



## E-Newsletter on **COVID - 19**



Issue: May 10, 2020  
Vol. 1, No, 5, May 2020

### .....About Newsletter

*In order to keep abreast of emerging issues at the National/International and local level, the SDPI brings out a Daily E-Newsletter on "COVID-19". It carries reference information's to the News items/Comments/Op-Eds appearing in leading National/International dailies.*

## Diseases

### **Sindh reports over 1,000 Covid-19 cases in a day**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 28,744, with 10,471 cases reported in Punjab, 10,771 in Sindh, 4,509 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,935 in Balochistan, 421 in Gilgit Baltistan, 609 in Islamabad and 87 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 636 lives while some 7,756 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. Sindh recorded 1,080 new coronavirus cases over the past .....

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### **Punjab develops app to indicate availability of beds, ventilators**

Source: [Staff Report](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) was informed on Saturday that the Punjab government has developed a mobile application to indicate bed occupancy and availability of ventilators in each and every hospital of the province. The application will help the officials of Rescue 1122 track the beds and ventilators' availability in every district of the province, Punjab Health Ministe.....[more >>](#)

### **Punjab, KP to relax lockdown restrictions for four days a week**

Source: [News Report](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz Chohan Saturday said Punjab will witness a complete lockdown on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays while restrictions will be relaxed in three other working days of the week, when all shops and markets will remain open with proper implementation of all the Sops. "Big plazas and shopping centres will, however, remain closed for seven days," he told media he.....

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### **PM regrets 'maltreatment' of Covid-19 patients at hospitals**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Prime Minister Imran Khan, while emphasizing the importance of a robust public awareness campaign over the recent coronavirus situation, on Saturday observed that being responsible citizens, they must take care of coronavirus patients with greater responsibility. Chairing a meeting of National Health Task Force, the prime minister expressed his regret over reports regarding maltreatment of coronavi.....

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### **Karachi woman with Covid-19 gives birth; baby tests negative**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

In the second case of its kind in Karachi, a woman who was diagnosed with Covid-19 last week gave birth to a healthy baby boy on Saturday, and the baby has initially tested negative for the virus, officials said. The 35-year-old mother was registered with the hospital at Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) Ojha campus. She was tested for the virus after she started showing symptoms last week.A.....

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### **Life-threatening extreme heat set to trap millions indoors by 2060**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Extreme heat and humidity are increasing across the globe, threatening millions of lives and economies in places where it could become fatal to work outdoors, scientists said on Friday. Parts of Australia, India, Bangladesh, the Persian Gulf, China, Mexico and the United States have experienced hundreds of previously rare incidents of extreme heat and humidity since 1979, said the study in the jour.....

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### **WHO readies coronavirus app for checking symptoms, possibly contact tracing**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

The World Health Organization (WHO) plans to launch an app this month to enable people in under-resourced countries to assess whether they may have the novel coronavirus, and is considering a Bluetooth-based contact tracing feature too, an official told Reuters on Friday. The app will ask people about their symptoms and offer guidance on whether they may have COVID-19, the potentially lethal illne.....

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### **Turkish doctors turn detectives to track virus**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

In full protective gear, two doctors climb the stairs four at a time. Their first task of the day: to test a woman who has had contact with a coronavirus patient in Istanbul. Visibly perturbed by the appearance of men in white bodysuits on

her landing, the resident in the populous Fatih district answers their questions before she is tested. She will get her results the next day. In Turkey, nearly 6,000.....

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### **Pakistanis crowd markets as virus lockdown eased**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Pakistanis crowded markets on Saturday after a nationwide coronavirus lockdown was eased, despite the country declaring its second highest daily infection toll. Prime Minister Imran Khan has allowed businesses to reopen in phases from the weekend, citing the economic havoc the virus restrictions have wreaked on the improvised nation. In the garrison city of Rawalpindi, thousands of shoppers were pre.....

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### **Working women, and especially single moms, are hit hard by coronavirus downturn**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Before she was laid off from her bartending job in Charleston, South Carolina, Shana Swain used to spend her nights serving food and mixing Manhattans and Cosmopolitans. Now Swain, 40, spends her evenings having dinner with her girls, age 5 and 8, and studying for her real-estate license, which she hopes will provide more long-term stability for her family after the coronavirus crisis upended her life.....

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### **New York's Guardian Angels zero in on coronavirus crisis**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Wearing a military-style red beret with matching sateen bomber jacket, volunteer crime fighter Arnaldo Salinas patrols a New York neighborhood experiencing a spike in burglaries during the coronavirus shutdown. Salinas is a member of the Guardian Angels, an unarmed group that has been performing citizens' arrests for over four decades and is adapting to the needs of today. "If we see som.....

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### **New Mexico town near vast US reservation shuts everyone out**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Like clockwork, payday arrives and tens of thousands of people from the Navajo reservation and other rural stretches along the New Mexico-Arizona border flood into Gallup, a freewheeling desert oasis of just 22,000 that can quickly quadruple in size with all the visitors. Not now. As the modern-day trading post reels under a coronavirus outbreak that has infected more than 1,400 and killed 31 in the.....

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### **Remembering humanity's triumph over a virus, 40 years on**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

As scientists scramble for a COVID-19 cure and vaccine, the world on Friday marked a pertinent anniversary: humanity's only true triumph over an infectious disease with its eradication of smallpox four decades ago. On May 8, 1980, representatives of all World Health Organization member states gathered in Geneva and officially declared that the smallpox-causing variola virus had been relegated.....

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### **Thailand reports four new coronavirus cases, one new death**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Thailand reported four new coronavirus cases and one more death on Saturday, bringing the total to 3,004 cases and 56 deaths since the outbreak started in January. A 68-year-old man from Bangkok died, said Taweessin Wisanuyothin, spokesman for the government's Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration. Of the new cases, two are from the southern province of Yala, where the authorities are ag.....

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### **Program that collects devices for COVID-19 patients expands**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

It's one of the many cruelties of the pandemic: Many people hospitalized with COVID-19 are cut off from loved ones who are not allowed to visit them, for fear of the disease spreading. Kaya Suner came up with a solution. The 19-year-old Rhode Island man figured out a way to recycle used smartphones and tablets, getting them into the hands of patients suffering from the virus so they can commun.....

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### **'Every parent's nightmare': Boy's death may have virus link**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

A 5-year-old boy has died of a rare inflammatory condition possibly linked to COVID-19, the first such death in New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Friday. Also, some New York City parks will see stepped-up policing to stem the spread of the coronavirus, Mayor Bill de Blasio said. And 2,500 members of a "test and trace corps" will be in place by early June to combat the virus, the mayor s.....[more >>](#)

### **Australia's biggest states hold off relaxing COVID-19 lockdowns**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Australia's most populous states held back from easing COVID-19 restrictions on Saturday even as some states allowed small gatherings and got ready to open restaurants in line with the federal government's three-stage plan for reopening businesses. Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Friday outlined plans to remove most curbs by July in a three-step process to get nearly 1 million people b.....

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### **Crime doesn't pay but prison does, even during a pandemic**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

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### **Slovenian cyclists stage anti-government coronavirus protest**

Source: [Agencies](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Thousands of cyclists took over streets in the centre of the Slovenian capital Ljubljana on Friday evening to protest against the government of Prime Minister Janez Jansa and the restrictions it has imposed to fight the coronavirus. Cyclists sounded horns and shouted "thieves, thieves", following allegations of government corruption in purchasing face masks and ventilators reported by T.....

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### **Coronavirus: Does being overweight or obese affect how ill people get?**

Source: [Staff Report](#), [BBC NEWS](#), 2020-05-10

Being obese is known to increase the risk of a number of diseases, including heart disease, cancer and type 2 diabetes. Early research suggests it may also make people more ill with Covid-19, but why is this the case? Is there evidence obesity is a risk for the virus? This question has been the subject of many studies as experts try to work out the answer. In a study of nearly 17,000 hospit.....

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### **Coronavirus: Number of global cases rises above four million**

Source: [NEWS REPORT](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

More than four million confirmed cases of coronavirus have been reported around the world, according to data collated by Johns Hopkins University. The global death toll has also risen to above 277,000. The US remains the worst-hit country, accounting for over a quarter of confirmed cases and a third of deaths. Experts warn the true number of infections is likely to be far higher, with low testi.....

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### **Coronavirus: Obama says US response a 'chaotic disaster'**

Source: [NEWS REPORT](#), [BBC NEWS](#), 2020-05-10

Former US President Barack Obama has strongly criticised his successor Donald Trump over his response to the coronavirus crisis. In a private conference call, he called the US handling of the pandemic "an absolute chaotic

disaster".His remarks were made whileencouraging former staff to work for Joe Biden's presidential election team, CNN says.The White House said in response that Pres.....

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### **Coronavirus: How lockdown is being lifted across Europe**

Source: [NEWS REPORT](#), [BBC NEWS](#), 2020-05-10

After almost seven weeks of lockdown in the UK, Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to announce the next phase of the country's response to the coronavirus pandemic.The government has repeatedly stressed the UK must not risk a "second spike" and says it aims to proceed with "extreme caution".Across Europe, people are already seeing an easing of lockdown measures, as busines.....

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### **Bad debts and Covid-19**

Source: [News Desk](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Finally the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has begun agreeing that some of the debts it has extended, primarily to third world countries, have just become unsustainable and now need to be restructured, re-profiled, or written off altogether, especially in light of all the economies pressures brought about by the coronavirus. Poor countries constantly on the lookout for new debt to pay back old .....

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### **VC and GC — a rejoinder**

Source: [Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

I am grateful to the editor for the opportunity for an early response to the Daily Times Perspective article of May 7th, 2020. The article raises a number of issues, which appear as follows: that I am a foreign national, that I come with no experience, and that I appear too often in the social media. As a result, the article seems to imply that I am trivialising the role of VC, and that there has .....

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### **Survival or safety?**

Source: [Hafeez Khan](#), [Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer, embarked on a voyage in August 1492. He was sponsored by the Catholic Monarchs of Spain. Largely self-educated, Columbus had in depth knowledge in geography, astronomy and history. He planned to seek a western sea passage to East Indies. He hoped to profit from the lucrative spice trade. Instead on October 12, 1492 he discovered the New World. He landed o.....

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### **Pandemic, Neoliberalism and the Betrayal of Pakistani Elite!**

Source: [Zahid Mehmood Zahid, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

While the Italian mafia is helping its countrymen with food supplies, Pakistan's elite (politico-economic beneficiaries) seems to be on the strike; having abandoned its people into the lurch. It may be a politically incorrect analogy but it still compels people to take a pause and knit their relationship with the rulers using the threads of political morality and social responsibility. Today,.....

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### **Ehsaas' during a Global Crisis**

Source: [Haya Fatima Sehgal, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

The Ehsaas program, which falls under the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division, officially started last year. This kicked into effect as a lifesaver to the country just as the pandemic hit and cases surged throughout the country. The efficiency of the material purpose of the program was soon to be tested in practical terms as no country was prepared to face for what is felt like the wors.....

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### **Online Teaching and our Universities: A "Disruption" which could have been easily avoided**

Source: [Dr Arif Sikander, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

The COVID-19 inspired online teaching is a completely new playing field for most of the universities in Pakistan barring few virtual universities and some top tier universities, which enjoy a competitive advantage in this mode of delivery (there may be some others that I am not aware of). The online teaching currently being employed by most is, in fact, quite different than a traditional online.....

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### **Unanswered questions**

Source: [Dr Rafi Amir-ud-Din, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-10

On February 26, Pakistan recorded its first two cases of a novel coronavirus, days after Islamabad closed its border with Iran, where 19 people had died from the virus. Pakistan went into a lockdown on April 1. On that day, there were 2,291 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 31 deaths from the disease. On May 7, there were 23,693 confirmed cases of coronavirus. The first coronavirus-related death.....[more >>](#)

### **Corona cases surge as lockdown eases**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-10

ISLAMABAD: The country registered a sharp increase in the number of coronavirus confirmed cases and fatalities on Saturday with the ease of lockdown. Majority of people, especially those who were out to do the Eid shopping, had least regard for and adherence to the safety protocols set by the federal and provincial governments. The shopkeepers and the buyers were equally responsible for flouting .....

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### **Covid-19 unveils Pakistan**

Source: Ghazi Salahuddin , [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

While Covid-19 has shrouded the world in a mist of uncertainty and confusion, it has, in a sense, lifted the fog away from the reality of Pakistan. Our country is now fully exposed, warts and all. And its shortcomings have been brought into a sharp focus by the challenge of dealing with this deadly pandemic. Yes, this crisis has been the undoing of many advanced and mighty nations of the w.....

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### **Covid-19 risks**

Source: Editorial, [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

The lockdown imposed across the world as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic is obviously intended to curb a virus which can kill or cause serious illness. However, it has been noted that this lockdown and the social isolation necessitated by it is having a disastrous impact on the spread of other diseases. It is predicted there will be nearly 1.4 million additional deaths by 2025 from the worl.....

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### **Global death toll from Covid-19 surpasses 278,000**

Source: News Report, [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

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

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### **Sindh's coronavirus death toll hits 180 as 691 more test positive in Karachi**

Source: Our Correspondent, [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

Four more COVID-19 patients in Sindh lost their lives on Saturday, raising the novel coronavirus death toll in the province to 180, which is around 1.7 per cent of the total number of cases of the virus. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in a video message released by the CM House that 8,571 COVID-19 patients are under treatment across Sindh, adding that 7,432 of them are in self-iso.....

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### **Virus claims 2 more lives taking death toll to 50 in twin cities**

Source: Muhammad Qasim, [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

Rawalpindi : Another two patients died of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in town in last 24 hours taking total number of deaths so far caused by the disease to 46 in the district while four have already lost their lives due to the illness in

the federal capital. Data collected by 'The News' on Saturday reveals that one of the two patients died in last 24 hours was a 54-year old .....

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### **Prisoner rushed to PIMS announced COVID-19 positive**

Source: [Our crime correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

Rawalpindi: A prisoner of Adiyala Jail who was rushed to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) after contracting cardiac arrest and had died on the way from jail to hospital turned out to be a COVID-19 patient/ The situation got dramatic, when PIMS authorities refused to give the body to the kin and announced the deceased as COVID-19 positive. Adiyala prisoner, Sanaullah, suffered.....

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### **Corona cases reach 110 in Nowshera**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

NOWSHERA: The confirmed Covid-19 cases reached to 110 after two more test positive for the viral infection in the district on Saturday. DC Nowshera Shahid Ali Khan that two suspected patients of coronavirus identified as wife of Akmal Shah, resident of Amangarh, and Sabz Ali of Pabbi tested positive for the coronavirus. Similarly, 273 persons reported negative for the viral infection while 37 reco.....

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### **Another dies of corona in Swat**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

MINGORA: Another patient died of coronavirus while 13 more tested positive for the viral infection, taking the death toll to 21 in Swat district on Saturday. Also, the confirmed Covid-19 cases reached 322 after 13 more reported positive for the viral disease in the district. It said that test of 1640 individuals were conducted in which 1097 reported negative. Similarly, 89 infected patients recove.....

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### **Pakistan's first Covid-19 patient recovers with plasma therapy**

Source: [Anadolu Agency](#), [The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#) , 2020-05-10

KARACHI: Pakistan's renowned hematologist on Saturday claimed a successful clinical trial of passive immunisation after a coronavirus patient recovered through plasma therapy. "Alhamdolillah, (by the grace of Allah), the first coronavirus patient treated through passive immunisation has recovered, and discharged from the hospital," Dr Tahir Shamis, head of the National In.....

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### **Confirmed coronavirus patients in Pakistan soar to 29,465**

Source: [Web Desk](#), [The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-10

The nationwide tally of Coronavirus has soared to 29,465 with 1,991 new cases reported during the last twenty four hours. 11,093 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 10,771 in Sindh, 4,509 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,935 in Balochistan, 430 in Gilgit Baltistan, 641 in Islamabad and 86 in Azad Kashmir. 8,023 patients have so far recovered from the virus whilst the death toll stands at 639 .....

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## **Health governance**

### **Punjab develops app to indicate availability of beds, ventilators**

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### **Community awareness and coronavirus**

Source: [Prof Khalida Memon, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#), 2020-05-10

The coronavirus pandemic is a subject of great concern for the world in general and for public health specialists in particular. In Pakistan, coronavirus infections are increasing by the day. The latest figure is around 25,000. The corona pandemic does not respect any social bounds, cultural values or territorial regulations. It is important to note that community participation is a key strateg.....[more >>](#)

### **Ehsaas' during a Global Crisis**

Source: [Haya Fatima Sehgal, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

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### Unanswered questions

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### Lockdown or not

Source: [Dr Syed Mansoor Hussain](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

In the last five weeks I have only stepped out of the house four times and each time for important non-recreational reasons. Personally, I am sort of a loner and do get overwhelmed by what is best described as a sensory overload. But even so the present need for self-isolation is getting to me even though that is probably the best way to avoid getting infected. However, I do wonder how most peopl.....

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### The right to health

Source: [Inayatullah Khan](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

Spring is a time of health, joy and energy. This time around, however, it is visibly desolate and dreary. The usual abundance of vegetation, fresh air, and flowers has been bedeviled by the dreadful Covid-19. We know for a fact that wars, diseases and famines have ravaged civilizations, deserted towns and perished cities, but somehow this spring will particularly remain a grim reminder of .....[more >>](#)

### YouTube to provide \$5m to Pakistan as Covid-19 aid

Source: [News Report](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

ISLAMABAD: YouTube said it would provide \$5 million to Pakistan to help the country tackle the coronavirus pandemic. Pakistan has recorded just over 640 deaths but experts have voiced fears that the country of 215 million people could see a rapid and devastating increase due to its shortage of medical infrastructure and crowded cities. Meanwhile, the country is starting to ease the impose.....[more >>](#)

### Mistreatment of corona patients' intolerable: PM Imran Khan

Source: [Mumtaz Alvi](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday regretted the incidents of unfair treatment of coronavirus patients, saying this was intolerable and a cause of fear. He observed this while presiding over a meeting of the National Task Force here. Chairman National Health Task Force Dr Noshewan Burki, Special Assistant to the PM on National Health Dr Zafar Mirza, Punjab Health Minister Punjab D.....

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### **Virus-hit media workers to get Rs 100,000 each: Fayaz-ul Hasan Chohan**

Source: [Our Correspondent](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

LAHORE : Punjab Information Minister Fayaz-ul Hasan Chohan has said Information Department will give any media worker affected by Covid-19 Rs 100,000 while in case of demise of any media worker the government will give Rs 1million to the family of the deceased in addition to monthly pension of Rs 10,000 for life. Fayaz-ul-Hasan Chohan said that applications for receiving the special relief....

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### **Migratory birds enjoy free space amid reduced activity**

Source: [APP](#), [The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi](#) , 2020-05-10

Islamabad : Reduced human activities outside due to COVID-19 lockdown has not only contributed to the revival of nature through lowering pollution level and limiting human interference but also provided an opportunity to the migratory birds to fly freely without any threat of poaching. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) was marked on May 9 (Saturday) worldwide through online campaigns and awa....

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### **Govt urged to bear cost of Covid-19 test for the poor**

Source: [Dawn Report](#), [Dawn](#) , 2020-05-10

ISLAMABAD: The opposition Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Saturday said that the government should bear the cost of the new coronavirus tests for the poor and called for a probe into a drugs scam allegedly occurred under the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf-led government. Rehman Malik, chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior, said that the destitute could be tested either in government hos....

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### **Virus a boon for PM?**

Source: [Abbas Nasir](#) , [Dawn](#) , 2020-05-10

OVER the past five decades when autocratic rulers have appeared a bit shaky, the global environment has changed beyond anticipation and almost buttressed their chances of staying in the saddle. After overthrowing Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in July 1977 and even conspiring with the then superior courts to have the former prime minister sentenced to death, military ruler Gen Ziaul Haq appeared shaky and a....

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### **Vast inequalities**

Source: [Muhammad Khudadad Chattha](#), [Dawn](#) , 2020-05-10

COVID-19 has pulled a mirror in front of us and is clearly showing us the social structures we have created. Existing social cleavages stand dramatically exaggerated by the pandemic and stare back us. Sure, we might have heard of

socioeconomic inequalities being a serious problem. But today, the mirror has shown us that life itself depends on the same disparities. It was heartbreaking to see that.....

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### **Pandemic reading**

Source: [Muhammad Ali Siddiqi](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-10

I AM using the 'work from home' opportunity provided by Covid-19 for two delightful purposes — one, to get to know my wife and grandchildren (who cares about sons and daughters-in-law?) and, two, to swot up on my reading. The problem is the limited capacity of the two bookshelves I have. So books lie scattered everywhere, much to my wife's spoken and unspoken annoyance, whe.....

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### **Herd immunity?**

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-10

BASED on the remarks of two key officials at the helm of pandemic control in the country, it appears that the federal government is pursuing an unannounced policy of 'herd immunity'. The first indication of this came from SAPM Dr Zafar Mirza, who in an interview with DawnNews earlier this week conceded that "it will be better for the future if coronavirus spreads at a certain le.....

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### **Mourning processions**

Source: [Editorial](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-10

MOST experts are of the firm view that social distancing and avoiding large crowds is the best way to keep the coronavirus at bay. However, this sage advice has fallen on deaf ears in some countries, Pakistan included. Despite fervent appeals by medical experts, people have failed to practise social distancing and are treating Covid-19 as just another illness. This has had an obvious impact with c.....

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### **Nagar becomes coronavirus-free district**

Source: [The Newspaper's Correspondent](#), [Dawn](#), 2020-05-10

GILGIT: The last Covid-19 patient from Nagar, the hardest hit area in Gilgit-Baltistan, was discharged from isolation centre on Saturday. According to health officials, now there is no patient of coronavirus in the district. Nagar Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Shahrugh Cheema said that they had zero positive case in the district. "After 53-day untiring efforts, we made it possible," h.....

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### **Orange Line launch yet another casualty of corona**

Source: [Khalid Hasnain, Dawn](#), 2020-05-10

LAHORE: The commercial operation (public launch) of the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train Project is not possible on June 11 as the Chinese companies-led joint venture has sought some more time keeping in view the delay in arrival of staff from China, suspension of flight operations and adoption of SOPs related to Covid-19. However, the integrated test and commissioning for Orange Line, constructed .....

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### **Covid-19 in Pakistan: Zero implementation of govt relief package**

Source: [Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-10

LAHORE: Raising concerns over the financial packages announced by the government, the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) has said that there is zero implementation on directives of the government. While addressing a press conference, PIAF Chairman Mian Nauman Kabir observed that not a single branch of any bank, in the provincial capital of Punjab, Lahore, is offering a .....

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### **Seeking bread and hope**

Source: [Muhammad Ali Ehsan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-10

For over a month and a half now, for the poor it has been all about how to get their hands on food. For them all these days it has been a matter of survival and so when the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on Thursday decided to phase-wise end the coronavirus-induced lockdown across the country, it must have come down for them as a great relief. So far, with over 27,000 Covid-19 patients and .....

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### **Khan's dilemma: full lockdown or not?**

Source: [Mehr Tarar, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-10

In our home, we are a family of five, presently. There is also a couple, our domestic staff, and their two children, 7 and 6, also part of our family. Last week, our driver moved into his own place. My two dogs are my babies. All of us have practised social distancing since March 22. Despite initial grumbling, soon there was harmony in our acceptance of the quarantine. Our part-time cleaning .....[more >>](#)

### **A new world order?**

Source: [Saad Rasool, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-10

Even in these extremely uncertain coronavirus times, there is one thing that can be asserted with some measure of certainty: a new war, a new Great Game, a new world order, is afoot. And in the coming months and years, South Asia, along with the Pacific, will most likely be the arena in which this next Great Game is contested. Let us put this in perspective. Modern history, its alliances, an.....

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**Budget surpluses recorded by provinces is a recurring problem, which does not make much sense considering the litany of things that require attention and resources.**

Source: [Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-10

With Prime Minister Imran Khan's announcement that he was ending the lockdown in phases, life in the major cities has begun to return to a touch of normalcy. Army soldiers who manned roadside checkpoints along with the police since late March when the lockdown was enforced have started leaving for their barracks. Some shops and businesses, like auto gear shops, hardware stores, small markets.....

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**Pakistan must focus on exploiting non-traditional markets during post-corona era**

Source: [APP, The Nation, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-10

FAISALABAD - Pakistan must focus on exploiting non-traditional markets during post corona era in order to overcome the huge losses its exports suffered during the lockdown period. In this connection, Government of Pakistan and exporters must focus on unexploited South American and African markets. This was stated by Rana Sikandar-e-Azam Khan, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.....

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**Letting go of the deadwood**

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-10

Unfortunately, the prime minister's civil service reform agenda was one of the many policy initiatives that had to be pushed down the priority list because of all the death and devastation caused by the coronavirus. But now that the government has done all it can to stabilise the economy in the immediate term and also worked out a smart lockdown to keep people safe while slowly opening up in.....

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**'Fake facts' and the coronavirus**

Source: [Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad](#), 2020-05-10

Social media has completely changed the world over the last two decades or so by connecting much of the globe in ways not even thought of before and enabling real time transfer of information. It has also completely revolutionised the way we communicate, work, spend, invest, and even plan. But it's a double-edged sword at best because of its propensity to perpetuate falsehood, its lack of fa.....

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### **Study shows Covid-19 patients who took heartburn drug were less likely to die, but researchers caution more research is needed**

Source: [By Elizabeth Cohen and Dr. Minali Nigam, CNN, CNN](#), 2020-05-10

(CNN)Patients who took a common heartburn medicine while hospitalized for Covid-19 were more than twice as likely to survive the infection, according to a paper posted Friday on a pre-publication website. But it's unclear whether the patients fared better because of the famotidine or if it was a coincidence. "Based on what we've learned in this study, it's encouraging," s.....[more >>](#)

### **Remembering humanity's triumph over a virus, 40 years on**

Source: [Agencies, Daily Times](#), 2020-05-10

As scientists scramble for a COVID-19 cure and vaccine, the world on Friday marked a pertinent anniversary: humanity's only true triumph over an infectious disease with its eradication of smallpox four decades ago. On May 8, 1980, representatives of all World Health Organization member states gathered in Geneva and officially declared that the smallpox-causing variola virus had been relegated.....[more >>](#)

### **Coronavirus: Compulsory vaccines in the UK and other rumours fact-checked**

Source: [Alistair Coleman, Luis Fajardo, Olga Robinson, Shayan Sardarizadeh and Marianna Spring, BBC NEWS](#), 2020-05-10

We've been fact-checking the most widely shared dubious coronavirus claims this week. There's no mandatory vaccine law in UK First, we've looked at a widely shared video posted on YouTube that claims changes introduced in UK law give the government the power to enforce vaccinations as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. Under current UK law, however, this is not the case - vaccine.....[more >>](#)

### **OCD: 'I spent 20 years preparing for the coronavirus pandemic'**

Source: [NEWS REPORT, BBC NEWS](#), 2020-05-10

Coping with a life-long phobia of germs meant Peter Goffin was ready for the coronavirus pandemic. He knew how to observe hygiene rules, and he had the skills needed to prevent his anxieties growing out of control. I was sitting on my kitchen floor, using disinfectant to wipe down a bag of cereal, when I had a revelation: I've spent almost 20 years practising for the coronavirus pandemic. In.....[more >>](#)

### **Team:**

**Data Manage by:** Shahid Rasul and Abid Rasheed

**Compile & Layout Design by:** Ali Aamer Javed