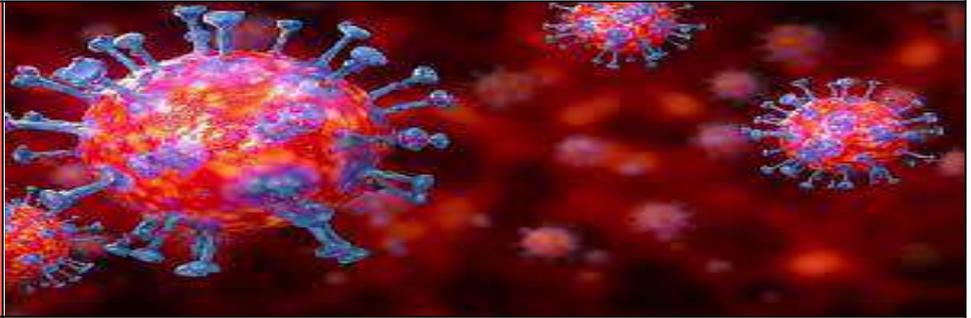


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



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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 Bi-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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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

PSM workers' sacking

Source: [News Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

THE government's decision to sack 9,350 employees of the Pakistan Steel Mills at a time when the State Bank is pushing banks to hand out billions in cheap loans to private businesses hit by Covid-10, so that they can maintain their payrolls, has come as a rude shock. The entire payroll of the largest industrial enterprise of the country has been terminated in spite of pre-election commitments by the prime minister and PTI leaders, especial.....[view more](#)

A blessing for some

Source: [Tasneem Noorani](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

IT is not every day that one feels like writing but today is one: to thank the prime minister for advising us to watch the Turkish TV show Dirilis:Ertugrul. It has not only rekindled one's interest in Islamic history and kept one suitably occupied during this Covid-19-ordered 'house arrest', but has also mercifully kept one away from the daily tripartite slanging matches on TV between the same faces, discussing the same topics a.....[view more](#)

Message that matters

Source: [Fahd Husain](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

TTHE PTI government is struggling with its message on Covid-19. It does not have to. Here are 10 ways to get it right.HE PTI government is struggling with its message on Covid-19. It does not have to. Here are 10 ways to get it right. 1) Be clear on what the message is. More than three months into the crisis, the message is: 'lockdown is bad'. This is a bad message to have for two reasons, (a) it is negative, solution-abhorrent and r.....[view more](#)

Pakistan needs to go beyond tree planting to thrive after Covid-19

Source: [Sara Hayat](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

The economic recovery from Covid-19 needs to be green. The devil, though, is in the details: policies that offer the best returns for government spending while moving us closer to reaching net-zero emissions need to consider income and gender inequality. Astudypublished in May by the University of Oxford found that investing in projects which simultaneously aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while boosting economic growth deliver high return.....[view more](#)

In Mumbai, Covid-19 patients are dying as they wait for ambulances and hospital beds

Source: [Aarefa Johari](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

On May 23, Kabir Khatri's sons spent half the day making frantic calls to Covid-19 hospitals across Mumbai, desperately seeking a bed for their father. A 69-year-old diabetic, Khatri (name changed to protect privacy) had unexpectedly tested positive for the novel coronavirus the week before, when the private hospital where he was scheduled for a gall bladder surgery demanded a Covid-19 report. Since Khatri was asymptomatic, he was quaranti.....[view more](#)

3m job loses likely

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

Getting the economy back on track, especially creating millions of jobs, is clearly going to require some out of the box thinking on the part of the government. According to a letter from the finance ministry to the Senate, approximately three million jobs will be lost in the country in the “initial round” of the coronavirus outbreak. This is one of those news items whose impact is not felt any less even though it is pretty much writt.....[view more](#)

Harvest of mistrust and ignorance

Source: [Dr Ayesha Razzaque, The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

The writer is an independent education researcher and consultant. She has a PhD in Education from Michigan State University. For years now, we have been feeding on a steady diet of mistrust of every institution and segment of society. Pick any power center – bureaucracy, politicians, military, feudals, industrialists, judiciary, media, clerics – and it is accused of its unique brand of corruption. It does not end there, but trickles.....[view more](#)

Two horses

Source: [Syed Bakhtiyar Kazmi, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

This week we continue where we left of last week: the tale of two horses. Those who missed out on the previous column may kindly go to their nearest bookshop and buy last Saturday’s edition of Business Recorder. Word from the sponsor out of the way, let’s get back to topic – you cannot ride two horses if you have one donkey. Pursuant to the developments during the last week, with the horse named Red riding into Ladakh,.....[view more](#)

The hidden pandemic alongside COVID-19

Source: [Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

Waking up to screams, thuds, angry shouting and the sickening sound of someone crashing into a wall, a table, a door. This is the cruel reality of many children and young people across our Commonwealth. And as economies, institutions and social welfare sectors continue to buckle under the strain of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic crisis, there is a dangerous escalation in the risk to the millions of people caught in the clutches of domestic a.....[view more](#)

Pak firm to produce effective drug against COVID-19

Source: [S M Hali, Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

The havoc wreaked by the pandemic COVID-19 continues to take a heavy toll. More than 6.5 million cases worldwide have been reported while the death toll continues to mount, having crossed 385,500, the most brilliant scientists are burning the midnight oil to find a cure and vaccine for the coronavirus. In this grim milieu, of all the drugs tried against Covid-19, only one – Remdesivir – has shown signs of effectiveness. Unfortunately,.....[view more](#)

No infection control

Source: [News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

IF someone were to draw on everything the world has learned about Covid-19 in the past six months and write a playbook about what not to do in the event of a high-fatality pandemic, our government’s strategy could comfortably feature as a case study of what happens when the wrong decisions are made. Where many countries rightly rely on data, mass testing, and science-led strategies to enforce lockdowns and limit the spread of Covid-19, our[view more](#)

Front-line anxiety

Source: [Asma Humayun](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

AT the end of March, Pakistan's first 'hero doctor' lost his life in the fight against Covid-19. He was 26 years old. Since then, nearly 2,000 medical professionals have been infected with Covid-19; 30 of them have died. Our media is quick to portray health professionals as 'heroes' and 'martyrs', but the reality is that the pandemic is an uneven contest, testing the limits of a fragile system, exhausting.....[view more](#)

Reopening schools: a practitioner's perspective

Source: [Jerrica Fatima Ann](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

After much stormy debate, as states the world over slacken their self-imposed lockdowns, they confront a bleak economic landscape and a strikingly unfamiliar world. In Asia, governments pledge billions in stimulus money, yet continue to downplay the reopening of schools. This is unacceptable and demands an urgency equal to other national priorities. Massive injections of cash into the economy are no doubt imperative. While sweepin.....[view more](#)

Flight from reality

Source: [Maleeha Lodhi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

WITH the country reeling from a surge in coronavirus cases and fatalities the government has chosen to remain in a state of denial about the more serious turn the health crisis is now taking. In the past one month, coronavirus cases have seen a four-fold increase, with Pakistan overtaking China in Covid-19 infections. The number of fatalities has trebled in the past fortnight alone. Yet the government decided to follow a risky course and lift mos.....[view more](#)

Mask on, mask off

Source: [Zarrar Khuhro](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

IF you've tried to talk sense to a coronavirus conspiracy theorist, you must have realised by now that you simply cannot win. Take the popular conspiracy theory that hospitals are paying patients up to Rs5 lakh to get them to declare the deaths of their loved ones as coronavirus related. Now, logically, one could argue that you could hire a target killer for far less — Rs1 lakh for a proper professional — and then pocket the re.....[view more](#)

The 100,000 mark

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

Now that numbers of both new coronavirus infections as well as deaths have been on a steep rise for a while, crossing the 100,000 mark, it seems an urgent rethink of the official policy is in order. There's little chance of the prime minister coming round to accepting the necessity of another lockdown, and much time and money has already been invested in the reopening, prime focus must now shift to making sure that the healthcare system can.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 and Our Courts

Source: [Yasser Latif Hamdani](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

The mishandling of the Covid-19 crisis by the Government is now apparent to all, as the number of infected cases continues to rise. What is even more troubling is that our legislators are entirely oblivious of the latest developments that are taking place in terms of courts around the world. While other countries- in particular UK, US, China and even India- have made wide-ranging changes (both temporary and permanent) to their procedural rules, l.....[view more](#)

Letter from Mother Nature

Source: [Munawar Mahar](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

Dear children, I know this letter does not find you in the best of your health and spirits affected by Corona. Since I'm your mother, it grieves me to see you so sick with the virus. I felt compelled to pick up the pen and write to you while you are home-ridden with ample time to pause, reflect and change after reading this letter long overdue. First and foremost, my children, let me tell you I am very unwell, and my health.....[view more](#)

SDGs in the pandemic fog

Source: [Ghazanfar Ali Zardari](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

THE novel coronavirus is wreaking havoc across the world, disturbing lives and livelihoods. The pandemic is now affecting world economies as fast as it is taking lives. Sustainable development has halted. The world is now said to be in an economic depression similar to the Great Depression of the 1930s. Covid-19 has unearthed basic shortcomings in our system. It has revealed how poverty, bad health care, deficient education and a lack of partner.....[view more](#)

Forgetting the front line

Source: [Editorial](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

Nearly every day we hear about more doctors and paramedical staff succumbing to Covid-19 in their battle to save patients suffering from the disease. It is surprising that there is no regular update exclusively on the medical staff and if you want to find out how many of them in total have died or have been infected you don't have a single portal for such information, in fact you end up with the combined tally covering all the people without.....[view more](#)

Human life or economy?

Source: [Kamran Yousaf](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

Pakistan has surpassed China in terms of the number of coronavirus cases — and remember, we haven't yet seen the peak. Irrespective of the exponential growth, Prime Minister Imran Khan is convinced that the lockdown is not the answer to Covid-19 in Pakistan. In fact, the PM has been reluctant to impose a lockdown since the day one as he believes that shutting down the economy will cause more harm than Covid-19. He has often cited.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: bad data, bad decisions

Source: [Dr Rana Jawad Asghar](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

"The art of epidemiological thinking is to draw conclusion from imperfect data" (George W Comstock). As an epidemiologist we are used to working with imperfect data. However, there is difference between imperfect data and completely wrong information. Many a time, I have been told that some information is better than nothing. Yes but "something" should be real, based on facts and not false information. Wars have been lost[view more](#)

FY21 targets

Source: [Editorial](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

On Monday, Prime Minister Imran Khan and the rest of the National Economic Council (NEC) will decide on formally endorsing the macroeconomic framework prepared by the Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC). The PTI government has proposed a growth target of 2.3% for its third year in power, which — Covid-19 crisis or not — is decidedly low for a developing country. Heartening and worrying at the same time is a side note that,[view more](#)

IMF and the budget 2020-21

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

Credible reports sourced to the Ministry of Finance indicate that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is insisting on an expenditure cut in the budget for 2020-21 as a precondition for the revival of the 39-month 6 billion dollar Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme – stalled due to the Covid-19 pandemic as a staff-level agreement on the second review was reached on 27 February 2020; however, approval of the IMF Board was deferred till[view more](#)

Surging corona infections

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

The results of enhanced testing capacity for coronavirus are alarming though not surprising. Following the easing of the lockdown the number of infected persons is rising fast. On Saturday, country's tally crossed 95,000 and the number of deaths reached 1,954. These numbers are likely to go much higher as the testing facilities increase and the impact of pre-Eid shopping rush in markets makes itself felt around the middle of this month. Whe.....[view more](#)

Public policy and human behaviour

Source: [Andleeb Abbas, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

Trouble comes in threes. Extreme measures produce extreme behavior. Fear and panic are breeding grounds of reactivity. These phrases all seem to be true for today's world. Coronavirus may have reached its peak in some countries, and may be reaching peak in other countries as well, but its side-effects are already rearing their head. Economies are struggling to restart with so much restrictions, governments are still trying to find the right.....[view more](#)

Interview with the CEO, Systems Limited 'Pandemic has forced businesses to explore digital transformation'

Source: [BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

Asif Peer is serving as the CEO, MD and Member, Board of Directors, at Systems Limited, Pakistan's leading software house. After receiving his Bachelor in Computer Science from NUCES and an MBA from IBA Karachi, Asif started his career with Systems Limited as software developer in 1996. He later moved to the United States; where he worked for 13 years and went on to serve as COO of Visionet Systems (2008-12). He came back to Pakistan in 201.....[view more](#)

Sifting important from irrelevant

Source: [Saad Rasool, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

In the clutter of daily breaking news, political mudslinging, and the no-holds-barred social media, it is easy to lose track of what is important to us as individuals, and as a nation. It is easy to confuse the important with the irrelevant; the meaningful with the useless. So let us attempt to sort out some of the wheat from the chaff, and try putting in perspective the myriad of issues that consume our public debate in Pakistan. First, the.....[view more](#)

The COVID-19 crisis and industrial policy

Source: [Ahsan Munir](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

Pakistan's industrial policy has been mostly in disarray over the last seven decades. The initial industrial policy in the 1960s and 70s focused on large scale manufacturing (LSM), and resultantly government-sponsored investment facilitated, among others, the establishment of heavy steel mills in Karachi, Heavy mechanical complex (HMC), Heavy Electric Complex (HEC) and Heavy Industries (HIT) at Taxila. Following the government's cue,[view more](#)

Lethal delays in managing the pandemic

Source: [Dr Abdus Sattar Abbasi](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

Irrespective of the discussion on whether COVID-19 is a biological weapon or not, we terribly failed to learn and respond to such disasters. Pakistan had enough time to prepare for the pandemic at all levels, but we wasted the space because of lethal delays due to our conventional lethargies, prevalent asystemic approach and the inability to deal with challenging issues. We dawdled due to our negligence in considering multidimensional risks surro.....[view more](#)

National News

AJK

IHK records two more Covid-19 deaths; tally climbs to 39

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

In occupied valley of Kashmir, two more people died due to the novel coronavirus, taking the number of the deadly virus related deaths to 39 in the territory. The victims include a 62-year-old woman from Kharian village in Miran Sahib area of Jammu district and a 70-year-old man from Nowpura village of Shopian district. The woman from Jammu was admitted in Government Medical College Jammu on May 24 where she breathed her last due to coronavirus, to.....[view more](#)

AJK hospitals receive more Covid-19 patients

Source: [Tariq Naqash](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir continues to witness an alarming surge in Covid-19 infections as 35 more persons tested positive for the viral disease over the past 24 hours; pushing the region's tally to 396, a minister said on Sunday. Minister for Information Technology and spokesperson for the AJK government Dr Mustafa Bashir Abbasi said that 25 of the new cases surfaced in Muzaffarabad, four in Bhimber and six in Sudhnoti. ".....[view more](#)

Balochistan

Balochistan warns SOPs violators of strict three-day lockdown

Source: [Saleem Shahid, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has warned people and the business community that a three-day complete lockdown would be imposed across the province if they continued to violate SOPs and other instructions issued in connection with Covid-19. Balochistan government spokesman Liaquat Shahwani told a press conference on Friday that a large number of traders and people were not observing SOPs and this was leading to increase in coronavirus cases[view more](#)

Only Quetta is treating corona patients in Balochistan

Source: [Naseem Hameed Yousafzai, The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

QUETTA: Balochistan is not so badly affected by Covid-19 as the other provinces are because of its thin population and scattered localities, but, according to the Health Department, 51 people have so far died from Covid-19 in the province. Former Chief Justice of Balochistan Ghulam Mustafa Mengal, his wife, three doctors, MPA Syed Fazal Agha, former minister Sardar Tareen, SP Ch Mushtaq, two senior paramedic brothers and the father of an addition.....[view more](#)

Balochistan allows resumption of public transport from today

Source: [staff correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has allowed inter-provincial and inter-district public transport to resume in the province from Monday (today) after two and a half months of 'smart lockdown' under 18-point SOPs. However, it warned that the public transport could be stopped again in the province if the SOPs were not followed. The official notification issued on Sunday has allowed only inter-provincial and inter-district transport[view more](#)

Balochistan govt allows to resume public transport

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

The provincial government has conditionally allowed to resume public transport in Balochistan after three months amid ongoing coronavirus outbreak. According to details, the transporters have been directed to make sure that passengers sit with a gap of one seat whereas only three people have been allowed to travel on taxis. Moreover, 18-point standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been issued for restoration of transport in the province.....[view more](#)

Islamabad

'Hospitals may soon start facing capacity issues'

Source: [Amer Malik](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

LAHORE: Despite Punjab government's tall claims of adequate facilities for Covid-19 patients, the healthcare system seems to have choked in the province amid critical patients' complaints about non-availability of facilities in the hospitals. The Punjab government claims to have allocated 29,015 dedicated beds for Covid-19 patients in the public, private and field health facilities with 679 ventilators, dedicated for critical patients.....[view more](#)

Record number of Covid-19 cases, deaths in 24 hours

Source: [Syed Irfan Raza](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: With the National Coordination and Operation Centre (NCOC) bringing over 15,450 hospitals online to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, Pakistan on Friday witnessed its single-day death toll crossing the 100 mark with the number of cases in the last 24 hours also surging past 5,000, taking the total number of infections to 91,365. Moreover, according to information gathered by the NCOC from all the provinces, a total of 1,311 market.....[view more](#)

SC bans entry of people ignoring SOPs

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: Taking notice of non-adherence to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for prevention of spread of coronavirus, the Supreme Court has barred entry into the court premises of people wearing no face mask or bypassing temperature and symptoms checking and not passing through the disinfectant tunnel. A notification issued by the Supreme Court on Friday and was enforced immediately ordered that face mask would be worn during the entire.....[view more](#)

Violation of social distancing rules angers NA speaker

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: On the first day of the National Assembly's fresh session on Friday, the opposition called for threadbare debate on the Covid-19 pandemic, locust attack, sugar scam, air crash in Karachi and proposed contracting out of the airports' management, as many of its members openly violated the social distancing measures adopted across the world to ward off cases of new coronavirus. Speaker Asad Qaiser, who had himself contracted[view more](#)

PM rejects option of imposing another lockdown

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday rejected an option of imposing another lockdown in the country. Speaking at a media briefing, he said the country could not afford to go back to lockdown and urged people to follow the government's standard operating procedures (SOPs) for curbing the spread of deadly coronavirus. The prime minister said the government was preparing the budget for financial year 2020-21 in a way to generate mo.....[view more](#)

Corona cases rising with each passing day

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

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus confirmed cases are on the rise with each passing day as cases and death toll countrywide rose to 91,365 and 1,899 and more than 4,000 cases reported in a single day on Friday. Of the total

confirmed cases of 87,476, Sindh reported 34,889 cases, Punjab 33,144, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 12, 459, Balochistan 5, 776, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 3,946, Gilgit-Baltistan 852, and AJK 299. Punjab suffers 22 deaths, record 2,04.....[view more](#)

Limitations resurfacing with increasing patient load in federal capital

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

ISLAMABAD: Even though Islamabad is not listed among the country's top-seven cities in terms of the total number of COVID-19 cases and deaths, the city remains conspicuous for reporting the highest number of COVID-19 cases per million population, and the third-highest number of coronavirus induced deaths per million population in the country, 'The News' has reliably learnt. According to officially documented data exclusively av.....[view more](#)

Pakistan has suffered Rs2.5tr loss because of Covid-19

Source: [Khaleeq Kiani](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is estimated to have faced an economic loss of up to Rs2.5 trillion because of the Covid-19 pandemic in the current fiscal year. This was the near-consensus reached by various international lending agencies and different arms of the government attending a meeting presided over by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh. They also agreed that the pandemic would have a spillover impact in th.....[view more](#)

ADB to give \$300m loan to mitigate Covid-19 impact

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday signed an agreement with Pakistan for a \$300 million emergency loan to help the country mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The board of directors of the Manila-based lending agency had approved the emergency loan on May 19 to strengthen Pakistan's public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic and help meet basic needs of poor and vulnerable people. The agreement was sign.....[view more](#)

Complete lockdown imposed in capital on weekends

Source: [Munawer Azeem](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: As the coronavirus continued spreading fast, the capital administration on Friday decided to impose a complete lockdown on Saturdays and Sundays. Besides, shrines, gymnasiums and parks have again been closed while timings for the businesses allowed to open five days a week have been reduced by an hour. Officials said the spread of Covid-19 could only be prevented by social distancing and adopting other precautionary measures. Deputy.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 can render 3m unemployed in Pakistan

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

The finance ministry has informed the Senate that the coronavirus pandemic can result in an estimated 3 million people being unemployed and the poverty rate surge to 33.5%. In a written reply submitted to the Upper House on Friday, the ministry warned that the budget deficit will increase to 9.34% due to the ongoing pandemic which has proven to be a setback for businesses around the globe. The ministry stated that out of the 3 million estimated who.....[view more](#)

Pakistan can still avert hard times if people follow SOPs

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said the country can still avert tough times in its anti-coronavirus fight if people follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs). "Even now, if the people are made to take precautions and follow SOPs, I am sure we will not have to go through tough times other countries are going through," the prime minister said while addressing the volunteers of Corona Relief Tigers Force to apprise them of their future.....[view more](#)

After lockdown 'gamble', Covid-19 cases shoot up in Pakistan

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

Four weeks ago, with its most important festival of Eid coming up and millions of people facing starvation as economic activity dwindled, Pakistan lifted a two-month-long coronavirus lockdown. Prime Minister Imran Khan has said despite rising infections and deaths, the country will need to learn to 'live with' the virus to avert pushing tens of millions living on daily wages into destitution. Now, a Reuters review of government data shows.....[view more](#)

Thousands more fined, shops sealed in crackdown against violators of SOPs

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

The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Friday took a detailed review of media campaigns launched by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) and provincial authorities to ensure strict compliance of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and overall status of healthcare equipment, Epi Curve Chart. Additionally, the forum was informed about steps being taken for standardizing and assisting provinces.....[view more](#)

Six lawmakers test positive for virus as nationwide tally crosses 91,000

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients soared to 91,217 on Friday, with 33,144 cases reported in Punjab, 34,889 in Sindh, 12,459 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,582 in Balochistan, 852 in Gilgit Baltistan, 3,946 in Islamabad and 345 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 1,900 lives while about 31,198 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. Six lawmakers, including members of National Assembly and Senate, tested positive for Covid.....[view more](#)

Rs 118 billion disbursed among poor under Ehsaas programme

Source: [news desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

An amount of Rs.117.96 billion has been disbursed among over 9,702,000 beneficiaries under different categories of Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program. The programme was initiated to disburse cash amount of Rs. 12,000 among those affected from the Coronavirus lockdown. The payment process under different categories of the programme was continue across the country. According to the cash update received by official source on June 5, a total of over Rs 50.6.....[view more](#)

After lockdown 'gamble', Covid-19 cases shoot up in Pakistan

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

Four weeks ago, with its most important festival of Eid coming up and millions of people facing starvation as economic activity dwindled, Pakistan lifted a two-month-long coronavirus lockdown. Prime Minister Imran Khan has said despite rising infections and deaths, the country will need to learn to 'live with' the virus to avert pushing tens of millions living on daily wages into destitution. Now, a Reuters review of government data shows.....[view more](#)

No role of mosques in Covid-19 spread: PM

Source: [Mumtaz Alvi](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said that mosques had no role in spreading COVID-19 as he ruled out the possibility of reverting to the lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus and said that the country now could not afford it. However, he was optimistic that the country could still avert tough times in its anti-COVID 19 fight if the people followed the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for which the role of the Corona Relie.....[view more](#)

Country's readiness to fight corona

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: Coronavirus is multiplying by the hour. New cases are adding to the already worrying numbers - over 1,900 casualties and more than 91,000 confirmed affected people. With scant resources and insufficient health facilities, the Centre and the provinces are trying to respond to the best of their abilities. While the debate on lockdowns, virus' potency and the medicinal ability to tame the disease rages on, doctors and nurses have los.....[view more](#)

Virus growing with each passing day

Source: [Ag Agencies](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus confirmed cases are on the rise with each passing day as cases and death toll countrywide rose to 91,365 and 1,899 and more than 4,000 cases reported in a single day on Friday. Of the total confirmed cases of 87,476, Sindh reported 34,889 cases, Punjab 33,144, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 12, 459, Balochistan 5, 776, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 3,946, Gilgit-Baltistan 852, and AJK 299. Punjab suffers 22 deaths, record 2,04.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 worldwide toll crosses 395,000

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus pandemic has killed at least 395,714 people worldwide since it surfaced in China late last year, according to international media reports. The United States is the worst-hit country with 110,742 deaths, followed by Britain with 40,261, Brazil with 34,212, Italy with 33,774, and France with 29,111 fatalities. Brazil's death toll from the new coronavirus has surpasses Italy's to become the third-highest in t.....[view more](#)

Complete lockdown in Islamabad on Saturday, Sunday

Source: [Our crime correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

Islamabad : The National Coordination Committee (NCC), keeping in view of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and frighteningly increase in coronavirus cases in the country, has decided to ban specific activities in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, issuing the notification in this regards said that the decision of lockdown shall be enforced with immediate effect and will continue till further order and added that ther.....[view more](#)

Individuals to 'live at their own risk'

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

Rawalpindi : The severity with which the coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has been hitting population in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi is registering a sharp rise with every passing day though it seems as individuals have

been left to live at their own risk as nothing significant is being done to safeguard them from the disease nor standard operating procedures (SOPs) are being followed ideally anywhere in the region. Almost all publi.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus outbreak ; 3m jobs could be lost in ‘initial round’

Source: [Sardar Sikander Shaheen](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: Initially, some three million jobs are expected to be lost and Federal Board of Revenue’s (FBR’s) tax revenue may drop from Rs 4,800 billion to Rs 3,905 billion with a revenue loss of Rs 700 billion to Rs 900 billion expected from April to June 2020 as a result of the impact of coronavirus on Pakistan’s economy, Finance Ministry told the Senate on Friday. With a shortfall in revenues and an increase in public spe.....[view more](#)

After lockdown gamble, Covid-19 cases surge

Source: [Reuters.](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD/ISTANBUL: Four weeks ago, with its most important festival coming up and millions of people facing starvation as economic activity dwindled, government lifted a two-month-long coronavirus lockdown. Prime Minister Imran Khan has said despite rising infections and deaths, the country would need to learn to “live with” the virus to avert pushing tens of millions living on daily wages into destitution. Now, a Reuters r.....[view more](#)

Pakistan's confirmed COVID-19 cases rise to 93,983

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

Pakistan on Saturday confirmed 97 more deaths from novel coronavirus in one day as the nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 1,935 and positive cases surged to 93,983. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 4,734 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Punjab has become the worst-hit province by the pandemic followed by Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Till[view more](#)

LIVE: Pakistan reports almost 100 deaths as nationwide Covid-19 cases jump to 96,074

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

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](#)

Dr Mirza says no shortage of medical facilities for Covid-19 patients

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

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Health Dr Zafar Mirza on Saturday dispelled the impression of the shortage of facilities for Covid-19 patients in the country, saying that 75 per cent beds in the intensive care units (ICU) of hospitals were still unoccupied. Dr Mirza said that only 25% of beds with ventilators were being used by coronavirus patients, while a sufficient number was available for incoming patients. “There is no shortage of[view more](#)

Slowing down pandemic spread top priority: Asad Umar

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Asad Umar on Saturday urged the people to follow precautionary measures against Covid-19 strictly to protect their lives and of others, as nationwide death toll from the deadly contagion topped 1,900. Speaking at a media briefing at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in Islamabad, the minister warned that the people ignoring the precautionary measures were not only risking their own lives, but also.....[view more](#)

Queen Elizabeth honours Pakistani volunteers with Commonwealth award

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: Britain's Queen Elizabeth honoured two Pakistani volunteers with a 'Commonwealth Points of Light Award' during a phone call hosted by British High Commissioner Christian Turner. The award to Huzaifa Ahmad (Co-Founder and CEO Rizq) and Hassaan Irfan (Executive Director, Rizq), recognise their work in providing food security to local communities, especially during the coronavirus pandemic. "The call with[view more](#)

ADB extends support in fight against Covid-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday signed an agreement to expand support for Islamabad's response to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa through the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF). Economic Affairs Division Secretary Noor Ahmed and ADB Country Director for Pakistan Xiaohong Yang inked a loan agreement, aimed at strengthening Pakistan's public health resp.....[view more](#)

Opp urges debate on COVID-19, privatization, sugar scam

Source: [Javaid-ur-Rahman](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD - The opposition, in Friday's national assembly proceedings, asked the government to initiate debate in the house on important matters including negative impacts of COVID-19, privatization of PSEs, recent crisis of wheat and sugar in the country without any delay. The house, summoned after a month, paid rich tribute to late MNA from JUI-F Munir Orakzai, passed away from heart failure. Munir Orakzai had tested positive for the[view more](#)

PPP questions Tiger Force's role

Source: [SHAFQAT ALI](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan People's Party yesterday questioned the role of Prime Minister Imran Khan's Tiger Force as the nation fights the coronavirus pandemic. PPP Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman asked how the Tiger Force will benefit the country. "Now the PM says that Corona Tiger Force volunteers will also help fight locusts. Have they helped control the virus that now they will fight against the locust invasion? Are they going to.....[view more](#)

People must learn to live with virus: PM aide

Source: [Ikram Junaidi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

ISLAMABAD: As the number of coronavirus cases surged to 96,445 — an increase of around 5,000 cases in a day — amid strong criticism from the opposition of the Centre for relaxing the lockdown before flattening the curve, the federal government on Saturday said lockdown was not a solution to the pandemic anywhere in the world rather the masses should change their behaviour and learn to live with the virus. "There are two solutions.....[view more](#)

Pakistan among pioneers of smart lockdown strategy: PM

Source: [Monitoring Desk](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

KARACHI: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said his government is among the pioneers of the “smart lockdown” approach, which allows people to resume economic activities while observing standard operating procedures (SOPs) aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19. In a series of tweets on Saturday, the premier said: “The only solution as world has discovered is smart lockdown which allows for economic activity with SOPs. We are among.....[view more](#)

Faraz accuses opposition of playing politics over Covid-19

Source: [Kalbe Ali](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Senator Shibli Faraz said on Saturday that the losses faced by Pakistan because of the coronavirus pandemic were far lower than earlier estimates, mainly due to “effective and efficient planning” by the government. He slammed the opposition for what he called playing politics over a serious threat to the whole world. Mr Faraz, along with Communications Minister Murad Saeed, was speaking at a m.....[view more](#)

World Bank may loan \$200m to lessen virus impact on Pakistan’s education

Source: [Amin Ahmed](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has initiated preparation of a programme to strengthen federal and provincial governments’ institutions, policies and coordination for reducing the impact of external shocks on the education system, and increasing access to quality education in disadvantaged districts of the country, according to reliable sources. It is likely that the bank will provide financing of \$200 million for the programme. It will focus on.....[view more](#)

Hospitals’ data shows decrease in confirmed cases in Rawalpindi

Source: [Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: While the number of Covid-19 patients continued increasing across the country and in the capital city, the situation in Rawalpindi seemed different as data compiled by hospitals showed the number of positive cases decreasing during the last three days. According to official figures presented to Commissioner retired Capt Mohammad Mehmood on Saturday, 29 people tested positive and one patient died while 185 people were discha.....[view more](#)

Pakistan records huge jump in coronavirus cases, deaths

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients soared to 96,445 with 35,308 cases reported in Punjab, 36,364 in Sindh, 13,001 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 6,221 in Balochistan, 927 in Gilgit Baltistan, 4,323 in Islamabad and 375 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 1,974 lives while about 32,581 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. Two more PML-N lawmakers have tested positive for the novel coronavirus. Khawaja Salman Rafique, for.....[view more](#)

Slowing spread of coronavirus in country still the top priority: govt

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

Minister for Planning, Development Asad Umar on Saturday urged the nation to show sense of responsibility and discipline as much as to contain the spread of coronavirus as it had shown in the early days of the outbreak. “In the

early days of virus, people had shown a great discipline and followed the guidelines to restrain spread of the disease, however I was much disappointed to see clear violation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) is.....[view more](#)

Operation against violators of SOPs in full swing across country

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

The crackdown against violators of standard operation procedures (SOPs) devised by the government to contain coronavirus spread in the country continued on Saturday, with thousands of individuals, industrial units, transport vehicles, shops and markets fined over violation of safety guidelines. Thirty people were fined by the Islamabad administration for not wearing masks in public. City's assistant commissioner visited shops to ensure that[view more](#)

Pakistan's health system braces for Covid-19 peak

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

With hospitals overwhelmed and a sharp rise in the number of deaths, Pakistan's delicate health system is bracing for an imminent peak of coronavirus cases. Numbers here have already surpassed China, the origin of the virus. Government officials claim the situation is 'under control', but health authorities believe the already stretched health system is unable to handle the lurking influx of Covid-19 patients. In the country&rs.....[view more](#)

Turks stream out for first lockdown-free weekend in nearly two months

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

Turks streamed outside on Saturday for their first weekend without a coronavirus lockdown in nearly two months, the day after President Tayyip Erdogan suddenly scrapped a stay-at-home order. Cafes, restaurants and other facilities had reopened on Monday as infection rates slowed and restrictions on intercity travel had been lifted as the infection rate slowed. But Erdogan had intended to maintain the weekend lockdown, applied to big cities since A.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus cases cross 100,000 mark

Source: [Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

ISLAMABAD: As the novel coronavirus claimed 458 more lives besides infecting at least 26,853 more people during the last one week only, the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases and related deaths across the country on Sunday surged past 100,000 and 2,000, respectively. Till Sunday evening, the tally of Covid-19 confirmed cases had jumped to 101,468, with 2,032 deaths. Sindh has so far detected 38,108 cases, followed by Punjab where 37,090 cases ha.....[view more](#)

PM tells Punjab, KP govts to cut non-development expenditures

Source: [Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday spent a busy day as besides presiding over a meeting to review wheat situation in the country, he also chaired a meeting to discuss the proposed budgets for Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the two provinces ruled by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI). According to an official announcement made by the Prime Minister's Office, Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM Mahmoo.....[view more](#)

Students passed under new policy await result cards

Source: [Kashif Abbasi](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

ISLAMABAD: Students in secondary and higher secondary schools who were passed in accordance with a new policy introduced due to the coronavirus pandemic have yet to be issued result cards by the boards. Sources in the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) said that following a decision by the National Coordination Committee (NCC) to promote students on the basis of their previous year's results, the Ministry of Fede..... [view more](#)

Two bank branches sealed as Covid-19 cases surface

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

TAXILA: Authorities sealed the premises of two bank branches after staff members there tested positive for Covid-19, while another bank branch was sealed for violation of standard operating procedures (SOPs). Two branches of the state-owned bank were sealed in Wah and Pindigheb Attock after their staff members tested positive for the virus. In Attock, the local administration also sealed a bank's branch for violating standard operating proc..... [view more](#)

Adiala jail colony sealed after doctor's husband tests positive

Source: [Mohammad Asghar](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

RAWALPINDI: The Adiala jail colony was sealed after the husband of a female medical officer tested positive for Covid-19 and samples of 42 people including jail staff members were sent to laboratory for testing. The hospital was also closed after the death of a dental technician though his Covid-19 report was negative. On the other hand, one of the under-trial prisoners in sub-jail Chakwal tested positive for the coronavirus and he had been iso..... [view more](#)

Economy eclipsed by Covid-19

Source: [Khaleeq Kiani](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

THE government expects economic growth to re-enter the positive zone in the next fiscal year with different stakeholders estimating GDP expansion of 1.8-2.3 per cent as opposed to negative 0.4pc in 2019-20. Prime Minister Imran Khan and his adviser on finance and revenue, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, have been putting the entire blame for the worst economic performance in 68 years on the coronavirus. Also read: Pandemic's economic impact The P..... [view more](#)

The corporate wish list

Source: [Nasir Jamal](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

PAKISTAN'S short- to medium-term economic outlook appears bleaker than before and even the meagre suggested GDP growth rate target of around 1.9-2.3pc for the next fiscal year appears quite ambitious with coronavirus infections spiking rapidly and fatalities surging across the country following the relaxation in the lockdown almost a month ago. The number of confirmed infections had reached 91,365 and death tally 1,899 by Friday as Pakistan..... [view more](#)

Need for transparency and accountability

Source: [Mohiuddin Aazim](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

DURING a national emergency, like the present one triggered by Covid-19, greater transparency in the implementation of relief measures and stricter accountability at all levels can help the political leadership win public trust and strengthen democracy. The nation has heard enough about fiscal packages for supporting jobless and low-income people and for stimulating economic growth. Now it is time for the government to share information about ho..... [view more](#)

Provinces initiate strict action against SOPs violations: NCOC

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday said that the provinces, including Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the federal capital, have initiated strict action against violations of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and penalised various sectors. In order to ensure public safety, compliance of health guidelines for containment of COVID-19, dedicated teams of provinces including AJK, GB and the federal capital ensure.....[view more](#)

NCOC to increase additional 1,000 oxygenated beds for COVID-19 patients

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has announced that the government was working on increasing the bed capacity for COVID-19 patients in cities across Pakistan. "We have decided in the NCOC meeting this morning that the federal government will ensure increase of 1,000 beds with oxygen supply capability in the major cities of the country within the month of June," Umar said in a tweet on Monday.[view more](#)

COVID-19: SC takes back decision to keep markets open on weekends

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has taken back its decision allowing markets to reopen on weekend as the number of COVID-19 cases rise in the country, reported Geo News on Monday. The decision was announced by the apex court during a hearing of the suo motu case regarding measures taken against the virus outbreak today. "Coronavirus does not differentiate between provinces. The federal government needs to take a lead on this and needs to come[view more](#)

Sheikh Rashid tests positive for coronavirus

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid is among the latest parliamentarians to test positive for coronavirus, according to the railways ministry. As per the ministry's statement, Rashid is showing no symptoms of the virus. However, he has undergone self-isolation for two weeks, the ministry added. Earlier in the day, PTI MNA Jai Prakash who attended the National Assembly session last week has tested positive for coronavirus[view more](#)

Pakistan listed among third-riskiest countries for coronavirus in new study

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

Pakistan was ranked among the third-riskiest countries for coronavirus in a recent study conducted by the Deep Knowledge Group on nations and their safety against the pandemic. Pakistan came at 148th position out of a total of 200 nations, with a safety score of 370 (the highest being 752). The 250-page study listed Switzerland as the safest country in the world for coronavirus, with South Sudan at the 200th position, with a score of 300. Amon.....[view more](#)

PML-N's Shahid Khaqan Abbasi tests positive for COVID-19

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has tested positive for the coronavirus, reported Geo News on Monday. Family sources told Geo News, the PML-N leader was tested yesterday for the virus, the result of which were obtained today. Sources added that Abbasi was isolating at his residence. PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab

government spokesperson Musarrat Cheema prayed for Abbasi's speedy recovery. A day earlier, PPP MPA Sharjeel M.....[view more](#)

Growing demand drives herb prices up amid pandemic

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

Islamabad : As more and more people are turning to home remedies to 'prevent' coronavirus amid pandemic, the herb prices have surged. The most sought-after among these herbs is 'sana makki' (senna), which is being touted as a cure for the virus, which has claimed around 1,900 lives and infected over 90,000 people in the country. Visitors to herbal stores told 'The News' that 'sana makki' used to cost arou.....[view more](#)

President urges people to believe, implement anti-COVID SOPs

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

Islamabad : President Dr Arif Alvi Saturday urged the countrymen to believe in and implement the anti-COVID 19 SOPs, just like the way they believed that the virus was not spread deliberately. In a tweet, the president shared a survey report published in the British weekly The Economist showing that Pakistanis were the highest believers in the world that coronavirus was not being spread deliberately. According to the survey conducted in March t.....[view more](#)

Speakers for clinical trial, capacity building in OIC states

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

Islamabad : The Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (COMSTECH) arranged an online seminar titled 'Pakistan Randomized and Observational Trial to Evaluate Coronavirus Treatment (PROTECT)' with Prof. Dr. Ghazna Khalid Siddiqui as a main speaker. Scientists, researchers, academicians and the general public of OIC member states participated in this seminar. At the outset,.....[view more](#)

LIVE: PM Imran stresses on wearing masks in public as national Covid-19 tally hits 105,637

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

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](#)

Pakistan cracks down on safety breaches, coronavirus cases top 100,000

Source: [Reuters](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

ISLAMABAD: Authorities in Pakistan have stepped up enforcement of government safety measures after a rise in the daily number of coronavirus infections pushed total cases to more than 100,000. Official statistics released on Monday showed 103,671 infections and 2,067 deaths from the virus. Record numbers of new infections over the last 10 days partly reflect increased testing. The federal and provincial governments lifted lockdown last mon.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus cases to peak in Pakistan by end of July or August: PM Imran

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday said the government expects coronavirus cases in the country to peak by end of July or early August. The government had earlier said they expect Pakistan's coronavirus peak by end of May or early June. The premier said it is a fact that the virus will spread and the "the trend our experts have observed is that it spreads, then peaks after a few weeks and then the curve will flatten&rdq.....[view more](#)

SC asks govt to draft Covid-19 legislation

Source: [Hasnaat Malik](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the federal government to draft legislation to tackle Covid-19 and its effects. A four-judge bench, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed, heard the suo motu case on COVID-19 and wondered how policy can be formulated through executive orders as it should be formulated under a law. "Where is the law which says that Covid-19 poses a threat to life," q.....[view more](#)

Daily death rate soars to 75: Zafar

Source: [Zaheer Abbasi](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

ISLAMABAD: As corona cases and death toll increase rapidly across the country with average death rate of 72 to 75 per day, the government announced on Sunday that it would strictly monitor announced SOPs for workplaces and use of masks and warned that action would be taken against those not adhering to instruction. People should wear the mask as it mandatory and not optional, warned Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirz.....[view more](#)

PM warns of COVID-19 peak in late July, urges strict SOPs compliance

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday warned that the country was yet to experience the peak of coronavirus cases in late July or early August and urged upon the people to strictly abide by the precautionary standard operating procedures (SOPs). "I appeal to the nation to show seriousness in adopting SOPs, lest it could put the lives of yourself and your near ones at risk," he said in a televised public message. The prime minister sa.....[view more](#)

CDA bans entry of employees, visitors without masks

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

Capital Development Authority (CDA) has banned entry to CDA secretariat without wearing mask. According to media reports, this restriction will be applicable to all CDA employees and visitors while in this regard banners have been displayed on entry points and gates. Security personnel have also been directed that no one should be allowed to enter CDA secretariat without mask. CDA management has directed that precautionary measurement sho.....[view more](#)

Federal govt trying to improve health system: Asad Umar

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Monday has said that the government will ensure thousand ICU beds this month. The federal minister held a news conference in Islamabad and said the federation is trying to improve the health system by working together with provinces. Asad Umar said, "The federal government provided 250 ventilators to provinces in one week. Coronavirus can only be controlled by taking p.....[view more](#)

Khabar Pakhtunkhwa

KP govt steps ups facilities at hospitals amid increasing coronavirus cases

Source: [Javed Ali, The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

PESHAWAR: The rise in the number of coronavirus patients and fatalities has prompted the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to increase the number of health facilities across the province to cope with the coronavirus pandemic. Presently, 10 major hospitals of KP are treating coronavirus patients. These hospitals have dedicated 452 beds of the intensive care units (ICUs) and high dependency units (HDUs) for coronavirus patients. However, the available.....[view more](#)

KP plans deficit budget amid pandemic

Source: [Zulfiqar Ali, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

PESHAWAR: Covid-19 has taken a colossal toll on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's budget, accounting for a whopping Rs100 billion shortfall in revenues, forcing the government to do some belt-tightening to cope with the financial drop. Finance minister Taimur Saleem Khan Jhagra told a pre-budget briefing here on Friday that the pandemic had also taken a toll on financing development. He, however, said there would be no new taxes in the next budget, wh.....[view more](#)

20 more lose life to coronavirus

Source: [Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

PESHAWAR: Twenty more people died of coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday taking the province's tally of fatalities from the virus to 541. Five deaths were reported in Peshawar, four in Abbottabad, two each in Nowshera, Bajaur and Swat and one each in Mardan, Charsadda, Swabi, Malakand and Battagram. A total of 541 new Covid-19 cases were reported in the day increasing the number of confirmed cases in the province to 12,459. A hea.....[view more](#)

Scores of shops sealed, traders fined for SOP violation

Source: [Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

SWABI: Scores of shops were sealed and traders fined for violation of the standard operating procedures in various cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday. Besides, 68 people, including traders and customers, were arrested in Bajaur tribal district for not following the SOPs to stop the spread of Covid-19 in the region. In Swabi, the district administration sealed over 40 shops in the district headquarters. Additional assistant commissioner, Swa.....[view more](#)

Pandemic dampens Chitralis' fervour associated with Russian olive boom

Source: [Zahiruddin, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

CHITRAL: The upper parts of Chitral have been flooded with the spellbinding aroma of Shinjurspru (Russian olive), but the residents regretted that the dread of coronavirus had diluted the fervor associated with it. The medium-sized bushy tree of Shinjur is common in Upper Chitral with high population which fast becomes ready to be harvested for being used as fuel wood and needs no irrigation water due to which its survival rate is 100 per cent.....[view more](#)

311 arrested for violation of corona preventive SOPs

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

PESHAWAR - District administration Peshawar has arrested 311 more from different localities over the violations of standard operation procedures (SOPs) against coronavirus, said a news release issued here Friday. On the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Ishfaq Khan along with Assistant

Commissioner (AC), Nauman Ali Shah inspected various vehicles and bus stands at Motorway Toll Plaza and G.....[view more](#)

Govt under fire over NFC, 18th Amendment debate

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

PESHAWAR: Participants of a multiparty conference led by the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl have alleged that the government has intentionally initiated discussion on the 18th Constitutional Amendment and National Finance Commission Award to divert the people's attention from coronavirus pandemic. The moot was held here on Saturday with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman in the chair to discuss the situation arising from the Covid-19 pandemic an.....[view more](#)

KP MNA, three relatives test positive for virus

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

SWABI: MNA Usman Khan Tarakai along with three other members of his family tested positive, taking the total number of coronavirus patients in the Tarakai family to 17 here on Saturday. This was confirmed by Usman Tarakai when contacted by this correspondent on phone. "Yes my coronavirus test was positive. My wife, my son Bilal Usman Tarakai and his wife's test was also positive. We have isolated ourselves in our Tarakai House from.....[view more](#)

Private hospitals to help manage serious Covid-19 cases

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

PESHAWAR: The health department has decided to engage private hospitals in the provincial capital to handle the influx of critically-ill coronavirus patients to the government facilities. The decision was made during a meeting held on Thursday with special secretary (health) Amir Tareen in the chair and chief health sector reforms unit Dr Shahid Younas and representatives of the medical teaching institutions and healthcare commission in attendan.....[view more](#)

Bodies of 21 expats arrive from S Arabia

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

PESHAWAR: Bodies of 21 expatriate Pakistanis arrived at the Bacha Khan International Airport here on Saturday night from Riyadh through a PIA flight. The deceased, a majority of whom belonging to the Malakand division, were employed in Saudi Arabia. Relatives and relief workers received the bodies. It is not known if the deceased were victims of the coronavirus pandemic. Some of them had been suffering from other health conditions. They died wh.....[view more](#)

KP govt asked to provide beds, ventilators to hospitals

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Young Doctors Association has expressed concerns over growing number of Covid-19 patients and asked the government to focus on the infected people and make immediate arrangements for additional beds and ventilators to ensure their effective management at the hospitals. In a statement on Sunday, YDA president Dr Rizwan Kundi said that people were rushing their critically-ill relatives to hospitals but they were not ad.....[view more](#)

KP transparent in reporting virus cases, mortalities: Ajmal

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

PESHAWAR: Scoffing at Sindh government over its handling of Covid-19, Adviser to Chief Minister on Information Ajmal Wazir on Sunday said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa followed WHO guidelines and was transparent in reporting infection and mortality cases. Briefing reporters here on Thursday, he asked Pakistan Peoples Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to focus on Sindh and not to worry about Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which had a better recovery rate as c.....[view more](#)

Scores of shops, bus stands sealed in KP for SOP violation

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

MINGORA: Scores of shops and bus stands were sealed on Sunday in various districts for violating the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the government for continuing operations amid coronavirus emergency. In Swat, the district administration sealed several shops and business centres. The campaign has been launched in different tehsils of Swat district to ensure implementation of SOPs framed by the government for different businesses. D.....[view more](#)

Protest threatened if private schools not opened by 15th

Source: [Correspondent](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

MANSEHRA: The private educational institutions association has threatened to launch an agitation against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government if it doesn't allow schools and colleges to reopen by mid June. "If government prolongs lockdown of schools and colleges then it should pay us rents of the buildings, teachers' salaries and exempt educational institutions from taxes at least for one year," association's chairman Moha.....[view more](#)

Outbreak of pandemic provokes social stigma: psychiatrists

Source: [Ashfaq Yusufzai](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

PESHAWAR: The people are abandoning their close relatives after dying of Covid-19 due to stigma created by strict protocols for funeral and burial by the government, say psychiatrists. Prof Bashir Ahmed at the psychiatry ward of Khyber Teaching Hospital said that social stigma in the context of health was the negative association between a person or group of people, who shared a specific disease. "In an outbreak, this may mean people are[view more](#)

Govt asked to focus on uplift of backward areas

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

PESHAWAR: Qaumi Watan Party chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao has asked the government to pay heed to the development of backward areas and provide health facilities to the masses in order to tackle Covid-19 emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He was speaking at a gathering at the QWP secretariat here on Sunday. According to a statement, a number of people belonging to different areas, including Asal Marjan advocate, former tehsil council member Ba.....[view more](#)

Chitralis move to higher pastures to escape Covid-19

Source: [Zahiruddin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

CHITRAL: The Covid-19 dread has shifted the village hustle and bustle to the pastures in the highlands in Upper Chitral and the Lot Koh and Sheshi Koh valleys, thus reviving a practice abandoned thanks to modernity. Due to the dependence of the pastoral economy of Chitral on cattle farming, almost each village has its own pasture land (ghari in Chitrali language) where the villagers graze their livestock in the summer by staying there for three[view more](#)

Strengthened KTH rises to occasion in fight against COVID-19

Source: [APP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

The Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH), a leading public sector hospital in Peshawar, has been strengthened in terms of healthcare services, equipment, faculty and medicines to combat COVID-19. Located opposite to the University of Peshawar on the historic route leading up to Khyber Pass, the hospital has been playing a pivotal role since its inception to provide quality healthcare services to patients of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and even from Afghanistan.

.....[view more](#)

49 KP hospitals get Covid-19 safety equipment

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority has provided seventh batch of safety equipment to 49 hospitals of the province to equip doctors and paramedics battling coronavirus pandemic. The safety equipment included KN-95 masks, N-95 masks, D-95 masks, surgical face masks, pairs of gloves, protective suits, personal protective kits, gowns, safety goggles, shoe c.....[view more](#)

115 arrested for violation of SOPs

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

PESHAWAR: The district administration 115 more persons for violation of the guidelines set by the government for protecting citizens from coronavirus. During the routine checking the officials inspected the availability of petroleum at the filling stations in Peshawar and observance of the SOPs in bazaars and other public places. During these checking 115 persons were arrested. The officials asked citizens to wear safety mask while leaving their.....[view more](#)

Two more cops die of Covid-19

Source: [Javed Aziz Khan](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

PESHAWAR: Two more cops died of Covid-19 last week as the number of policemen who tested positive for coronavirus has increased. The two deaths raised to five the number of policemen who have died of coronavirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. At least nine officials of the Forensic Sciences Laboratory of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police tested positive on Saturday. They were tested after one employee turned out to be coronavirus positive. It was learnt th.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 kills 2 more in Nowshera

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

NOWSHERA: Two more patients of coronavirus lost battle for life Saturday, taking the tally of fatalities to 21 in Nowshera district since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in the country. Also, the number of confirmed coronavirus patients reached 382 after 11 more suspected patients tested positive for the viral disease. Sohail Khan, a resident of Shama Chowk, and Niaz Muhammad, a radio mechanic and resident of Mohallah Zawani in Nowshera Kalaan.....[view more](#)

CM adviser says govt committed to fighting corona

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-06-07

PESHAWAR: Adviser to CM on Information and Public Relations Ajmal Wazir on Saturday asked opposition to set aside politics as the country was battling the Covid-19 pandemic and said the all parties conference (APC) of the opposition parties was meant for point-scoring. Speaking at a media briefing, he said the prevailing situation warranted unity. The adviser said the provincial government was taking steps to contain the coronavirus. Ajmal Wazir.....[view more](#)

PDMA provides safety gears to 49 KP hospitals

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-06-08

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) provided the seventh batch of safety equipment to 49 hospitals of the province to equip the doctors and paramedics battling the coronavirus pandemic. These included 52,315 N-95 masks, 26,522 KN-95 masks, 485 D-95, 430,000 face masks, 7,925 protective suits, 18,244 surgical gowns, 21,185 caps, 21.....[view more](#)

KP seals 811 businesses over violation of SOPs

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-06-08

PESHAWAR: Adviser to KP CM on Information, Ajmal Wazir has said that crackdown on the violators of the coronavirus preventive standard operation procedures (SOPs) is in full swing. Briefing media here Sunday, he said that a total of 33,001 inspections have been carried out across the province where a total of 3,553 businesses have been fined while 811 businesses have been sealed. He said that an amount of Rs.1704262 collected through fines o.....[view more](#)

Unable to understand Sindh govt's logic: Ajmal Wazir

Source: [Press Release](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#) , 2020-06-08

PESHAWAR: Adviser to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations Ajmal Khan Wazir has said that Sindh government says one thing in meetings and another in other forums. In meetings of National Coordination Committee chaired by Prime Minister, chief Minister Sindh gets maximum time for discussion, he said that Sindh government logic was not understandable as to why they start unwarranted criticism when they come out o.....[view more](#)

Punjab

MNA, MPA test positive for Covid-19

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

SAHIWAL: Two parliamentarians and a private physician consultant tested positive for Covid-19 in the division during the past 24 hours. PTI MNA Rai Muhammad Murtaza and PML-N MPA Mian Naveed were found affected with coronavirus. Mr Murtaza announced his test results on his official twitter account, while Mr Naveed shared his test report on his social media accounts. On the other hand, Deputy Commissioner Zeeshan Javed along with the local admin.....[view more](#)

After over two months, parks in Pindi reopen

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

RAWALPINDI: After remaining closed for 72 days, Punjab government on Friday opened parks across the province including Rawalpindi but made it compulsory for the people to wear face masks and gloves while entering the parks. The provincial government closed down the parks and recreational sites across the province in March end due to spread of coronavirus. In Rawalpindi, Parks and Horticulture Authority did not conduct spring festival on March 2.....[view more](#)

People returning from abroad allowed to go home without quarantine

Source: [Mohammad Asghar](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

RAWALPINDI: Following government's new policy, hundreds of passengers returning from different countries were sent home for self-isolation without having to wait for their Covid-19 test results even though positive cases continued to rise in the country. Scanning and swab testing of all the passengers were conducted by the health authorities who have been keeping details of all the passengers. However, airport authorities and airlines sta.....[view more](#)

52 shops sealed in Pindi for violating Covid-19 SOPs

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

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Rawalpindi on Friday sealed 52 shops, impounded two public transport vehicles and imposed fines amounting to Rs184,000 on the violators of the Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). On the other hand, 39 people tested positive for coronavirus and three patients died in the district. The deceased, aged 48, 57 and 74 years, were residents of Peshawar Road, Dhoke Farman Ali and Ghosia Co.....[view more](#)

People, shopkeepers reluctant to follow COVID-19 SOPs

Source: [Shakeel Anjum](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

Rawalpindi : In absence of effective crackdown on part of City District Administration of Rawalpindi to ensure implementation on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) against coronavirus, citizens, and shopkeepers were seen reluctant to follow preventive measures against rising suspects of pandemic in twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Citizens demonstrating leniency towards coronavirus amidst increasing suspects of the pandemic in the twin.....[view more](#)

22 more die as Punjab reports highest jump in corona cases in a day

Source: [Muhammad Saleem](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

LAHORE: With 22 more deaths due to the coronavirus, around 2,040 fresh coronavirus cases were reported across the province of Punjab on Friday, taking the provincial tally to 31,144 cases. Punjab's Primary and Secondary

Healthcare Department reported 2,040 new coronavirus cases, the highest single-day rise recorded by any province so far. With 22 more fatalities, the total number of deaths in Punjab reached 629. According to[view more](#)

Police jump the gun in fight against Covid-19

Source: [Rameez Khan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

LAHORE: As the fines for violators of coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) proposed by the health department are yet to be approved by the cabinet, police, on the other hand, imposed fines on their own accord, without any written approval from the authorities, The Express Tribune has learnt. The health department proposed the provincial cabinet on June 4, to impose fine of Rs500 on people not wearing masks, it has proposed to im.....[view more](#)

Punjab reports highest number of cases a day

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

LAHORE - Punjab reports 2,040 new COVID-19 patients: the highest in number in a day since pandemic outbreak. Twenty two more COVID-19 patients breathed their last in the province on Friday, taking death toll to 629. As many as 2,040 new cases of novel corona virus were reported in the province, the highest number of cases in a single day since pandemic outbreak. So far 33,144 cases have been reported from across Punjab. So far 237 casualti.....[view more](#)

Punjab to import 1,000 injections for Covid patients

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

LAHORE: The Punjab cabinet committee on combating coronavirus threat has decided to procure 1,000 injections (Tyclsomiab) approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) for coronavirus-positive patients in the first phase. The committee, presided over by Senior Minister Aleem Khan, also recommended that people should not bring children along to parks. The Punjab government had itself opened all parks to public despite strong oppos.....[view more](#)

30 more die from virus in Punjab

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

LAHORE: Thirty more people died from Covid-19 issues across Punjab, including 10 in Lahore, on Saturday. According to official figures, the death toll has reached 659 in Punjab and 247 in Lahore. In charge of Guldast police chowki Abid Commando is among the deceased. Similarly, 2,164 new cases of the virus were reported in the last 24 hours in Punjab, taking the total number to 35,308 so far. Of the total cases, 1,082 were reported in Lahore,[view more](#)

Punjab police use stun therapy on SOP violators

Source: [Saleem Mubarak](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

FAISALABAD: Despite opposition by international human rights bodies like the Amnesty International (AI), stun batons are being used with impunity by local police and other law-enforcement agencies against those flouting Covid-19 related standard operating procedures (SOPs), obviously with the consent of a government whose job is to procure and supply these torture tools to law enforcers. Stun guns and stun batons are gadgets that inflict a high-.....[view more](#)

15 Covid-19 deaths in Bahawalpur, Sheikhpura

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

BAHAWALPUR: With seven more deaths of coronavirus patients in the district on Saturday, the total number of Covid-19 rose to 14. According to focal person Dr Zakir Hussain, 27 people also tested positive for the virus raising the number to 83. Data released to Dawn states there are 4,149 suspected cases in the district and 479 positive cases while results of 454 cases are pending. Also, 141 patients have been discharged after treatment at the C.....[view more](#)

Opposition wants three-week lockdown in six Punjab cities

Source: [Amjad Mahmood](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

LAHORE: Accusing the Punjab government of concealing coronavirus-related deaths in the province, the opposition parties have demanded a three-week strict lockdown in six major cities of the province to stop Covid-19 from spreading. The opposition on Sunday also protested against the National Finance Commission (NFC) notification mentioning the provincial status of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan and suspected the move to be a part of the &lsqu.....[view more](#)

78 booked, 582 shops sealed over SOPs violation in Lahore

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

LAHORE: The police claimed on Sunday to have registered 78 cases and sealed 582 shops in various areas of the city over violation of coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) in the last two days. Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Zulfiqar Hameed directed the officers to take strict action against the people involved in violation of the SOPs. All the divisional police officers were directed to inspect their respective areas to ensure the.....[view more](#)

24 more succumb to virus in Punjab

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

LAHORE: As many as 24 more Covid-19 patients lost their lives on Sunday, taking the total virus death toll in Punjab to 683, including 253 deaths in Lahore. Similarly, 1,782 new confirmed coronavirus cases were reported in Punjab taking the patients' number to 37,090 in the province. In Lahore alone, 691 new coronavirus patients were detected. With these patients the total number of the positive cases has reached 18,161 in the city. The[view more](#)

Nine more die of Covid-19, 25 diagnosed with virus in districts

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

LAHORE: Nine people fell victim to Covid-19 in Punjab districts on Sunday while 25 more, including an assistant commissioner (AC), a district monitoring officer (DMO) and a deputy superintendent of police (DSP) and 16 police officials, tested positive for the virus. SHEIKHUPURA: Three persons, including a journalist, died due to coronavirus while four others tested positive in the district. Journalist Sheikh Nadeem had been shifted to Mayo Hospi.....[view more](#)

Majority of Covid-19 patients in Pindi district aged below 40: report

Source: [Aamir Yasin](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

RAWALPINDI: Most of the people infected by the novel coronavirus so far in Rawalpindi district are aged below 40 years. According to a district analysis report submitted to Commissioner retired Capt Mohammad Mehmood, 1,169 people, including 469 women, in the age group of 11 to 40 years contracted the virus. In the age group of 41 years to

500 ticketed for not wearing masks

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

LAHORE : Traffic police reportedly ticketed 513 citizens for not using face masks here on Saturday. Traffic police issued over 1,513 challan tickets to the citizens for not using face masks during the last two days.[view more](#)

Impact of ease in lockdown: 7 more die from Covid-19; 405 more test positive in twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim, The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

Rawalpindi : The number of confirmed patients of coronavirus illness being reported from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi is registering a sharp continuous upward trend at least for the last one week that according to many health experts is an impact of relaxation in lockdown announced by the government for Eidul Fitr, on May 22. At the time of relaxation in lockdown for shopping on Eidul Fitr, experts have expressed that the number of.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus claims another 9 lives

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

Rawalpindi : The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak that is hitting population in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi badly has claimed another nine lives in last 24 hours while as many as 787 new patients have been tested positive for the disease from the region setting a new record for the highest number of patients reported in a day. The virus claimed four more lives in the federal capital in last 24 hours taking death toll from I.....[view more](#)

Joint efforts stressed to contain virus

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

LAHORE:Minister for Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal urged the masses to cooperate with the government in its efforts to contain spread of coronavirus, giving warning of strict action to those who fail to follow SOPs. The minister expressed these views while talking to a delegation of traders at Camp Office. He said violation of SOPs will not be tolerated as there is no other remedy except adopting precautionary measures to shield from coro.....[view more](#)

Rescuers brave rising tide of Covid-19 in Punjab

Source: [Muhammad Shahzad, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

LAHORE: Frontline workers fighting the coronavirus pandemic in the country, including the Rescue 1122 staff, continue to remain at risk of contracting the virus. As many as 18 confirmed and two suspected cases of the disease have emerged among Rescue 1122 workers during the past two months. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the workers of Rescue 1122 perform the duties of treatment, shifting and burial of patients along with the police and medic.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: debate on lives and livelihoods

Source: [Dr Fahd Rehman, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

LAHORE: The Covid-19 is spreading across the globe. Brazil has become the epicentre in Latin America and has become the second highest country in the world as far as confirmed cases are concerned. This pandemic has gradually generated a debate on lives and livelihoods, specifically across the developing world. Since the pandemic spread the most in the western world, the standard response was either a lockdown or a curfew.[view more](#)

Sindh

Number of available beds at hospitals decreasing in Sindh

Source: Babar Ali Awan, [The News, International](#), 2020-06-06

KARACHI: Currently, COVID-19 patients are being treated at 23 public and private hospitals in Sindh. The total number of isolation beds for the COVID-19 patients in these hospitals is 1,214 while a total of 351 beds have been arranged in the high dependency units (HDUs). The number of ventilators available at the intensive care units (ICUs) of these hospitals for COVID-19 patients is 257. Right now, COVID-19 patients have occupied 201 isolation[view more](#)

Centre responsible for rise in Covid-19 cases, Murad tells PA

Source: Tahir Siddiqui, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

KARACHI: Holding Prime Minister Imran Khan and federal government directly responsible for the surge in coronavirus cases, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Friday that the situation would not have been so bad if the decision of imposing lockdown was made earlier. "The late decision of lockdown and then from the top [PM] mixed signals started coming down against the lockdown. Therefore, we could not extract the results of th.....[view more](#)

Record 40 Covid-19 deaths reported in Sindh in a single day

Source: Dawn Report, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Friday that 40 more Covid-19 patients lost their lives and 1,353 new cases emerged overnight. In a statement issued from the CM House, he said that the new cases emerged when 7,377 tests were conducted during the past 24 hours. He said that the provincial government had so far conducted 215,860 tests against which 34,889 cases were diagnosed as positive. Mr Shah said that 40 more patients die.....[view more](#)

NCOC team visits Karachi hospitals

Source: Staff Report, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

KARACHI: A special National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) team visited various hospitals here on Friday as part of efforts to help local administrations build capacity to fight the coronavirus and offer possible assistance from the centre. Led by prime minister's focal person on Covid-19 Dr Faisal Sultan, the team visited Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, Civil Hospital of Karachi, Liaquat National Hospital and Aga Khan University[view more](#)

Court orders medical facilities for Covid-19 positive prisoner

Source: Staff Report, [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Friday directed jail authorities to provide all necessary medical facilities to an undertrial prisoner who had tested positive for Covid-19. The 73-year-old prisoner, Akbar Minhas, through his lawyer moved the SHC seeking bail on medical grounds. His counsel Asad Ashfaq argued that besides being a patient of Covid-19, the petitioner had also been suffering from multiple ailments and needed urgent medical attent.....[view more](#)

48 staffers of Police Training Centre test positive for Covid-19

Source: [APP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

KARACHI: During a mandatory coronavirus test of 200 policemen deputed at Saeedabad Police Training Centre, Karachi, 48 were found positive, said an officer concerned here on Friday. Those having contracted the viral infection were said to include 25 security guards, a clerk and 22 from remaining sections. Under the given situation authorities have decided to ensure necessary assessment of the trainees presently registered with the facility. Ac.....[view more](#)

Pakistan's health system braces for Covid-19 peak

Source: [Anadolu Agency](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

KARACHI: With hospitals overwhelmed and a sharp rise in the number of deaths, Pakistan's delicate health system is bracing for an imminent peak of coronavirus cases. Numbers here have already surpassed China, the origin of the novel virus. Government officials claim the situation is "under control," but health authorities believe the already stretched health system is unable to handle the lurking influx of Covid-19 patients.....[view more](#)

19 more patients die, 1,475 new cases emerge in Sindh

Source: [Hafeez Tunio](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday said that coronavirus has claimed 19 more lives taking the provincial death toll to 634 while 1,475 new cases emerged which raised the total tally to 36,364. In a statement issued from the CM House on Saturday, Murad said that the death of 19 patients constitutes 1.7 per cent of the total. "We have 36,364 cases in Sindh against 222,890 tests conducted so far," the ch.....[view more](#)

40 more die, 1,353 new cases in Sindh: CM

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

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday said that 40 more patients lost their lives while struggling against coronavirus while 1353 new cases emerged in the province. In a statement issued from CM House, he said that as many as 7377 tests were conducted against which 1353 new cases were detected. The Sindh Government had conducted 215,860 tests against which 34889 cases were diagnosed as positive. Syed Murad Ali Shah sa.....[view more](#)

PTI govt sabotaged Sindh response to Covid-19: Bilawal

Source: [Imran Ayub](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Saturday said the prime minister and his government had 'sabotaged' Sindh government efforts made to contain the coronavirus and undermined the lockdown policy through a 'consistent campaign of misinformation' only to save businesses, leaving the country to suffer massive losses on both fronts — health and economy. The federal government, which.....[view more](#)

Centre still taking coronavirus pandemic lightly, says info minister

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has blamed the federal government for still taking coronavirus pandemic lightly and said that it was because of its "incompetence" that every person in the country would have to live with the pandemic. He said those who were calling the coronavirus pandemic a mere flu were now seeing for themselves that the situation was getting worse because of it. He said that the lac.....[view more](#)

All major markets closed, public transport off the roads in city

Source: [APP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

KARACHI: The government decision to tighten the lockdown during the weekend registered a passive public response here on Saturday as while most major markets were closed, people were still out and about, most with less than adequate precautionary measures. It was due to steady increase in the number of people testing positive for novel coronavirus that the provincial authorities had decided to keep people indoors on Saturday and Sunday, hence on.....[view more](#)

19 Covid-19 patients died, 1,475 new cases detected: Murad

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Saturday that coronavirus had claimed 19 more lives taking the death toll to 634 in the province while 1,475 new cases emerged taking the tally to 36,364 during the past 24 hours. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that 19 more patients died overnight taking the death toll to 634 which constituted 1.7 per cent of the total patients. The chief minister said that 1,475 new c.....[view more](#)

SHC issues strict orders for Covid-19 safety in courtrooms

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has directed lawyers, litigants and its staff to wear face masks, gloves and maintain social distancing in courtrooms to curtail the spread of Covid-19. According to a circular issued by the registrar of the SHC, in continuation of earlier directives and preventive measures and in the wake of recent spread of Covid-19 at an alarming rate and increase in number of asymptomatic Covid-19 patients in the province, Chief.....[view more](#)

19 NAB officials test positive for Covid-19 in Sukkur

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

SUKKUR: Nineteen officials of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Saturday tested positive for Covid-19 here, among them two assistant directors. Sources in NAB said that samples of 108 officials, including director general of NAB, were collected two days ago after an employee working in the bureau's IT branch was found to have the virus. Test results of 90 officials were received and of them, 19 were found to have the virus while.....[view more](#)

Eight-year-old maid's death spurs calls for child labour reform in Pakistan

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

The brutal death of an eight-year-old maid has caused outrage in Pakistan, prompting the government to propose changes to legislation governing child labour. Zohra Shah was taken to a hospital in Rawalpindi on May 31 with serious injuries, and she died soon afterwards. Police have arrested the girl's employers, a couple, over her killing. Following an outpouring of anger on social media about Shah's death, the country's human righ.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 ICU incharge complains about dysfunctional equipment, instruments

Source: [Jamal Dawoodpoto](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

The Chairman, Treatment Committee, COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU), Larkana, Prof. Dr. Hakim Ali Abro, has written a letter to the Medical Superintendent (MS), Chandka Medical College Hospital (CMCH), informing him about the non-functioning of various equipment and instruments in coronavirus ICU along with unavailability of essentia.....[view more](#)

1,744 more coronavirus cases emerge, 16 patients die

Source: [Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

KARACHI: As many as 1,744 new cases of coronavirus emerged when 8,199 tests were conducted and 16 more patients died overnight, lifting the death toll to 650. This was stated by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a press statement issued here from CM House on Sunday. He said that 8,199, the highest so far, tests were conducted against which 1,744 new cases were detected which constituted 21.5 per cent of the reports. He added that so far 32.....[view more](#)

Two suspected Covid-19 patients die; MNA Mahar's seven domestic servants test positive

Source: [Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

SUKKUR: Two suspected patients of Covid-19, both above 60 years of age, died in Sukkur and Khanpur Mahar on Saturday. Ghotki deputy commissioner Mohammad Khalid Saleem told journalists that doctors had informed him that 90-year-old mukhi of Hindu Panchayat in Khanpur Mahar had died from coronavirus. He had all symptoms of the virus infection before his death, he said. Last rites of the deceased were performed under SOPs at the town's crem.....[view more](#)

'Improper disposal of clinical waste may become major source of Covid-19 spread'

Source: [Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

KARACHI: The federal government has introduced a 'green stimulus and green recovery process' to revive economy and ensure that economic activities in the post-Covid-19 lockdown scenario do not harm nature. This was stated by adviser to prime minister on climate change Malik Amin Aslam during an online roundtable discussion hosted on Saturday by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) to mark World Environ.....[view more](#)

Sharjeel Memon contracts coronavirus

Source: [News Desk, Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

PPP MPA Sharjeel Memon confirmed on Sunday he has been tested positive for coronavirus and has gone into self-isolation. Memon is the Sindh government's focal person for coronavirus in Hyderabad and he also attended the provincial assembly session two days ago. Many lawmakers in previous days have contracted coronavirus and a few of them passed away due to Covid-19.[view more](#)

Murtaza Wahab calls for following SOPs as number of critically ill patients constantly increasing

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

The number of COVID-19 patients needing intensive care due to critical health condition has been constantly on the rise. Adviser to the Sindh Chief Minister on Law and Environment Barrister Murtaza Wahab, who also acts as the spokesperson for the Sindh government, said this in a video message released on Saturday. He explained that the hospitals of Sindh had been under immense pressure due to the increasing number of critically ill coronavirus p.....[view more](#)

COVID-19: SBP says extensive prevention measures to negatively impact economy

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday warned that the extensive prevention measures against COVID-19 would negatively impact the economy. In a report on the overall effect of the deadly coronavirus on the economy, the central bank noted that the outbreak had limited the scope of economic activity across Pakistan, with shopping malls, restaurants, and other public places partially or completely closed. Uncertainty would remain in t.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 claims 19 more lives in Sindh — all in Karachi

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

As many as 19 people, including 15 men and four women, died of COVID-19 in Sindh during last 24 hours, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Saturday in his daily statement about the epidemic situation in the province. All the 19 deaths in Sindh occurred at various health facilities in Karachi, the CM said. "We have lost 19 more people due to COVID-19 in Sindh and all of them died in Karachi. They include 15 men and four women.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus claims life of ninth cop

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

The number of Sindh police officials who have lost their lives to the novel coronavirus infection increased to nine on Saturday after another policeman succumbed to the deadly COVID-19. Apart from those who have lost their lives to the virus, 449 police officials have been diagnosed with the viral disease across the province, of whom 112 have recovered while 309 others remained admitted at various hospitals and isolation centres or are obser.....[view more](#)

PTI MPA asks Sindh govt to announce package for healthcare workers

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

A Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf member of the Sindh Assembly, Sidra Imran, on Saturday demanded of the provincial government to announce a special financial support package for doctors and other healthcare workers. Imran, who made this demand in the ongoing Sindh Assembly session, paid tributes to the healthcare workers, and said the spirit of doctors and other medical staff saving lives of people at the peril of their own lives had strengthened the[view more](#)

'140-bed HDU at Expo Centre facility to be ready in 10 days'

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

Work to establish a 140-bed high-dependency unit (HDU) at the field isolation facility set up at the Expo Centre has been started in collaboration with the Indus Health Network (IHN) to accommodate the growing number of COVID-19 patients who require oxygen due to breathing difficulties after being infected with the novel coronavirus, and the unit will be made functional within the next 10 days, officials said on Sunday. "One of the six hal.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 kills 16 more as another 1,744 test positive in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

Sixteen more people, including six women, have died due to COVID-19 and another 1,744 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease in the province reaching 650. Fourteen of the latest fatalities have been reported in Karachi alone. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Sunday that 8,199 samples were tested in the past 24 h.....[view more](#)

Nasir asks federal government not to take COVID-19 lightly

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-08

Criticising the federal government and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for their approach towards the COVID-19 pandemic, Sindh Information and Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Sunday said those who had been calling the coronavirus pandemic a mere influenza outbreak were now admitting that it was a serious issue and the epidemic situation had worsened. In a statement issued on Saturday, he said the lack of seriousness on th.....[view more](#)

Things may get worse in bourse before getting better

Source: [Faraz Ahmed](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-07

KARACHI: A global consensus has almost been reached now that adopting to live with the Covid-19 pandemic is perhaps more logical and a modern approach than the more medieval ones such as a total lockdown. Recently, Nobel laureate Michael Levitt has claimed that the coronavirus lockdown could have caused more deaths than it saved. Even the recent JP Morgan research claims that the lockdown failed to alter the course of pandemic and destroyed.....[view more](#)

Corona and lockdown of global economy

Source: [Aadil Nakhoda](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

KARACHI: The Covid-19 continues to pose serious challenges to the economic conditions of developed and developing countries. A recent report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), titled “The impact of Covid-19 around the world, as told by statistics”, reveals the devastating impact on commodity prices, global trade, tourism as well as poverty. The report of the CCSA, which comprises several int.....[view more](#)

When tragedy strikes, come together

Source: [BR Research](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

“When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions” wrote Shakespeare in his play, Hamlet. In a year already ravaged by a pandemic and now battling a cross-continental locust invasion that may put global food security at risk, the great playwright’s observation does not appear to be too wide off the mark. Posterity will determine whether 2020 has simply been a year of epic misfortune, or culmination of years[view more](#)

International News

Countries News

'No benefit' from hydroxychloroquine for virus: UK trial

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

PARIS: A major British clinical trial has found hydroxychloroquine has “no benefit” for patients hospitalised with Covid-19, scientists said on Friday, in the first large-scale study to provide results for a drug at the centre of political and scientific controversy. Hydroxychloroquine, a decades-old malaria and rheumatoid arthritis drug, has been touted as a possible treatment for the new coronavirus by high profile figures, including.....[view more](#)

'They are the heroes now' — virus doctors join racism protests

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

New York nurses and doctors, hailed as heroes for fighting the coronavirus outbreak, are denouncing racial segregation in the public health system by joining the George Floyd protests. Wearing masks, hospital scrubs and other personal protective equipment like face visors, about a hundred-something medical workers briefly walked out of Manhattan's Bellevue Hospital Thursday to demonstrate against structural racism in America. They held signs[view more](#)

'Answered prayers': Fiji declares itself coronavirus free

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

Fiji announced it was COVID-19 free Friday after the island nation's last known infected patient was given the all-clear, continuing the Pacific's remarkable record of success against the virus. There was panic among Fiji's 930,000 population when the first coronavirus case was announced in mid-March, but strict isolation measures and border controls kept a lid on infections, which peaked at 18 confirmed cases. Prime Minister Frank...[view more](#)

Hundreds mourn their dead at Seville mass for virus victims

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

Hundreds of people who lost loved ones to coronavirus joined a huge funeral mass at Seville Cathedral on Thursday in one of the largest public gatherings in Spain since the lockdown. As they sat under the cathedral's towering vaulted ceiling on carefully-spaced folding chairs, some could be seen wiping away tears as a nearly 90-strong choir and orchestra performed Mozart's Requiem. Many were dressed in black and all were wearing facemasks.....[view more](#)

Tax the rich? Post-pandemic recovery idea finds favour in UK

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

In billionaire-friendly Britain, where the global coronavirus outbreak has hit hard, the idea of making the wealthiest pay more tax to help economic recovery is gaining ground. Mass unemployment, bankruptcies and other potential shocks could hit the richest but supporters of tax reform say they should still shoulder more of the burden. Britain's wealthiest have seen tens of billions of pounds wiped off their annual combined wealth — the.....[view more](#)

Thailand to tout 'trusted' tourism in coronavirus era

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

Thailand is positioning itself as a trusted destination for international tourists after travel restrictions ease, capitalising on its relative success in containing the coronavirus outbreak, industry officials say. The Southeast Asian country, the

first to report a virus case outside of China, wants to build on its reputation and remake its popular image as a destination for big tour groups. "After COVID eases, we plan to refresh the country&.....[view more](#)

Kyrgyzstan's insulin-carrying volunteers cycle past lockdown

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-06

Kyrgyzstan's coronavirus restrictions may have been relaxed in recent weeks, but 73-year-old diabetes patient Lyudmila Kutenkova isn't yet ready to part ways with the man she calls "my guy". Her guy — 50-year-old Talant Akynbekov — is one of 20 volunteers who began delivering insulin to patients by bicycle when the authorities locked down the capital Bishkek in March to slow the spread of the virus. Now shops hav.....[view more](#)

WHO releases guidelines on mask use against Covid-19

Source: [Anadolu Agency](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday released guidelines on the use of masks as controversy swirls in some countries due to political leaders' remarks over their use. WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a thrice-weekly video press conference that he wanted to talk about who should wear masks, what materials they should be made of and when they should be worn. "I wish to be very clear that th.....[view more](#)

Final farewells at Mexican cemetery lose luster over coronavirus

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

The peculiar nature of the job means they have more work than ever right now. But Mexico's gravediggers and crematorium workers say they are paying a heavy price for constant exposure to other people's grief during the coronavirus pandemic. The silver protective suit worn by Jose Ramirez makes him look like an astronaut. So far it's been an effective shield against infection, but it offers no barrier to other people's suffe.....[view more](#)

Virus crisis strengthens Italy premier Conte, for now

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's handling of the coronavirus crisis has allowed him to shed his reputation as a weak-willed puppet of other parties and even bolstered his country's image abroad, some experts say. Italy — once the epicentre of the outbreak in Europe, which has killed around 34,000 people in the country since February — is slowly emerging from the world's longest coronavirus shutdown, which has r.....[view more](#)

Iranian wedding party fuelled new COVID-19 surge, president says

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

A wedding party contributed to a new surge in coronavirus infections in Iran, President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday but insisted the country had no option but to keep its economy open despite warnings of a second wave of the epidemic. Iran, which has been gradually relaxing its lockdown since mid-April, has reported a sharp rise of new daily infections in recent days. Thursday's toll of 3,574 new cases was the highest since February, whe.....[view more](#)

Global Covid-19 death toll hits 400,000

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

PARIS: The global death toll from the coronavirus pandemic climbed past 400,000 on Sunday with fatalities accelerating in the epicentre of Latin America even as Europe emerges from its virus lockdown with infections there

increasingly under control. Almost seven million infections have been registered since Covid-19 emerged in China late last year, forcing much of the globe into lockdown and pushing the world economy towards its worst downturn s.....[view more](#)

Emirates employees face 50pc basic pay cut

Source: [Mohammad Asghar](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

RAWALPINDI: Emirates has decided to reduce 50 per cent basic salary of its employees in grade four and above, including those in equivalent grades, from July 1. The airline's executive vice president human resources issued an update on the salary reduction, saying: "We continue to navigate the impact of Covid-19 on our business and are reviewing all possible options to preserve our cash position. As a result, we have had to take the[view more](#)

US senator accuses China of trying to sabotage vaccine research

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

LONDON: The United States has evidence China is trying to slow down or sabotage the development of a Covid-19 vaccine by Western countries, Republican senator Rick Scott said on Sunday. "We have got to get this vaccine done. Unfortunately we have evidence that communist China is trying to sabotage us or slow it down," he said during an interview on BBC TV. "China does not want us ... to do it first, they have decided to be an[view more](#)

Israel makes high-spec masks against virus resurgence

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

JERUSALEM: Israel said on Sunday it had opened a factory to make millions of high-spec masks as it prepares for a possible "second wave" of coronavirus cases. After imposing tough measures to tackle the Covid-19 illness, Israel has fared relatively well in the initial months of the pandemic. More than 17,700 infections have been registered among a population of nine million, with nearly 300 deaths. But as the country has gradually[view more](#)

China to strengthen global cooperation in trials of Covid-19 vaccine

Source: [Reuters](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

BEIJING: China will strengthen international cooperation in future Covid-19 clinical vaccine trials, building on earlier collaboration in vaccine development, the science and technology minister said on Sunday. China is expending great efforts in the global scramble to develop a vaccine for the new coronaries epidemic that began in its central city of Wuhan, with Chinese researchers conducting five separate clinical trials on humans, or half of[view more](#)

'Be careful' after lockdowns lifted, warns Pope

Source: [AP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-08

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis is cautioning people in countries emerging from coronavirus lockdowns to keep following authorities rules for Covid-19 containment. Be careful, don't cry victory, don't cry victory too soon," he said on Sunday. Italy's gradual easing of stay-at-home rules now allows the public to gather in St. Peters Square on Sundays for the popes noon blessing, and Pope Francis was clearly delighted to see se.....[view more](#)

Russian Orthodox priest tends to Moscow's COVID-19 patients

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

The Rev. Vasily Gelevan bends over a COVID-19 patient at her apartment to administer Holy Communion and say words of comfort while clad in a hazmat suit. The bedside ministry is one of many such visits the 45-year old Russian Orthodox priest makes daily as he shuttles across Moscow in a minivan to tend to people fighting the coronavirus at their homes or in hospital rooms. Gelevan's family at first wasn't happy with his decision to come..... [view more](#)

Amid virus, US students look to colleges closer to home

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

As students make college plans for the fall, some US universities are seeing surging interest from in-state residents who are looking to stay closer to home amid the coronavirus pandemic. At the University of Texas at Arlington, commitments from state residents are up 26% over last year. Ohio State and Western Kentucky universities are both up about 20%. Deposits paid to attend Michigan State University are up 15% among state residents, while deposits..... [view more](#)

The loneliest of D-Day remembrances is hit by pandemic

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

At daybreak on Saturday, Charles Shay stood lonesome without any fellow veteran on the very same beach where he waded ashore 76 years ago, part of one of the most epic battles in military history that came to be known as D-Day and turned the tide of World War II. Compared to last year, when many tens of thousands came to the northern French beaches of Normandy to cheer the dwindling number of veterans and celebrate three-quarters of a century of [view more](#)

Food, coffee, diapers: Amid pandemic, van delivers donations

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

On a recent day, a powder-blue van parked curbside in Brooklyn, one of the hardest-hit communities in America by the coronavirus pandemic, and a group of women wearing protective face masks and gloves set to unloading. Locals lined up, spaced out next to orange traffic cones on the sidewalk, waiting their turn to pick up much-needed free supplies that help them make it through what are tough times for the borough. "We go to areas where we..... [view more](#)

In S. Africa's virus epicentre, COVID-19 patients get priority

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

As coronavirus cases spike in South Africa's Western Cape province, the epicentre of the country's outbreak, doctors have voiced concern about other diseases being neglected while medical attention is focused on COVID-19. The Western Cape province, a popular tourist destination home to the coastal city of Cape Town, accounts for 66 percent of South Africa's 43,434 coronavirus cases and 77 percent of 908 deaths. Provincial authorities..... [view more](#)

UK's Johnson eyes relaxation of COVID lockdown, extra spending

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is planning to relax rules on outdoor dining and weddings, as well as speeding up government investment plans in a bid to limit the economic damage from the coronavirus, newspapers reported on Saturday. The Sunday Times said Johnson wanted to relax planning restrictions that stop many pubs, cafes and

restaurants from using outside areas, and also to make it legal to hold weddings outside – something current.....[view more](#)

Virus crisis piles pressure on African media

Source: [AFP](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

Collapsing revenues, rising layoffs: the coronavirus crisis is battering media outlets across Africa that were already struggling for cash and often facing pressure from hostile authorities. The news of cutbacks was sudden and painful for journalists at two of Nigeria's most popular independent newspapers when bosses from The Punch and Vanguard made their announcements last month. "It was a rude shock for me because I didn't do anyt.....[view more](#)

Pandemic, dire economy, unrest upend US presidential race

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-08

Three concurrent crises scarring the United States — a deadly health pandemic, economic despair and widespread social unrest — have reframed this year's presidential contest and prompted national reflection over racial inequality in America. Is the country on the cusp of a transformation, or will systemic inequalities exacerbated by the coronavirus crisis persist, allowing alienation and marginalization to fester? In weeks, the u.....[view more](#)

Donors News

Pakistan, ADB sign \$300m loan agreement

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

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Pakistan on Friday signed loan agreement of \$300 million for strengthening public health response to coronavirus and helping the poor segments of the society. Federal Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division Noor Ahmed and ADB Country Director for Pakistan Xiaohong Yang signed the agreement on the loan, which will strengthen Pakistan's public health response to COVID-19 and help meet.....[view more](#)

WHO supports masks where virus widespread, distancing tough

Source: [AFP](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-06

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation on Friday backed the use of fabric facemasks in places where the new coronavirus is widespread and physical distancing is difficult, in a change of advice. As the deadly virus continues to spread, the WHO issued updated guidance on who should wear a mask, when it should be worn and what it should be made of. The use of masks has been a hot topic ever since the pandemic first emerged in China in December. B.....[view more](#)

Fighting effects of COVID-19: Donors submitted action plan to seek loans

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

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has prepared and submitted detailed action plan before international donors for seeking multibillion dollars' loans over next a couple of years in order to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 pandemic. "Yes, the Planning Commission tabled National Action Mitigation Plan before the international donors apprising them that government will launch Rs100 billion programme for implementing small scheme and asked them to ex.....[view more](#)

Wear masks in public, says WHO in new coronavirus advice

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

The World Health Organization Friday changed its advice on face masks amid the coronavirus pandemic, saying they should be worn in places where the virus is widespread and physical distancing is difficult. The use of masks has been a hot topic ever since the pandemic first emerged in China in December. "In light of evolving evidence, WHO advises that governments should encourage the general public to wear masks where there is widespread tran.....[view more](#)

SDPI Engagements

Researchers Articles

Budget, Economy, Statistics and Options for Pakistan

Source: [Shakeel Ahmad Ramay](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-07

The government of Pakistan is discussing the possible budget for country. Although it is routine thing but this year it will not be usual business due to multiple factors. COVID-19 has hit world and it has changed dynamics of world economy. The factors of economy are adjusting to new normal. Governments have been stuck between "lockdown or no-lockdown" and they will have to decide between "devil and deep see". However, the.....[view more](#)

Budgeting in the new normal

Source: [Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

Federal budget is a planning document used to prioritise expenditures, take into account revenue generation, and to maintain a balance between the two. When a country is engaged in an IMF programme, the starting point of budget making is usually the fiscal deficit agreed with the Fund. The revenues are inflated and expenditures deflated in a way that the balance does not exceed the number agreed with the IMF. Pakistan, a frequent borrower from[view more](#)

Webinars News

Amin Aslam calls for keeping biodiversity, natural habitats intact for healthy life

Source: [DNA](#), [Centreline.com](#), 2020-06-06

ISLAMABAD, JUN 5 (DNA) – Advisor to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam, has said that the year 2020 has brought shocking surprises to the entire world and the most pertinent lesson that need to learn from the crisis posed by COVID-19 is that healthy human life is not possible without keeping our biodiversity and natural habitats intact. He was speaking at an online dialogue 'World Environment Day Time for Nature&r.....[view more](#)

PM aide calls for development activities in sustainable manner

Source: [Jamila Achakzai](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-07

Islamabad: During the time of restricted human activities due to the coronavirus pandemic, the nature has shown remarkable ability to bounce back, so we need to carry out the development activities in a sustainable manner, said adviser to the prime minister on climate change Malik Amin Aslam. "The economic situation has resulted in slowing down of institutional structures development and a lot of resources are required to get these materi.....[view more](#)