expecting any such situation in which ho.....[view more](#)

People will have to learn to live with coronavirus: PM

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said with no vaccination developed for the Covid-19 pandemic so far, the people will have to learn to live with the contagion for about a year and protect themselves by following the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including social distancing, advised by health experts from across the world. Tech Video[view more](#)

Govt decides to lift ban on domestic flights, train service, public transport

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan Friday said that domestic flight operations will resume from Saturday (today) after a nearly two-month-long suspension. Tech Video 00:00 /[view more](#)

Tally of Covid-19 cases jumps to 38,440; 822 lives lost so far

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 38,440 on Friday, with 13,914 cases reported in Punjab, 14,916 in Sindh, 5,678 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,457 in Balochistan, 501 in Gilgit Baltistan, 866 in Islamabad and 108 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 822 lives while some 10,155 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. Tech Video[view more](#)

Pakistan gets licence to make medicine for coronavirus patients, says Dr Zafar

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Pakistan has got licence to make newly developed medicine for treating the coronavirus patients, Dr Zafar Mirza, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services announced on Friday. Tech Video 00:07[view more](#)

Imran urges G-20 to further extend debt relief for Covid-hit developing world

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Prime Minister Imran Khan, while calling the G-20 debt relief a timely initiative, urged the forum to further extend the facility to provide greater space to coronavirus-hit developing countries and allow them concentrate their resources for providing relief to their people. Tech Video[view more](#)

ECC okays emergency cash assistance for affected labourers

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

The ECC in its meeting on Friday at the Cabinet Division approved the emergency cash assistance (criteria and mechanism) for the labourers whose livelihoods have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The announcement was made earlier by the Prime Minister and required the formal approval of the ECC. Tech Video[view more](#)

SECP extends time period for renewal of Section 42 licenses

Source: [news desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

To facilitate not-for-profit companies in the wake on ongoing corona pandemic, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has relaxed the time period for renewal of license, issued in pursuance of section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017. The SECP has issued a notification to provide guidelines for renewal of licenses. According to these guidelines, companies whose licenses have expired in the months of February, March, April and May[view more](#)

PTA extends deadline of blocking mobile device IMEIs until June 3

Source: [INP, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has further extended the deadline for blocking of mobile device IMEIs till 3rd June, 2020 for all GSMA valid IMEIs seen on mobile networks but currently not registered with PTA. Tech Video 00:1.....[view more](#)

Wearing masks mandatory at public places; campaign underway across media, NCOC told

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Friday emphasised that individual and society at large be informed and educated through a robust public awareness campaign for mobilizing the masses on wearing facemasks as mandatory at public places. Tech Video[view more](#)

Opposition slams govt over lack of uniform policy on coronavirus

Source: [Staff Report/News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Ahsan Iqbal on Friday lashed out at the government for its incompetence to deal with the coronavirus crisis in the country. Video 00:05 / 00:54[view more](#)

Tackling coronavirus: Lockdown relaxed, casualties, cases up

Source: [Our Correspondent & Agencies, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD: People's utter disregard for the health protocols after the federal, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments eased the lockdown has caused a surge in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and fatalities in Pakistan. The country registered a total of 39,738 confirmed cases and 866 fatalities as of 11:50pm on Saturday. Of

39,729 confirmed cases, Sindh reported 15,590 cases, Punjab 14,201, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 5,847, Balochistan.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 global toll crosses 310,000

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus has killed at least 310,616 people worldwide since it surfaced in China late last year, according to international media reports. There have been more than 4.6 million officially recorded cases in 196 countries and territories. The United States has recorded the most deaths at 88,930. It is followed by Britain with 34,466, Italy with 31,763, Spain with 27,563, and France with 27,529. The Spanish government wil.....[view more](#)

Centre has introduced uniform national policy for Covid-19, Supreme Court told

Source: [Sohail Khan](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court was informed on Saturday that a uniform national policy has been proposed for combating Covid-19 in consultation with the provinces which will be implemented by the federal government in consistent manner throughout Pakistan. The federal government as well as four provinces on Saturday submitted their respective reports in the Supreme Court in suo motu case regarding combating the pandemic of coronavirus. A f.....[view more](#)

14,878 corona tests conducted in 24 hours

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has conducted 14,878 tests in the past 24 hours, which is the highest number of tests made to diagnose Covid-19 patients since the first positive case was reported in the country. Heading the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) meeting on Saturday, Minister for Planning Development Reforms and Special Initiatives Asad Umar expressed satisfaction over the testing capacity, as the country has witnessed 30 times[view more](#)

Four staffers of PM House tested positive for corona

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD: Four staff members of the Prime Minister House have tested positive for coronavirus, sources in the PM House said. The sources said routine Covid-19 test of PM House staffers was carried out on Saturday and four staff personnel were tested positive. Those tested positive have been quarantined. All other precautionary measures have been initiated and standard operating procedure (SOPs) being followed, said the sources. Meanwhil.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus claims 13 lives as 674 more test positive in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Thirteen people, five of them women, have lost their lives due to complications of COVID-19, and another 674 have been diagnosed with the coronavirus infection in Sindh in the last 24 hours, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Saturday. "Eight people have died in Karachi alone due to the COVID-19 infection, including four women of 51, 71, 75 and 88 years of ages, respectively. At least one died each in Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad a.....[view more](#)

Women leaders demand financial support to homeworkers

Source: [Afshan S Khan](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Islamabad : Participants of the virtual seminar on 'women's vulnerabilities in the COVID-19 crisis' urged the government to take urgent steps to financially support and facilitate the women in small businesses, trades and those who are home-based workers such as craftswomen, home-chefs and tailors. Before the Covid-19 crisis, they were self-supportive and financially over the poverty line. So they don't fall in the destitu.....[view more](#)

Maximum tests per day conducted in last 24 hours

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [Thethirdpole.net](#), 2020-05-17

Islamabad : Pakistan conducted over 14,878 tests for diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours—the highest number of tests since confirmation of the first case in the country, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was informed during its Saturday meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Planning Development Reforms and Special Initiatives Asad Umar expressed satisfaction over up scaling of the country's test.....[view more](#)

Lifting lockdown

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

IN some respects, Pakistan appears to be moving with the times in dealing with the pandemic. On Friday, Prime Minister Imran Khan at a press briefing said the country would have to learn to live with the contagion. His words echo those spoken recently by David Nabarro, WHO's special envoy for Covid-19. The world has come to realise that even the strictest of lockdowns, such as in China and Italy, have not prevented local clusters of Covid-.....[view more](#)

Pakistan records 30 times increase in testing capacity

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has stated that over 14,000 tests for coronavirus were held across the country in a single day, taking the tally of tests conducted so far to around 360,000. The data was shared during a meeting of the NCOC, headed by Minister for Planning Development Reforms and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, on Saturday. Inside the NCOC: An eyewitness account Expressing satisfact.....[view more](#)

PTI govt approves modalities for chloroquine export

Source: [Zafar Bhutta](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has approved modalities for export of chloroquine – a medicine that is said to help in combating Covid-19 disease –by relaxing a ban on case to case basis. Chloroquine is made by manufacturers of anti-malaria drugs The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in its meeting held on April 16 discussed the ban on the export of anti-malarial drugs and recommended that chloroquine export be allo.....[view more](#)

Number of confirmed coronavirus cases cross 40,000

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

The nationwide tally of Coronavirus cases has soared to 40,151 with 1,352 new cases reported during the last twenty-four hours. Overall 14,584 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 15,590 in Sindh, 5,847 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,544 in Balochistan, 527 in Gilgit Baltistan, 947 in Islamabad and 112 in Azad Kashmir. A total of 11,341 patients have so far recovered from the virus whilst the death toll stands at 873 with 39 new deaths re.....[view more](#)

Coming days more critical regarding spread of coronavirus: Rehman Malik

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD - Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior Senator Rehman Malik, on Saturday, expressed his concerns saying that coming days would be more critical for the country regarding spread of coronavirus. He said that the cases of COVID-19 would increase manifold. He appealed to the people to strictly follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of World Health Organisation (WHO) to protect themselves and others from deadly corona.....[view more](#)

Nearly 15,000 tested for coronavirus in 24 hours

Source: [Tahir Niaz](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has conducted over 14,878 tests in the past 24 hours which is the highest number of assessments made to date to diagnose COVID-19 patients, said Planning Minister Asad Umar during a meeting of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) held here on Saturday. Asad Umar expressed satisfaction over the enhancement of testing capacity that has witnessed a 30 times increase with a rise from 2 labs in mid-March to 70 labs ti.....[view more](#)

PIA aircraft carrying 20 tons medical equipment arrives

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD - Another aircraft carrying 20 tons medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) arrived here in the federal capital on Saturday from China. A spokesman of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said the aircraft, eighth in a series of consignments has arrived from Beijing. The equipment included 99 ventilators and 260,000 N-95 masks, have arrived Islamabad by an aircraft of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).....[view more](#)

Covid-19 cases surge to 921 in capital

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

ISLAMABAD: The number of positive Covid-19 cases reported in the federal capital rose to 921 on Saturday, after 55 more people were diagnosed with the deadly disease, official data revealed. According to official data, out of 921 cases, 63 cases have been reported from Sector I-10, 58 from Lohi Bher, 55 from Tarlai, 49 from Bara Kahu, 43 from Sector I-8, 38 from Sohan, 33 from G-11, and 30 from Sector G-10. Similarly, 26 cases were re.....[view more](#)

Nationwide Covid-19 tally nears 40,000

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Pakistan confirmed 44 more deaths from novel coronavirus in one day as the nationwide tally of fatalities jumped to 866 and positive cases surged to 39,729 on Saturday. Tech Video 00:03 /[view more](#)

Pakistan attains space in global market for exporting local rice

Source: [news desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Prime Minister's adviser on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood on Saturday said that Pakistan had attained huge space in global rice market for exporting local rice in potential markets of Middle East, North America and African regions to achieve the target of increasing the agricultural exports. Tech Video[view more](#)

Leopards spotted in Islamabad's park as virus clears way

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Leopards, jackals and other creatures living in Islamabad's tree-covered hills have been enjoying a rare respite from the throngs of hikers and joggers that normally pack the trails. Tech Video 00:11[view more](#)

Pakistan conducts highest number of coronavirus tests in a single day

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Pakistan has conducted 14,878 tests in the past 24 hours which is the highest number of tests made to diagnose Covid-19 patients since the first positive corona affected was reported in the country. Tech Video 00:01[view more](#)

Covid-19 casualties in Attock, Taxila, Gujar Khan

Source: [A Correspondent](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

TAXILA/GUJAR KHAN: Three people died of the novel coronavirus, one each in Attock, Gujar Khan and Taxila on Sunday, health officials said. According to the health department, the number of deaths in Taxila due to Covid-19 increased to five and in Attock to four while 10 people have lost their lives to the virus in Gujar Khan. In Taxila, a 65-year-old man from Jamilabad was admitted to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) on April 29 an.....[view more](#)

Comsats hosts webinar for international youth on coronavirus pandemic

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

ISLAMABAD: Around 50 people from more than 15 countries came together on Sunday to deliberate on applying youth potential to help deal with the coronavirus pandemic and looming global threats and challenges to sustainability, such as climate change. Young people from Azerbaijan, Botswana, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Ghana, Greece, Jordan, Kenya, Norway, Pakistan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe partic.....[view more](#)

Pandemic cuts into Ramazan donations

Source: [Afshan Subohi](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

THE raging Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the composition of donations this Ramazan in Pakistan where the crushing economic pressures had already stunted the capacity of the middle class to maintain the scale of its earlier giving. The ration distribution has spiked this year whereas cash donations for causes and philanthropic institutions moderated, background research revealed. Most businessmen active in the philanthropic circles[view more](#)

COVID-19 worldwide toll crosses 314,000

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-18

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus has killed 314,604 people worldwide since it surfaced in China late last year, according to international media reports. There have been at least 4,770,892 officially recorded cases in 196 countries and territories. The United States has recorded the most deaths at 90,332. It is followed by Britain with 34,636, Italy with 31,908, Spain with 27,650, and France with 27,625. The growth of new cases in Russia is st.....[view more](#)

Corona test fees

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-18

It is beyond any shadow of doubt that our government is giving its best possible attention to the poor and downtrodden segment of our society. Its generous help and assistance, for giving a handsome amount of money and appropriate quantity of ration to them in their hard hours and difficult time is worth mentioning and deserves lavish praise. Despite being in hot waters and facing acute financial constraints, the government has granted them enough.....[view more](#)

Confirmed coronavirus cases rise to 42,125 in Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

The nationwide tally of coronavirus cases has soared to 42,125 with 1974 new cases reported during the last twenty-four hours. Overall 15346 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 16377 in Sindh, 6061 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2692 in Balochistan, 540 in Gilgit-Baltistan, 997 in Islamabad and 112 in Azad Kashmir. A total of 11,922 patients have so far recovered from the virus whilst the death toll stands at 903 with 30 new deaths reported.....[view more](#)

COVID-19: Intercity transport remains suspended in Punjab despite govt orders

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-18

Inter-city transport in Punjab remained suspended on Monday after public transport owners refused to resume operations despite orders from the provincial government, reported Geo News. The Punjab government on Sunday had issued a notification outlining protocols for inter-city transport following an outcry by transport owners over lack of collaboration on SOPs and reduced fares announced by the provincial government. The notification contains d.....[view more](#)

Corona Relief Tiger Force to help govt in fight against pandemic: Shibli Faraz

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Senator Shibli Faraz has said the world is hailing the Corona Relief Tiger Force established by Prime Minister Imran Khan for the assistance of the masses. In a tweet on Monday, the special assistant said the youth are helping and facilitating the people in the fight against Coronavirus. The Information Minister said these volunteers are pride of the nation. Meanwhile, Daily Telegraph of t.....[view more](#)

PM to launch Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program today for the jobless during COVID-19

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

Prime Minister Imran Khan will launch on Monday Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program for those rendered jobless due to coronavirus. Over three billion rupees have so far been collected in the Corona Relief Fund. On the instructions of the Prime Minister, government will contribute four rupees for every rupee donated to the fund. Donations to the relief fund as well as release of funds from it is being done in a transparent manner.[view more](#)

Tally of Covid-19 cases hits 40,151

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

ISLAMABAD: The nationwide tally of coronavirus cases has reached to 40,151 with 1,352 new cases and 39 new deaths reported during the last 24 hours. With a total of 15,590 cases, Sindh is at the top of the most confirmed cases of Covid-19 followed by Punjab with 14,584 cases. As many as 5,847 cases have so far confirmed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,544 in Balochistan, 527 in Gilgit-Baltistan, 947 in Islamabad and 112 in Azad Kashmir. A to.....[view more](#)

Virus kills another 30

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

The nationwide tally of coronavirus has soared to 41,300 in Pakistan, with more than 1,580 new cases reported during the past 24 hours. According to the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), 14,584 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 16,377 in Sindh, 6,061 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,692 in Balochistan, 527 in Gilgit-Baltistan, 947 in Islamabad and 112 in Azad Kashmir. Moreover, 27,937 patients are still under treatment at the hospitals.....[view more](#)

Ombudsman advisor takes notice of plight of overseas doctors

Source: [Staff Report, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Overseas Pakistani doctors have approached Federal Ombudsman Secretariat with the request to intervene and issue directions to relevant authorities to start online renewal of registration of their documents and degrees which have been pending with them amid coronavirus outbreak. After receiving the application, Senior Advisor and Grievance Commissioner for Overseas Pakistanis at Federal Ombudsman Secretariat Hafiz Ahsaan Ahmad Khokhar has issued[view more](#)

3 weeks lapse but no detention, demurrage relief despite govt order

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

The Friends of Business & Economic Reforms has reiterated its demand of taking stern action against those port terminals and shipping lines, which have not yet implemented the directives of the government to relax detention charges and demurrage cost despite a lapse of more than three weeks. Tech Video[view more](#)

Webinar underlines role of pulpit in promoting peace and tolerance

Source: [Staff Report, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Speakers at a webinar underlined the role mosques, prayer leaders and religious scholars can play in promoting tolerance, peaceful coexistence, interfaith as well as inter-sect harmony and inclusiveness in the society in these challenging times. Tech Video[view more](#)

KPK

FIA official recovers from Covid-19

Source: [Bureau report, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-16

PESHAWAR: An additional director of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) recovered from Covid-19. The official Mian Saeed Ahmad had tested positive for Covid-19 a few days back. "After experiencing severe symptomatic Covid-19, I have recovered and tested negative by the grace of Allah, prayers of my family, friends and well-wishers. I am indebted to all those who called me or sent messages to inquire about my health and remembered.....[view more](#)

Webinar highlights challenges posed by cyberterrorism amid Covid-19 outbreak

Source: [Staff Report, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Speakers at a webinar highlighted the risks posed by cyberterrorism and religious extremism and also shared good practices vis-à-vis stress and anger management in order to build peace in the society in line with the Paigham-e-Pakistan initiative of the government. Tech Video[view more](#)

Corona positive cases reach 56 in Haripur

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

HARIPUR: The corona positive cases have witnessed a sharp rise during the last 11 days with total numbers reported as 56 till Saturday, official sources said. Till May 5 when the lock down was intact the Haripur district had only 22 positive cases with one death. However, soon after the easing of lockdown, according to Dr Sher Bahadur in-charge Rapid Response Team of Haripur health department, the number of positive cases had increased to.....[view more](#)

Number of corona cases 329 in Mardan

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

MARDAN: The number of coronavirus positive cases in the district has reached 329, health sources said on Saturday. The sources said deputy medical superintendent (DMS) District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Dr Nadir Ali Shuja and surgeon Dr Sajjad Hussain are also among the victims. So far the contagion has claimed 23 lives in Mardan district while the test results of 224 suspected patients are still awaited. A total of 315 people were allo.....[view more](#)

Action sought against company for sacking labourers

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

MANSEHRA: Former Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) MPA Mazhar Ali Qasim has demanded the government to take legal action against the company working on Suki Kinari hydropower project as he said it laid off hundreds of labourers in the garb of Covid-19. "The government has announced that no commercial entity or company could lay off labourers during the Covid-19 emergency but the company executing this mega energy project laid off.....[view more](#)

KP coronavirus deaths surge past 300

Source: [Bureau report](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa became the first province to complete the triple century of deaths from novel coronavirus (Covid-19) on Saturday as the virus killed 14 more residents taking the province's tally of fatalities to 305. According to the health department's Covid-19 daily situation report, Peshawar recorded seven, Swat 3, one each from Mardan, Dir Lower, Bajaur and Kohat. A total of 169 new confirmed cases were registered,[view more](#)

Plasma helps recover first Covid-19 patient in Peshawar

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

PESHAWAR: The first Covid-19 patient has recovered after transfusion of convalescent plasma immunisation at Hayatabad Medical Complex, Peshawar. The hospital has initiated collection of plasma from the recovered Covid-19 patients as part of the national trial to reduce mortalities during the pandemic under the leadership of Prof Tahir Shamsi of National Institute of Blood Diseases Karachi. A Covid-19 patient recently recovered and left the hosp.....[view more](#)

KP CM fears increase in virus cases as lockdown eases

Source: [Bureau report](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has said that the government's move to further ease the coronavirus lockdown measures has exacerbated the threat of massive scale outbreak of the pandemic. In a statement issued on

Sunday, he called for strict implementation of the social distancing rules to put brakes on spread of the infection. The chief minister said that contagion curve could rise with easing lockdown restrictions. He stressed the.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 death toll reaches 318 in KP

Source: [daw](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

PESHAWAR: Thirteen more persons died of Covid-19 on Sunday as the province-wide fatalities from the virus reached 318, the highest number recorded by any province in the country. The provincial capital, Peshawar, registered eight deaths and Swat two while one each death from Swabi, Kohat and Karak was reported. A daily situation Covid-19 report of the health department said that 214 new cases were reported that raised the total tally in the pro.....[view more](#)

Punjab

2 die of COVID-19 in twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-16

Rawalpindi : At least, two more patients died of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours taking total number of deaths due to the disease from the region to 70 on Friday while 82 more patients have been tested positive in the region taking tally to 2220. The situation is getting more and more alarming in this region of the country and the number of deaths is continuously on the rise al.....[view more](#)

Governor Sarwar seeks Opp suggestions to protect people from virus

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-16

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has asked the opposition political parties to present suggestions to protect people of the county from the dreadful coronavirus, and stressed they must refrain from indulging in petty politics. He said the coronavirus pandemic was not an issue in Pakistan but around the globe. "Those, not taking coronavirus seriously, are not only playing with the lives of people but of themselves,&rdq.....[view more](#)

Pindi district admin seals markets, imposes fines for coronavirus SOP violations

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

RAWALPINDI: The district administration on Friday sealed markets in the garrison city over violations of standard operating procedures (SOP) issued to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The administration imposed Rs140,000 and sealed 18 markets and shops in the district, including four in Rawalpindi city, four in Gujar Khan, two in Taxila and eight in Kahuta. The Punjab government, when allowing shops to reopen, had said that no shops would.....[view more](#)

USMAN BUZDAR PROVES HIS METTLE

Source: [Mohammad Hamza Khan](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

During the last 18 months, CM Punjab Sardar Usman Khan Buzdar has proved his capabilities by taking landmark decisions, which is obvious to the naked eye, but purblind can't see it. It is not possible to recount his successes in this limited space, but reference to recent decisions would suffice. Addressing a press conference some days back, CM Punjab, Usman Buzdar, announced reopening the textile industry value chain in the larger interest.....[view more](#)

LHC seeks final arguments on plea for separate graveyards for Covid-19 victims

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday sought final arguments on a petition seeking establishment of separate graveyards for victims of the novel coronavirus. Justice Shakilur Rehman Khan directed the petitioner as well as the official respondents to forward their final arguments in the case on the next hearing slated for May 18. The petitioner stated before the court that the people affected by Covid-19 are kept in isolation to avert spread of th.....[view more](#)

Political parties should give suggestions to protect people from coronavirus: Sarwar

Source: [INP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has asked the opposition political parties to present suggestions to protect people of Pakistan from the dreadful coronavirus and stressed they must refrain from indulging in petty politics. He said the coronavirus pandemic was not an issue in Pakistan but around the globe. "Those, not taking coronavirus seriously, are not only playing with the lives of people but of themselves," he observed. H.....[view more](#)

Business community for abolishing tax audits amidst Covid-19 pandemic

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

The business community has demanded that the tax audits be abolished amid Covid-19. No business audit should be done as businesses are struggling in these challenging times. Tech Video 00:10 /[view more](#)

Many political personalities of Taunsa, DG Khan defect to PTI during meeting with Buzdar

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

A number of political personalities of Taunsa and DG Khan called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar in DG Khan and announced to join the PTI while showing their complete confidence over the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and chief minister. Traffic Video[view more](#)

Online Education and University of Education

Source: [Urooj Fatima Alvi](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Pervaiz Hoodboy, a distinguished professor and critical thinker, has opened a discussion through his article 'HEC: seize the corona moment' in the Dawn, dated 25th April, 2020 for those who actually care about the future of the country and its higher education system. This response highlights exceptional measures taken by the VC of University of Education for his deep concern for the higher education its delivery to the students and t.....[view more](#)

Corona pandemic claims 3 more lives

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Rawalpindi : The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another three lives in the district on Saturday taking total number of deaths from Rawalpindi to 66 so far while in last 24 hours, another 86 locals belonging to the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been tested positive for the disease taking tally to 2306. Data collected by 'The News' on Saturday reveals that the three deaths reported on Saturday afternoon.....[view more](#)

Another 86 test positive for virus

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Rawalpindi : The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another three lives in the district on Saturday taking total number of deaths from Rawalpindi to 66 so far while in last 24 hours, another 86 locals belonging to the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been tested positive for the disease taking tally to 2306. Data collected by 'The News' on Saturday reveals that the three deaths reported on Saturday afternoon.....[view more](#)

Another doctor tests positive in Sahiwal

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

SAHIWAL: Another doctor tested positive for Covid-19 in the Sahiwal Teaching Hospital on Saturday. Earlier, a general physician at the emergency ward of the Arifwala Tehsil Headquarters Hospital was also declared positive. The fresh case belongs to the orthopedic ward of the teaching hospital. Dr Farukh, media coordinator, told Dawn the medical college administration had sealed the ward while the doctor has been shifted to the isolation centre[view more](#)

Covid patients complain of officials apathy at Faisalabad quarantine

Source: [The Newspaper's Correspondent](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

CHINIOT: As many as 23 asymptomatic Covid-19 patients who were shifted to the General Hospital Faisalabad from the quarantine centre set up on FAST University local camps complained about lack of even basic facilities and services at the hospital's corona ward. These patients, including women and children, were shifted to the FAST campus after they tested positive for coronavirus some 10 days back. They were told on Sunday to pack up their.....[view more](#)

Patients at Expo Centre facility complain of 'unhygienic' food

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

LAHORE: The Covid-19 patients quarantined at the Expo Centre Field Hospital here continued to complain about "unhygienic" food and lack of clean drinking water at the facility. A video clip showing unhygienic food with "insects" in it allegedly being served to the patients at the field hospital has gone viral, further strengthening the impression that the facility was being poorly managed. A few days back a group of pati.....[view more](#)

16 doctors, nurses isolated at Rawalpindi's BBH after contact with suspected Covid-19 patient

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: Six doctors and 10 nurses at Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) have been isolated after coming in contact with two suspected patients of Covid-19, one of whom died on Saturday. The deceased was a 38-year-old resident of Sargodha, while the other patient is a resident of Rawalpindi. Six nurses in paediatric intensive care unit (ICU) were isolated earlier after they treated a child who had contracted Covid-19. The ICU in questio.....[view more](#)

SOPs for public transport in Punjab finalised

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

RAWALPINDI: The district administration and local transporters on Saturday finalised the standard operating procedures for plying public transport from Monday. A meeting was held at Deputy Commissioner Office with all the district public transporters. The meeting was chaired by additional deputy commissioner retired captain M Shoab,

along with secretary Divisional Regional Transport Authority Mahar Abbas Haral. The meeting discussed implementa.....[view more](#)

58 Pakistanis who arrived from Iraq quarantined

Source: [The Newspaper's Correspondent](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

GUJAR KHAN: As many as 58 Pakistanis arrived from Iraq have been quarantined at the cadet college Dina on Saturday. Jhelum deputy commissioner told Dawn that a special flight PK-710 brought 257 passengers from Iraq on Saturday of them 58 passengers were directly transferred to cadet college Dina from the Islamabad airport. He said the passengers were shifted to district Jhelum as quarantine centres in Rawalpindi district ran out of space. He f.....[view more](#)

Multidimensional strategy adopted to deal with coronavirus pandemic: Punjab CM

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-05-17

LAHORE: The Chief Minister of Punjab, Sardar Usman Buzdar, said on Saturday that the government has adopted a multidimensional strategy to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, and decisions have been taken collectively under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. "Protection and safety lies in strictly following the policy of social distancing, and the spread of the coronavirus can only be minimized when people would prefer to st.....[view more](#)

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/613595/govt-taking-all-out-measures-to-ensure-safety-of-people-dr-yasmin/>

Source: [news desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that the government is taking all-out measures to ensure safety and well-being of people, and all available resources are being utilised for treatment of Covid-19 patients. She said this while chairing a meeting called to review the coronavirus pandemic situation at the Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education (SH&ME) Department, here on Saturday. The minister reviewed all steps taken to co.....[view more](#)

People need to act responsibly as virus threat is still there: Buzdar

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar on Saturday said that the threat of the coronavirus is still there, therefore people need to remain cautious and show responsibility. Tech Video 00:02 /[view more](#)

Confusion about coronavirus figures resurfaces in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

LAHORE: There seems data reporting problems as the Punjab Primary and Secondary Health Department and Punjab Home Department's Corona Crisis Management Cell (CCMC) are reporting different figures of death. The home department's CCMC had reported 258 deaths till 11.30am on Sunday, while the health department at 3pm reported 252 deaths. Similarly, the home department's CCMC says the total number of coronavirus cases in Punjab is.....[view more](#)

Journalist, his three children in Khanewal test positive for Covid-19

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

LODHRAN: A senior journalist and his three children tested positive for coronavirus in Khanewal on Sunday. According to the district administration spokesman, the journalist's wife has tested negative. A health department

team isolated the infected people at their home. Before isolation, Assistant Commissioner Babar Suleman and the health team supervised the residence to check if it was fit for home isolation of the patients. The children.....[view more](#)

Mayo admin rejects Expo Centre patients' complaints

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

LAHORE: The Mayo Hospital administration which also looks after the Expo Centre Corona Field Hospital, Johar Town, has rejected a report (published in this paper on Sunday) based on some patients' complaints. It says the video clip does not show the premises of Corona Field Hospital, Expo Centre, nor any complaint has ever been received from patients who remained admitted at the health facility or are currently admitted, regarding unhygienic food.....[view more](#)

55 markets, shops sealed in Rawalpindi district for SOP violations

Source: [Aamir Yasin, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

RAWALPINDI: A total of 55 shops and markets were sealed in Saddar, Raza Bazaar and other parts of the district on Sunday for violating standard operating procedures (SOP) to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The Punjab government has allowed shops to open from Monday to Thursday between 8am and 5pm, but shops have to stay closed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Commissioner retired Capt Mohammad Mehmood told Dawn that teams have been formed.....[view more](#)

Another 143 test positive for COVID-19

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-18

Rawalpindi: The confirmation of another 143 patients positive from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in last 24 hours took the total number of patients so far confirmed positive from the region to 2449 while no death was reported in the region due to the disease. Data collected by 'The News' on Sunday reveals that so far, a total of 66 patients have died of COVID-19 in the district[view more](#)

One million youth now part of Tiger Force

Source: [APP, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

SIALKOT - Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Usman Dar said Sunday that youth were the future of the country and government firmly believed in their empowerment. Addressing the participants of an orientation session of COVID-19 Relief Tiger Force here, he said that one million youth had become part of the Tiger Force on the call of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said the Tiger Force was actively playing its pivotal role in implementing.....[view more](#)

Covid-19; Easing of lockdown may cause a disastrous situation, fears governor

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar on Sunday said that irresponsible attitude of the business and traders community in particular and the people at large in the wake of easing of lockdown may land the whole nation in a disastrous situation. While addressing a ceremony organized in honour of social workers rendering services during pandemic crisis on front lines, and later talking to media persons at Governor's House today.....[view more](#)

Every single penny coming into COVID-19 fund will be spent on patients transparently: Buzdar

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

WASA Vice Chairman Sheikh Imtiaz Ahmad and MD Syed Zahid Aziz called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar and presented a cheque to the CM amounting Rs 4.013 million on behalf of WASA staff members in the CM's fund for corona control. Tech Video[view more](#)

Sindh

Sindh governor approves Corona Emergency Relief Ord

Source: [INP](#), [Business Recorder](#), [Islamabad](#), 2020-05-16

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Imran Ismail on Friday approved the Corona Emergency Relief Ordinance, 2020 to provide relief to the people of the province amid the coronavirus pandemic. The ordinance was sent to the governor after approval of Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah for signature.—INP[view more](#)

COVID-19 claims 12 lives in Sindh, raising death toll to 255

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), [Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-16

A total of 12 more people lost their lives in Sindh between Thursday and Friday due to the coronavirus infection, raising the death toll due to the viral disease to 255 in the province, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Friday. He added that 817 new cases of coronavirus had also been diagnosed in the province. "As many as 535 patients of coronavirus have recovered while 817 new cases of the infe.....[view more](#)

JS Bank, MJSF and Partners donates Rs10 million to SIUT for Covid-19 treatment

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), [Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-16

KARACHI: In the fight against COVID-19, JS Bank, Mahvash and Jahangir Siddiqui Foundation (MJSF) and Partners donated PKR 10 million to SIUT. SIUT Receives 10 Million Rs. From JS Bank, Mahvash and Jahangir Siddiqui Foundation and Partners to Fight Corona Considering the growing need to strengthen the national healthcare systems in the fight against COVID-19, JS Bank, Mahvash and Jahangir Siddiqui Foundation and its partners have donated[view more](#)

Experts find lacunae in govt strategy on Covid-19

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

KARACHI: The government has missed two critical opportunities that could have placed the country at a better position today in its fight against coronavirus as official indecisiveness led to a delayed and ineffective lockdown with constant increase in cases and the government failed to utilise the period of two-month lockdown for building a policy framework on how to return to normalcy. This analysis is part of a report recently prepared by a te.....[view more](#)

Woman becomes 18th victim of Covid-19 in Hyderabad

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

HYDERABAD: A 45-year-old woman died from complications caused by coronavirus infection at the isolation ward for Covid-19 in the Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) on Friday, raising death toll so far from the virus to 18 in the district since the outbreak of the pandemic. The hospital's focal person for Covid-19 Dr Aftab Hussain Phull said the patient was in a critical condition. She was shifted from Hala town in Matiari district to the ho.....[view more](#)

Court asks officials to seek medical advice, make SOPs on pillion riding

Source: [Ishaq Tanoli](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Friday directed the provincial authorities to seek advice of medical experts and also adopt guidelines of National Coordination Committee on the issue of complete ban on pillion riding and if required some SOPs were framed for due implementation. While disposing of a petition challenging April 18 notification about a complete ban on pillion riding in the province, the two-judge bench headed by Justice Mohammad Al.....[view more](#)

Sindh governor gives assent to Covid-19 emergency relief ordinance

Source: [Imran Ayub](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Imran Ismail on Friday signed the Sindh Covid-19 Emergency Relief Ordinance 2020 after the provincial government amended the draft of the proposed relief following his objection that the Pakistan Peoples Party administration was giving relief in an area which “does not fall within the legislative domain of the provinces”. A brief statement issued by the Governor House said that the Sindh government had reviewed.....[view more](#)

535 coronavirus patients recover, 817 new cases emerge, says CM

Source: [Tahir Siddiqui](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Friday that 535 patients of coronavirus recovered and 817 new cases emerged while 12 more patients died overnight taking the death toll to 255. “The situation seems to be critical in the sense that not only the recovery of patients is increasing, but the ratio of new patients and death ratio are also on the rise,” he added. In a statement issued from CM House, the chief minis.....[view more](#)

‘No suspected Covid-19 patient will be refused treatment at any hospital’

Source: [Faiza Ilyas](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

KARACHI: A delegation of the Pakistan Paediatric Association (PPA), Sindh, Pakistan Islamic Medical Association and ENT Society, Sindh, held a meeting with the health minister on Friday in which a consensus was developed on issues currently affecting patients and healthcare providers due to the Covid-19 epidemic. The delegation was led by Dr Ghulam Rasool Buriro of PPA along with Prof Jamal Raza and Dr Khalid Shafi. Prof Atif Siddiqi of the Pak.....[view more](#)

SBP cuts interest rate by 100 basis points to 8%

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

The State Bank of Pakistan on Friday announced that it is slashing the policy rate by 100 basis points to 8%, the fourth cut by the bank within two months. Tech Video 00:30 / 00:54[view more](#)

190 participants of Youm-e-Ali (AS) processions arrested for violating ban

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

At least 190 participants of Youm-e-Ali (AS) processions in Karachi have been arrested for violating the government ban on all religious processions and congregations, Karachi police spokesperson Inspector Shazia Jehan said. A total of 39 FIRs were registered against the violators. According to an officer of South Zone police, 105 participants of a procession were arrested from their zone only. T.....[view more](#)

Karachi witnesses worst Eid sale season in due to COVID-19

Source: [Oonib Azam, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

The year 2020 has seen the worst Eid sale season in the history of Pakistan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All Karachi Tajir Ittehad Chairman Atiq Mir thinks trading in the city this Eidul Fitr will barely cross the mark of Rs10 billion. Mir told The News that due to the economic slowdown last year, Karachi saw a sale of hardly Rs35 billion. However, he believes that the losses this year will be unprecedented. He pointed out that some 40[view more](#)

'Rs891 million spent on COVID-19 health emergency in Sindh'

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

A sum of Rs3.603 billion has been collected in the Corona Emergency Fund of the Sindh government, out of which Rs891 million has been spent to deal with the COVID-19 health emergency in the province. A meeting chaired by Chief Secretary (CS) Mumtaz Ali Shah on Saturday was also told that 1,048 individuals and private organisations have donated Rs271.9 million to the emergency fund. Forty-six per cent of the medical supplies and equipment.....[view more](#)

107 samples from Pir Jo Goth found negative in re-test

Source: [Staff Correspondent, Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

HYDERABAD: As many as 107 out of 177 samples collected in Pir Jo Goth, Khairpur, for coronavirus re-test, were found to be negative for the contagion by a private laboratory of Karachi on Thursday. According to official sources, so far results of 152 out of 177 samples had been received and 107 were among them. However, 45 were found to be positive for the virus, said the officials. All the samples were collected on chief minister's direc.....[view more](#)

Murad says next Sindh budget to be impacted by coronavirus

Source: [Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn](#), 2020-05-17

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday said that the budget for the next financial year would be impacted by coronavirus. "Therefore, a new strategy has been worked out under which priorities will be given to health services, employment generation, social security, and innovation in education sector," he added. This he said while presiding over a meeting to set a strategy for the budget 2020-21. The meeting was atte.....[view more](#)

Centre should focus on pandemic instead of criticising Sindh: Shah

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Sindh Minister for Information Nasir Hussain Shah on Saturday advised the federal government to focus on serving the people in distress instead of making baseless allegations against the Sindh government. he provincial information minister said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders cannot absolve themselves of their responsibilities by repeatedly criticizing the Sindh chief minister. He said the repeated statements by PTI spokespersons in which t.....[view more](#)

Over 400 women doctors monitor from abroad Covid-19 patients in Sindh

Source: [Imran Ayub, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

KARACHI: More than 400 Pakistani female doctors in over 15 countries and different cities of the country have joined hands with the provincial government in fight against the coronavirus by round-the-clock monitoring and assisting some 8,000 patients in Sindh who are in home isolation through technology-driven and IT-enabled facilities, officials and experts said on Sunday. They said that the female doctors were brought back to the provincial he.....[view more](#)

No shortage of ventilators for Covid-19 patients, says Murad

Source: [Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday said that there were 451 ventilators in the provincial government hospitals, and 109 of them were for coronavirus patients. He said at present only 31 Covid-19 patients were on ventilators which was 16 per cent utilisation of the total infected people, adding that “we have equipped our hospitals and coronavirus centres to provide best treatment facilities to our patients”.[view more](#)

Governor claims herbs helped him recover from coronavirus

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn](#), 2020-05-18

KARACHI: Sharing his experiences in the 17-day isolation period he had undergone after suffering from Covid-19, Sindh Governor Imran Ismail said on Sunday that the coronavirus was not the disease that essentially culminated in death. In a statement, he said that the death rate from the coronavirus was very low and its patients could defeat Covid-19 by adopting precautionary measures and standard operating procedures (SOPs) in this regard. The g.....[view more](#)

Food exporters cry for clarity about ban

Source: [SYED HARIS AHMED, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

KARACHI: The Covid-19 pandemic has started taking its toll on Pakistan’s exports. Merchandise exports in April this year nosedived to \$957 million from \$2.09 billion in April last year. The easing of lockdown restrictions for export-oriented industries plus concessional finance packages and massive interest rate cuts may help check this free fall in export earnings from May onwards. But that is just like seeing the half glass full. No.....[view more](#)

Nine more lose battle against Covid-19 as 787 fresh cases reported: Murad

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-18

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that there are total 451 ventilators at Sindh government hospitals, out of which 109 have been reserved for the coronavirus patients. In a statement issued from the CM House on Sunday, he said out of these 109 ventilators, only 31 were occupied which showed 16 percent utilization of the ventilators. “We have equipped our hospitals and coronavirus centers with best treatm.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 testing lab starts functioning at CMCH

Source: [Jamal Dawoodpoto, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Third COVID-19 QPCR Laboratory has started functioning at the Chandka Medical College Hospital (CMCH), Larkana. Tech Video 00:51 / 00:54[view more](#)

Residents of 350 villages near Dadu forced to drink contaminated water

Source: [Imdad Ali Khushik, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Residents of 350villagesof various union councils of Chhinni, Sawaro, Wahi Pandhi, Pat Gul Gul Mohammad, Tando Rahim,Goza, Fareedabad nad Mado of Kachho belt located at western belt of Dadu district are living without facilities of clean drinking water.Tech Video[view more](#)

International News

Countries News

Moscow rolls out mass coronavirus antibody testing programme

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Moscow began testing thousands of randomly-chosen residents for coronavirus antibodies on Friday under a mass screening programme authorities hope will help them determine when it is safe to lift the city's lockdown restrictions. The Russian capital of 12.7 million is in its seventh week of a shutdown and has shouldered the brunt of Russia's outbreak, which has seen more than a quarter of a million people infected nationwide according.....[view more](#)

In Amazon city, indigenous chief felled by COVID-19 buried with dance and singing

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

He had asked them to sing and dance at his funeral, and that is how they said goodbye to Chief Messias Kokama on Thursday. They sang the Brazilian national anthem in Tikuna, one of the 14 indigenous languages spoken in their ramshackle settlement on the outskirts of Manaus where 2,500 descendants of 35 different Amazon tribes live. Tech Video[view more](#)

US allegations against China on Covid-19: a reality check — Part III

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

10. Allegation: China was too late in disclosing information about human-to-human transmission. As a result, the US and the rest of the world had not gained enough knowledge about how contagious and deadly the virus was and therefore failed to respond quickly enough. Reality Check: The messages from China and the World Health Organization have been timely and strong. The US knows about the danger of the virus all along. ? It takes a rigorous s.....[view more](#)

Cafes and bars reopen in parts of Australia after coronavirus lockdown

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Restaurants, cafes and bars in Australia's most populous state were reopening on Friday after a two-month shutdown under coronavirus lockdown measures, boosting the federal government's bid to get people back in work and the economy back on track.Tch Video 00:00.....[view more](#)

COVID- 19 patients given malaria drug didn't see significant improvements

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Patients given the malaria drug touted by President Donald Trump as a potential treatment for COVID-19 did not improve significantly over those who did not, according to two new studies published in the medical journal BMJ on Thursday. Tech Video[view more](#)

Brazil coronavirus cases hit daily record as Bolsonaro pressures CEOs

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Brazil registered a daily record 13,944 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Thursday, as President Jair Bolsonaro urged business leaders to push for lifting lockdown orders in financial center Sao Paulo to help the economy. Tech Video[view more](#)

France's coronavirus death toll again exceeds Spain's

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

France's cumulative coronavirus death toll edged back above Spain's as the health ministry reported that the number of people who died of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours increased by 351 or 1.3% to 27,425. Video 00:00 /[view more](#)

In twist of fate, Venezuelans in Chile seek to return home

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Hundreds of Venezuelans seeking to return home gathered in a makeshift tent camp outside their embassy in Santiago on Thursday, as the coronavirus outbreak spurs a reverse migration wave of those who fled their crisis-stricken country in recent years. Video ends in 4s Next Video[view more](#)

With few computers, Romania and Bulgaria face homeschool hurdles

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Maria Avadanei is exhilarated: after receiving a tablet as a donation, she can finally take her online lessons. Traffic Video 00:23 / 01:00[view more](#)

Europe opens up despite fears of virus surge

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

More parts of Europe opened up on Friday as the world tried to get back on the road to recovery from coronavirus, despite fears of a second wave of the pandemic which has claimed more than 300,000 lives worldwide. Tech Video 00:02[view more](#)

'May Allah remove the virus': pandemic a grim addition to Afghanistan's woes

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-16

Delkhah Sultani scrubs laundry outside her home in Kabul as her young daughter watches on. She says she once got paid around \$3 a day to wash clothes for other households but since the coronavirus outbreak hit, work has dropped and she now earns \$1 every few days to support her and her four children. Video[view more](#)

China donates automatic intelligent mask production lines to Pakistan

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Xuzhou Xunyike System Technology, a leading high-tech enterprise providing integrated solutions for intelligent manufacturing has donated two automatic intelligent mask production lines to help Pakistan build the mask industry. Each machine has a capacity to produce 100,000 masks per day, Qin Ping, General Manager of Xunyike, located in Xiangcheng District of Suzhou, said in an interview. The production line donated to Pakistan, through Pakistan Em.....[view more](#)

Alarm in Germany as 'corona demos' take off

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

From anger over lockdown measures to a purported vaccine plan by Bill Gates: a growing wave of demonstrations in Germany by conspiracy theorists, extremists and anti-vaxxers has alarmed even Chancellor Angela Merkel. ends in 13s Next Video &.....[view more](#)

Ukraine workers skirt lockdowns to rescue European farms

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

In an almost empty terminal at Boryspil airport in Kiev, Yuriy was waiting in a busy line of 200 seasonal workers to check in for a lone flight to Finland. Tech Video 00:06 / 00:54[view more](#)

Italy's beauty sector hopes coronavirus doesn't crack the mirror

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

The nail care section of the Femme salon in Rome looks almost like a prison visiting room with a row of people on one side of a glass partition and visitors on the other. Just about the only difference is that there is a slot at the centre of each counter where the customer can slide a hand through to the other side. Tech Video[view more](#)

After coronabonds, EU heads for clash over 'corona' tax in next budget

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

After a row over joint borrowing to respond to the new coronavirus pandemic, the European Union looks set to clash over whether governments should assign new tax revenues to the EU to help finance a recovery from the pandemic-induced recession. Like the tussle over joint debt, the idea of the EU getting some or all of the revenues from any new taxes levied by its 27 governments goes to the heart of the debate over how much national sovereignty sh.....[view more](#)

Residents of Bogota slum facing eviction despite quarantine

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Hundreds of people expected to be evicted from their hillside homes in a slum of Colombia's capital Bogota on Friday, despite having nowhere to go during the country's coronavirus lockdown. Next Video × Next Video Traffic Video[view more](#)

US allegations against China on Covid-19: a reality check — Part IV

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

13. Allegation: China has been spreading disinformation about COVID-19. Tech Video 00:20 / 00:54[view more](#)

Huge virus recovery bill clears US House, fate uncertain in Senate

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

House Democrats on Friday narrowly pushed through the largest-ever US economic rescue package, but the coronavirus measure faces headwinds in the White House and Senate where Republicans bemoan its \$3 trillion price tag. Tech Video[view more](#)

Brazil loses new health minister as Bolsonaro grabs reins in coronavirus crisis

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Brazil lost its second health minister in a month on Friday after President Jair Bolsonaro demanded wider use of unproven anti-malarial drugs to fight the coronavirus outbreak, adding to turmoil in one of the pandemic's worst global hotspots. Next Video x Next V.....[view more](#)

In patchwork restart, parts of New York and other US states reopen

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Less populated areas of New York, Virginia and Maryland took their first steps towards lifting lockdowns on Friday, part of a patchwork approach to the coronavirus pandemic that has been shaped by political divisions across the United States.Tech Video 00:03[view more](#)

Europe at odds as US, China fight over pandemic at UN

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

The clash between China and the United States over COVID-19 has caused a rift between European nations at the UN Security Council over a call for ceasefires in some conflict zones during the pandemic. Tech Video 00:01[view more](#)

Qatar's latest coronavirus cases take total above 30,000

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

Qatar reported on Saturday another 1,547 cases of the novel coronavirus, bringing the country's total number of confirmed infections to more than 30,000. With a population of about 2.7 million people, the energy-rich Gulf state has one of the world's highest per capita number of confirmed cases. The latest health ministry report on confirmed cases took the total to 30,972, according to figures published on the ministry's website.....[view more](#)

Saudi Arabia's coronavirus cases top 50,000

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-17

The number of coronavirus cases in Saudi Arabia topped 50,000 on Saturday, the health ministry said. A ministry official reported 2,840 new cases, taking the cumulative total to 51,980. That was up from an average of around 1,500 new cases a day over the past week. The death toll in the kingdom increased by 10 to 302, the official said on state TV. Saudi Arabia recorded its first COVID-19 infection on March 2, several weeks after the initial outb.....[view more](#)

The Corona Economics

Source: [Muhammad Armaghan Faisal](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Averagely, a Pakistani makes around Rs 21,000 per month. This minute amount is viable to cause hardships for households across Pakistan, even without economic fallout. TheCoronavirushas caused an already fragile system to take a nosedive. The virus is not just bound to kill thousands and lay off millions of workers; the true aftershocks of this tremor are still immeasurable at such an early stage. But we can take a look at nations across the worl.....[view more](#)

Wisconsin again? Swing state a hotbed of virus politics

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Wisconsin has been the battleground for political proxy wars for nearly a decade, the backdrop for bruising feuds over labor unions, executive power, redistricting and President Donald Trump. Tech Video 00:10[view more](#)

US allegations against China on Covid-19: a reality check — Part V

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

18. Allegation: China has blocked Taiwan's bid to join WHO, putting the health of the people in Taiwan at risk. Tech Video 00:11 / 00:54[view more](#)

Medics around the world face hostility over virus stigma

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Dr. Dina Abdel-Salam watched in terror last month as scores of strangers gathered under the balcony of her aunt's empty apartment in the Egyptian city of Ismailia, where she'd temporarily sheltered after leaving her elderly parents at home to protect them from exposure to the coronavirus. Tech Video[view more](#)

Houses of worship gain audience by going online during virus

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

On a rainy evening in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis delivered a special blessing, asking God for help against the coronavirus. Tech Video 00:02 / 00:54[view more](#)

'Everyone has a story': How will world remember pandemic?

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-18

Artist Obi Uwakwe was driving through Chicago's empty streets, camera on his lap to document life during COVID-19, when he saw something that made him stop: a casket being carried out of a church while a few mourners stood by, their faces covered. Tech Video 0.....[view more](#)

Donors News

Chinese company supporting local community in COVID-19

Source: [Obaid Abrar Khan](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-16

Islamabad : To fight against the COVID-19 Chinese government is providing its full support to Pakistan along with this Chinese companies working on different projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are also playing their part to support local community. A Chinese company China Gezgouba Group Corporation (CGGC) working on Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, which is located on Kunhar River in the Kaghan Valley of District Mansehra,.....[view more](#)

Pandemic's global impact could reach \$8.8tr: ADB

Source: [Amin Ahmed](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-16

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank on Friday forecast that the global economy could suffer between \$5.8 trillion and \$8.8tr in losses, equivalent to 6.4 per cent to 9.7pc of global GDP, as a result of the novel coronavirus

pandemic. The new analysis shows the global cost has changed within a month since situation is rapidly evolving, as the last analysis of the 'Asian Development Outlook' in the previous month had estima.....[view more](#)

Virus can infect more than 200 million in Africa: WHO study

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-16

The new coronavirus could kill 150,000 people in Africa in a year unless urgent action is taken, according to a WHO modelling study that says nearly a quarter of a billion people will be infected. Tech Video 00:03[view more](#)

US allegations against China on Covid-19: a reality check — Part V

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-18

18. Allegation: China has blocked Taiwan's bid to join WHO, putting the health of the people in Taiwan at risk.....[view more](#)

SDPI Engagements

Researchers-Articles

Impact of COVID-19 on Women's Mental Health

Source: [Sana Malik](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-16

Whilst acknowledging that the impacts of COVID-19 have been enormous, both on men and women, it should also be noted that in times of pandemics, marginalised populations often get more negatively affected. Women happen to be one such group. However, the ways in which women get impacted more than often take a back seat and their vulnerabilities are overlooked in difficult times. This is especially true in the context of South Asia where they are o.....[view more](#)

Webinars

'Coronavirus opened up new territory of cooperation'

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-16

Islamabad : Paul W Jones, Charge d' Affaires, US Embassy, has said that his country focuses on expanding its humanitarian, political and commercial cooperation with Islamabad amid and in post COVID-19 pandemic to the mutual benefits of both the peoples and the countries while respecting Pakistan taking its decisions as an important country in the region. Mr Jones was speaking at the Policy Dialogue Series on 'Pakistan-United St.....[view more](#)

Post Covid-19 education policy sought

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-16

ISLAMABAD: Senior academia and educationists have termed the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) as an opportunity to align the higher education set up of the country with its socio-economic goals and to have a broader academic policy dialogue in this regard. This was stated by academics and policy experts during an online seminar on 'Post-Covid-19 Scenario – Challenges and Options for Higher Education Institutions'. The seminar[view more](#)

Aligning higher education with Covid-19 realities

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Islamabad : The senior academia and educationists across Pakistan have termed Covid-19 as an opportunity to align the entire higher education in the country with the future socio-economic realities. This consensus emerged at an online 'Post Covid-19 Scenario - Challenges and Options for Higher Education Institutions' organised here by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in coordination with Higher Education Commission.....[view more](#)

AIOU, SDPI call for broader policy dialogue on education in wake of COVID-19

Source: [Rasheed Khalid](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-17

Islamabad : Senior academia and educationists across Pakistan have termed Covid-19 as an opportunity to align the entire higher education in the country with the future socio-economic realities. The situation resulted by the global pandemic therefore demands a total paradigm shift and a broader academic policy dialogue is the need of hour to ensure the quality and future-oriented education. They shared these views here with the audience[view more](#)

Dr Ishrat unveils govt's economic revival plan in wake of Covid-19

Source: [APP](#), [Pakistan Today](#), 2020-05-18

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity Dr Ishrat Hussain said on Monday that the government had devised a well-crafted strategy in the wake of Covid-19, enabling the most vulnerable segments of the society to absorb the economic shocks and supporting the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to tackle disruption in economic activities. He was delivering a keynote speech at an online dialogue "Managing Eco.....[view more](#)

SDPI Press Release

Dr Ishrat unveils govt's economic revival plan in wake of COVID-19

Source: [SDPI](#), [SDPI Press Release](#), 2020-05-18

Adviser to Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms & Austerity Dr Ishrat Hussain has said that the government has devised and implemented a well-crafted strategy in wake of COVID-19 enabling the most vulnerable segments of the society to absorb the economic shocks whereas the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are being given support in order to tackle a disruption in the economic activities. He was delivering a keynote speech at an online[view more](#)

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