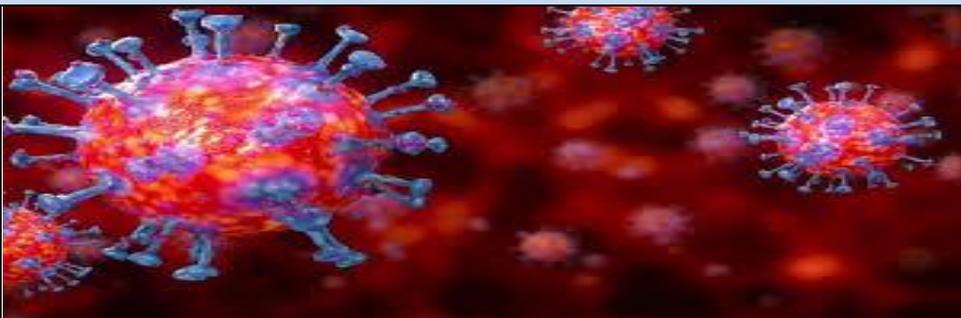


E-Newsletter on COVID-19



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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

Time to step up

Source: [Jahanzeb Sukhera](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

In 2018, we did not elect a prime minister; we elected a captain. We elected the man who lead, motivated, and brought the best out of a team to win the 1992 Cricket World Cup. We elected him to lead us like he led that team. However, that captain is nowhere to be found as we face, perhaps, the toughest competition some of us will ever face. The captain was expected to draw up a game plan and bring out the best in his team. It appears tha.....[view more](#)

In Lahore, smart lockdown means only shutter down

Source: [Umar Cheema](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

ISLAMABAD: Punjab has imposed lockdown in eight cities identified as virus hotspots including Lahore. However, if Lahore is taken as an example to understand what 'smart lockdown' means, it can be described as a shorthand expression of shutter down without any restriction on free movement even in the areas identified as the hotspots. "This smart lockdown will only bring bad name for the government," said a well-pla.....[view more](#)

No more lockdown

Source: [Asad Ullah Cheema](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

The Covid-19 pandemic is a crisis like no other, and there is substantial uncertainty about its impact on people's lives and livelihoods. The pandemic has led to more than a third of the world's population being placed under lockdown to stop the virus' spread. It has caused severe repercussions for economies across the world. The lockdowns meant confining millions of citizens to their homes, shutting down businesses and ceasing[view more](#)

Beleaguered by NAB and coronavirus, PML-N carries on

Source: [Khalid Rasheed](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

LAHORE: As the novel coronavirus pandemic rages on, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is finding itself stuck between a rock and a hard place. On one hand, the party appears beleaguered as prominent leaders find themselves back in the National Accountability Bureau's crosshairs. On the other, there is the virus itself. No party is immune to Covid-19 for sure, but more cases have popped up from PML-N than any other political faction. M.....[view more](#)

A cybercrime pandemic?

Source: [Rafiah Farrukh Rashid](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

Given the outbreak of COVID-19, dependency on cyberspace due to social distancing appears to be the new norm. While cyberspace provides a dependable platform with ever-widening vistas, it also provides an opportunity to cybercriminals for their malicious activities. Thus, leaving the unaware public vulnerable. While we are hopeful that we will recover from COVID-19, will we ever be immune to exploitation from cyber-attacks? The Director-Gen.....[view more](#)

Hope against hope

Source: [Editorial](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-20

It seems the World Health Organisation (WHO) is hopeful that a few hundred million Covid-19 vaccine doses could be produced by the end of this year – and be directed at those most vulnerable to the virus. Yet those who have been

following the pandemic very closely understand well enough that the soonest experts are expecting anything resembling a workable vaccine is one-and-a-half to two years. And, once again going by those who are consider.....[view more](#)

Think beyond 'Taali, Thali and diyajalao' policy

Source: [Chanchal Manohar Singh](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-20

Increasing number of corona cases in India has apparently reflected the failed administration of Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) led Union government. The lack of proper judgment and accepted wisdom on the part of the central government with regard to Coronavirus, the extended lockdown also bore no fruits, when in contrary European countries vindicated success of imposing lockdown to fight this deadly virus. According to data from Johns Hopki.....[view more](#)

Rising above the gathering storm: Risk management of COVID-19

Source: [Dr Farhan Saif](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-20

The steadily growing COVID-19 pandemic is globally exposing a vulnerable state of mankind. The pandemic has transformed the understanding of the human beings regarding social behavior, business, economy, medical science and emerging technologies. In the time to come, global awareness to collectively defeat such lethal natural disasters shall be vital. The pandemic in Pakistan has seen a three-month evolution period. In countries like China, J.....[view more](#)

Stress management during pandemic

Source: [Noman Nayyir Kulachvi](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-06-20

There is nothing beyond life; before life we were not and after life we would not have the same life and the same circumstances. Everything solely is between before and after so nothing is minimal beyond that; therefore, life is so precious so matchless and more important than our recognition. Natural disasters are an essential part of our life, so they can be related to humans and also related to this universe, like earthquakes, tsunamis, epidemics.....[view more](#)

Ways of learning

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

PRIME MINISTER Imran Khan is seeking ways to ensure the best possible answers to the country's education crisis brought on by Covid-19 so that academic activities in the country can begin again. He expressed his concern at a meeting called to discuss the disruption in the education sector. In fact, the government will have to try and be innovative at all levels of education. Indeed, it has shown some resourcefulness in this direction by lau.....[view more](#)

Smart messaging

Source: [BINA SHAH](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

THE other night I listened to Lesley Hazleton, known for her books on the intersection between religion and politics, in a debate on the role of religion and science in a post-pandemic world. The theme of the debate was couched in a question: will science be the new religion in a post-pandemic world? The discussion explored many ideas related to science, religion, faith, and the global response to Covid-19. One of the first things that Lesley Ha.....[view more](#)

Work during Covid

Source: [HADIA MAJID](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2020-06-21

COVID-19 has sparked extensive debates on work and employment. Worldwide unemployment estimates, the plight of small businesses, and the mass movement of migrant workers have received attention. Similarly, working parents' triple shifts juggling homeschooling with productive and reproductive work, and the extension of the workday to all odd hours as employees 'work from home' has underscored the unsustainability of lockdown meas.....[view more](#)

Then came June

Source: [FAHD HUSAIN](#) , [Dawn, Islamabad](#) , 2020-06-21

IT is raining mini-lockdowns across the country. But is it too late? Something happened in the first week of June that triggered a tectonic shift in how Pakistan has perceived Covid-19 since it broke out in February. More has changed in the last two weeks than in three months. Two things happened. Let's rewind though. In March, Prime Minister Imran Khan took a position. It was a position that was based on the premise that Covid-19 wasn't.....[view more](#)

Covid budget

Source: [Taimur Khan Jhagra](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-06-21

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been Chief Minister Mahmood Khan's endeavour to ensure that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are provided with an honest appraisal of what the situation is, what it is likely to be in the coming days, weeks and months, and what the cost of the pandemic will be. The chief minister approved the annual budget on the basis of the one test that our leader Prime Minister Imran Khan and the PTI[view more](#)

A mandatory mask

Source: [Arsalan Ali Faheem](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-06-21

Pakistan is courting a public health disaster of epic proportions. Having officially infected more than 160,000 individuals and taken 3,265 lives as of June 18, the coronavirus pandemic is spreading at an exponential rate. We should not be here. Pakistan has had months to prepare. Yet, in what has become a disappointingly predictable pattern, the national discourse yet again descended into contradictory policy statements, political point-scoring.....[view more](#)

Covid's coded judgments

Source: [Ghazi Salahuddin](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-06-21

At this time, almost the entire focus is on the short order that was delivered by the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday afternoon. But I want to include in this comment some more findings and insights that tend to define these days of tumult and social disarray. Covid-19 seems to be instigating not just a lot of reflection but also some social action in many societies. Let us first get the Supreme Court verdict out of the way. The presi.....[view more](#)

Flawed COVID-19 policy

Source: [Zahra Raza](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-06-21

Pakistan's death toll surpasses 3400; unfortunately this is just the beginning of a wave of patients that will inevitably face defeat in the fight for their lives at the hands of this life threatening ailment. The culprit above the surface is the virus, however lurking behind the shadows, is the failure of the government who are more concerned with the resuscitation of the fragile economy. Authoritative Institutions must subside and allow f.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: bringing out the worst in us

Source: [Raja Khalid Shabbir](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

It was the early hours of Saturday, a wheelchair rolled into the emergency room of the tertiary care government hospital where I was stationed. The occupant of the wheelchair was an elderly female who was in apparent distress, having difficulty breathing. My junior colleague immediately took the patient to the oxygen bay while another colleague and I went through the patient's documents with the patient's son sitting next to us.[view more](#)

Honouring doctors

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

THE medical profession is one of the most respected anywhere in the world. In times of emergency and peace, doctors, nurses and hospital staff provide essential services. They have been on the front lines in the fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic; despite great risk to their own lives, they continue to show up at work. But how have they been treated in return? In Latvia, a statue was raised in honour of medical workers; in Brazil, the C.....[view more](#)

VCRs, iPhones and face masks

Source: [Dr Ayesha Razzaque](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

Growing up, I spent the early and mid-90s in Beijing. The Beijing of that time was a lot grimmer, a lot less shiny and just very different overall from the metropolis I found when I visited again almost two decades later. One of the many memories that I still have from those days is that of the ubiquitous 'citizen monitors,' chosen from local neighborhoods and communities, who were identifiable by the red armbands with text on.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 and overseas Pakistanis

Source: [Inayatullah Khan](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

There is no doubt that Covid-19 has hugely impacted our lives and livelihoods in many ways. Thousands of people have lost their loved ones, while the rest are in shock and agony as they helplessly see their kith and kin fighting for their lives against this pandemic. In this lingering agony, no one's grief and pain can be under-estimated. However, the agony through which our overseas Pakistani brothers and sisters, especially our la.....[view more](#)

Reaping a bitter harvest

Source: [MALEEHA LODHI](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

DESPERATE appeals by doctors were ignored. Warnings from the Pakistan Medical Association were brushed aside. The advice of public health officials was disregarded. Voices of anxious citizens were dismissed. The government went ahead anyway and made the fateful decision to ease the lockdown on May 9 — a lockdown that had not been rigorously enforced but had still managed to ensure some social distancing. Once restrictions were relaxed, mar.....[view more](#)

Empty packages

Source: [ZULFIQAR SHAH](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

THE real impact of Prime Minister Imran Khan's economic package for the construction industry — declared as the largest-ever support to the sector — is yet to unfold. Announced in early April, the government has branded the package as a response to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on Pakistan's economy and job market. The package includes upgradation of the construction sector as an industry, massive tax[view more](#)

No end in sight

Source: [Mohammad Zubair, The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

The government's narrative remains the same: we can either protect lives or livelihoods and, considering everything, it is livelihoods that will be protected. For the PTI government, it has been a zero-sum game – corona or economy. The PM has remained consistent that he cannot fight the pandemic because that will ruin our economy. Every country in the world faced the same challenge when confronted with the coronavirus pandemic.....[view more](#)

Refugees in a pandemic

Source: [Editorial, The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

The Covid-19 pandemic which has swept across the world has put the 30 million refugees based in various countries at even greater risk. These refugees, some still living in camps or in poor housing conditions, face a particular threat as do the support workers who attempt to offer them some improvement in quality of life. The UNHCR has called for global efforts to combat the pandemic so more refugees are able to return to their home countries whe.....[view more](#)

Selling plasma is illegal

Source: [Rafae Saigal, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

What happens when there's a perception of a 'miracle cure' to a global pandemic? Surging demand. And, of course, limited supply. Coupled with poor regulation and low-levels of transparency, you have — in plain economics — a black market. Convalescent plasma therapy is an experimental treatment that doctors in Pakistan are widely prescribing for Covid-19. It's effectiveness? Inconclusive, according to resea.....[view more](#)

Interview with Ali Sarfraz - CEO, Karandaz Pakistan 'Fintechs at forefront of providing innovative solutions'

Source: [BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

Ali Sarfraz is CEO of Karandaz Pakistan. Ali has vast experience of leading initiatives in private, public, and not-for-profit sectors. He was engaged in advising private sector firms while working in senior strategy and operational roles in Asia and Europe. He also developed new strategies for increasing revenue streams of a major mobile operator in Pakistan. While working in senior policy positions in public sector, he focused on building cond.....[view more](#)

The psychological response

Source: [Editorial, Daily Times](#), 2020-06-21

More and more the world is realising, as the fight against the coronavirus is stretching on, that it will require not just the usual medical but also a psychological response to come out on the right side. As weeks dragged on to months and now it's all but certain that this abnormal situation is going to last a year or two at the very least, it is beginning to place a heavy psychological burden on people. The stress if two basic types. Fir.....[view more](#)

Lockdown or shutter down?

Source: [Editorial, Daily Times](#), 2020-06-22

The problem that arises when government officials' resort to statements like 'people are ignorant' or 'take care of elders in these times' is that they expose a complete lack of strategy on their part. For example, the last thing one expects to hear from Punjab's health minister, since the virus is spreading very fast in the province, is that things are so bad just because of the people. Likewise, who did the PM's.....[view more](#)

Home-quarantine by innumerable patients keeping official tally low

Source: [Tariq Butt](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD: Forceful domestic and global awareness campaign on how to deal with COVID-19 has worked in Pakistan, relieving the health system of a huge brunt. While the coronavirus tally has topped 176,000 with over 3,500 deaths with the figures rising every day at a rapid pace in Pakistan, the cases would have jumped manifold had an accurate data been available. "As I felt the symptoms of COVID-19, I quickly quarantined myself at hom.....[view more](#)

National News

Balochistan

Covid-19 pandemic ; Govt takes steps in nation's best interest: Gill

Source: [APP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

QUETTA: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Political Communication, Shahbaz Gill on Saturday said the federal government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, had taken practical steps against the pandemic in the best interest of the nation for saving the country from big catastrophe. He said the government along with Health Department was remained alert to control the spread of the coronavirus across the country and th.....[view more](#)

Islamabad

COVID-19: PM Imran hails philanthropic role played by overseas Pakistanis during pandemic

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday hailed the philanthropic role played by the overseas Pakistani community in helping their brothers and sisters abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic. "There are many examples where the Pakistani community has been a source of inspiration, helping those around in need," PM Imran said in a tweet. Imran Khan[view more](#)

Complaint mechanism for healthcare workers launched

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

Islamabad : Frontline healthcare workers wishing to have their complaints heard by the government can now utilize a dedicated helpline for redress. Launched on Friday, the establishment of a complaint mechanism for healthcare workers was a key constituent of the Support Package recently announced for them by the government. "In addition to the 1166 generalized helpline accessible to all, healthcare workers can punch their complaint.....[view more](#)

PIMS doctors reject transfer order to IHITC

Source: [Shahina Maqbool](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

Islamabad : The Young Doctors Association, the Young Consultants Association, and the All PIMS Employees Association convened an emergency meeting at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) here Friday to devise a strategy to resist the government's decision to transfer a pool of human resource from the capital's three key hospitals to the newly-established Isolation Hospital and Infection Treatment Centre (IHITC) for COVID-.....[view more](#)

ICRS concerned over threat to healthcare amid COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

Islamabad : The recent rise in violence in Afghanistan combined with targeted attacks against health-care facilities threaten to reduce or prevent access to health services for millions of Afghans that more than ever need health services with the outbreak of COVID-19, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a statement issued from Islamabad. "The recent trajectory in Afghanistan is of great concern. After the hop.....[view more](#)

Pre-existing vulnerabilities reinforce gender-based violence during pandemics

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

Islamabad : Pre-existing vulnerabilities that subject women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence are further exacerbated during a pandemic. Vulnerable populations experience the COVID-19 outbreak differently as it is likely to reinforce their marginalized position in society. Concerns to this effect were expressed at the first of a series of webinars on 'Gender and Shadow Pandemic' here Friday. An initiative of the Un.....[view more](#)

LIVE: Sindh reports over 2,000 cases as COVID-19 tally reaches 173,856

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

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](#)

Nationwide tally of COVID-19 confirmed cases surge to 171,666

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

Pakistan on Saturday has confirmed 153 deaths, highest count in a single day, by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 171,666. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 3,382. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 6,604 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh has become the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed[view more](#)

Country sees 136 virus deaths in single-day

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

ISLAMABAD - Authorities on Friday confirmed at least 4,944 new coronavirus cases in the country, taking the total tally to 165,062. These include 61,678 in Punjab, 62,269 in Sindh, 20,182 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 8,998 in Balochistan, 9,941 in Islamabad, 1225 in Gilgit-Baltistan and 769 in Azad Kashmir. The death toll from the virus stands at 3229 with 136 deaths reported over the last twenty-four hours. At least 28,824 Corona tests were carri.....[view more](#)

Balochistan to provide financial assistance to 80 more poor patients

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

ISLAMABAD - Balochistan Minister for Social Welfare and Non-Formal Education, Asadullah Baloch on Friday said that provincial government had approved 80 more cases in the last meeting of Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund (BAEF) to provide financial assistance to the poor patients. Talking to APP, he said the aid would be given to poor and needy patients suffering from different chronic diseases under the BAEF initiative to get them treated i.....[view more](#)

Lockdown measures hurting existing projects, says report

Source: [A Reporter](#), [Dawn, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

ISLAMABAD: Global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows are forecast to decrease by up to 40 per cent in 2020 from 2019's value of \$1.54 trillion, according to UNCTAD's 'World Investment Report 2020'. This would bring FDI below \$1tr for the first time since 2005. In addition, FDI is projected to decrease by a further 5pc to 10pc in 2021 and to initiate a recovery in 2022, the report says. "The outlook is highly unc.....[view more](#)

156 more die as corona's ferocity grows

Source: [Agencies](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

ISLAMABAD: The new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) killed 156 more people on Saturday taking the death toll to 3,436 and the infected cases to 174,676 with addition of 6,604 cases. Of the 176,676 confirmed cases, Sindh reported 67,353 cases, Punjab 64,216, Balochistan 9,328, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) 21,444, Gilgit Baltistan (GB) 1,253, Islamabad 10,279, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) 803. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (.....[view more](#)

Zartaj Gul Wazir has social media in stitches with her hilarious definition of COVID-19

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul Wazir drove social media into hysterics with her novel definition of COVID-19. "COVID-19 means that it has 19 points that can be applied in any country in any way," said during a current affairs show on PTV News. Actually, COVID-19 means 'Coronavirus disease 2019'. The 'CO' in the word stands for corona, 'VI' for virus and 'D' for disease. Former.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus pandemic: No help from Centre to provinces, says Bilawal

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

ISLAMABAD: The PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday said the Centre has not extended any help to the province during the coronavirus crisis. Bilawal called upon all government allies to "quickly announce their separation from the coalition if they wish to avoid committing treason" against the country. "Akhtar Mengal has played a positive role. Now there is no valid reason for him to stay with this government," s.....[view more](#)

All public sector hospitals dealing with COVID-19 patients

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

Rawalpindi : Almost all public sector hospitals including the three allied hospitals in town have been engaged in dealing with coronavirus illness cases though District Headquarters Hospital has allocated the least number of beds, 19 for accommodating COVID-19 patients. Earlier, it was planned that designated healthcare facilities including Corona Management Centre at Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Benazir Bhutto Hospital would accom.....[view more](#)

LIVE: Pakistan to partially open airspace today as COVID-19 tally soars to 176,617

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

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](#)

8 persons die of coronavirus in Rawalpindi

Source: [Israr Ahmad](#) , [The Nation, Islamabad](#) , 2020-06-21

Rawalpindi - As many as eight people died of coronavirus, whereas, 101 others tested positive of deadliest virus in the garrison city on Saturday. However, total number of patients in Rawalpindi district crossed the figure of 5,000, they said. According to details, a 50-year-old resident of Rawalpindi city died at Rawalpindi Institute of Urology on June 20. Another 55-year-old resident of Fazal Town died at Holy Family Hospital, while 59-yea.....[view more](#)

Coronavirus pandemic: 4,855 health workers affected

Source: [Agencies/Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: The new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to affect health workers countrywide, with 68 more of them testing positive in the past 24 hours. A report prepared by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad and forwarded to the Ministry of National Health Services showed that corona had affected 40 doctors, six nurses and 22 paramedics in the past 24 hours. The toll of health workers affected by the virus has reach.....[view more](#)

DRAP takes measures to ensure availability of remdesivir for COVID-19 patients

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-06-22

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirza on Sunday said the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) is taking all the steps to ensure the availability of remdesivir for coronavirus patients. "DRAP has issued import and registration letters to the manufacturers to ensure the availability of remdesivir for coronavirus patients, particularly during emergencies," Mirza said. He added that the US Food and.....[view more](#)

55% Pakistanis believe threat of coronavirus is exaggerated: survey

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD: According to Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey, by Gallup Pakistan, 55% Pakistanis now believe that the threat of coronavirus is exaggerated. The survey is about changes in public perception, attitude and behaviour since the beginning of the lockdown in Pakistan; public response and behaviour towards coronavirus initiatives and preventive measures; and the overall changes and impact of coronavirus lockdown on the daily lives[view more](#)

Private hospitals directed to reserve 50% beds for corona patients

Source: [Shahina Maqbool](#), [The News, International](#) , 2020-06-22

Islamabad : The Islamabad Health Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has instructed all private teaching hospitals of the capital to make 50 percent of their beds available for free treatment and consultation of Covid-19 patients in view of the health emergency created by the pandemic. The Authority has also directed both private hospitals as well as private laboratories and collection centres to prominently display their room rates and RT-PCR test rates.....[view more](#)

'Implementation of SOPs crucial to contain spread of COVID 19'

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

Islamabad : Amid the growing number of COVID-19 cases in Pakistan, only strictly adhering to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) of precautionary measures under the safety guidelines can help protect the masses from coronavirus infection. Pakistan as a responsible member of the world community has taken bold and timely steps to impose restrictions on public gatherings, social and political activities, educational institutions and public tran.....[view more](#)

'One-window operation' to facilitate students

Source: [DNA](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

Islamabad: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) has launched 'One Window operation' here at the main Campus for facilitating its students, in wake of current crisis, COVID-19. The students have been advised to strictly follow the prescribed SOPs while visiting the University's main campus or the regional offices. They must wear Masks and maintain social distance. The Open Window Operation has been started on the advice of the Vi.....[view more](#)

'Implementation of SOPs crucial to contain virus spread

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

Islamabad:Amid the growing number of COVID-19 cases in Pakistan, only strictly adhering to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) of precautionary measures under the safety guidelines can help protect the masses from coronavirus infection. Pakistan as a responsible member of the world community has taken bold and timely steps to impose restrictions on public gatherings, social and political activities, educational institutions and public.....[view more](#)

LIVE: At least 89 more succumb to virus as Pakistan's Covid-19 tally soars to 181,088

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

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

92 Covid hotspots identified in 20 cities across Pakistan

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has identified 92 Covid-19 hotspots in 20 cities across the country, which cover some 40% of all the active cases nationwide, Planning Minister Asad Umar said on Sunday. The minister, who heads the NCOC – the nerve centre of the country's unified efforts against the spread of the deadly contagion, said in a tweet that an effective smart lockdown in these hotspots could make a decis.....[view more](#)

Covid claims lives of 63 healthcare workers across Pakistan

Source: [Yousaf Abbasi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

LAHORE: At least 63 doctors, paramedics and others affiliated with healthcare sectors have died of coronavirus while battling on the frontline against the disease. According to figures compiled by the medical community, 30 doctors, three nurses, a paramedic and an operation theatre assistant have lost their lives to Covid-19 in Punjab; 11 doctors and one nurse in Sindh; six doctors, two nurses and one paramedic in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa; four d.....[view more](#)

Budget 2020-21: Cutting expenses in pandemic

Source: [Dr Manzoor Ahmad, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD: The recently released Economic Survey and the budget document present a rather worrying picture. Unfortunately, with a few exceptions, legislators and opinion-makers are not dealing with the matter constructively and the usual point-scoring game is being played. The elite is using the chaotic conditions to benefit themselves to the extent they can. For the first time in the past 68 years, Pakistan's gross domestic product[view more](#)

Covid-19's name explained in 200 words

Source: [Social Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

After Climate Change Minister Zartaj Gulpurported that Covid-19 means that the virus has 19 points that can be applied to countries based on respective immunity levels, The Express Tribune looked to put such claim to rest once and for all. What does it stand for? Covid-19 is an acronym for coronavirus disease 2019 that was given by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the disease caused by coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Viruses and the diseases they.....[view more](#)

Guidelines for people above 50 years issued ;Zafar says wearing masks mandatory

Source: [Ali Hussain, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD: The government on Sunday made it mandatory for the people to wear masks at public and crowded places, and also issued guidelines for people above 50 years of age who constitute 72 percent of those 3501 so far lost their lives due to Covid-19 in the country. In the last 24 hours, 4951 new cases of coronavirus were reported, taking the total confirmed cases in Pakistan to 168,798 with 119 new deaths. Speaking at a news conferen.....[view more](#)

Pakistan reports 4,471 cases of COVID-19 in a day

Source: [Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

Pakistan has confirmed 89 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 181,088. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 3,590. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 4,471 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh has become the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.....[view more](#)

Pakistan self sufficient in manufacturing PPE: Dr Zafar

Source: [APP, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Zafar Mirza Sunday said Pakistan was self-sufficient in manufacturing the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to contain the coronavirus outbreak. Talking to a private news channel, he said a research was conducted by national institutions that wearing masks would help to protect themselves up to 50 percent from the COVID-19. He stressed the need to adopt and[view more](#)

Implementation of SOPs crucial to contain spread of COVID-19

Source: [APP, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD - Amid the growing number of COVID-19 cases in Pakistan, only strictly adhering to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) can help protect the masses from coronavirus infection. Pakistan as a responsible member of the world community has taken bold and timely steps to impose restrictions on public gatherings, social

and political activities, educational institutions and public transport operations to reduce the risk of coronavirus spre.....[view more](#)

DRAP allows import, manufacturing of Remdesivir

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD - Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Sunday issued registration letters for import and manufacturing of Remdesivir. According to spokesman Ministry of National Health Services, on increasing demand, approvals are issued to two importers and 14 local manufacturers. He said that Remdesivir is used on consultant's advice for critically ill patients of COVID-19. He added Remdesivir was approved for emergency use[view more](#)

Envoy emphasises IT use to promote Pak-Canada trade amidst COVID-19

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD - Pak-istan's High Commissioner to Canada Raza Bashir Tarar Saturday said keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic, the business and trade between Pakistan and Canada could be promoted well by taking the advantage of the information technology. The high commissioner said use of IT would mitigate the economic fallout from this pandemic, said a news release received here. He emphasized that Pakistani entrepreneurs to look into the area.....[view more](#)

Locals of Murree struggle to find work amid corona

Source: [Kasim Abbasi](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD -The popular hills of Murree, where long queues of jammed traffic were once seen and no spare room was left in any of the hotels at this time of the year, is all lonely and seems to be struggling throughout this corona episode. Murree is famous among locals and foreigners alike who witness the natural beauty as well as the perfect weather conditions for adventures and travelling. Tourism was, therefore, a big opportunity for local.....[view more](#)

Tips for protection of elderly

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

Islamabad : Of the 3,500 people who have died of Covid-19 in Pakistan, 72% (three-fourth of the total) were above the age of 50 years, while 73% (three quarters of the total) were suffering from co-morbid conditions, especially chronic illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. It is therefore critical to practice enhanced precautions to prevent and control Covid-19 outbreaks in this specific segment of the vulnerable po.....[view more](#)

SCCI president tests positive for corona

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

PESHAWAR: President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Engr Maqsood Anwar Pervaiz has tested positive for coronavirus. A spokesman for the chamber on Friday confirmed that the SCCI chief had quarantined himself at his residence after receiving a positive COVID-19 test report. Shahid Hussain and Abdul Jalil Jan, senior vice president and vice president of the Chamber, will deal with routine affairs of the chamber in abse.....[view more](#)

159 corona patients recover in Abbottabad

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

ABBOTTABAD: About 159 patients have been fully recovered in last two days in Abbottabad, an official said on Friday. Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Mughees Sanaullah said that 76 corona positive patients have recovered in Abbottabad on Friday while 83 patients had recovered on Thursday. He told that although the number of corona positive cases had increased, the recovery has also been increasing. He further said that 410 patients out of total 863.....[view more](#)

SCCI vows to ensure smart lockdown implementation

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has assured the commissioner Peshawar of the cooperation of the business community in implementing the smart lockdown. The assurance was held out by a delegation of the SCCI that held a meeting with Commissioner Peshawar Amjad Ali Khan here on Friday. The delegation was led by SCCI vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, former presidents Riaz Arshad, Haji Muhammad Afzal and Javed Akhta.....[view more](#)

Corona kills 3 more in Swat

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

MINGORA: Three more persons died of coronavirus in different areas of the Swat district on Saturday. With the latest fatalities, the number of Covid-19 victims jumped to 79 in Swat since the outbreak of fast-spreading viral disease in the country. Officials said that 65 more suspected patients tested positive for the coronavirus disease, raising the number of infected persons to 2,056. They appealed people to follow standard operating procedures[view more](#)

21 more contract corona in Mardan

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

MARDAN: As many as twenty-one more people tested positive for coronavirus in the district on Saturday, raising the number of confirmed cases to 945 so far. Also, 21 patients recovered in the district within 24 hours till yesterday, health sources said. A total of 4, 015 tests have been conducted in the district so far and the test reports of 2,494 people came back negative. So far, 48 people have died of coronavirus in Mardan. Meanwhile,[view more](#)

Minister calls for adopting corona precautionary measures

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

MANSEHRA: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Azam Khan Swati has said that soaring cases of coronavirus in Hazara, particularly in Mansehra, were alarming for the people. "Mansehra has witnessed a high number of deaths

caused by Covid-19 in recent weeks, which is alarming for locals and could trigger more and more cases of pandemic if people doesn't adopt precautions," Swati told a group of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers[view more](#)

Crisis in the making: Pandemic pressure leaves K-P's mothers, children in the lurch

Source: [Wisal Yousafzai](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

PESHAWAR: As the novel coronavirus pandemic continues to overwhelm the country's healthcare system, authorities and medical professionals find themselves making increasingly difficult calls on where, when and how to provide medical care. Even so, it is important that any response to this crisis take into account other essential health services, like those concerning reproductive health. Already, Covid-19 has placed women and other vul.....[view more](#)

Steps on for strengthening health sector, says CM Mahmood Khan

Source: [Bureau Report](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Sunday said strengthening of health infrastructure in the province to effectively deal with Covid-19 was a priority of the provincial government. "Result-oriented steps are being taken under a strategy to augment the overall capacities of the public sector hospitals," an official communique quoted him as saying. He added that the provincial government was working to turn the challenges[view more](#)

Five more areas locked down in Nowshera over COVID-19 spread

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

NOWSHERA: The administration on Sunday locked down five more areas of the Nowshera district due to coronavirus spread, officials said. DHO Gul Man Shah and DMS of the Qazi Medical Centre (QMC) Dr Zahid Khan said a total of eight areas have been sealed so far to contain the Covid-19 transmission. Among the areas placed under lockdown were Mohallah Zarikhel, Azakhel Payan, Hakeemabad in Mehak Colony, Qasim Kilay in Taru Jabba, Armour's Colo.....[view more](#)

'Smart lockdowns' take effect in over 400 areas across K-P

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

PESHAWAR: In an effort to bring down the escalating number of novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases, over 400 areas across the province have been put under the smart lockdown. This was disclosed by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister's Adviser on Information and Public Relations Ajmal Wazir on Sunday. Briefing the media on the current coronavirus situation in the province, he said that 553 new cases of the virus were confirmed on Su.....[view more](#)

Strengthening health sector KP government's top priority: CM

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

PESHAWAR - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Sunday said that strengthening of health infrastructure in the province in order to enable it to effectively deal with the challenge of COVID-19 has been the top priority of the provincial government and the result-oriented steps are being taken under a well planned strategy to augment the overall capacities of the public sector hospitals. He said the government was working t.....[view more](#)

Punjab

Positive cases from twin cities on continuous rise

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

Rawalpindi : The number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi is on a continuous rise and its contribution to the national tally is also increasing as every 12th patient being confirmed positive from Pakistan is a resident of twin cities and every 11th death caused by COVID-19 in the country has been reported from the region. Till June 7, every 13th patient and.....[view more](#)

Different localities disinfected

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

Rawalpindi : Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) Friday conducted disinfectant spray in different areas of the district to contain the spread of coronavirus . According to the RWMC spokesperson, the disinfectant squad carried out mechanical sweeping and special washing operation at major/minor roads, streets, mosques, shops, bus stops at Kahuta, Murree, Kallar Saydian so that the spread of the pandemic could be overcome. Moreover,.....[view more](#)

62 of 204 ventilators free in Lahore hospitals

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

LAHORE:On the directives from Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Secretary Nabeel Ahmed Awan Friday released the data and statistics of treatment and available facilities in the government teaching hospitals of the province. According to the data, 4,884 patients have recovered in the 46 teaching hospitals of Punjab government and they have gone home. In entire Punjab 211 ventilators are available.....[view more](#)

SOPs ready for Eidul Aza, says Dr Yasmin Yasmin

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

LAHORE:Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Friday the government would soon introduce special SOPs for Eidul Aza to contain the spread of coronavirus in the country. While talking to a private news channel, she said that in the next week she would share the SOPs for Eid celebration with the masses to keep them safe amid the corona pandemic. The lockdown will further create problems for the masses as daily wagers and poor segments.....[view more](#)

Rs45m set aside for Islamabad police PPE in Covid battle not utilised

Source: [Saleh Mughal](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

RAWALPINDI: At least Rs45 million out of the total funds worth Rs72 million provided for purchasing protective gear for Punjab Police have not been utilised yet despite the alarming Covid-19 situation in the province. Personnel of the provincial police who have been at the forefront in the efforts against the coronavirus are at a greater risk of contracting the virus. The Express Tribune has learnt that constables and inspectors of police[view more](#)

'Section 144 needed to curb shortage of medical oxygen'

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

LAHORE: Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department has recommended imposition of section 144 to curb artificial shortage of oxygen-related medical equipment including cylinders and profiteering from medical supplies

in the province. A notification in this regard will soon be issued by the provincial home department. According to department officials, the price of oxygen cylinders and other essential medical devices has been increas.....[view more](#)

Businessmen demand swift steps to avert crisis

Source: [Imran Rana](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

FAISALABAD: The liquidity position of textile exporters has received a severe blow from the Covid-19 pandemic and the government should announce immediate measures to save businessmen from a looming financial crisis, said Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) Chairman Sohail Pasha. In a post-budget statement on Friday, Pasha highlighted core demands of textile exporters, saying their liquidity position was earlier dented by the with.....[view more](#)

Violation of SOPs in public transport goes unchecked

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

Rawalpindi : The public transport service in twin cities is posing a serious threat to the residents due to non-compliance of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), as social distancing for prevention of coronavirus pandemic is openly violated despite strict warnings by the government. The government on the condition of strict adoption of all the precautionary measures had allowed the transporters to start the transport system but it is ob.....[view more](#)

85.7pc of 161 who died of virus were 50, over 70 years

Source: [Ali Raza](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

LAHORE : As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to takes its toll across the country, 85.71 per cent of 161 people, who died of the virus from March till date in Lahore, were between the age group of 50 and above 70 years. According to data of burial of confirmed corona patients by Rescue 1122, elderly people in the provincial metropolis are at a greatest risk of the infection, serious illness and death. The data revealed that a total of 161[view more](#)

Hoarding of oxygen cylinders banned

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

LAHORE : The Punjab Home Department has imposed Section 144 for a period of two months in an effort to stop hoarding of oxygen cylinders in the province. According to details, on the recommendation of Primary and Secondary HealthCare Department, Punjab Home Department enforced Section 144 against hoarding of oxygen cylinders, regulators, concentrators, pulse oximeters and illegal profiteering. The Home Department has issued a notification.....[view more](#)

Virus claims another 4 lives, 429 test positive in twin cities

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

Rawalpindi : Almost all public sector hospitals including the three allied hospitals in town have been engaged in dealing with coronavirus illness cases though District Headquarters Hospital has allocated the least number of beds, 19 for accommodating COVID-19 patients. Earlier, it was planned that designated healthcare facilities including Corona Management Centre at Rawalpindi Institute of Urology and Benazir Bhutto Hospital would accom.....[view more](#)

Covid patients avoid hospital in Punjab

Source: [Imran Adnan](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

LAHORE: At least six people have fallen victim to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in a locality of Township during the past couple of weeks owing to the growing fear of hospitals among the citizens, The Express Tribune learnt on Saturday. Family members and locals of the neighbourhood highlighted that most of the victims had some previous disease history and they breathed their last fighting a cardiac or respiratory disorder. Sheikh Manna.....[view more](#)

82 deaths, 2,538 fresh cases reported in Punjab

Source: [Muhammad Saleem](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

LAHORE: With 2,538 fresh cases across the province in the last 24 hours, Punjab has reported a record 82 fatalities in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll from the novel coronavirus to 1,347. According to government's Covid-19 portal, with the addition of 2,538 new cases, the total number of corona cases across the province has reached 64,216 till the filing of this report on Saturday. As per data made available to Business R.....[view more](#)

Sarwar, Buzdar agree on making anti-Covid-19 steps more effective

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar and Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar in a meeting here on Saturday decided to make government measures against coronavirus more effective and also agreed to continue working together for the development and prosperity of the province as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. In the meeting, both leaders discussed political and governmental affairs of Punjab as well as steps being taken.....[view more](#)

Seven bus, vagon stands sealed over violation of SOPs

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

MULTAN - District administration teams have raided at general bus stands and sealed seven stands of transport companies over violation of Covid-19 standard operating procedure (SOPs). The operation was carried out in supervision of administrator General bus stand Kamran Bukhari, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Aamer Khattak while civil defence force also participated. The offices of bus companies were also sealed. The companies'.....[view more](#)

Pandemic claims 4 more lives

Source: [Muhammad Qasim](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

Rawalpindi : Another four confirmed patients of the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19 lost their lives here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 311 while as many as 441 new patients have been tested positive for the illness in the twin cities taking total number of confirmed patients so far reported from the region to 15298 on Sunday. According to district health d.....[view more](#)

Chaudhry Shujaat seeks divine help against virus

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Q President and former Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has prayed to Almighty Allah that Ya Allah! forgive our sins and have mercy on us. He prayed to Almighty Allah sobbing and crying on the occasion of solar eclipse on Sunday saying "You are the real owner of the land, sky and ruler, there is no doubt that Corona and other pandemics are due to our sins, Almighty Allah! You have rightly stated[view more](#)

Hospitals for overcharging

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

LAHORE :The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) issued notices to eight private hospitals for charging more rates from Covid-19 patients which are beyond the frozen charges of February 2020. Six hospitals in Lahore were issued notices. They are Ittefaq Hospital, Fatima Memorial Hospital, Akram Medical Complex, Masood Hospital, Lahore Care Hospital and Avicenna Hospital. Two hospital in Multan were issued notices. They are Bakhtawar[view more](#)

Former health minister infected with virus

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

Former Punjab Health Minister and Chief Minister's Task Force Chairman Dr Tahir Ali Javed has been diagnosed with Covid-19 and admitted to Jinnah Hospital, Lahore, with acute breathing difficulty, according to a press release issued here on Sunday. Having served in the cabinet of the then Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi as Punjab's health minister from 2002-07, Dr Tahir Ali Javed, during his stint, successfully combated the Seve.....[view more](#)

Need for establishing new trade centres in region stressed

Source: [Muhammad Saleem, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

LAHORE: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, while reiterating that Pakistan desires peaceful relations with all the neighbouring countries for peace and stability in the region, underlined the need for establishing new trade centres in the region to strengthen economic and trade relations. Qureshi also reiterated Pakistan's readiness to enhance cooperation among member countries and development partners in the health sector, with pa.....[view more](#)

1,812 shops sealed, 714 FIRs registered over violation of SOPs

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

LAHORE: The city district government with the assistance of police has, so far, sealed 1,812 shops and registered 714 first information reports (FIRs) for violating Punjab government's issued guidelines to contain the spread of novel coronavirus. "We have, so far, registered 714 FIRs and sealed 1,812 shops during the last 15 days for violating the Punjab government's issued corona SOPs. At the same time, the police also che.....[view more](#)

Supply of drugs at reason ; Punjab decides to take strict measuresable prices

Source: [Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

LAHORE: Punjab government has decided to take stringent measures to ensure the supply and availability of essential drugs at reasonable prices across the province The decision was taken in a meeting held at Chief Secretary Punjab Camp office which was jointly presided over by Provincial Minister for Industries Mian Aslam Iqbal and Chief Secretary Punjab Jawwad Rafique Malik It was decided to start a crackdown on those involved in black-.....[view more](#)

PHC issues notices to eight hospitals for overcharging Covid-19 patients

Source: [Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

LAHORE - The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) has issued notices to eight private hospitals for charging more rates from Covid-19 patients, which are beyond the frozen charges of February 2020. These hospitals include six – Ittefaq Hospital, Fatima Memorial Hospital, Akram Medical Complex, Masood Hospital, Lahore Care Hospital and Avicenna Hospital – of the city, and two from Multan that is, Bakhtawar Amin Trust and Medica.....[view more](#)

60 more die of corona in Punjab, tally at 1,407

Source: [Iqtidar Gilani, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

LAHORE - As many as 60 more COVID-19 patients died in Punjab on Sunday, taking the death toll to 1,407. At the same time, as many as 1,523 new cases were also reported from across the province, raising the number of COVID-19 patients in the province to 65,739. Meanwhile, former Punjab health minister Dr Tahir Ali Javaid was admitted to Jinnah Hospital on Sunday following deterioration in his health conditions. He was tested p.....[view more](#)

Honoraria announced for frontline soldiers in pandemic

Source: [Iqtidar Gilani, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

LAHORE - Punjab government has announced per month pay package including rate of honorarium, in lieu of Corona Risk Allowance, for the healthcare staff hired in consultancy mode on lump sum package to perform duties for Covid-19 patients in healthcare facilities. The Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department has issued the notification in this regard. According to the category-wise detail of per month pay package and honorar.....[view more](#)

GCU organises webinar on psychological impacts of COVID-19 on academia

Source: [Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

LAHORE -LAHORE - Academic Staff Association (ASA) of the Government College University (GCU), on Sunday, organized a webinar titled "The Psychological Impacts of COVID-19 on Academia". Prof Dr Aneeq Ahmed (Head, Department of Psychology, Henderson State University) gave a lecture as a guest speaker. GCU Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi presided the occasion. A huge number of faculty members and students attended the webinar[view more](#)

Sindh

Sindh's COVID-19 death toll crosses 1,000 mark as 49 more die in a single day

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti, The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

As many as 49 people lost their lives in Sindh due to COVID-19 during the last 24 hours, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Friday, adding that now the death toll due to the viral disease in the province had crossed the 1,000 mark and stood at 1,013. "We have witnessed the highest number of deaths in a single day during the last 24 hours when 49 people died in the province since yesterday. Most of these people lost their lives in K.....[view more](#)

Smart lockdown remains patchy on second day of enforcement in affected areas

Source: [Oonib Azam, The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

On the second day of the smart lockdown on Friday, the markets in the areas marked as novel coronavirus hotspots remained opened, while public transport, including rickshaws and taxis, remained functional. However, by 9pm the police sprang into action and closed a few shops. As per the Sindh Home Department's notification, the markets of the city are supposed to be closed by 7pm. However, until late in the night not only the markets.....[view more](#)

Movement unabated in Karachi sealed areas

Source: [Sameer Mandhro, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

KARACHI: The local administration appears, by and large, to have failed to enforce the smart lockdown in areas identified as coronavirus hotspots in Karachi. The lockdown was brought into place on Thursday evening, with the

identified localities to be sealed for two weeks, but the very next day, shops remained open in most of these areas. While some police officials were witnessed asking for the identity cards of those entering and leaving[view more](#)

Lack of planning leaves students in limbo

Source: [Safdar Rizvi](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

KARACHI: The spread of Covid-19 has eliminated the possibility for students to graduate from public and private colleges in Karachi and pursue master's degrees because of a sheer lack of planning on part of the authorities. Even after almost four months, the University of Karachi (KU) deans' committee has not been able to come up with a plan for the completion of different examinations which were halted midway due to the lockdown.[view more](#)

49 more patients die, 2,894 new cases of corona detected: CM Sindh

Source: [Our Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that coronavirus claimed 49 more lives and infected another 2894 people over night. "The death toll stemming from coronavirus crossing the figure of 1000 has reached to 1013 and the number COVID-19 infected people has come to 65163," This he said in a statement issued here from CM House on Friday. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 13642 tests, the highest in Pakistan, were[view more](#)

New 2,894 Covid-19 cases detected in Sindh: CM

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that coronavirus claimed 49 more lives and infected another 2894 people over night. "The death toll stemming from coronavirus crossing the figure of 1000 has reached to 1013 and the number Covid-19 infected people has come to 65,163," this he said in a statement issued here from CM House on Friday. Shah said that 13,642 tests, the highest in Pakistan, were conducted[view more](#)

As 35 more succumb to COVID-19, Sindh's death toll hits 1,048

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

Thirty-five more people, including nine women, have died due to COVID-19 and another 2,190 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease in the province reaching 1,048. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Saturday that 31 of the latest victims have died in Karachi alone. Shah said that 10,830 samples were tested in the p.....[view more](#)

SHC repeats notices on plea for 25pc concession to senior citizens during treatment at private facilities

Source: [Jamal Khurshid](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

The Sindh High Court (SHC) has repeated notices to the provincial social welfare and health departments and the council of welfare of senior citizens on a petition seeking enforcement of a law providing a 25 per cent concession to the senior citizens during medical treatment at private hospitals. The petitioner, the Legal Aid Society, had submitted in the petition that the Sindh Senior Citizens Welfare Act was promulgated in 2014 and its[view more](#)

Barrister Murtaza Wahab diagnosed with COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

Sindh government spokesman Barrister Murtaza Wahab, who is also Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah's adviser on law and environment, tested positive for COVID-19 on Saturday. According to Wahab, he is observing self-isolation

at home. He termed the condition of his health as being satisfactory. He said that he had decided to get tested for the novel coronavirus after he developed a sore throat. He has requested his friends, colleagues and[view more](#)

Speaker warns of holding completely virtual budget session if SOPs violation continues

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Khan Durrani has warned that he will be left with no option other than to hold the proceedings of the current budget session of the house all virtually through video conferencing if the protesting opposition lawmakers in the PA did not observe the standard operating procedures (SOPs) against the spread of COVID-19. The warning to his effect came on Saturday as the speaker was chairing the session of the p.....[view more](#)

New COVID-19 SOP issues fresh warning against laying off industrial workers

Source: [Salis Bin Perwaiz](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

The Sindh government, in view of a rapid increase in the transmission of the coronavirus in the province, has issued a new standard operating procedure (SOP) with intimation to the industrial sector that no employees or workers “shall be laid off”. The notification issued on Saturday reads, “In pursuance of the order dated April 14, 2020 issued by the Home Department, Government of Sindh, and in the wake of the rapid inc.....[view more](#)

A message from frontline women healthcare professionals on COVID-19 pandemic

Source: [news Desk](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

We, the frontline women healthcare workers, medical students, nurses and doctors of Pakistan, want to share our expert opinion about the COVID-19 pandemic, says a letter issued recently by the Strong Women in Medicine and Healthcare of Pakistan. The letter says: “In our role as women in science, we are making these recommendations for the public as well as policymakers and government. For all Pakistanis who are struggling financially and e.....[view more](#)

Experts call for 14-day complete lockdown in entire country to contain COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

Doctors, professionals, and civil society activists have underlined the need for imposing a complete lockdown in the entire country for at least 14 days to contain the spread of COVID-19. Speaking at a webinar jointly organised by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiative (CPDI) and The Change Organisation on Friday, the speakers asked the people to strictly follow the government instructions regarding the smart lockdown and wear ma.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 wards set up for health workers, inmates in Sindh

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

KARACHI: With Sindh’s coronavirus tally continuing to soar day by day, two separate Covid-19 wards have been set up for infected healthcare workers and prisoners at Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK). A 10-bed ward was established for medical professionals working in different hospitals on Saturday, while another eight-bedded Covid-19 ward was set up for prisoners who have contracted the contagious disease. CHK medical superin.....[view more](#)

Sindh sees 2190 new Covid-19 cases, 35 deaths: CM

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

KARACHI: As many as 2190 new positive cases of Covid-19 emerged while 35 more critical patients died over night lifting the tally to 76353 and death toll to 1048. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah stated in a press statement issued here from the CM House. According to the statement, 10830 samples were tested which found 2190 positive cases that comes to 20.2 percent result. So far 364959 tests have been conducted against which 67.....[view more](#)

Minister requests people to restrict movement in areas under lockdown

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Local Government, Housing & Town Planning, Religious Affairs, Forest and Wildlife Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has requested the public to restrict movement in the areas where lockdown had been imposed and extend full cooperation to police and security personnel. He said that it was very important for the people to follow the government's defined standard operat.....[view more](#)

2,190 new cases reported during last 24 hours, says CM Sindh

Source: [APP](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-21

KARACHI - As many as 2,190 cases of the coronavirus were reported from Sindh during the last 24 hours while 35 more patients died overnight, lifting the number of patients to 76,353 and the death toll to 1,048. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in a press statement issued here from the CM House on Saturday. According to the statement, 10,830 samples were tested which led to the detection of 2,190 fresh cases.[view more](#)

140-bed HDU inaugurated at Expo Centre as 41 more die of COVID-19

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday inaugurated a newly established high-dependency unit (HDU) at the Expo Centre field isolation facility as another 41 people succumbed to COVID-19, raising the province's death toll due to the novel coronavirus infection to 1,089. "The establishment of this HDU is the manifestation of our commitment to further enhance and strengthen provincial health services so that no COVID-1.....[view more](#)

COVID-19 killed 182 asymptomatic patients at home in Sindh in three months

Source: [M Waqar Bhatti](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

Asymptomatic COVID-19 patients continue to die silently in their homes in Sindh, with 182 people having mild symptoms or none at all, who were advised to self-isolate at home, have died in the past three months before being able to reach a health facility, The News has learnt. "These patients had been asked to stay at home for at least two weeks so that they could not infect healthy people on the streets," an official of the Sindh go.....[view more](#)

Why Shehbaz Sharif should be in jail?Healthcare workers announce protest outside CM House today

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

After continuing its protests for more than two weeks in all the government-run hospitals and outside the Karachi Press Club (KPC), the Grand Health Alliance (GHA) has decided to organise a protest march from the KPC to the Chief Minister House in Karachi today (Monday). The GHA is a provincial-level alliance of various bodies of doctors, nurses and paramedics that has been organising protests across the province, including Karachi, Hyderabad, S.....[view more](#)

KMC-run kidney institute all set for dialysis of COVID-19 patients

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

The Karachi Institute of Kidney Diseases (KIKD), which operates under the administrative control of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), has completed all arrangements to perform dialysis of COVID-19 patients. Metropolitan Commissioner Dr Syed Saif ur Rehman was informed on Sunday that the KIKD had been equipped with all facilities for the dialysis of COVID-19 patients. During his visit to the kidney institute, Rehman was briefed[view more](#)

Black swan and investment strategy in a Covid-19 world

Source: [Syed Ali Sajjad](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

KARACHI: The Covid-19 pandemic has shaken the world to its core. It has shown the mirror to the spirit of globalisation. It has made evident the level and degree of interdependence that the world has developed over time. The hustle and bustle of modern life has been brought to a forceful halt. People are forced to ponder their own existence. With all this, we must draw valuable lessons from an intellectual who had highlighted the possibilit.....[view more](#)

Bilal Maqsood tests positive for coronavirus

Source: [Entertainment Desk](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

Popular singer Bilal Maqsood has tested positive for Covid-19, the singer shared on social media on Sunday. Strings vocalist and the bass player took to Instagram as he was conducting a Q&A session with fans. Bilal was responding to a query by a fan, who was inquiring about Anwar Maqsood and their whole family. TheMera Bichra Yaarcrooner revealed that he has contracted coronavirus but the rest of the family is doing well. We wish him a.....[view more](#)

'Pakistan faces shortage of 500 intensivists'

Source: [PPI](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

KARACHI: Governments in the past paid no attention to producing critical care experts to meet the country's requirements, leading to an acute shortage of intensivists during the pandemic, stated Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) president Dr Mirza Ali Azhar on Sunday. Talking to PPI, he revealed that less than 100 intensivists were currently available in the country, which requires 500 more such specialists to properly treat coronavi.....[view more](#)

High dependency unit set up at Expo Centre in Karachi

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated the newly-established 140-bed high dependency unit (HDU) at the Expo Centre isolation facility for coronavirus patients on Sunday. The HDU has been established in collaboration with the Pakistan Army. The move comes amid reports of shortage of space in HDUs and ICUs of the hospitals catering to Covid-19 patients across the city, with several people claiming to have been turned aw.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 ; New 2275 cases, 41 deaths reported: CM

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that overnight 13,890 Covid-19 samples were tested which diagnosed 2275 cases constituting 17 percent result while 41 more patient succumbed to the virus lifting the death

toll to 1089. “Our testing capacity is the highest in Pakistan and we are still working hard to further enhance the capacity.” This he said in a statement issued here from the CM House on Sunday. Accor.....[view more](#)

Murad opens 140-bedded HDU

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while inaugurating newly established High Dependency Unit (HDU) at Expo Field Hospital said that it was the manifestation of his commitment to further enhance and strengthen provincial health services so that no Covid-19 patient remained unattended. The HDU, Field hospital at the Expo Karachi has been established in collaboration with Pakistan Army. The inauguration ceremony was attended by M.....[view more](#)

Covid-19 patients; Institute of Kidney Diseases to provide dialysis facilities

Source: [Recorder Report](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

KARACHI: Karachi Institute of Kidney Diseases under administrative control of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has completed arrangements for providing dialysis facilities to Covid-19 patients in a few days. During his visit to the Karachi Institute of Kidney Diseases, metropolitan Commissioner Dr Syed Saif ur Rehman was told that the institute would be performing dialysis of 16 patients through its four machines on daily basis as[view more](#)

Virus-hit areas under lockdown for 10 days

Source: [Staff Reporter](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

MIRPURKHAS - On the recommendations of district health office (DHO), the district administration has decided to put those areas, where the number of coronavirus cases are on the rise, under strict lockdown for a period of 10 days. Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas Zahid Hussain Memon on Sunday ordered sealing of areas of the Municipal Committee Limit PM Colony, Ayub Nagar and Adam Town (ward no 20 and ward no 23) for ten days from midnight of June[view more](#)

International News

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WHO donates three machines for corona tests

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-20

LAHORE: The World Health Organization (WHO) has donated three PCR machines to Punjab government for enhancing its testing capacity for coronavirus in the province. "With the addition of these PCR machines, Punjab will be able to scale up testing capacity from 2,500 to 3,000 tests," said Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala, WHO country director, during a meeting with Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid at the Specialised Healthcare and M.....[view more](#)

WHO warns world in 'new and dangerous phase' of pandemic

Source: [AFP](#), [Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-20

GENEVA: The World Health Organization warned Friday of a "new and dangerous phase" of the coronavirus pandemic with people tiring of lockdowns despite the disease's accelerating spread. The warning came as it emerged the virus was present in Italy in December, months before its first confirmed cases and about the same time as the disease was first reported in China. The virus, which has now killed more than 454,000 peo.....[view more](#)

Covid-19: IMF deploys \$25 bn emergency financing for 70 countries

Source: [XINHUA](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-22

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said it is expected to deploy emergency financing for 70 countries as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to ripple across the globe. IMF spokesperson Gerry Rice said at a virtual press briefing that "We expect that number to be 70, so 70 countries supported by the IMF with emergency financing roughly about \$25 billion." "This emergency financing is very fast-disbursing, cou.....[view more](#)

SDPI Engagements

Researchers Articles

Neither a pandemic nor a growth-budget

Source: [Sajid Amin Javed](#), [The News, International](#), 2020-06-21

In Pakistan, June is known for hot summers and budgets. Given the pandemic, the budget for financial year 2020-21 is critical. Budgets in such times aim to protect people from socioeconomic fallout of the pandemic and support economic recovery. The government needs to prioritise people over economy and aim for social spending. Budget 2021 does not seem very promising in terms of mitigating the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic and driving eco.....[view more](#)

Dealing with debt amid pandemic in Pakistan

Source: [Hania Shah](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-06-22

ISLAMABAD: Back in 2000 Pakistan was confronted with severe debt crises, yet it sustained through its debt obligations with the help of a \$12 billion debt rescheduling from Paris Club for a period of 28 to 38 years. One of the important factors that played a huge role in rescuing Pakistan's economy was its geographical location. The War on Terror despite its huge opportunity cost for US and Pakistan, also helped the latter's det.....[view more](#)

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