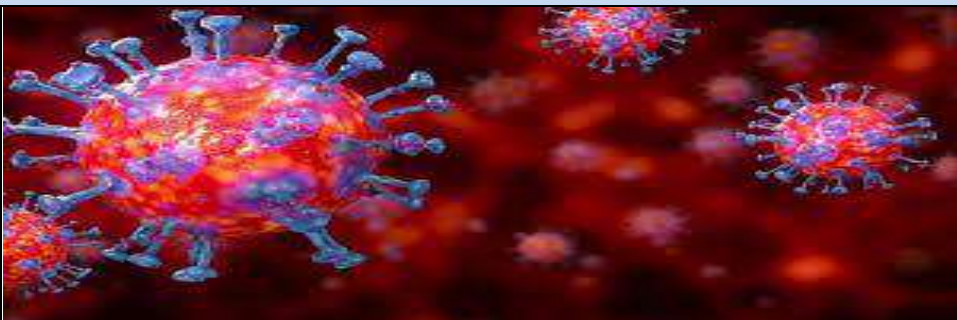


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



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.....About Newsletter

In order to keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI brings out a By-weekly E-Newsletter on "COVID-19".

It carries reference information's to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.

Newspapers Covered:

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

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Contents.....

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials..... 02

National News

Islamabad	Punjab
Khabar Pakhtunkhwa	Gilgit Baltistan
Sindh	AJK
Balochistan	

International News

Countries News	Donors News
--------------------------------	-----------------------------

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Death by hunger?

Source: [Dr Niaz Murtaza](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

OPPOSING lockdowns strongly, Imran Khan argues that hunger would kill more Pakistanis than Covid-19. States that have curbed the virus via lockdowns allowed essential activities only and the virus curve fell in eight to 10 weeks. Would such a lockdown kill more Pakistanis from hunger than Covid-19? An Imperial College study says lockdown would save 200,000 to 300,000 Pakistani lives. A Yale study says lockdowns will save 182,000. Even this lower.....[view more](#)

Manhandling medics

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

REPORTS that members of the public are resorting to ransacking hospitals and beating up medical workers are extremely worrying. Multiple incidents of individuals assaulting staff at hospitals have surfaced. In the first, attendants and relatives of a patient at Karachi's JPMC vandalised the coronavirus isolation ward after being refused permission to take the deceased patient's body home. In a second incident at the same hospital, a d.....[view more](#)

Protecting future generations

Source: [Hassan Hakeem](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

The writer is a development specialist with expertise in parliamentary oversight and sustainable development. During last month's Saarc teleconference, regional stakeholders stressed the need to fast-track knowledge-sharing on Covid-19. The same month, the World Bank assessed that South Asia would be worst hit by the economic crunch due to the pandemic, with inflation expected to average at 11.8 percent in 2020. South Asia is home[view more](#)

Pandemics and poverty

Source: [Dr Manzoor Ali Isran](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

Most pandemics are natural and begin with pathogens leaping from wild or domesticated animals to humans, in what is called a 'zoonotic spark'. Mostly, such pathogens originate in Central Africa, and South and Southeast Asia as these regions, being home to most of the global poor, are experiencing rapid expansions in human settlements, intensifying agricultural and livestock production, increasing exploitation of natural resour.....[view more](#)

Citizen apathy

Source: [Themrise Khan](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

The UK has recently been receiving a lot of criticism for the revised slogan 'Stay Alert, Save Lives', a flip from the 'Stay Home, Save Lives' slogan they originally adhered to. People in the UK have interpreted this as the government absolving itself from the responsibility of protecting its citizens from all harm, and effectively, putting the burden of protection on citizens themselves. All in response to gradual.....[view more](#)

Esso Peas

Source: [Naeem Sadiq](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

Pakistanis and peas go back a long way. Earliest archaeological finds confirm that peas were popular with the people of the Harappan civilization some 4500 years ago. Harappans grew numerous varieties of peas – garden peas, field

peas, snap peas, sweet peas, snow peas, dry peas and black-eyed peas, to name a few. Continuing with this ancient organic tradition, in March 2020, Pakistan became the first country in the world to develop[view more](#)

Relief budget

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

The upcoming budget-making exercise is going to be a major challenge for both the federal and provincial governments. Though the government is reported to be working on a relief-oriented budget, with duty cuts on imported raw items and reduction in other regulatory duties, it remains to be seen how much it can turn around the traditional budget-making which has almost never been people-friendly. The proposed duty reduction is supposed to help in[view more](#)

COVID-19 policy- shades of grey

Source: [Zahra Raza](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

As a new dawn welcomed the arrival of the blessed of Ramazan, it was far from ideal, the current predicament the earth's population is facing has transformed this Ramazan in inconceivable ways. Mosques around the globe are closed, with cancellation of communal prayers, societies forced to seclude themselves within their homes, for the first time the sanctified Kabaa sits idle as confusion weighs its presence, what the future prospects will[view more](#)

Conspiracies around Covid

Source: [Kamal Siddiqi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

By last count, almost 40,000 people in Pakistan had tested positive for Covid-19. I am sure this number will increase as the lockdown is eased and people move around more freely. Over the weekend, the death toll had exceeded 800 in the country. This itself is a frightening figure. Our prime minister, however, feels that the numbers we are seeing are lesser than what the predictions were for this timeframe. He claims it was his government&rsq.....[view more](#)

The world after COVID-19

Source: [Dr Zamurad Awan](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

In December 2019, a unique virus, known as coronavirus, appeared in the China's city Wuhan, spreading around the world, leaving hardly any country unaffected. The first case of coronavirus in Pakistan was diagnosed in the month of February and as of early May, the epidemic had infected more than 23 thousand people, with 500 more deaths. Though, this pandemic shocked the world in one way or the other, the situation in struggling economies li.....[view more](#)

Deadlock In Sindh

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

The deadlock between the Sindh government and the traders over the timing of keeping shops open is unfortunate. In these times, the two sides should be more cooperative towards each other. Rigid positions will only aggravate the situation further. Though the Sindh government is not willing to accept the traders' demands, the request of the merchants is not entirely irrational. Longer opening hours – the main demand of the traders.....[view more](#)

Exams and Covid-19

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

Of all the things about daily life that the coronavirus has disrupted so badly, since it has made it all but impossible for even a few people to be in the same vicinity without serious risk to a lot of people's lives, perhaps the worst is the ability of students to attend schools/colleges/universities. Indeed, practically all governments are going so far as lifting restrictions on work, so the economy can function and people can earn once a.....[view more](#)

Horses for courses

Source: [Ikram Sehgal, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

The Imran Khan government came into power in 2018 declaring fighting poverty and corruption as their main objectives. To reach this 'Naya Pakistan' a new poverty alleviation 'Ehsaas' program was launched in March 2019. Dr Sania Nishtar, a public health specialist and seasoned poverty and health care politician, took charge while also taking control of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) that needed upgrading. Initiate.....[view more](#)

The need for an International Interconnected Philanthropic Network to defeat Covid-19

Source: [Frank F Islam, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

In times of crises such as flooding, hurricanes, and earthquakes, there is a substantial need for philanthropic assistance. Because of the unprecedented global crisis caused by the COVID19 pandemic – which as of this moment has already resulted in more than 4 million confirmed cases and nearly 300,000 deaths world-wide, there is need for this form of philanthropy and much more. The “much more” is an international interconnected ph.....[view more](#)

Novel coronavirus and its impact on the constitutional rights of children to an education in Pakistan

Source: [Barrister Rida Tahir, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

The novel coronavirus, Covid-19 has had many impacts on not only the developing countries but also the developed countries. Pakistan, being one of the developing countries has many challenges to face : shortage of food, clean water, healthcare, and also the one upon which it seems much attention has not been paid in years: The right to an education! The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) recognizes “education” as a fundament.....[view more](#)

HEC Guidelines for M.Phil/MS and Ph.D. Defense in Covid-19 Scenario

Source: [Muneer Ahmed, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

During the current Covid-19 crisis, Higher Education Commission (HEC) has issued multiple guidelines for Universities to continue academic activities for engaging students through online mode of education. The recent guidelines issued last week are specifically for those post-graduate students who have completed their course work and are ready to appear for the comprehensive examination. Guidelines are divided into two parts; one is the background.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 and food supply chain disruptions

Source: [Umar Farooq, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Sitting on your couch with a plate full of fruits while watching your favorite Netflix show/film? Possibilities are they came from a local farm or large farm hundreds of miles away from your home, outskirts of Hyderabad, harvested and loaded by hands by workers, offloaded at your local mandi by laborer migrated from Northwest of Pakistan or south Punjab. What if the next morning you go to a supermarket for grocery and find yourself sinking while.....[view more](#)

Tiger Force and its implications

Source: [Asif Jah](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

The economy of a country is the indicator of its socio-economic status/growth. Pakistan is among those few countries that have an approximately 65 per cent young population, most of which is wandering after jobs while jobs are shrinking due to the rapid increase in the population of Pakistan. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto emphasised on birth control for a better future of the coming generations. This was not taken seriously, rather opposed by religious quart.....[view more](#)

What is meant by clinical trials of a drug?

Source: <https://dailytimes.com.pk/614418/what-is-meant-by-clinical-trials-of-a-drug-daily-times/>, [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

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 under a clinical trial just like Remdesivir is under Clinical trial phase III. This article will help you understand what are these clinical trials and after how many phases, a drug is ready to be used by a patient. Clinical trials are performed to collect evidence for a drug to determine whether it is safe and e.....[view more](#)

The Covid-19 fight

Source: [Atta-ur-Rahman](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

As scientists work day and night in laboratories all over the world to find a cure or a vaccine for Covid-19, exciting progress is being made both in discovering drugs that could be effective against this virus as well as in vaccine development. Clinical trials led by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in the US showed that remdesivir, a drug developed some years ago by a US company Gilead Sciences against t.....[view more](#)

Politics in a pandemic

Source: [S Qaisar Shareef](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

The rapid deterioration of the US economy due to the novel coronavirus pandemic has started to make President Trump very nervous. After all, the presidential election is less than six months away. After continuously downplaying the threat, he was ultimately forced to confront reality as the number of infections and deaths kept climbing. As of mid-May, the number of infections in the US were approaching 1.5 million and deaths were closing[view more](#)

Staying alive

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

The 'smart' lockdown in Pakistan never really took off, with people thronging the bazaars as soon as they opened up. And now the Supreme Court has ordered the reopening of shopping malls that had been closed to contain the spread of Covid-19. The main concern of the Supreme Court appears to be 'hunger' and the court has unambiguously observed that restrictions must be relaxed during the last week of Ramazan ahead of the Ei.....[view more](#)

State of anarchy

Source: [Zahid Hussain](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

NO more lockdown or smart lockdown. It's now a free-for-all. What had already started some time ago now seems to have the sanction of the country's highest judicial authority. Even the pretence of restrictions on movement has been swept aside. What pandemic? We are a blessed people anyway. No big deal if a few thousand people are killed by the virus; business must not be stopped. It's unconstitutional to close down markets and.....[view more](#)

Other afflictions

Source: [Mahir Ali, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

AMID the pandemic, there are frequent reminders that SARS-CoV-2 is far from the only virus we need to worry about. Beyond the cholera and malaria and various other biological phenomena that routinely scythe through substantial segments of humanity in various parts of the world, there are the psychological epidemics that frequently take their toll. One such affliction left its scars last week in Kabul's Dasht-i-Barchi hospital, where three[view more](#)

SC order

Source: [Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

THE Supreme Court's words have undoubtedly gladdened the hearts of many chafing at the official restrictions on commercial activities in the country at present. On Monday, the apex court bench, hearing the suo motu case pertaining to the authorities' handling of the coronavirus pandemic, set aside the federal government's decision to close shops, markets and businesses on Saturdays and Sundays. "People of my country are po.....[view more](#)

Herd immunity will not work

Source: [Shariq Jamal Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

Covid-19 is still in our midst. We are not even sure what it is doing to our people. We possess scant information regarding the pathogenic trajectory it will follow in the future. Worryingly, we are also unsure of its collective prognosis. A self-created myth that things are re-entering the realm of normality is making us naïvely fearless, impetuous and complacent. Many Pakistanis believe they are immune to the disease and cite a host of rid.....[view more](#)

Pakistan and severe medicine shortages

Source: [Dr Hamid A Merchant / Dr Izhar M Hussain, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

The Covid-19 is now a major global health challenge and Pakistan has also seen recently a record spike in Covid-19 cases. Pakistan was lucky in terms of getting the pandemic late but have we learned any lessons from other countries who had it first? Are we ready to fight the emergency crises expected to hit the nation very soon? One of the biggest challenges that Pakistan may face is an extreme shortage of essential medicines. Pakistan is bl.....[view more](#)

SC judgment

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

To the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Covid-19 "apparently is not a pandemic in Pakistan" and "the [federal and provincial] governments should not put all its [sic] resources for this one disease, nor the country should be made all together dysfunctional, because of this disease, for its consequences will be highly detrimental to the people of Pakistan". A five-member bench of the top court headed by Chief Justice Gul.....[view more](#)

Living in an era of evidence-based medicine

Source: [Dr Kamran Qureshi and Dr Khawar Abbas, The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

George Orwell wrote in his bestseller Animal Farm, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." The current pandemic is thought to affect everyone and spare no one. Whether this is true or not is still too early to say. As humans, will we learn from this pandemic or will we return to our normal selves as if nothing has happened? One thing is for sure, that the economic repercussions of this will adversely.....[view more](#)

Food security in the age of Covid-19

Source: [M Ziauddin](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

There never was any lockdown in the country's agricultural sector. And from the way the NCC and NCOC have been carrying out, their respective efforts over the last two months at meeting the challenges of Covid-19, it appears that for lack of enough testing capacity, inadequate supplies of medical infrastructure like doctors, nurses, hospital beds, paramedics, masks, non-enforcement of social distancing code in rural regions as well as non-a.....[view more](#)

Accepting the inevitable

Source: [Editorial](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

Now that everybody is done experimenting with the lockdowns and the whole world feels compelled to open up once again it seems the time has come to accept the inevitable and understand that we are going to have to live with the coronavirus for some time to come. The World Health Organisation (WHO) was even less upbeat about the whole thing just a few days ago, when its emergencies director, Dr Mike Ryan, said that the coronavirus may never go awa.....[view more](#)

Covid & governance

Source: [Mohammad Ali Babakhel](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

COVID-19 is testing the efficacy and response of governance systems, besides intensifying the debate on the effectiveness of authoritarian and democratic regimes. A lockdown focuses mainly on curtailing the right to movement; hence authoritarian regimes have the edge in imposing restrictions. In Western democracies, a sense of responsibility has resulted in little effort to impose such restrictions. So far, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Germany, N.....[view more](#)

Here to stay

Source: [F.S. Aijazuddin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

ONE would have thought that with the war against Covid-19 being waged across the world, regional conflicts would have been suspended. A truce, however uneasy, might have prevailed wherever conflicts were simmering. The UN Secretary General António Guterres hoped so. On March 23 he issued an appeal to warring parties within his jurisdiction (but out of his control) to put aside mistrust and animosity, to "silence the guns; stop the ar.....[view more](#)

Debt woes

Source: [Khurram Husain](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

HERE'S something interesting. We all know that Pakistan is close to signing a deal for waiver of its external debt service obligations worth around \$2 billion. The plan has been made possible by the G20 countries that announced an action plan to fight the Covid-19 pandemic in the early days of May, and followed that up with a more specific plan to permit rescheduling of debt service obligations for the poorest countries in the world. &ldqu.....[view more](#)

One thousand and counting

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Pakistan has now surpassed the grim milestone of one thousand deaths from the coronavirus. Government officials are right in claiming that the overall number of deaths here, compared to other countries, has been rather low. But then they should also see other data sets that are coming out, which indicate that Pakistan's daily count of new

infections is now among the highest in the world. And it must worry the government that such trends are[view more](#)

Remember the wronged

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Since the entire world's focus has turned to survival it is easy to forget the plight of communities living in abuse and occupation. They needed more help and aid than the world could provide even in what seem now like the good times. Now, not only has much of the world completely forgotten about them but their oppressors have found yet more freedom to have their way with them. That is why Indian forces have increased arbitrary arrests, tor.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus management in Pakistan

Source: [Dr Shahzad Latif](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Like anything else in Pakistan, there seems to be no proper policy and cohesive plan to deal with coronavirus pandemic. Everyone is doing whatever he wants to do and the way he wants to. The writer wishes that there was a proper system (nizam) in place with enough medical facilities so that suspects and diagnosed patients could be isolated in a right manner and spread of this virus could be controlled. This proper system, the writer wishes for i.....[view more](#)

Where Did the Deadly Virus Come From?

Source: [Syed Amir](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Did the deadliest virus known to man, the novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes the respiratory disease Covid-19, originate in a research laboratory in Wuhan, China, or jump naturally from an animal reservoir to humans? The subject is being debated and is of great interest to scientists around the world. The pandemic has extracted a terrible toll as the worldwide number of infections at the time of this writing has reached 4.5 million, with 30.....[view more](#)

An era of surveillance

Source: [Muhammad Omar Iftikhar](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

A plethora of conspiracies have been floating ever since the world went into a state of lockdown. Some hint at Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft Corporation, to have been secretly endeavoring a plan to reduce and control world population. Reports also claim that Gates, through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has been funding the research and other important projects at the World Health Organization (WHO), leading pharmaceutical, and res.....[view more](#)

The pandemic and juvenile justice

Source: [Sarmad Ali](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

The recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe has not only threatened globalization that the world secured after the demise of the Soviet Union but also threatened lives of ordinary human beings and those behind bars for offences which they did not commit at first place. The pandemic of COVID-19 has threatened civil liberties of every man all around the world as we find security agencies and police standing on roads making unnecess.....[view more](#)

Pakistan and Coronavirus

Source: [Osama Rizvi](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

“The world will never be the same;” the “normal economy isn’t coming back;” and businesses “will have to change permanently,” these are a few of the phrases that one comes across on the internet nowadays. Verily, the impacts of Coronavirus cannot be understated. It doesn’t matter whether you are the largest economy in the world or not, this virus does not discriminate. With decades of gains wiped off[view more](#)

Still struggling for a narrative

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

It is simply unacceptable that even now, when the first phase of the fight against the pandemic is over and the second phase of gradually opening up is effectively underway in much of the world, we are still struggling with an overarching narrative about how to deal with the whole thing. First the centre and Sindh kept fighting about the need for a lockdown, with the prime minister refusing to accept the necessity of one even as PTI and allied pa.....[view more](#)

How to save education

Source: [Hassan Sattar](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

Long before the Covid-19 pandemic and its emergency closure of formal education arrived, Pakistan was living a learning crisis on account of 22 million out-of-school children and learning inadequacy at low-quality public and lower-end private schools. In outcomes, children were already facing learning poverty like not being able to read and comprehend a simple age-appropriate story; the lag, according to a report, is of up to three years.....[view more](#)

Responsible Citizens in the New Normal

Source: [Haya Fatima Sehgal](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

The Government here has eased the lockdown in order to combat an economic fallout. One has already noted the mammoth shift in consumer behavior during the COVID-19 crisis. Our next steps in these crucial moments would be the deciding factor as the nation opens up slowly. Some countries have already taken the decision to do so despite the virus not being contained. For the world governments it could not have been an easy decision to make. For the[view more](#)

The state of the state

Source: [Kamla Hyat](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

Some things should astonish us far more than they actually do. For two months into the coronavirus crisis, there was no session of parliament to discuss the problem, to devise strategy or most importantly of all to build unity amongst parties. When it was requisitioned after the opposition sought a gathering of the most important decision-making house in our democracy, the prime minister himself and even opposition leaders including Shahb.....[view more](#)

Beyond Covid-19

Source: [Mustafa H Sayed](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

Today marks 69 years of our diplomatic relations with China. In these 69 years, the ‘all-weather’ comprehensive, strategic partnership has achieved many milestones and has emerged as a model diplomatic relationship which carries extraordinary goodwill amongst the people of Pakistan for China and vice versa. The Pakistan-China relationship is above partisan politics in Pakistan, and there is a consensus across the political spe.....[view more](#)

Lockdown vs normalcy

Source: [Farhan Bokhari, The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

As Prime Minister Imran Khan's government begins overseeing a return to normalcy this week after a de-facto shutdown across Pakistan, the future is in danger of becoming a mirror image of the recent past. The challenges revealed in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic have laid bare the gaps in Pakistan's ruling structure. In part, policy missteps that led the way have already caused harm to the ability of the state to manage[view more](#)

Establishing e-courts and e-filing in COVID-19 scenario

Source: [Rasool Buksh Mirjat, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the dynamics of the human life, and it has affected everyone in one or another way, be it in the shape of health, wealth, social gatherings, business, routine life, education, and even family life in some cases. It has exposed the world's approach towards the health care sector and expects more importance, investment, and expertise in this sector. As renowned scientists, chemists have also not succeeded in[view more](#)

PM's Address

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

In his address to the special session on the COVID Action platform of the World Economic Forum (WEF), Prime Minister Imran Khan shared the experience of the developing world in dealing with the pandemic. It is true that the pandemic is a global crisis, which has impacted every single country one way or the other, but limited availability of resources has further exacerbated the situation for countries like Pakistan. While European and North Ameri.....[view more](#)

Online Katcheris

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

Along with healthcare professionals, the institution of the police also has a frontline role in combatting the spread of coronavirus cases in the country. Policemen, at the risk of their own health, are needed to implement social distancing guidelines to reduce further escalation of cases. Implementing unprecedented rules in an unprecedented time requires additional communication with citizens, with more inclusive outreach. Commendably, the[view more](#)

Digital transformation in the time of Covid-19

Source: [Saqib Ahmed, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

Digital and IT transformations are the only way forward. Before the on-going pandemic, technology adoption was the only way ahead and this will not change once the world emerges from this crisis. Before the coronavirus emerged and turned the world on its head, there was still a percentage of the global population that was resistant to digital transformation. But when a third of the world's population was asked to stay home; educationa.....[view more](#)

Post-covid FDI outlook

Source: [BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

The headlines still make believe that foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan rose 127 percent in the ten months ending April 2020. Adjusted for low base affect due to a heavy one-off outflow in power sector last year, FDI is actually up just 11 percent. Yet some myths are sticky! In 10MFY19, both power and telecommunication sectors had witnessed substantial outflows, which led to a lower base effect for this year. Adjusting for both po.....[view more](#)

Truth about Pakistan's Covid-19 numbers

Source: [Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

What is the actual number of coronavirus cases in Pakistan? As soon as the pandemic struck Pakistan, this was the most commonly asked question. Nobody believed the numbers released by the government. As I was part of the federal government's core committee on Covid-19, I knew no one hid the numbers though we had the challenge of availability of testing kits and related equipment. Today, I am witnessing another side of mistrust. Many in Paki.....[view more](#)

Liberalism, capitalism and democracy

Source: [Hussain H Zaidi, The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

The writer is an Islamabad-based columnist. Will Covid-19 hasten the demise of the liberal world order? In the event that it does so, the pandemic will only be a catalyst. It is the inner contradictions in liberalism that will write it off. Liberalism took birth in England in the latter half of the 18th century with a view to holding up the Industrial Revolution before spreading to continental Europe. The intellectual basis of liberalism.....[view more](#)

Covid casualties

Source: [Beelam Ramzan, The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

When the entire world is in the precarious grip of Covid-19, the two big economic powers US and China have hit the headlines, making an interesting study of their individual and global response in tackling the virus and the ensuing impact on their economies and trade relations. China had been, undoubtedly, at the epicenter of today's big problem. The virus led a fatal blow to the Chinese economy before spiraling across the borders s.....[view more](#)

Living through a pandemic

Source: [Mushtaq Rajpar, The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

The unprecedented Covid-19 has played havoc with human lives across the globe in the past five months. Over a quarter of million people have lost their lives while more than four million are infected with the novel virus. The virus outbreak has brought social, cultural and commercial life to a standstill. It is only media and politics that are active. In times of severe crises and emergencies, most countries and their people ignore their.....[view more](#)

WEF address

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

In his video-link address to the World Economic Forum (WEF), Prime Minister Imran Khan has rightly highlighted the importance of a global response to defeat the novel coronavirus. He termed Covid-19 a challenge for the entire world, in which the affected countries have become insular and have started looking inside rather than making coordinated efforts. The PM's concerns in this regard are entirely justified as the world as a global villag.....[view more](#)

Economic costs of Covid-19

Source: [Sakib Sherani, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

THE latest economic data from Sweden — one of the few countries to remain open during the coronavirus pandemic as a matter of policy choice — is grim. Its economy is heading into its worst recession since World War II, and is expected to contract seven per cent this year. Forty per cent of businesses in the country's services sector are on the verge of bankruptcy. Why does economic data from Sweden matter? Because it clearly re.....[view more](#)

Nothing doing without debt relief

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

Prime Minister Imran Khan hit the nail on the head, while addressing the “Covid Action Platform” hosted by the World Economic Forum through video link on Wednesday, when he said that poor countries might not be able to survive the pandemic if international creditors and rich nations did not write off their debt immediately. It’s no good planning months or years into the future when one is without the basic foundation to build an.....[view more](#)

Doctors still testing positive

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

That doctors continue to test positive for the coronavirus is proof enough, if any were still needed, that those at the front lines of this war are not being provided with necessary protective equipment. It turns out that more than a dozen doctors at Lahore General Hospital have tested positive in the latest such incident. This problem should have been taken care of long before any talk of easing the lockdown even began. That’s because this.....[view more](#)

Hybrid learning — an option to continue academic activities under covid-19

Source: [Ambassador G R Baluch, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

Corona virus has resulted in sever economic, social and political crisis of global proportions of course stopped by the health crisis resulting in hundreds of thousands of lives. The worldwide lockdown has resulted in closure of entire business and trading sectors of the countries the educational sector has also suffered serious setback. it is estimated that over 500 million students all over the globe had t ceased their academic activities durin.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 in jails: Why tracking infected prisoners became necessary

Source: [Ema Anis, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

Lockdown. The term recently hit its peak popularity on Google trends in late March as Covid-19 began to wreak havoc around the world. Self-isolation became synonymous with imprisonment. Freedom was lost. But for nearly 11 million people across the world, lockdown has been a part of their everyday lives. For some, it has been that way for decades. We know them as prisoners, inmates, detainees, the incarcerated. Those deprived of liberty, with man.....[view more](#)

Behavioural Biases and Endemic COVID-19

Source: [Z M Akhtar, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

The world is under the attack of coronavirus and there is hardly any country, which is safe from it. Medical experts and researchers are searching for a vaccine to cure this pandemic and save millions of people. Nobody exactly knows when the world will be free from it and what will be the exact forecast of the demise of this epidemic. Sooner or later, this coronavirus will end leaving behind many stories and myths but one more thing may end with[view more](#)

Technology for health

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

In order to meet the increasing demand for expert medical advice because of the coronavirus pandemic, the federal government has recently launched a telehealth portal. The service will be available for free via WhatsApp all over the country. Given the low doctor-patient and nurse-patient ratios in the country, the portal will greatly help people, especially those living in rural and remote areas, to seek proper medical treatment both from special.....[view more](#)

PM Imran, WEF and debt

Source: Editorial, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

In a Wednesday address at a World Economic Forum session, Prime Minister Imran Khan noted how interconnected the world has become and repeated his call for a global response to the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. He noted, "When this pandemic hit the world, every country... became insular... But ultimately, we are all connected, and therefore our response has to be global." The PM also called for debt relief for developing co.....[view more](#)

Repeat after me: The lockdown has not lifted

Source: Nawal Fatima Rai, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

One of the gravest problems of dealing with a pandemic in the current age is the overhaul of information that accompanies it. While initially a medium of panic-generation, the media's frenzy eventually tends to desensitise people towards things that matter most. A reflection of this can be seen in the Pakistani streets that are now brimming with people. Women flocking into shopping centres and families bringing back their traditions of annu.....[view more](#)

Addressing Sanitation

Source: Editorial, [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

The presence of coronavirus in sewage sites found through polio surveillance is both a breakthrough and a stark warning to the authorities and public alike. The existence of the virus in sewage sites will assist experts to locate asymptomatic patients in different areas and trace their movements. The finding will also enable them to trace the presence of the virus in a given locality. Now that it has been confirmed that the virus can be found in[view more](#)

Budgets 2020 amid Covid-19 crisis — II;Need for paradigm shift

Source: Huzaima Bukhari and Dr Ikramul Haq, [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

In the present circumstances, in the forthcoming federal budget, the need for a fair and simple tax system, as elaborate in Towards Flat, Low-rate, Broad and Predictable Taxes [PRIME Institute, 2016] and referred to in PIDE Policy Viewpoint [16:2020] Doing Taxes Better: Simplify, Open & Grow Economy, has assumed renewed importance and relevance. In this second part of this three-part series, we are presenting a plan that can help to overcome[view more](#)

National News

AJK

Masood urges UN to fulfill responsibilities on Kashmir

Source: [news desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan Monday urged the UN Secretary-General António Guterres as well as the Security Council to fulfill their responsibilities on the Kashmir for resolving this longstanding dispute. The Kashmiri people will welcome mediation by five permanent members of the UN Security Council, UN Secretary-General, and some former prime ministers of the UK and Norway for the solution of the longstanding issue.....[view more](#)

Balochistan

Balochistan not to allow public transport resumption

Source: [Saleem Shahid, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has decided to not allow the resumption of public transport in the province and discouraged people from travelling in trains to halt the fast transmission of coronavirus. A high-level meeting presided over by Chief Minister Jam Khan Alyani on Monday expressed its serious reservations over the opening of road transport and rail service, saying, "resuming transport without SOPs would cause the spread of Cov.....[view more](#)

Balochistan govt decides against 'unnecessary' virus tests

Source: [Mohammad Zafar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

QUETTA: The Balochistan government on Monday directed the provincial health department to avoid unnecessary testing in order to preserve testing kits for patients that are displaying severe Covid-19 symptoms. A cabinet meeting presided by Chief Minister Jam Kamal, in order to review the coronavirus situation and availability of safety equipment announced that, "4 additional PCR machines and 60,000 testing kits will arrive after Eid.&r.....[view more](#)

GB

SOPs framed for Chitralis arriving from other districts

Source: [A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

CHITRAL: The district administration here has framed standard operating procedures (SOPs) for people coming to Chitral from other parts of the country after lifting of ban on public transport. In a meeting chaired by Lower Chitral deputy commissioner Naveed Ahmed, it was decided that the joint screening centre of district administration, police and health department would continue to function at Lowari tunnel and send records of the passengers t.....[view more](#)

Islamabad

Frail voices of transgender community during COVID-19

Source: [Muhammad Faisal Kaleem](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Following the six-week-long lockdown across the country, the marginalised transgender community in the twin cities has been left in a lurch. Traffic Video 00:01 / 01:00[view more](#)

274 students brought back from China

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

RAWALPINDI: As many as 274 Pakistani students stranded in the Chinese city of Wuhan arrived at Islamabad International Airport (IIA) on a special flight of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Monday. PK 8872 carrying the students and 20 crew members landed at IIA at 8:15pm. On arrival, they were checked by medical staff but no suspected Covid-19 patient was noticed. In January, after the Chinese city of Wuhan was locked down in the wake o.....[view more](#)

Experts find idea of herd immunity risky: Fawad

Source: [Jamal Shahid](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

ISLAMABAD: A committee of experts in the ministry of science and technology on Monday cautioned that relaxing lockdown without precautions could have dire consequences. In a tweet, Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry conveyed the concerns of the committee, which said that Prime Minister Imran Khan's policy of smart lockdown was the solution to prevent the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. "Coronavirus is not ordinar.....[view more](#)

Global death toll from Covid-19 surpasses 278,000

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

ISLAMABAD: At least 278,445 people have died of the novel coronavirus since the epidemic surfaced in China late last year, according to international media reports. There have been more than 4,067,088 officially recorded cases across the globe. The United States is the worst-hit country with 79,239 deaths. Britain follows with 31,587, then Italy with 30,395 deaths, Spain with 26,478 and France with 26,230. Officials say the number of co.....[view more](#)

Message advises caution against COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

Islamabad : At a time when the lockdown has been eased and the country is adjusting itself to a new normal, Pakistan's leading biscuit manufacturer, EBM, through its mega-brand, Sooper, has launched a public service message urging people to continue to exercise caution in order to keep themselves and their loved ones safe from the virus. The message arrives at a crucial time, prompting people to play their part in the fight against this thr.....[view more](#)

People not taking Covid-19 seriously after SC's remarks, AG tells court

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General for Pakistan Khalid Javed Khan on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that people were not taking the Covid-19 threat seriously after the apex court's remarks making it difficult for the administration to take measures to curb the deadly pathogen. Advocate General Sindhendorsed the opinion saying the lockdown is no more effective as shops have been allowed to open. However, Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahme.....[view more](#)

Chinese military medical team visits NCOC

Source: [Khalid Mehmood, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

ISLAMABAD: A ten-member Chinese military medical team on Tuesday visited the National Command and Operation Centre in Islamabad. The team, headed by Major General Huang Qingzhen, was apprised about Pakistan's efforts to contain the spread of coronavirus and its future emergency response measures. The delegation was briefed on Pakistan's National Test Track and Quarantine (TTQ) strategy – a major initiative launched by NCOC.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus in Karachi jail

Source: [Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

Around 40 prisoners and three staffers of the Karachi Central Jail have been diagnosed with Covid-19. It has, however, not come as a surprise considering the overcrowding in the prison. Now 3,619 prisoners are lodged in the jail against the capacity for 2,400. The cramped conditions are conducive to the spread of the deadly coronavirus. Conditions in other prisons of Sindh are no better either. In 24 jails of the province, there are around 16,000.....[view more](#)

LIVE: Sindh marks highest number of single-day deaths as nationwide cases hit 45,013

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

ISLAMABAD / KARACHI / PESHAWAR / LAHORE / QUETTA / MUZAFFARABAD: The novel coronavirus emerged in the central China city of Wuhan towards the end of last year and proliferated to almost the whole world within a couple of months. It's not the virulence or fatality, but the infectivity of the new virus – also known as SARS-CoV-2 – that has set off a global frenzy. The Covid-19 respiratory illness caused by this mysterious co.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus cases rise to 43,966 in Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

The nationwide tally of coronavirus cases has soared to 43,966 with 1841 new cases reported during the last twenty-four hours. Overall 15976 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 17241 in Sindh, 6230 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2820 in Balochistan, 550 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1034 in Islamabad and 115 in Azad Kashmir. A total of 12,489 patients have so far recovered from the virus whilst the death toll stands at 939 with 36 new deaths reported.....[view more](#)

No need to keep markets closed on weekends: SC

Source: [TERENCE J SIGAMONY, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court declared the decision of closure of business on Saturdays and Sundays illegal, and directed the Sindh government to approach the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (NHSRC) for reopening of shopping malls in the province. A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed, on Monday heard a suo motu case on federal and the provincial governments' measures to combat coro.....[view more](#)

'No valid reason' to keep malls, markets closed: SC

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

The Supreme Court on Monday observed that there is 'no valid reason' to keep shopping malls and big markets closed, ordering that all shopping malls and markets should remain open seven days a week, which were earlier shut down

by the government amid lockdown imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus. A five-member larger bench of Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed and comprising Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Mazhar A.....[view more](#)

Govt allows railways, industry and shopping malls to resume activities

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Monday said the Pakistan Railways, industry and small businesses, including shopping malls, have been allowed to resume their activities amid strict adherence to the standard operating procedures (SOPs). Addressing a press conference here, he welcomed the Supreme Court's directives for opening of markets and shopping malls in the suo motu case on coronavirus outbreak, which, he said.....[view more](#)

Nationwide coronavirus tally crosses 43,000; 923 lives lost

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 43,168 on Monday, with 15,346 cases in Punjab, 17,241 in Sindh, 6,230 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,692 in Balochistan, 550 in Gilgit Baltistan, 997 in Islamabad and 112 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 923 lives while some 11,922 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. Claiming that Sindh is far ahead of other provinces in terms of testing capacity for the novel coronavirus,[view more](#)

Imran launches Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme for jobless people

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday formally launched the disbursement of money under Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme among people who lost their jobs due to Covid-19 outbreak in Pakistan. Tech Video 00:10 / 00:54[view more](#)

Education ministry to launch tele-school SMS system

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training will be launching a two-way SMS system '8228' coming week for tele-school to improve communication with the public. According to sources in Ministry of Education, the SMS system has been developed in collaboration with Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), National Technology Council (NTC) and other telecom companies. The aim of the SMS service will be to improve the tele.....[view more](#)

Rs 105bn disbursed among 8.6 million beneficiaries under Ehsaas programme

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme has disbursed a total of Rs 104.91711 billion among 8,619,142 beneficiaries so far under the different categories. According to the details provided by Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme, this amount has been disbursed among the daily wage, piece-rate workers and deserving ones till May 18, since the beginning of the payment process under this initiative on April 9. Till Monday, an amount of Rs 1.6090 billion has been d.....[view more](#)

NDMA dispatches PPEs to Sindh, GB

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has dispatched another consignment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to the hospitals of Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan aiming to save the doctors and paramedics from coronavirus pandemic. According to NDMA spokesman, the equipment dispatched to Sindh on Monday included 2,822 N-95, 3,136 D-95, 48,384 KN-95 masks, 66,620 protective suits, 61,600 surgical gloves and 112,000 medical masks. Likewise,[view more](#)

SOPs on face masks to avert spread of coronavirus issued

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

The Ministry of National Health Services has issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) for health professionals and general public on wearing face masks for prevention against Covid-19. According to an official of the ministry, as per these SOPs, people must wear face masks to protect their fellow beings from droplets of their saliva or sputum particularly when entering closed or congested areas and also to protect themselves. He said that a reg.....[view more](#)

Public misperception aids corona spread countrywide

Source: [Agencies, The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

ISLAMABAD: The widespread misperception among the general public that coronavirus is not something to be taken seriously is contributing towards the spread of the pandemic in a big way leading to more infections and deaths and straining the state kitty. On Tuesday, the number of confirmed cases and fatalities in the country rose to 45,776 and 986 respectively after new infections and deaths were reported. Of the total 45,776 confirmed ca.....[view more](#)

Dr Zafar calls for coordinated global efforts to fight pandemic

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

Islamabad : The world needs to forge coordinated, collective and sustained actions to suppress and mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. No country alone can protect itself from this contagion. Solidarity and unity is therefore vital to tackle morbidity and mortality, to ease burden on the health systems, and support national and global economies. The Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Zafar Mirza communicated this message from P.....[view more](#)

Sania outlines process for reaching out to 6m category-4 beneficiaries

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

Islamabad : Immediately following the newly-launched disbursement to category-4 beneficiaries through PM COVID19 fund, the Prime Minister's Special Assistant Dr. Sania Nishtar tweeted an explanatory video to elaborate the process for identification and payments to category-4 Ehsaas beneficiaries. Earlier on April 3, Dr. Sania had tweeted the first descriptive video to apprise the wider audience about details of beneficiary identification.....[view more](#)

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Source: [Web Desk, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

PTI MPA from Gujranwala Shaheen Raza passes away from coronavirus PTI member of the provincial assembly (MPA) Shaheen Raza has passed away after contracting coronavirus. Prime Minister Imran Khan conveyed his condolences on Raza's death to her family, Radio Pakistan reported. President Arif Alvi also posted his condolences on Twitter and prayed for Raza's family: Raza was shifted to the isolation ward of Mayo Hospital.....[view more](#)

Tally of positive cases in Islamabad crosses 1,000

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the twin cities continued rising with the tally in the capital crossing the mark of 1,000 and that in Rawalpindi reaching 1,826. Officials said with the 37 new cases in Islamabad, the total number of confirmed patients in the capital increased to 1,034 while 56 people tested positive in the garrison city. Meanwhile, four patients died in Rawalpindi and two in Islamabad. The two pa.....[view more](#)

Manufacturers asked to ensure quality of hand sanitisers, disinfectants

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Science and Technology on Tuesday issued directions to manufacturers and distributors of hand sanitisers and disinfectants to follow standards set by the government to ensure quality. The ministry has observed that poor quality hand sanitisers and disinfectants are being sold in the market. The directions to manufacturers and distributors of these items are simple that every bottle and packaging must contain relevant[view more](#)

Taxila witnesses spike in Covid-19 cases

Source: [Amjad Iqbal, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

TAXILA: Thirty-five more positive cases of Covid-19 surfaced in Taxila, the highest single-day spike, taking the city's tally to 111. A patient also died on Tuesday, taking the death toll to six. According to the health authorities, three doctors, two Islamabad Electric Supply Company (Iesco) officials and a station house officer (SHO) are among the new patients. Assistant Commissioner Mohammad Faheem said: "A 72-year-old man from G.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus cases surge to 45,898 in Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

The nationwide tally of coronavirus has soared to 45,898 with 1,932 new cases reported during the last twenty four hours. 16,685 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 17,947 in Sindh, 6,554 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,885 in Balochistan, 556 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1,138 in Islamabad and 133 in Azad Kashmir. 13,101 patients have so far recovered from the virus whilst the death toll stands at 985 with 46 new deaths reported during the last tw.....[view more](#)

Record rise in cases in Islamabad

Source: [Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: There was a record rise in Covid-19 cases in Islamabad, with 104 patients testing positive for the disease. A patient has also died. Prior to this, the highest number of cases reported in a single day was 63 cases on May 14. Capital administration officials said 228 people have been diagnosed with Covid-19 in the capital since Monday. The officials said that the spread of the coronavirus and its attack rate are gradually[view more](#)

More test positive for Covid-19 in Taxila

Source: [A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

TAXILA: Another 11 people tested positive for Covid-19 in Taxila on Wednesday, bringing the total number of cases reported there to at least 122. Deputy District Officer Health Dr Sara Qadeer confirmed the rise in cases, saying that two of the patients are from Gari Sikandar, two are from Mohallah Parri and six are from various rural and urban areas of Wah. She said that 53 Covid-19 patients are isolated at home, while 14 are admitted to the Pa.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 telehealth service now up & running

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

Islamabad : One of the most challenging things about the Coronavirus pandemic is uncertainty: not knowing if you have contracted the virus, or if you need to see a doctor. If you are a Pakistani resident who is experiencing symptoms or are worried that you might have been infected, you can use the COVID-19 Telehealth service to connect with volunteer doctors within Pakistan and abroad for guidance. After adding the helpline number (+92-30.....[view more](#)

One dies of COVID-19, 149 test positive taking tally to 2,775

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

Islamabad : The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak that has been getting more and more severe with every passing day in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi has claimed another life in the region on Wednesday while in last 24 hours, as many as 149 new patients have been tested positive from the twin cities taking tally to 2,775. The patient died of COVID-19 in last 24 hours was 78-year old male who was a resident of Rawal Town[view more](#)

Distance learning amid pandemic advocated

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

Islamabad : Speakers of a virtual international conference on 'the role of universities and scientific institutions in countering the corona crisis - the reality and solutions' here on Wednesday agreed that online and distance education must be top priority of the educational sector across the world. They opined that the prevailing pandemic had increased significance of the distance education and joint deliberations to benefit fro.....[view more](#)

Trains back on track; inter-city transporters refuse to run buses

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

The train operations partially resumed on Wednesday to facilitate people on the occasion of Eid ul Fitr, however inter-city transporters refused to run buses until what they said the announcement of a countrywide uniform standard operating procedures (SOPs) by the National Coordinating Committee (NCC). Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed told reporters at Rawalpindi Railway Station that trains have started their journey from several[view more](#)

Debt relief: PM tells world to 'do more'

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday reiterated his call of a debt-relief for the developing countries, including Pakistan, to cope with the challenges, including the economic difficulties and overwhelmed healthcare system, emerged in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. Speaking at the COVID Action Platform of the World Economic Forum via video link, he said there should be a debt relief as they needed fiscal space to divert their resources to the heal.....[view more](#)

Pakistan's nationwide Covid-19 death toll crosses 1,000 mark

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 47,270 on Wednesday, with 16,685 cases reported in Punjab, 18,964 in Sindh, 6,815 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,968 in Balochistan, 556 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1,138 in Islamabad and

144 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 1,009 lives while some 13,101 coronavirus patients have recovered so far, A PTI member of Punjab Assembly (MPA) from Gujranwala, Shaheen Raza, passed away on Wednesday.....[view more](#)

PM urges public to adopt safety measures against COVID-19 on Eid

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday urged upon the general public to follow safety procedures against coronavirus during Eid holidays. In a meeting with his Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan, the prime minister said the government was devising strategy to effectively control the spread of disease in the country. Imran Khan said the government was also focusing on providing relief to people to sustain the financial impact of lockdown,.....[view more](#)

WEF's Covid-19 Action Platform ; Very serious situation for Pakistan's economy: PM

Source: [ZAHEER ABBASI & SARDAR SIKANDER SHAHEEN](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has stressed upon the world leaders to forge a global response to the coronavirus spectre. Speaking at the Covid Action Platform of the World Economic Forum (WEF) via a video link, the prime minister on Wednesday said that Pakistan and other regional countries' experience was different from the Western countries' as unlike the West speed of spread was less but the developing countries were also[view more](#)

104 test positive for Covid-19 in federal capital

Source: [Fazal Sher](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

ISLAMABAD: The number of Covid-19 cases reported in federal capital rose to 1,134 on Wednesday after 104 more people were tested positive, the largest increase in patients in a single day in the city. According to official data, out of 1,134 Covid-19 cases, 151 patients have recovered and nine have died. Like the previous days, Sector I-10, Tarlai, Lohi Bher, Bhara Kahu and Sector G-6 remained hotspots of the Covid-19. According.....[view more](#)

Precaution only option to avoid Covid-19: PM

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday launched a telehealth portal aimed at providing a free medical consultation platform for patients to access doctors on mobile phones. The facility will ensure a direct contact between doctors and patients in a safe environment in the wake of coronavirus pandemic. The prime minister, in his remarks at the launch of the portal, said interaction through WhatsApp mobile numbers will help patients get medical advice[view more](#)

PTI govt to use Covid-19 fund for interest payment

Source: [Shahbaz Rana](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Wednesday allowed diverting Rs10 billion from the coronavirus relief funds to pay interest on loans taken to retire circular debt and approved terms of negotiations for debt restructuring to reduce electricity tariffs. Contrary to prime minister's desire to reduce power tariffs by renegotiating terms of the deals, official documents suggest that there will be no meaningful relief, and instead, the[view more](#)

Huge spike in Covid-19 cases in Pakistan; 46 more lose lives

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients soared to 45,032 on Tuesday, with 15,976 cases reported in Punjab, 17,947 in Sindh, 6,554 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,820 in Balochistan, 556 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1,034 in Islamabad and 144 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 969 lives while some 12,489 coronavirus patients have recovered so far..As many as 12 patients tested positive for Covid-19 in Muzaffarabad in the last 24 hours, t.....[view more](#)

Testing capacity for Covid-19 doubled after quarantine strategy, NCOC informed

Source: [News Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre was informed on Thursday that the country's testing capacity has increased twice-fold since the test, track and quarantine strategy was implemented. The meeting, chaired by Federal Planning Minister Asad Umar, was apprised that there are 631 smart lockdowns in place currently across the country. Besides, the meeting discussed the Epi Curve Chart, the Decision Support System, the TT.....[view more](#)

Not concerned with money being spent on coronavirus but 'quality of services': SC

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the authorities on Tuesday regarding the provision of facilities at coronavirus quarantine centres, saying the court is not concerned with the money being spent to cope with the pandemic but the 'quality of services' being provided across country.A five-judge bench of the top court heard a suo motu case regarding measures taken to deal with the coronavirus crisis. Headed by Chief Justice Gulzar[view more](#)

At World Health Assembly, Dr Mirza calls for coordinated global efforts to fight COVID-19

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirza has called for coordinated, collective and sustained actions by countries and institutions to suppress and mitigate COVID-19 pandemic. This was stated by Dr Zafar Mirza while addressing the 73rd Session of World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland, via video conference on Tuesday.The World Health Assembly is the supreme decision-making forum where 194 nations of the world conver.....[view more](#)

Majority going for readymade clothes, tailors stop taking orders

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Since opening of the markets after ease in the lockdown, a majority of the customers are thronging the garments shops to buy ready-to-wear clothes after refusal of tailors to stitch clothes owing to the heavy workload.A number of customers visited the tailors in twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad soon after opening of their shops to get their clothes stitched before Eidul Fitr.However, they faced refusal from the already over-burdened tailor.....[view more](#)

Huge spike in Covid-19 cases in Pakistan; 46 more lose lives

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

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Not concerned with money being spent on coronavirus but 'quality of services': SC

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At World Health Assembly, Dr Mirza calls for coordinated global efforts to fight COVID-19

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirza has called for coordinated, collective and sustained actions by countries and institutions to suppress and mitigate COVID-19 pandemic. This was stated by Dr Zafar Mirza while addressing the 73rd Session of World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland, via video conference on Tuesday. The World Health Assembly is the supreme decision-making forum where 194 nations of the world converge.....[view more](#)

Sania outlines process for reaching out to 6m category-4 Ehsaas beneficiaries

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Immediately following the newly launched disbursement to category-4 beneficiaries through PM COVID-19 fund by the Prime Minister, Dr Sania Nishtar, PM's Special Assistant, has tweeted an explanatory video to elaborate the entire process for identification and payments to category-4 Ehsaas beneficiaries. Earlier on April 3, 2020, Dr Nishtar tweeted the first descriptive video to inform the wider audience about details of beneficiary identification.....[view more](#)

Twin cities overtake Balochistan with 85 deaths, 2,997 cases

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

Rawalpindi : The number of patients tested positive from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in one day has set a new record since the coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak hit this region of the country as in last 24 hours, as many as 222 confirmed patients of the disease have been added to the dashboards of Rawalpindi district and Islamabad Capital Territory while another two patients died of the disease. Total number of local[view more](#)

DRAP approves five clinical studies on Covid-19 patients

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

Islamabad : The Clinical Study Committee of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved five clinical studies on Covid-19 patients. The meeting of the committee was chaired by Dr Abdur Rashid, Director of Division of Pharmacy Services, DRAP. The Shaukat Khanum Hospital Lahore in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) will conduct Solidarity Clinical Studies at five sites, including Pakistan Institute of Medi.....[view more](#)

'Women role crucial to ensure anti-COVID precautions at home'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

Islamabad : First Lady Samina Alvi Thursday said that being custodian of the household, women should play a responsible role to ensure strict enforcement of precautionary measures to protect their families from COVID-19 pandemic. Addressing a ceremony for distribution of ration bags among the women with disabilities, the First Lady said that besides their own protection, strict adherence to precautions would also keep others from getting[view more](#)

AIOU to hold online workshops from next month in view of COVID-19

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

Islamabad : Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has decided to hold academic workshops of its Post-graduate programs for semester Spring 2020 through Online from next month. The decision to hold workshops through online instead of face-to-face was taken in view of the current crisis situation of COVID-19 in the country. It is also in line with the government's policy and the instructions of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). I.....[view more](#)

Corona global cases double in a month

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

ISLAMABAD: The number of officially recorded cases of the novel coronavirus has doubled in one month, according to international media reports. Infections now top five million, with surges in particular in countries in Latin America. Brazil leads the pack, logging the third-highest number of cases in the world after the US and Russia. Peru, Mexico and Chile are also seeing steady increases in infections. The pandemic has killed at least[view more](#)

Covid-19 cases may increase by 15-20pc next week

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dunya News](#), 2020-05-22

ISLAMABAD: While health authorities conducted the highest number of coronavirus tests in a single day, they anticipate a 15-20 per cent rise in daily cases over the next week across the country due to lifting of the lockdown. According to data released by the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) issued on Thursday, 15,346 tests of Covid-19 were conducted during the last 24 hours — 6,164 in Sindh, 5,439 in Punjab, 1,644 in Khyber P.....[view more](#)

Doctor diagnosed with Covid-19

Source: [The Newspaper's Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

TAXILA: A doctor at the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) in Attock has tested positive for Covid-19, a day after a nurse at the same hospital was diagnosed with the disease. The new cases have caused panic among staff at the hospital, where a number of Covid-19 patients are being treated. According to district health authorities, the number of Covid-19 cases are increasing at an alarming rate in Attock, with an escalating number of confirme.....[view more](#)

Pims healthcare workers test positive

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

ISLAMABAD: As many as 28 healthcare workers of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) have been diagnosed with Covid-19 and one of them has died. The latest case is of a senior doctor who was found positive for the virus on Thursday. "Though my report is positive I have given samples at a private lab to reconfirm if there was an error in the report of the National Institute of Health (NIH)," the doctor told Dawn. He said he[view more](#)

Lockdown over, Pakistan's Covid-19 deaths, infections tick higher

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

ISLAMABAD: Covid-19 infections in Pakistan trended higher in recent days and were approaching 50,000, official data showed, with total deaths crossing 1,000, as the government remained unsure over the consequences of its decision to end the nation's lockdown. Fearful of the economic and financial impact, and swayed by the acute hardship suffered by millions of poor families, Prime Minister Imran Khan has defended the lifting of the lo.....[view more](#)

Virus pushes transgender dancers out of homes

Source: [AFP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

ISLAMABAD: Before the virus shutdown, dancer Adnan Ali had carved out a comfortable living performing at parties for newlyweds and newborns, avoiding the financial hardship faced by many in Pakistan's transgender community. But the closure of wedding halls and scrapped celebrations where she would twist and twirl in front of applauding crowds have frozen her income, forcing her out of the one-bedroom apartment she rented in a wealthy[view more](#)

Social cohesion and community resilience in the face of Covid-19

Source: [Ignacio Artaza](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

The Covid-19 outbreak has posed significant challenges for Pakistan, exacerbating the dynamics of exclusion amongst the country's marginalised segments. Groups faced by grim socio-economic conditions have faced unprecedented trials and at times, unexpected repercussions of the outbreak, adding to the challenges of developing suitable and sustainable measures to contain the pandemic itself. From a development standpoint, protecting the[view more](#)

MPA's death from virus

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

These are difficult times for all — more so for those who are in the frontline of the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. Besides doctors, nurses and paramedics, there are others — like security personnel, charity workers, volunteers, utility services providers, janitors as well as selected government officials and elected representatives — who are performing emergency duties in times of coronavirus lockdowns and putting the.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus: Dr Zafar Mirza urges nation to follow SOPs

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

Special Assistant on National Health Services Dr. Zafar Mirza has warned the COVID-19 situation could further worsen if the people did not practice the precautionary measures. Briefing the media in Islamabad on Friday, the special assistance said the country recorded 2603 new coronavirus cases with fifty deaths during the last twenty four hours which are the highest in a single day. He said the country also conducted the highest number of c.....[view more](#)

Highest number of tests in one day as virus cases surpass 48,000

Source: [Tahir Niaz / Rahul Basharat](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

ISLAMABAD - Country's testing capacity for COVID-19 has increased twice-fold after the launch of Test, Track and Quarantine strategy. Minister for Planning Asad Umar stated this while chairing a meeting at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) here Thursday. The meeting was further apprised that at present around 631 smart

lockdowns are in place across the country. The meeting discussed the Epi Curve Chart, Decision Support.....[view more](#)

DRAP approves five clinical studies on Covid-19 patients

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

ISLAMABAD - The Clinical Study Committee of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved five clinical studies on Covid-19 patients. The meeting of the committee was chaired by Dr Abdur Rashid, Director of Division of Pharmacy Services, DRAP here on Thursday. The Shaukat Khanum Hospital (SKH), Lahore, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), will conduct Solidarity Clinical Studies at five sites, including Pak.....[view more](#)

Tally of Covid-19 cases surges to 1,235 in Capital

Source: [Fazal Sher](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital on Thursday witnessed another largest increase in the number of Covid-19 cases after 101 people were tested positive and the tally of deadly virus surged to 1,235 in the city. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) official said that following ease in lockdown the pandemic was spreading rapidly therefore every one needed to wear masks and stay at a distance of six feet from one another. According to offi.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 testing capacity doubles after TTQ strategy: Umar

Source: [ABDUL RASHEED AZAD](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

ISLAMABAD: The testing capacity for Covid-19 has been doubled after the launch of “Test, Track and Quarantine” (TTQ) strategy, Minister for Planning Asad Umar said this here on Thursday, while chairing a meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The meeting was further apprised that at present around 631 smart lockdowns are in place across the country, and the government was taking all necessary steps to avert.....[view more](#)

PPP questions diversion of Covid-19 fund for interest payment

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

ISLAMABAD: Questioning the government’s decision to allow diverting Rs10 billion from the coronavirus relief funds to pay interest on loans taken to retire circular debt, Senator Sherry Rehman said that has the government managed to curb the spread of COVID-19 that we don’t need this money anymore, and now it is being used to pay interest. “People were asked to donate their hard-earned money for this cause but now suddenly.....[view more](#)

Pakistan’s Covid-19 tally nears 50,000; 1,052 lives lost

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 49,497 on Thursday, with 17,382 cases reported in Punjab, 19,924 in Sindh, 7,155 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3,074 in Balochistan, 602 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1,235 in Islamabad and 148 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 1,052 lives while some 14,155 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. A total of 697 new coronavirus cases were diagnosed in Punjab on Thursday, taking the pro.....[view more](#)

Virus pushes Pakistan's transgender dancers out of their homes

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

Before the virus shutdown, dancer Adnan Ali had carved out a comfortable living performing at parties for newlyweds and newborns, avoiding the financial hardship faced by many in Pakistan's transgender community. But the closure of wedding halls and scrapped celebrations where she would twist and twirl in front of applauding crowds have frozen her income, forcing her out of the one-bedroom apartment she rented in a wealthy suburb of Islamabad. N.....[view more](#)

Corona Care Hospital — from dream to reality

Source: [Khalid Bin Majeed](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

The killer corona virus disease Covid-19 spilled over to Pakistan in February. It soon took root and began to course through the length and breadth of Pakistan, taking its toll on more and more people. With the outbreak of the epidemic, the federal government together with the provincial governments, the armed forces and the international community and human rights organizations has moved heaven and earth to stem its tide, minimize infections and dea.....[view more](#)

KPK

Ghulam Bilour tests positive for coronavirus

Source: [Bureau report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) senior leader Ghulam Ahmad Bilour has tested positive for coronavirus. The ANP leader on his microblogging website tweeter on Monday said, "I have tested positive for Covid-19, and isolated myself at home, taking all the precautionary measures. Appeal for prayers." Earlier, Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) leaders Ali Wazir and Manzoor Pashteen had also tested positive for Covid-19. However.....[view more](#)

Doctor fears increase in coronavirus cases

Source: [Syed Kosar Naqvi](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

ABBOTTABAD: Renowned pulmonologist and member Pakistan Chest Society Dr Nisar Khan on Tuesday said that Covid-19 pandemic can cause sudden and widespread deaths. "No-one knows when coronavirus pandemic will end and life gets back to normal. The government needs to have a visionary approach to handle this crisis and take all stakeholders onboard by following precautionary measures, including social distancing," he said while ta.....[view more](#)

DFID, UNICEF pull out of WASH projects in tribal districts

Source: [Bureau report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

PESHAWAR: In a setback to the tribal districts of North Waziristan and Khyber, some foreign-funded projects were abruptly ended in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, sources said on Tuesday. Funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) through Unicef, the WASH project was being implemented by the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP). This project that focussed on water, sanitation, health and hygiene had been identified[view more](#)

Mardan lab authorised to conduct corona tests

Source: [Mohammad Riaz Mayar](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

MARDAN: The director general of Health Services Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday authorised the Mardan Public Health Laboratory at the Mardan Medical Complex to conduct tests of suspected Covid-19 patients and generate its own reports. A later No-6772-77 issued by director general Health Services Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stated all the reports generated by the laboratory would be shared with the department. The lab reports would have to be entered[view more](#)

One more dies of Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

MINGORA: Another patient died while 35 more tested positive for the coronavirus, taking the death toll to 30 in Swat district on Tuesday. Also, the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases reached 570 after 35 more suspected patients reported positive for the viral infection in the district. The infected persons are belonging to different areas of the district.[view more](#)

Govt to use private hospitals if pandemic aggravates

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission has completed a survey aimed at utilising the infrastructure of the private hospitals if the Covid-19 pandemic aggravates and requires more beds, personnel and facilities. "We have completed a survey and reached agreements with private hospitals in the province for utilising their facilities in case number of Covid-19 infected people increases," Dr Maqsood Ali, chief executive officer.....[view more](#)

Mian Iftikhar's brother, 10 others die of Covid-19

Source: [A Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's death toll due to Covid-19 infection reached 345 as 11 more persons died of the pandemic on Tuesday. The elder of Awami National Party central leader Mian Iftikhar Hussain was also among the deceased. Mian Iftikhar himself is also suffering from the disease. Fatalities in Peshawar reached 206 with seven more deaths. The province also recorded 324 new coronavirus cases, the highest number of confirmed cases i.....[view more](#)

Health dept orders probe into purchases for Covid-19 emergency

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

PESHAWAR: The health department has directed the directorate general (health services) to look into the alleged irregularities in the purchase of medical equipment and award of contracts during the current coronavirus (Covid-19) emergency. The development comes on the orders of the Prime Minister's Secretariat over a complaint lodged with the Pakistan Citizen Portal. The health department has been told to complete inquiry and produce the[view more](#)

KP records highest virus recovery rate

Source: [Bureau report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Minister Taimur Salim Khan Jhagra has said that the province has recorded the highest recovery rate of patients infected with Covid-19 as compared to all the other provinces and Islamabad capital territory as 31 per cent infected people have healed, showing the success of hospitals. Citing a

report of National Emergency Centre Islamabad, he told a news conference on Wednesday that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was ahead[view more](#)

Pandemic claims six more lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Source: [Bureau report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday recorded six more deaths due to Covid-19 pandemic while 261 new patients tested positive for the ailment, according to daily situation report of health department. It said that province-wide death toll due to coronavirus reached 351 and count of total positive cases stood at 6,815. Three persons passed way in Peshawar and one each in Nowshera, Swat and Dir Lower. Peshawar continues to remain at the top o.....[view more](#)

Policemen get cash for Covid-19 duty

Source: [A Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

KOHAT: The policemen performing duty on the front-lines in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic received Rs100,000 cash each here on Wednesday. Former chief justice of Peshawar High Court and member of dispute resolution council, Syed Ibne Ali, president of bar association Javed Ahmed Panji, secretary general Ishtiaq ur Rehman and leaders of business community Azmat Bangash and Israr Shinwari handed over the cheques and cash to the policemen. Sp.....[view more](#)

CM praises role of doctors, paramedics against Covid-19

Source: [Bureau report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has lauded the role of doctors, paramedics and nurses in the tackling of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and promised the resolution of their problems. Talking to a delegation of Insaf Doctors Forum (IDF) here on Wednesday, the chief minister said precautionary measures should be taken during Eidul Fitr to spread the virus. The delegation was led by MPA Dr Sumaira Shams and comprised[view more](#)

'Virus of extremism' more dangerous for society than coronavirus: webinar

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Speakers at a virtual seminar on Tuesday maintained that the 'virus of extremism' is more dangerous for the society than coronavirus. The webinar titled 'Dukhtaran-e-Pakistan: Role of Women in Defeating the Virus of Extremism' was organized by the Women University Swabi. The event aimed at highlighting the role women can play and the responsibilities they have to fulfil to fight the challenges of growing extremism, i.....[view more](#)

Perils of tobacco trade in Covid-19 times

Source: [Hasnine Ejaz](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

At times when the coronavirus pandemic has taken over the world, the tobacco industry in Pakistan and around the world is steering the masses to the false information.:00 / 00:54 00:00 Next Video[view more](#)

'Virus of extremism' more dangerous for society than coronavirus: webinar

Source: [staf reporter](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Speakers at a virtual seminar on Tuesday maintained that the 'virus of extremism' is more dangerous for the society than coronavirus. The webinar titled 'Dukhtaran-e-Pakistan: Role of Women in Defeating the Virus of Extremism' was organized by the Women University Swabi. The event aimed at highlighting the role women can play and the responsibilities they have to fulfil to fight the challenges of growing extremism, intoler.....[view more](#)

Private hospital begins coronavirus testing in Abbottabad

Source: [Syed Kosar Naqvi](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

ABBOTTABAD: Shaheena Jamil Hospital of Frontier Medical College, Abbottabad has become the first private sector hospital, which has started COVID-19 laboratory testing after receiving formal authorization by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission. It has a capacity of 50 tests per day and can increase it up to 100. Suleman Jalal, Director Licensing and Registration KP Health Care Commission, stated in a letter that in wake of coronavi.....[view more](#)

90pc patients in country contract virus locally

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

PESHAWAR: Ninety per cent of the Covid-19 patients in the country have contracted the virus from local sources, according to a report. The report said that seven per cent of the patients contracted the infection from the people, who arrived from abroad, and three per cent from the pilgrims coming from Iran. The report, prepared by National Emergency Operations Centre under the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination,[view more](#)

Tales of survivors: Blot on a coronavirus patient's escutcheon

Source: [Hamid Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

MARDAN: Among the country's first Covid-19 cases, when Rab Nawaz and his family tested positive for the disease, they found themselves battling not only the virus but also the cloud of suspicion and skepticism which has followed them ever since. "We were grieving my father's death, but couldn't help thinking that we were all going to die and yet everyone's going to blame us for bringing the virus in the area.&rdqu.....[view more](#)

Punjab

335 Covid-19 patients isolated at homes

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

LAHORE: The Punjab government has discharged and shifted 335 lab confirmed patients of Covid-19 from city's state-run health facilities to their residences for isolation under the recently launched "home isolation policy". The 'home isolation committees' are assessing applications of 250 more patients. Of 335 patients, 190 were discharged from Expo Centre Field Hospital and 145 from the Mayo Hospital Lahore. The m.....[view more](#)

MPA tests positive for virus, put on ventilator

Source: [The Newspaper's Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

GUJRANWALA: A Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf member of Punjab Assembly was shifted to isolation ward of the Mayo Hospital on Monday after she tested positive for coronavirus. On Saturday night, Ms Shaheen Raza was quarantined in DHQ hospital after symptoms of coronavirus. Her sample was sent to the laboratory. She was confirmed for the

deadly virus on Sunday. Chief Minister Usman Buzdar made a phone call to her and inquired after her. On the instruct.....[view more](#)

More doctors, paramedics among Covid-19 cases

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

MIANWALI: Five people, including a police head-constable and two paramedics, tested positive for Covid-19 in Mianwali. The positive cases include one paramedic of Kundian THQ and Mianwali DHQ hospitals each, a head-constable of traffic police and two persons from the suburb of Mianwali, and all of them are under treatment at the Isolation ward of the DHQ Hospital. Focal person for the Health Department Dr Mohammad Kashif told Dawn a few days ag.....[view more](#)

Seven die of COVID-19 in twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

Rawalpindi : At least, seven patients have died of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last two days taking total number of deaths so far reported from the region to 77 while another 84 patients have been tested positive for the disease in last 24 hours taking tally to 2533 on Monday. Six of the seven patients died in the region in last two days were from Rawalpindi district including one 42-yea.....[view more](#)

Another healthcare worker dies: Over 100 workers test positive in Pindi

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

Islamabad : Another healthcare service provider, an operation theatre technician who had served at Maternal and Child Health Care Centre (MCH) at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences died of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 here at PIMS on Monday. It is important that at least two doctors, one from Rawalpindi district and one from the federal capital have already died of COVID-19 though almost all the healthcare facilities including those[view more](#)

SHO Civil Lines tested positive for COVID-19

Source: [Our crime correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

Rawalpindi: In the line of duty amidst prevailing coronavirus pandemic, police officials who have been playing frontline role against coronavirus are becoming victim of the pandemic. SHO Civil Lines Police Station Ahsan Tanveer tested positive for COVID-19 who has been quarantined at his home. SP Potohar Syed Ali stated that every possible assistance will be provided to SHO Ahsan Tanveer for his early recovery against Coronavirus pandemic.....[view more](#)

Governor Sarwar warns of spike in corona cases in coming days

Source: [INP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

LAHORE:Governor Ch Muhammad Sarwar has said coronavirus will not spare anyone and the only remedy left is either to stay home or strictly observe the SOPs while going to public places. In many countries including Singapore, the governor said, people came out of their homes and got infected with dreadful virus. These countries' examples are here to learn lessons, he said. He said the decision to open markets and bazaars did not mean.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: Pakistan likely to incur Rs1.3tr economic loss

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

FAISALABAD: Research and Development Committee of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Monday observed that Pakistan economy may incur Rs.1.3 trillion loss due to Covid-19. Addressing a meeting, Engineer Ahmed Hassan, Chairman FCCI Standing Committee on R&D said according to Planning Commission of Pakistan the estimated size of Pakistan's economy is around Rs 44 trillion and loss due to corona virus is expect.....[view more](#)

71 corona patients under treatment

Source: [A Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

FAISALABAD: Some 71 Covid-19 patients were under treatment at Government General Hospital Ghulam Muhammadabad (GMA) amongst whom four were serious. Medical Superintendent General Hospital GMA Dr Ejaz Akhtar said some 92 patients were brought to the hospital and 71 tested positive ,whereas reports of 21 patients are being awaited. General Hospital GMA is entirely reserved for coronavirus patients and MS said four patients were on ventilato.....[view more](#)

Discrepancies found in Punjab Covid-19 statistics

Source: [Iqtidar Gilani, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

LAHORE - Discrepancies have been found in the COVID-19 statistics in Punjab as the two bifurcated branches of Health Department differed over mortalities occurred due to novel coronavirus in the province. Primary and Secondary Healthcare (P&SH) Department has recorded 260 deaths due to coronavirus, while Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education (SHC&ME) Department has recorded 304 COVID-19 mortalities, thereby showing a differenc.....[view more](#)

Police strictly implementing IG's orders regarding containment across Punjab

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

As per directions of Inspector General of Police Punjab Shoaib Dastgir, police teams in all districts are strictly ensuring the implementation of instructions regarding containment of corona pandemic and violations of hoarding act, issued by Punjab government so that precious lives of the citizens may be saved. Likewise, police teams along with doctors are on the front line and taking steps under the supervision of DPOs to prevent from Corona vir.....[view more](#)

NGO distributes ration among deserving people of Zentara

Source: [Ahmad Nabi, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Ranra Welfare Organization distributed food package among the deserving people on Monday. In this connection a simple but impressive gathering was arranged in Government High School, Zentara that was attended by tribal elder, Malik Darya Khan Afridi as chief guest beside numbers of civil society and locals. Chairman of the organization Inamullah Afridi, press sectary Aminul Haq Afridi and other members of the cabinet were also present on the occas.....[view more](#)

Corona claims six more lives

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

Rawalpindi : The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another six lives here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours taking total number of deaths so far caused by the disease in Rawalpindi district to 73

and in the federal capital to nine. Data collected by 'The News' on Tuesday has revealed that the virus claimed four lives in Rawalpindi district and two in Islamabad Capital Territory in last 24[view more](#)

Coronavirus awareness drive in union councils 4, 5

Source: [Humayun Aziz Sandeela](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

Rawalpindi : With the support of Ministry of Climate Change members of civil society and local non-governmental organisations reached out around 50,000 residents of union councils 4 and 5 and shared live-saving COVID-19 prevention tips raising awareness among them as part of a larger effort to drive social change about coronavirus. The drive was launched in collaboration with Aman Foundation, Dr Akhtar Hameed Khan Memorial Trust, Rawalpin.....[view more](#)

Virus spreading fast but govt ended lockdown: Qamar Zaman Kaira

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

LAHORE:Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Central Punjab president Qamar Zaman Kaira has said coronavirus is spreading fast in Pakistan, while the government 'ended' the lockdown, adding the bazaars are full, people are requested to stay at home. Addressing a press conference after the PPP Faisalabad Division video-link meeting in the PPP Punjab Secretariat here on Tuesday, Kaira said that it is feared that by the end of this month,.....[view more](#)

Overseas Pakistanis at quarantine centre voice ordeal

Source: [Saleem Mubarak](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

FAISALABAD: The overseas Pakistanis being kept at a quarantine centre claim that they have been threatened by the district administration that their coronavirus report will be declared positive if they will speak against a lack of facilities. A woman is very much perturbed as she is alone at the centre with 50 or so men using a joint washroom. Videos of the overseas people at the centre went viral on the social media in which they narrated the[view more](#)

37 Punjab Constabulary officials test positive for virus

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

SHEIKHUPURA: Two people died as Covid-19 patients on Tuesday. The first deceased was a resident of Muslim Ganj who was admitted to hospital two days ago. The second patient was of Islampura in Farooqabad, who died after four days of treatment. The number of deaths in the district has reached 14. Also, 37 Punjab Constabulary officials and two Punjab police constables tested positive for coronavirus. MUZAFFARGARH: Five police officials quarantin.....[view more](#)

Suspected Covid-19 patient deported from Jakarta

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

RAWALPINDI: A Chinese national who travelled to Indonesia from Islamabad on Monday was deported back to Islamabad on the same flight along with 236 Pakistanis, majority of whom were members of Tableeghi Jamaat stranded in Indonesia. The Chinese national had fever when he reached Jakarta airport, prompting the authorities to deport him back to Islamabad on the next flight. PIA spokesman said the airlines' flight carrying 200 Pakistani memb.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 claims 17 more lives in Punjab

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

LAHORE: Seventeen more patients died of coronavirus across the province during the last 24 hours taking death toll to 290 in Punjab on Wednesday. Of them six each died in Lahore and Rawalpindi while others were reported from Faisalabad, Multan and Sargodha. Similarly, 709 more people tested positive for the virus in Punjab during the last 24 hours -- Lahore 368, Rawalpindi 79, Multan 61, Gujranwala 59 and Faisalabad 47. The other districts, in.....[view more](#)

PML-N slates low Covid-19 test rate

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

LAHORE: The PML-N says that Prime Minister Imran Khan is the first head of the state in the world who is begging in the name of Covid-19. "For a population of 220 million, only 300,000 Covid-19 tests have been carried out so far showing the incompetence of this inept PTI government," PML-N Punjab Information Secretary Azma Bokhari said in a statement here on Wednesday. She said Mr Khan's focus was on begging the world in the n.....[view more](#)

Three die, many test corona positive in districts

Source: [Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

SHEIKHUPURA: Many people were tested positive for coronavirus in various parts of Punjab on Wednesday. Sharaqpur THQ Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Qaisar and seven other employees, including three sanitary workers, were tested positive. All of them were isolated in the hospital under strict surveillance. Meanwhile, a woman who was admitted to the DHQ Hospital for the last several days died of coronavirus. Article continues after ad[view more](#)

India falters amidst the pandemic

Source: [Omer Aamir, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

The world is battling to find the cure for CoVID-19 and looking to bolster weakening global supply chains which have been severely disrupted by the effects of the pandemic. The global powers are looking to 'steal' if necessary essential medical supplies and personal protective equipment. United States has been accused of this practice. According to French officials, mask supplies that were headed for France, one of the worst hit countries.....[view more](#)

CM Buzdar inaugurates LDA's Insaf web and mobile portals

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar inaugurated the LDA's Insaf web and mobile portals at 90-SQA here on Wednesday. A cheque worth 27.78 lac rupees was also presented to him by Housing Minister Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed, Vice Chairman LDA Sheikh Muhammad Imran and DG LDA Ahmed Aziz Tarar for CM Fund for Corona Control. Addressing the ceremony, the CM said that the online application facility has been provided through Insaf portals adding that.....[view more](#)

COVID-19: landmark national drug trial launched at Sargodha University

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

In search of reliable treatment for COVID-19, the University of Health Sciences (UHS) Lahore, on Wednesday launched 'Landmark National Drug Trial: PROTECT' at Sargodha University. The trial named PROTECT (Pakistan Randomized Observational Trial to Evaluate Coronavirus Treatment) aimed to evaluate how Hydroxychloroquine

could be used to treat coronavirus alone or with other medicines. Prof Dr Javed Akram, the Vice Chancellor UHS briefed t.....[view more](#)

Only professionals to be accommodated in boards and committees: Usman Buzdar

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar emphasized that professionals will have to be brought forward to ensure good governance adding that party recommendations will be welcomed for public service.. Talking to Chief Organizer of PTI Saifullah Khan Niazi and other leaders who called on him at his office here on Tuesday, Usman Buzdar reiterated the government wants to solve the problems of the people at their doorsteps and party workers should su.....[view more](#)

COVID-19: Grand Health Alliance slams Punjab govt over inadequate resources in hospitals

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

The Grand Health Alliance (GHA) Punjab slammed the Punjab government for not dedicating enough resources in medical centres, saying that public hospitals are still deprived of facilities such as the personal protective equipment (PPE) despite two months since the lockdown was imposed.. Talking to media at Punjab Institute of Cardiology on Tuesday, GHA representatives lamented that the authorities have dispatched only 750 N95 masks over the past t.....[view more](#)

Kaira criticises govt's move to open businesses amid Covid-19 spike

Source: [Hassan Ahmed](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

PPP Punjab President Qamar Zaman Kaira on Tuesday criticised the decision of opening the businesses at a time when the cases of corona virus are on the rise in Pakistan. He said that the situation is going to be worst the way the lockdown is lifted as the federal minister for Science and Technology is himself claiming that the virus will spread rapidly. The PPP leader was addressing a press conference at party's office in Model Town Lahore[view more](#)

COVID-19: Grand Health Alliance slams Punjab govt over inadequate resources in hospitals

Source: [news desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

The Grand Health Alliance (GHA) Punjab slammed the Punjab government for not dedicating enough resources in medical centres, saying that public hospitals are still deprived of facilities such as the personal protective equipment (PPE) despite two months since the lockdown was imposed. Talking to media at Punjab Institute of Cardiology on Tuesday, GHA representatives lamented that the authorities have dispatched only 750 N95 masks over the past two.....[view more](#)

MoU signed for free corona test of the needy

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

LAHORE: University of Health Sciences (UHS), Thursday, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Akhuwat Foundation under which the latter will provide 11,500 kits to the varsity for free testing of less-privileged suspected coronavirus patients. The beneficiary of mutual cooperation between the two organisations will be the staff of orphanages, SOS Villages, and Fountain House. Moreover, free tests will be offered to media workers,[view more](#)

Covid-19 drug enters human testing phase

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

LAHORE: The de Khon Global and its partners in the Netherlands and Turkey have reportedly reached the human testing phase in the development of a drug to treat Covid-19. According to a press release, the breakthrough has come from the VSY Biotechnology B.V., based in Netherlands, one of the strategic partner company of de Khon Global. The drug, named TR-C 19, can neutralise the virus under laboratory conditions and it is now at authority approval.....[view more](#)

Eid relief package

Source: [Asha'ar Rehman](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

THE moment of debate on whether or not we should have a lockdown has long passed. A decision was taken that we are not going to have a lockdown — at least not in the classic sense. There's little point in arguing with the bosses over this now. A more realistic approach would be to try and concentrate your attention, post-decision, on more relevant matters. For example, how officials have gone about implementing the rules of this relax.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 cases continue to escalate in Rawalpindi, Islamabad

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

RAWALPINDI/Islamabad: At least 125 new cases of Covid-19 were reported in Rawalpindi on Thursday, while one person has died and 29 people have recovered from the disease while in Islamabad three more people have died of Covid-19 and 97 new cases have been reported. Even as Covid-19 cases continue to escalate, markets and shopping centres are open to shoppers while standard operating procedures (SOP) issued to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.....[view more](#)

More cases reported in Chakwal

Source: [The Newspaper's Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

CHAKWAL: As many as 29 people tested positive for Covid-19, out of the 207, who were quarantined at Cadet College Choa Saidan Shah in Chakwal after returning from abroad. Talking to Dawn, Deputy Commissioner Chakwal retired Capt Abdul Sattar Esani said: "Besides these 29 confirmed cases, the tally of domestic cases in the district has reached 25. A 75-year-old man, from Tehsil Kallar Kahar, who died after suffering from a heart problem, also.....[view more](#)

LGH Orthopaedic Unit closed after 16 medics contract virus

Source: [Asif Chaudhry](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

LAHORE: The Lahore General Hospital management has closed down its orthopaedic department after 16 doctors of the unit tested positive for the virus. The facility was shut down on the recommendation of head of orthopaedic department Prof Dr Mohammad Hanif. While writing a letter to principal of Ameeruddin Medical College/LGH Prof Dr Sardar Mohammad Al-Fareed Zafar, Dr Hanif suggested to shut down the facility for a period of at least 10 days to[view more](#)

PML-N office-bearer tests positive

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

LAHORE: PML-N deputy secretary general Attaullah Tarar on Thursday tested positive for Covid-19. "I have been tested positive for the virus. I request all those people who have interacted with me in the past few days to get their

tests done and take precautions accordingly,” Tarar said in a tweet. The PML-N leader is self-isolating at home. He remained active during the past few days in distributing medical kits among the medics. O.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 drug enters human testing phase

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

LAHORE: The de Khon Global and its partners in the Netherlands and Turkey have reportedly reached the human testing phase in the development of a drug to treat Covid-19. According to a press release, the breakthrough has come from the VSY Biotechnology B.V., based in Netherlands, one of the strategic partner company of de Khon Global. The drug, named TR-C 19, can neutralise the virus under laboratory conditions and it is now at authority approva.....[view more](#)

Another woman dies of corona

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

SHEIKHUPURA: Another woman lost her life due to Covid-19 infection here on Thursday. According to report, Bushra was brought to the DHQ Hospital with symptoms of the virus and she could not survive. SIALKOT: The total number of confirmed coronavirus patients increased to 623 from 527 with 96 fresh cases in Sialkot. Deputy Commissioner Dr Nasir Mehmood Bashir said the patients had been quarantined.[view more](#)

LHC throws out appeal to open parks, recreational spots on Eid

Source: [INP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday turned down a plea for permission to open parks and other recreational spots across the province on the occasion of Eidul Fitr. An LHC bench headed by Chief Justice Qasim Khan was hearing the constitutional petition seeking directives for the provincial authorities to allow parks and recreational spots to open during the Eid holidays. “Do you ask me for a licence to kill children,” the top high[view more](#)

Punjab IG tells police to ensure govt SOPs are followed during Jummatul Wida, Eid

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

Punjab Police Inspector General Shoaib Dastgir has said that all available resources should be utilised under comprehensive strategies for ensuring security of religious congregations held at sensitive mosques and Imambargahs, whereas special attention should be paid to directions of the government and precautionary measures with respect to coronavirus. He further said that on Jummatul Wida, senior officers should personally inspect the sec.....[view more](#)

Sindh

WB agrees to launch \$145m Covid-19, locust control projects in Sindh

Source: [Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

KARACHI: The World Bank and the Sindh government agreed on Monday to launch a \$145 million Sindh Covid-19 Response Programme and a Locust Control Programme in the province. This decision was taken in a meeting between Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and World Bank country director Patchamuthu Illangovan through video link. The chief minister took part in the meeting from the CM House and the WB director with his team from his Islamabad office.....[view more](#)

Sindh govt oblivious to threat posed by Covid-19 waste

Source: [Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

KARACHI: The Sindh government is yet to wake up to the threat posed by “Covid-19 waste” as countless contaminated face masks, gloves and body suits, along with other medical waste, find their way to roadside garbage dumps, it emerged on Monday. Conversation with sources privy to the matter revealed that decades-old official indifference towards management of waste, including highly infectious medical waste, continued till to date and.....[view more](#)

Sindh records three COVID-19 deaths, 864 new cases

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

Although only three deaths occurred in Sindh due to the novel coronavirus between Sunday and Monday, the number of new cases of the viral disease remained high as usual with 864 people diagnosed with COVID-19 in the province, including 733 in Karachi alone. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said this in a statement issued on Monday. “Three people, including two women and a male, have unfortunately lost their lives due to coro.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 victims’ bodies to be handed over to families for last rites

Source: [M. Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

Accepting the demand of the families who lost their loved ones due to the novel coronavirus and on recommendations of the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA), the Sindh government on Monday allowed the handover of bodies of those dying of COVID-19 to their families for “dignified death rites”. The government also lifted the restrictions on graveyards and allowed the burial of COVID-19 victims at all the graveyards in t.....[view more](#)

PA session tomorrow to discuss COVID-19 situation

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-05-19

Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani has convened a session of the provincial assembly on Wednesday at the new Sindh Assembly building at 11am. The session has been convened on the requisition of the opposition. The session will exclusively hold a general discussion on the coronavirus situation in the province. It is likely that a limited number of lawmakers would attend the requisitioned session of the house to ensure social distanc.....[view more](#)

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Sindh increases virus testing capacity to 6,550

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

KARACHI: Claiming that Sindh was far ahead of other provinces in terms of testing capacity for the novel coronavirus, Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah stated that the province was now able to conduct 6,550 tests a day. In a statement issued on Monday, Shah said that there were 19 laboratories in the province testing samples for Covid-19, adding that they were operating at 77 per cent of their capacity. Sharing updates about th.....[view more](#)

KE announces further relief for small businesses

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

In continuation of earlier relief measures on account of the COVID-19 crisis, K-Electric (KE) is facilitating small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through pre-paid electricity bills under the “Chota Karobar-o-Sannat Imadadi” package announced by the federal government. Under the package, eligible commercial customers with sanctioned load up to 5kW and industrial consumers with sanctioned load up to 70kW will receive a maximum subsidy o.....[view more](#)

Sindh records 19 COVID-19 deaths, highest in a day

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

Sindh recorded the highest number of deaths due to COVID-19 in a single day since the first coronavirus case was reported in Pakistan on March 19, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Tuesday. Nineteen people lost their lives due to the novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 299 in the province, the CM said. “The 19 deaths within 24 hours is the highest number since the first death was r.....[view more](#)

Call for screening of every healthcare provider for covid-19

Source: [M. Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

When a septuagenarian patient undergoing treatment in a regular ward at one of the leading hospitals in Karachi for over a month tested positive for COVID-19, it set alarm bells ringing among the hospital’s administration. After the screening of the entire staff of that ward, it was found that most of the doctors, nurses and paramedics had tested positive for the novel coronavirus, although all of them were asymptomatic (showing no[view more](#)

19 die as Covid-19 hits new high, says Murad

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said that the dreaded coronavirus hit new highs as 19 more patients lost their lives overnight, taking the death toll to 299 in the province. While disclosing it in a statement issued here from CM House, Mr Shah said 19 patients died over the past 24 hours and the number of deaths was the highest since the first death due to Covid-19 was reported on March 19. “Now Sindh has tota.....[view more](#)

SC should have considered doctors’ opinion on Covid-19, says PMA

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-20

KARACHI: The Pakistan Medical Association at a meeting held on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the Supreme Court’s decision in which it ordered the provincial governments to reopen all shopping malls without any

hindrance and ensure strict adherence to standard operating procedures (SOPs). “The PMA always respects the verdicts of our courts. But, as far as the coronavirus situation is concerned, the Supreme Court should have c.....[view more](#)

Trials of plasma therapy show ‘80pc recovery rate’

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

KARACHI: Initial results of a clinical trial conducted at the National Institute of Blood Diseases (NIBD) to assess the efficacy of plasma therapy in treating Covid-19 patients have showed over “80 per cent recovery rate”. Patients were administered with plasma therapy at the stage of moderate to severe disease. The initial outcomes also conform to the results of similar ongoing trials across the world. “It is quite heartening.....[view more](#)

1,017 new coronavirus cases detected, says CM

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-21

KARACHI: As many as 1,017 new cases of coronavirus, the highest figure since the detection of the first case in the province, emerged and 17 more patients died overnight taking death toll to 316, disclosed Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here from CM House on Wednesday. He said that 1,017 cases of Covid-19 were detected over the past 24 hours when 6,164 tests were conducted in the province. “This is, 1017, the high.....[view more](#)

17 succumb to COVID-19 as Sindh witnesses record new 1,017 cases

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

As many as 17 more people, including five women, lost their lives due to the novel coronavirus in the province between Tuesday and Wednesday, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday, adding that of these, 12 patients died in Karachi while the remaining five people died in Hyderabad, Badin and Mirpurkhas. Two of the 17 victims were not the permanent residents of Sindh. “Today is another unfortunate day when such a.....[view more](#)

Advisory allows asymptomatic COVID-19 patients to end isolation on 11th day

Source: [M. Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

People who have tested positive for the novel coronavirus and are asymptomatic, which means showing no symptoms of the disease, or having mild symptoms can end their isolation periods at their homes or isolation centres on the 11th day of their PCR test as they would not require another test to prove themselves to be free of coronavirus, officials and experts said on Wednesday. Similarly, all those people who have not tested positive for[view more](#)

AKU ‘trying passive immunisation to treat COVID-19 patients’

Source: [M. Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

Following National Institute of Blood Diseases (NIBD), which is conducting clinical trials of convalescent plasma therapy at nine COVID-19 treatment facilities in the country to treat people infected with the novel coronavirus, the Aga Khan University also said on Tuesday that they were using the technique at their health facility in Karachi to get patients rid of the virus. “A new clinical trial evaluating the efficacy and safety of plasma.....[view more](#)

SOP issued for performing last rites of COVID-19 victims

Source: [SBP Salis bin Perwaiz](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

The Sindh government issued a standard operating procedure (SOP), prepared on recommendations from experts, for families to perform the last rites of their loved ones who have fallen victim to COVID-19. The SOP aims to devise a methodology which is convenient to and safe for all involved in performing the last rites of such victims, keeping in view religious, cultural and customary considerations without compromising the health of near an.....[view more](#)

Federal govt's guidelines to be followed for Jummatul Wida, Eid prayers: Nasir Shah

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Sindh Minister for Information, Local Government, Housing & Town Planning, Religious Affairs, Forest and Wildlife Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that prayers of Jummatul Wida and Eid in Sindh would be held in accordance with the guidelines issued by the federal government. The provincial Information Minister said that the 20-point guidelines issued by the federal government in this regard would be implemented. "People should pray for the[view more](#)

Peek Freans Sooper launches public service message about COVID-19

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

At a time when the lockdown has been eased and the country is adjusting itself to a new normal, Pakistan's leading biscuit manufacturer, EBM, through its mega-brand, Sooper, has launched a Public Service Message urging people to continue exercising caution in order to keep themselves and their loved ones safe from the virus. The message arrives at a crucial time, prompting people to play their part in the fight against this threat by implemen.....[view more](#)

Courts should think about whether their orders can be complied with: Saeed Ghani

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Sindh Minister for Education, Labour and Human Resources Saeed Ghani on Tuesday said that courts should "think about whether the decisions they take fall within the ambit of the government's authority". Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Ghani said that the limit of any minister or chief minister's authority was laid out by the constitution and the law. Likewise, he said, the courts also had to take decisions in acc.....[view more](#)

20 perish in Sindh as coronavirus infects another 960

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

A total of 20 people passed away in Sindh due to COVID-19 between Wednesday and Thursday, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah as he briefed media persons on Thursday on the pandemic situation in the province. He said that of the 20 COVID-19 victims, 16 belonged to Karachi, which is the most affected city in the country. "Unfortunately, we have lost 20 more people in Sindh during the last 24 hours, of whom 16 died in Karac.....[view more](#)

Labour leaders demand tripartite mechanism for implementation of COVID-19 ordinance

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

In reaction to the lay-offs by several industries during the coronavirus emergency, trade unions, rights activists and civil society groups have demanded that the Sindh government implement and monitor the Sindh COVID-19 Emergency Relief Ordinance 2020 through a tripartite mechanism to ensure that no workers are laid off and they are paid their due wages. In a joint statement, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (Piler) Ex.....[view more](#)

KU lab turned into Covid-19 testing facility

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

KARACHI: A biosafety laboratory at Dr Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD), Karachi University (KU), has been transformed into a large Covid-19 testing facility. Part of the National Institute of Virology established last year with federal support, the facility is the largest biosafety level-III laboratory in the country. “The lab is testing hundreds of samples being provided by the health department daily, &rdqu.....[view more](#)

Call for implementation of Covid-19 relief ordinance

Source: [Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

KARACHI: Trade unions, human rights and civil society activists have urged the Sindh government to implement and monitor the Sindh Covid-19 Emergency Relief Ordinance 2020 through a tripartite mechanism because many industries have started firing their workers and many others are not paying their labourers their rightful wages. In a joint statement, issued by Karamat Ali, executive director, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (P.....[view more](#)

Combating the pandemic ; NBP donates Rs80m to support over 26,000 households

Source: [Press Release, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

KARACHI: The National Bank of Pakistan has topped up its earlier contributions towards combating the coronavirus pandemic by donating another Rs80 million to support over 26,000 financially vulnerable households. The initiative is a part of its on-going CSR plan to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This generous donation will support over 26,000 households belonging to the disadvantaged segment of society who have been most affected due to[view more](#)

Covid-19's increasing trend may continue till monsoon, says Met

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

KARACHI: The Met Office on Thursday told that Pakistan has been divided into seven zones to find any relationship between Covid-19 and the weather conditions, saying that the pandemic's increasing trend is likely to continue until the onset of monsoon. The results revealed a significant connection of Covid-19 cases with temperature and relative humidity, when weekly Covid-19 and met-data was analyzed. A significant connection found be.....[view more](#)

Eidul Fitr should be celebrated with simplicity, says Sindh CM

Source: [Staff Report, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Thursday urged people to celebrate the upcoming Eidul Fitr in a “simple way” as the number of COVID-19 cases in the province neared 20,000. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Shah asked people not to travel to their villages for Eid so the spread of the virus could be contained. He said that the spread of COVID-19 in cities has already overburdened the health system of the country. If the v.....[view more](#)

International News

Countries News

Trump vs Biden: first it was wild — then came COVID-19

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

President Donald Trump's reelection battle against Joe Biden was always going to be wild — and then came the coronavirus, killing nearly 90,000 Americans, scuttling the economy and throwing the race into surreal confusion. Less than six months before election day, neither candidate can campaign normally, voters wonder whether they'll be safe, and Trump suddenly faces what amounts to a referendum on his handling of a once-in-a-cent.....[view more](#)

Summer unlikely to curb coronavirus pandemic growth: study

Source: [AFP](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

WASHINGTON: The higher summer temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere are unlikely to significantly limit the growth of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a Princeton University study published Monday in the journal Science. Several statistical studies conducted over the past few months have shown a slight correlation between climate and the novel coronavirus — the hotter and more humid it is, the less likely the virus is to spread.....[view more](#)

Xi asks Pakistani students to promote youth exchanges

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged Pakistani students studying in Beijing to promote youth exchanges and understanding. Tech Video 00:02 / 00:54[view more](#)

CDC 'let the country down' on coronavirus testing: White House

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

The White House rebuked the top US health agency on Sunday, saying "it let the country down" on providing testing crucial to the battle against the coronavirus outbreak. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been under intense scrutiny since producing a faulty test for COVID-19 that caused weeks of delays in the US response. Critics have pointed out that it could simply have accepted kits made by the World Health Organization,.....[view more](#)

US, European leaders weigh reopening risks without a vaccine

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

On a weekend when many pandemic-weary people emerged from weeks of lockdown, leaders in the U.S. and Europe weighed the risks and rewards of lifting COVID-19 restrictions knowing that a vaccine could take years to develop. In separate stark warnings, two major European leaders bluntly told their citizens that the world needs to adapt to living with the coronavirus and cannot wait to be saved by a vaccine. "We are confronting this risk, and we ne.....[view more](#)

Mexicans dying from adulterated alcohol as beer runs dry

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Scores of Mexicans are dying from drinking adulterated liquor, a consequence of the shortage of mainstream alcoholic beverages during the coronavirus pandemic, authorities say. The first of at least 138 deaths in recent weeks occurred at the end of April in the western state of Jalisco, a month after the government declared a

health emergency over the spread of COVID-19. Much of Mexico has run out of beer after factories were shut down along with other.....[view more](#)

Burundi to vote in tense poll amid virus outbreak

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Burundians will vote Wednesday in a tense general election, despite a largely-ignored outbreak of coronavirus which is set to be the first major challenge for the new president. President Pierre Nkurunziza, who has been in power since 2005, shocked observers by deciding to step aside, five years after a controversial third-term run plunged his country into political and economic crisis. While Ethiopia decided to delay its election this year due to the.....[view more](#)

Deaths from coronavirus-like symptoms surge in Yemen's Aden

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Deaths in Aden have surged to at least five times higher than normal, an NGO and medics say, igniting fears that the coronavirus is spreading unhindered in the Yemeni port city. Six years of war against the Huthis — and a widening fault-line among forces opposed to that rebel outfit — have left authorities ill-equipped to control the spread of the virus. The first coronavirus case in Aden, the government's interim capital, was only[view more](#)

Zimbabweans go hungry as coronavirus compounds climate woes

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Rosemary Pamire struggled to feed her family well before Zimbabwe entered lockdown in March to combat the coronavirus pandemic. Now she can hardly put together a meal a day as the country faces a deepening food crisis. Sitting on a bed in her two-room lodgings in Harare's poor Mbare township, Pamire told Reuters she had exhausted the little food she had stocked up during the first 21 days of an extended seven-week lockdown. "We just eat o.....[view more](#)

Virus-confined Med states wilt in record heat wave

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

Across the Mediterranean with its tantalising beaches, a record heatwave has hit countries just as they cautiously ease COVID-19 lockdowns, stoking hopes the new season will help fight the virus. The mercury has shot above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and the suffocating heat since the weekend is forecast to run for several more days. On the holiday island of Cyprus, poised to further ease lockdown measures this week, authorities issued a &l.....[view more](#)

Moscow virus doctors see no light at the end of the tunnel

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

An exhausted coronavirus patient slowly and deliberately writes his message on a green clipboard one letter at a time: "Doctor, when can I go home? For the past three weeks, the 54-year-old has been on a ventilator in a hospital in Moscow, the epicentre of the pandemic in Russia, receiving treatment for the virus. "Wait a while longer," says Dmitry Cheboksarov, head of the coronavirus ward at the Vinogradov hospital. "We are[view more](#)

WHO concerned over rising coronavirus cases in poor countries

Source: [British media service](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-21

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation (WHO) expressed concern on Wednesday about the rising number of new coronavirus cases in poor countries, even as many rich nations have begun emerging from lockdown, a British media service reported. The global health body said 106,000 new cases of infections of the novel coronavirus had been recorded in 24 hours span, the most in a single day since the outbreak began. "We still have a long way[view more](#)

Argentine scientists working on low-cost two-hour coronavirus test

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Argentine scientists are producing what they call a fast and inexpensive coronavirus test, which according to the government has captured the interest of other countries. The new test, called "NEOKIT-COVID-19", allows detection of the virus in less than two hours, developers say. "It is a simple, cheap and readily available technique," Santiago Verbajh, an epidemiologist at the Pablo Cassara Foundation, an organization that[view more](#)

Virus stigma weighs heavily in sub-Saharan Africa

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Landlords evict people from their homes, nurses are abandoned by their husbands and people are spurned just on suspicion of coming into contact with a COVID-19 patient. Across sub-Saharan Africa, the stigma attached to the coronavirus is so strong that some choose not to seek treatment to avoid facing unbearable hostility. People suspected of having contracted COVID-19 say they are treated like pariahs: singled out at work, in their neighbourhoods and.....[view more](#)

France looks past Google, Apple for virus contact tracing

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

France, which has long been sceptical of the growing power of US tech titans, is seeking to bypass Apple and Google for a smartphone app to help trace people infected with the novel coronavirus. The move, which leaves France relatively isolated in Europe alongside Britain and Norway, reflects differences on how such apps should be structured, who has access to sensitive data and their effectiveness. A number of countries have already deployed &ldqu.....[view more](#)

Chile virus cases soar as soldiers deploy following unrest

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Coronavirus cases soared in Chile Tuesday as soldiers were deployed to back up riot police in Santiago following clashes with demonstrators angry about food shortages and job losses. Soldiers in armored vehicles and wielding automatic weapons were deployed to the working class neighborhood of El Bosque, where on Monday residents armed with clubs and stones clashed with riot police. Overnight Monday to Tuesday rioters looted a neighborhood gas station.....[view more](#)

A nurse struggled with COVID-19 trauma. He was found dead in his car

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Becoming a nurse in 2018 was a dream come true for William Coddington. He loved helping people and feeling needed at his West Palm Beach, Florida hospital. The 32-year-old was on the upswing of a decade-long battle with opioid addiction and other substance abuse, according to friends and family, who said he was committed to his recovery. It

all started to unravel in March, as fatally ill COVID-19 patients showed up in his intensive care unit. It attle.....[view more](#)

Bolivian city gives out free doses of de-worming drug in bid to combat coronavirus

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Officials in the Bolivian city of Trinidad launched a campaign on Monday to give out free doses of the anti-parasite drug ivermectin in a bid to combat the coronavirus in the country's hard-hit eastern region. Authorities will go house-to-house to pass out some 350,000 doses of the drug to residents in the region of Beni, where Trinidad is the capital. The area has 581 confirmed cases and 41 coronavirus-related deaths. The South American nation.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus takes a toll in Sweden's immigrant community

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

The flight from Italy was one of the last arrivals that day at the Stockholm airport. A Swedish couple in their 50s walked up and loaded their skis into Razzak Khalaf's taxi. It was early March and concerns over the coronavirus were already present, but the couple, both coughing for the entire 45-minute journey, assured Khalaf they were healthy and just suffering from a change in the weather. Four days later, the Iraqi immigrant got serious.....[view more](#)

Preacher who claimed Christians immune to virus appears in Myanmar court

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

A preacher who said Christians were immune to the coronavirus and then contracted it himself appeared in a Myanmar court on Wednesday to face charges over organising services in defiance of a ban on gatherings. David Lah, a Canadian citizen of Burmese origin, and another man, Myanmar national Wai Tun, face a maximum three-year prison term under the disaster management law over the church services held in the commercial capital of Yangon in early April.....[view more](#)

Brazil sees record virus deaths as pandemic surges in Latin America

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

Brazil has seen a record number of coronavirus deaths as the pandemic that has swept across the world begins to hit Latin America with its full force. After Asia, Europe and North America, Latin America has seen coronavirus infections surge in recent days and now accounts for about 580,000 of the world's nearly five million confirmed cases. Brazil has been hardest-hit in the region, rising to the third-highest number of cases in the world, a.....[view more](#)

WHO to review virus response as Trump renews attack

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

The World Health Organization said it would launch an independent review of its response to the coronavirus pandemic but President Donald Trump renewed his attack on the global body, branding it a "puppet of China" and threatening a permanent freeze on US funding. Washington is locked in an increasingly bitter spat with Beijing over the new coronavirus pandemic and has also taken aim at the WHO, which on Monday kicked off its first-ever.....[view more](#)

Mexico begins reopening despite coronavirus onslaught fears

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Mexico issued guidelines on Monday for restarting operations in the automotive, mining and construction sectors, pushing ahead with reopening the economy despite a growing national toll from the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns about unsafe work sites. With Mexico's coronavirus death toll having surged past 5,300, and with 51,633 known cases, officials are wrestling with how to restart key industries without triggering a greater spread[view more](#)

Half of Chile senate, four ministers in coronavirus quarantine

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Around half of Chile's 50-member senate and four ministers have been placed in quarantine after coming into contact with at least three colleagues infected with the novel coronavirus, officials said Monday, as jobless protesters in a poor area of Santiago clashed with police to demand food aid. Finance Minister Ignacio Briones and Chief of Staff Felipe Ward both wrote on Twitter that they had tested negative for the virus but were in quarant.....[view more](#)

'We can get it done here': Africa's tech scene tackles virus

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Watching from afar as much of the world was brought to its knees by the coronavirus, African scientists, engineers and innovators have turned to homegrown solutions to prepare for the worst case scenario. By the time the virus hit Africa, where cases have risen relatively slowly, images of overwhelmed hospitals and stories of health workers strapped for protective gear had been streaming in for weeks. Mehul Shah from Ultra Red Technologies, a 3D p.....[view more](#)

Australia's coronavirus death toll reaches 100

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

America and Europe despite its earlier exposure to the outbreak. The 100th fatality was a 93-year-old woman from a care home outside Sydney, the origin of 19 deaths, media reported. Australian officials have credited a decision in early March to close borders and restrict internal movements with keeping the disease relatively contained. A three-step government plan to unwind lockdown measures is under way. Widespread testing has detected just ove.....[view more](#)

Huge European rescue plans, vaccine hopes fuel virus optimism

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

A half-trillion-euro European fund laid out by France and Germany sparked optimism Monday about fighting economic fallout from the coronavirus, as did encouraging early results on vaccine research by a US biotech firm. Global markets surged as Europe pushed towards normality with major landmarks reopening after a two-month hiatus, and as China told the World Health Organization it would back an independent inquiry into the handling of the outbrea.....[view more](#)

Virus-hit Brazil lets Cuban doctors resume work

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Brazil re-enlisted more than 150 Cuban doctors Monday to help fight a surge in coronavirus cases, a year and a half after Havana ended a medical assistance program over a row with President Jair Bolsonaro. The doctors, who had opted to stay in Brazil after the Cuban government pulled the plug on the program that sent them, received new

medical licenses from the Brazilian health ministry under a program to round up reinforcements for the overstretc.....[view more](#)

Pandemic throws up additional challenges for US firefighters

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-20

The wildfire season in the western United States is shaping up to be even more challenging this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, which has forced firefighters to rethink how they respond to disaster while also protecting themselves."We're focused on COVID-19, we're focused on coronavirus mitigation, trying to do our best to suppress the spread while at the same time we've got to mitigate and suppress these fires as.....[view more](#)

Qatar confirms virus in jail, denies widespread outbreak

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-20

Qatar confirmed 12 cases of COVID-19 at a jail on Tuesday as campaign group Human Rights Watch warned other prisoners could be at risk of contracting the disease.Two inmates were acutely ill but none had succumbed to the respiratory condition, the Government Communications Office said in a statement which denied there was a widespread outbreak among prisoners.Human Rights Watch had said in a statement that six non-Qatari detainees "describe.....[view more](#)

Sweden tops Europe Covid-19 deaths per capita over last seven days

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-20

Sweden, which has opted for a more open strategy in combating the virus than other European countries, has the highest number of deaths in Europe per capita from the COVID-19 disease over the last seven days, data showed. Sweden has kept most schools, restaurant and businesses open during the pandemic. While deaths are on the decline Sweden had 6.25 deaths per million inhabitants per day in a rolling seven day average between May 12 and May 19, a.....[view more](#)

WHO will continue to lead global fight against pandemic, vows Tedros

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-20

The World Health Organization will continue to lead the global fight against the coronavirus pandemic which "threatens to tear at the fabric of international cooperation", its chief said on Tuesday. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director-general, thanked "the many member states who have expressed their support and solidarity" at its two-day annual ministerial assembly. He welcomed a European Union (EU) resolution, adopte.....[view more](#)

Indonesia calls for Saudi decision on Makkah pilgrimage

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#) , 2020-05-20

Indonesia on Tuesday called for Saudi Arabia to decide if it will allow the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah, after the coronavirus pandemic plunged the ritual into doubt.Last year around 2.5 million faithful travelled to Saudi Arabia from across the world to take part in the "hajj", which all Muslims must perform at least once in their lives if able.The year-round "umrah" pilgrimage was suspended in March, while Saudi[view more](#)

Coronavirus gives Trump big stage for pet medical theories

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

America, Dr Trump will see you now. While US President Donald Trump admits he's not actually a doctor, he's long been convinced of his scientific talents — and the coronavirus pandemic has given him the ultimate stage to test his theories. The Republican leader's announcement Monday that he has been taking hydroxychloroquine for almost two weeks as a preventative measure against COVID-19 was a shock. While Trump claimed to h.....[view more](#)

Russian PM recovers from virus as infection rates slow

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin returned to his duties on Tuesday after recovering from the coronavirus, as officials said the crisis was easing despite total infections approaching 300,000. President Vladimir Putin signed a decree reinstating Mishustin as the head of government, nearly three weeks after the prime minister announced on television he had tested positive for coronavirus. Mishustin checked himself into hospital and his.....[view more](#)

Pakistan, China, Iran, Russia issue appeal for ceasefire in Afghanistan

Source: [Tahir Khan](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Pakistan, China, Iran and Russia have called for ceasefire in Afghanistan and the start of intra-Afghan, which are the "only way to realize the Afghan national reconciliation, leading to prompt end of the prolonged conflict." Special Representatives on Afghanistan affairs of Pakistan, China, Russia and Iran in a joint statement called on all Afghan ethnic groups and parties, including Taliban, to act upon the opportunities preparing th.....[view more](#)

Touching surfaces not as dangerous as previously thought

Source: [Anwar Iqbal](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

WASHINGTON: The coronavirus 'does not spread easily' by touching surfaces or objects, said the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), changing its previous guidelines which placed a greater emphasis on this possibility. The CDC had previously warned that people can get infected "by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes". But the.....[view more](#)

Online challenges

Source: [Muhammad Ali Falak](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-22

COVID-19 has compelled a rapid shift from the traditional face-to-face classroom to technologically advanced and evolving online learning. Faculty, staff and students all face a steep learning curve as they develop virtual classrooms, practise novel technologies, and assign, evaluate and submit online homework. While this transition might have seen many students and instructors collaborate for better learning, there is still an excluded section[view more](#)

Global coronavirus cases surpass 5m as battleground shifts to South America

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

Confirmed coronavirus cases in the world jumped past five million as Latin American overtook the United States and Europe to become the new pandemic battleground. It represents a new phase in the virus spread, which initially peaked in China in February, before large-scale outbreaks followed in Europe and the United States. Latin America accounted for around a third of the 91,000 cases reported earlier this week. Europe and the United States each a.....[view more](#)

Japan's Abe wants to build ventilators that hospitals probably don't need

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has pledged to build 2,000 new ventilators for coronavirus patients that even the government says hospitals are unlikely to need. Instead, the plan, announced in April, appears to be more about bringing home manufacturing of equipment seen as key to the country's national security, a long-held focus for the Japanese premier that has deepened with the coronavirus crisis. Abe wants Japanese companies to build[view more](#)

Mexican funeral homes face 'horrific' unseen coronavirus toll

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

Like many people around the world, Mexican funeral home owner Salvador Ascencio did not believe at first the coronavirus outbreak was going to be a big deal. Then calls from grieving relatives began to pour in. During the first 11 days of May, his small funeral parlor in a run-down part of Mexico City dealt with 30 bodies, a more than four-fold spike in daily funeral services compared to the same period last May. "I have never experienced a si.....[view more](#)

Aussie sewers a frontline in bid to flush out coronavirus

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

Australia is getting down and dirty to combat the coronavirus pandemic — unrolling a vast programme of sewage testing this week in the hope of finding hidden clusters of the virus. Melbourne has begun testing wastewater and excrement for traces of the virus in a bid to focus conventional testing and tracing strategies on problem suburbs or neighbourhoods. Nicholas Crosbie of Melbourne Water said the utility hopes to monitor samples from 71 pe.....[view more](#)

Bolsonaro bets big on 'right-wing' drug against virus

Source: [AFP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-22

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro neatly sums up how thoroughly politics has hijacked the debate over using malaria drugs against the new coronavirus: "Right-wingers take chloroquine." The far-right leader made the remark Tuesday, a day before his government recommended widespread use of chloroquine and a less-toxic derivative, hydroxychloroquine, to treat COVID-19 even in mild cases, despite questions about their safety and effective.....[view more](#)

Donors News

Sindh, WB launch \$135 million Covid-19 response programme

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

KARACHI: The World Bank (WB) and Sindh government have decided to launch a Covid-19 response programme, at the cost of \$135 million, in the province, as well as a locust control programme. In a video link meeting with WB country director Patchamuthu Illangovan on Monday, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the provincial government wanted to launch a Covid-19 response programme with the technical and financial support of the[view more](#)

US assails WHO 'failure' in pandemic, saying it cost 'many lives'

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-19

The United States said on Monday that the pandemic had "spun out of control" in great part due to a costly "failure" by the World Health Organization, and called for a more effective WHO. "There was a failure by this organization to obtain the information that the world needed, and that failure cost many lives," US Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar told the WHO's two-day annual assembly bei.....[view more](#)

Donors' contribution to corona fund praised

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-05-20

LAHORE: The philanthropists who spend their wealth generously for the welfare of humanity doing a great service to the mankind are pride of our society. Corporate sector is also fulfilling its social responsibilities and helping Covid-19 patients. Chairman Board of Management (BOM), Institute of Public Health (IPH) and former Governor of Punjab, Lt-Gen (r) Khalid Maqbool stated this while addressing a ceremony to acknowledge the contributi.....[view more](#)

WTO's goods trade index hits record low amid COVID disruptions

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-21

The World Trade Organization (WTO) said on Wednesday its goods trade indicator fell to the lowest level since its launch, indicating global trade was likely to fall "precipitously" in the first half of 2020 due to disruptions caused by COVID-19. The indicator, launched in July 2016, fell to 87.6 from 95.5 in February, the Geneva-based body said. Readings of less than 100 indicate trade below medium-term trends. "The current read.....[view more](#)

WHO to review virus response as Trump renews attack

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

The World Health Organization said it would launch an independent review of its response to the coronavirus pandemic but President Donald Trump renewed his attack on the global body, branding it a "puppet of China" and threatening a permanent freeze on US funding. Washington is locked in an increasingly bitter spat with Beijing over the new coronavirus pandemic and has also taken aim at the WHO, which on Monday kicked off its first-eve.....[view more](#)

WHO will continue to lead global fight against pandemic, vows Tedros

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

The World Health Organization will continue to lead the global fight against the coronavirus pandemic which "threatens to tear at the fabric of international cooperation", its chief said on Tuesday. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO

director-general, thanked “the many member states who have expressed their support and solidarity” at its two-day annual ministerial assembly. He welcomed a European Union (EU) resolution, adopted.....[view more](#)

Unicef, partners committed to assisting government & communities in KP

Source: Bureau report, [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

PESHAWAR: Rejecting the impression that there has been slackening in the commitment of Unicef and one of its partners Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) in the WASH sector in tribal districts, SRSP Syed Awlad Hussein, SRSP programme manager for the tribal districts, on Thursday said the fight against Covid-19 would continue. “The publication of a news item has created an impression that there has been a slackening in the commitment.....[view more](#)

WHO probe

Source: Editorial, [The News, International](#), 2020-05-22

The demand for a global investigation into the spread of the novel coronavirus is gaining momentum. The 73th session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva has discussed the issue and the head of the WHO has declared that the global body will look into the lessons of the covid-19 pandemic. The WHO director-general has also promised that he would initiate an independent evaluation to review experiences gained and lessons learned so that glob.....[view more](#)

SDPI Engagements

Researchers Articles

Economic Crisis with New Characteristics

Source: [Shakeel Ahmad Ramay](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

Economic crises are not new to human. The phenomena is going on from unknown times. In past recession were triggered due to supply or demand shock, or bad performance or mismanagement of financial sectors. We can quote numerous examples from known history of human kind like great recession of 1930s or the latest recession of 2007-8. World had become used to and devised a set of tools to counter the impacts but COVID-19 triggered economic turmoil[view more](#)

An Overwhelming Role of ICTs in Post-COVID Era

Source: [Brigadier Mohammad Yasin \(Retd\)](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

With over 4.7 million confirmed cases and more than 325,000 deaths that are exponentially rising every passing day, the COVID-19 has so far severely impacted life in 213 countries of the world, which were not prepared for such a catastrophe. From economy to health to education, it has played havoc with all sectors. Developing countries have gone back at least 10 years in their endeavours towards an all-round progress and prosperity. Even the rich.....[view more](#)

Meeting the mental health challenges during COVID-19

Source: [Sofia Akram](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-20

The fear of 2019 novel coronavirus has left people wondering whether the health system will be able to cure them or make their loved ones sick. Subsequently, public and clinical health efforts during the spread of coronavirus in population have focused on severe medical care needs of those who are severely affected. The urgent priorities of health sector include enhancing the capacities of hospitals for sick patients and provision of equipment to.....[view more](#)

Webinars

Ishrat Husain sheds light on Pakistan's Covid-19 plan

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

ISLAMABAD: The government has devised and implemented a well-crafted strategy in the wake of Covid-19, enabling the most vulnerable segments of society to absorb economic shocks whereas small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are being given support in order to tackle disruption in economic activities, said Adviser to Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity Dr Ishrat Husain. He was speaking at an online seminar on “Managing[view more](#)

Govt devises well-crafted strategy to absorb COVID-19 economic shocks: Dr Ishrat

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-19

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity Dr Ishrat Hussain on Monday said 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 a disruption in the economic activities. He was delivering a keynote speech at an online dialogue “Mana.....[view more](#)

'Govt devised well-crafted strategy against COVID-19'

Source: [Rasheed Khalid, The News, International](#) , 2020-05-20

Islamabad: 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. Dr Ishrat was giving a keynote.....[view more](#)

Experts call for sharing of expertise, resources at regional level to combat COVID-19 pandemic

Source: [APP, The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-21

ISLAMABAD - The Socio- political experts stressed to enhance the regional cooperation from sharing of expertise to resources to save people of the entire region from the pandemic. The COVID-19 has posed similar socio-economic challenges to all the neighboring countries of Pakistan, they said. This was the crux of an online dialogue titled: 'Rise of Coronavirus in Pakistan's neighboring Countries—the challenges and Policy Re.....[view more](#)

E-commerce policy sought from govt

Source: [News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-22

With the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic necessitating businesses become digital and refocus towards e-commerce to keep trading as stores remained shut, small and medium enterprises in the country have sought an SME and an e-commerce policy from the government. This was disclosed by Shehryar Tahir, the head of external relations at the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) during an online seminar on 'improvi.....[view more](#)

SDPI Press Releases

Canadian High Commissioner in Pakistan for global efforts to respond Covid19 effectively

Source: [SDPI, SDPI Advocacy](#) , 2020-05-22

Wendy Gilmour, the High Commissioner of Canada in Pakistan has said that the Canadian government highly values the bilateral relationships with Pakistan. In the aftermath of Covid19, Pakistan is being supported by Canada through a number of measures including direct support to fight the pandemic and by interventions through international support systems and financial institutions. The support that Pakistan has provided to most vulnerable groups o.....[view more](#)

Economic analysts urge for enabling business environment for the services sector

Source: [SDPI, SDPI Advocacy](#) , 2020-05-21

The Federal Government is working to finalize SME policy to improve the regulatory environment for small businesses including services sector in Pakistan. Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), in this regard, has sought an e-commerce policy as it's essential to develop online market place. Helping SMEs to use IT tools for increasing their productivity and supporting women-led enterprises in the services sector, are som.....[view more](#)

Experts call for sharing of expertise, resources at regional level to combat COVID-19 pandemic

Source: [SDPI, SDPI Advocacy](#) , 2020-05-20

COVID-19 has posed similar socio-economic challenges to all the neighboring countries of Pakistan, therefore, an enhanced regional cooperation from sharing of expertise to resources is the need of hour to save people of the entire

region from the pandemic. This was the crux of an online dialogue titled: 'Rise of Coronavirus in Pakistan's neighboring Countries—the challenges and Policy Responses' organized by the Sustainable [view more](#)

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