……About Newsletter

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

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

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

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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

**Another 4 deaths, 170 test positive in twin cities**  
Rawalpindi: Easing lockdown further has given rise to a number of misperceptions among a good proportion of population in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi where the coronavirus illness, COVID-19 claimed another four lives in last 24 hours taking death toll to 89 while another 170 patients have been confirmed positive taking tally to 3167 on Friday. After further relaxation in lockdown in Punjab, a number of people have started thinki... view more

**Coronavirus affects Pindiites' lifestyle**  
The lockdown imposed to arrest the spread of the deadly coronavirus outbreak has changed the whole lifestyle of Rawalpindi city residents. “Parents are also strictly following the advice of doctors and psychologists on TV channels and social media platforms. They are using the quarantine period to develop stronger emotional connection with their children along with taking care of the tasks such as food preparation for them,” says Sha... view more

**The new normal**  
Notwithstanding the fact that in the absence of an appropriate vaccine, Covid-19 continues to spread its tentacles consuming human lives, most of the countries are reversing the lockdown strategies and allowing the reopening of their economies. The obvious reason for this is the realization by even the richest countries that they cannot afford to shut their economies for an indefinite period fraught with serious economic and social consequences ..... view more

**Our chance to reset**  
FATE has struck the world a cruel blow. A deadly virus that knows no borders has struck across class, clans and religion. Overnight, the rich and mighty are facing economic woes. They have become poor by their own very lavish and exorbitant standards, losing millions with stock market crashes and fall in demand of oil prices. What had the greatest value has become valueless: the boom in the travel industry, which epitomised the benefits of global..... view more

**The second shockwave**  
Source: Farrukh Khan Pitafi, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-05-23  
Covid-19 has badly shaken our world. You cannot name a single walk of life which has not been adversely affected by the pandemic. The world economy right now is like Schrödinger’s cat. We don't know whether it is dead or alive right now. As lockdowns in many parts continue to suspend economic activity and states around the world divert a substantial portion of their GDPs to relief activities, we are unsure how badly the world eco..... view more

**Covid-19: challenges and perceptions**  
Source: Abdul Qayyum, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-05-23  
Coronavirus is an invisible enemy armed with lethal killing sting against which the entire humankind has presently no defence and unfortunately no firm hope to find its counter in the immediate future. We are not sure for how long the
world will remain in its grip and whether it will reappear with more vigour in subsequent waves. Some fear that its constantly mutilating character may render present research endeavours by the scientists fruitless...... view more

US sleep-walking on the road to socialism?
Source: M Ziauddin, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-05-23
During the Cold War days, the real contest was between two economic systems — capitalism and socialism/communism. And by the mid-1980s, capitalism won hands down. The Soviet Union, which had championed communism, disappeared from the face of the earth and socialist China was looking like a country about to change its course as it had seemingly started adopting rules under which free market economy-led globalisation was capturing the world e...... view more

Face mask violations
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-05-23
Pakistan is now among the only 25 countries of the world which have recorded more than one thousand deaths from the novel coronavirus. To be exact, the country has lost 1,067 lives to the deadly virus — including 50 on Thursday alone — and ranks at 19 in the world in terms of the number of virus-affected people which is 50,694. That a single day tally of the new cases hit 1,932 on Tuesday, 2,193 on Wednesday and 2,603 on Thursday conf...... view more

What’s up?
Source: Syed Bakhtiyar Kazmi , Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2020-05-23
WhatsApp is a pun on What's Up, in case you didn’t get it yet – actually, that was a sudden but rational guess made whilst dreaming up the title for today’s write up; now it is knowledge confirmed from WhatsApp web page. Cool! To be honest, beyond the tragic loss of human lives and the economic disaster in the offing, the Virus Wars have left those of us who incessantly use WhatsApp scared stiff – and stiff was..... view more

Enveloping China
Source: Imran Malik, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-05-23
Tenuous Sino-US relations have been further aggravated by the devastating coronavirus pandemic. The two largest economies of the world, which were concluding trade deals in January 2020, are now predictably on a collision course. President Trump has blamed China squarely for the so-called “Chinese virus” and seems adamant to hold it accountable for the contagion and the ensuing devastation of economies and human lives around the world..... view more

COVID-19 and the global supply chain
Source: Mahvesh Mahmud, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-05-23
Could COVID-19 be the black swan event that finally forces many companies, and entire industries, to rethink and transform their global supply chain model? One fact is beyond doubt: It has already exposed the vulnerabilities of many organisations, especially those who have a high dependence on China to fulfil their need for raw materials or finished products. A decades-long focus on supply chain optimisation to minimise costs, reduce inventories,..... view more
Forgotten voices of students and HEC’s poor management in COVID-19
Source: Muhammad Faisal Kaleem, Daily Times, 2020-05-24
Anyone can enter anytime in the room where I am attending my classes online, while the chatters don’t even care if I am studying, and say whatever they want to. This was said by Idrees Ali who hails from Chakwal and studying BS Computer Sciences at a private university in Islamabad. As per the university administration’s directions he is ought to attend online classes whatsoever the circumstances are. Ali lives in a small house amongst.....view more

Triage Time
Source: Dr Rakhshinda Perveen, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
According to a policy brief of the UN, a total of 106 countries had introduced or adapted social protection and jobs programs in response to COVID-19 by April 3, 2020 and 65 countries had passed the fiscal response packages equivalent to a total of US$4.8 trillion, as of March 31, 2020. Yet, the course of Pandemic Covid 19 is still imprecise. What is clear and certain by now is the confusion-durable confusion and disgusting apathy in the leadership .....view more

Fight with COVID-19 with fragile health system
Source: Khurram Shahzad, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
The outbreak of pandemic COVID-19 disturbed the whole world’s economic, social, religious, political, and financial structure. Covid-19 has become the reason for closing multiple businesses and destroyed the world economy badly where underdeveloped countries like Pakistan are already dealing and struggling to overcome poverty and hunger. To discuss some issues like Pakistan’s response on COVID-19, Islamabad’s perspective towards t.....view more

‘Stay at Home, Stay Safe’ this Eidul Fitr
Though the coronavirus pandemic has shown signs of slowing in some western countries and Arab Muslim countries, it will be probably a sombre Eid for millions of Muslims in Pakistan who are expected to limit their festive celebrations to small family gatherings within the same house. People are expected to stay home and stay safe this Eidul Fitr. Although government has announced six-day vacations for the festive occasion, but it is aimed at rest.....view more

Budgeting in a pandemic
Source: Dr Ikramul Haq, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-24
Adviser to the PM on Finance and Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, in a press release issued on May 18, 2020, noted that while preparing the next budget, “we should be more vigilant, practical, and analyze the opportunities and challenges offered by the current environment”. He added that the “government is ready to listen to all stakeholders to prepare a budget which is according to the need for the prevailing economic circumstan.....view more

Just hang in there
On Wednesday morning, we were delivered a bouquet of flowers. And a message that we should not cook or order a dinner that evening. It would also be delivered. We, my wife and I, immediately guessed what was happening. This was our marriage anniversary and it was being celebrated in the virtual world in which the three homes of our nuclear family, located on three continents, are joined together. Hence, we cut our cake rather late in the evenin.....view more
A letter from Granada
When the call came on March 21, 2020 it did not feel as if it was God-sent. I accepted the invitation more in bewilderment than in the quiet contentment that professors enjoy on noticing the recognition of their abilities by others. My reaction surprised me. After all, I have known for ages that appreciation by others is what humans look for to reward themselves and to value their own existence. But I was definitely not basking in the sunshine n......

Eid in a pandemic
From the scenes at bazaars and shopping malls in all our major cities, it seems people who had the means to do so have been well prepared to celebrate Eid in traditional fashion, with all the hype and display of wealth that goes with it. But this is a different year to those that have come before. This is a time when more people are jobless and hungry in our country than ever before. The World Bank has forecast that up to 60 million people would ..... view more

Unheeded SOPs
With the number of coronavirus infected people crossing the 50,000 mark, we have seen a five-time increase in just one month. The main reason for this rapid spike is a complete disregard for any SOPs that the government would have willy-nilly imposed. Nearly all public transport is back on roads and there is no adherence to any health protocols. People are roaming around without any masks, while coughing and puffing at each other. The reopening o..... view more

The game-changing vaccine concept
Source: Professor Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-24
Despite unprecedented efforts in finding the cure for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV2), no one can accurately predict the exact timing for the availability of a safer and efficacious vaccine. Even if a suitable candidate vaccine is developed, there is no setup to mass manufacture to fulfil the demands of existing needs in the world. Several dozen companies are involved in th..... view more

Women leaders in the pandemic
It is our overall assessment that several women leaders have handled the response to the corona pandemic very well. Thus, they break the general stereotype that some people still have, that men are better leaders than women, in crises and in peace. Taiwan, Germany and New Zealand all have women in charge at the top. President Tsai Ing-wen (63), elected in 2016, is doing well in her job. In Taiwan, close to China and Wuhan where the pandemic ..... view more

A Death Sentence
Nearly 70 percent of Pakistan’s prison population consists of under-trial prisoners who have not been convicted of a crime. Yet even without a conviction, most of them may already have been served a death sentence, as the coronavirus infection rate in prisons is leagues higher than that of overall cities. It is not difficult to see why the epidemic would spread so viciously across jails. These are people already in lockdown – but..... view more
2020 superheroes
Source: Fahim Hussain, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-24
They are very truly our superheroes. Doctors, nurses and paramedics, not budging an inch from their duty, are immersed in healing the world from the wounds caused by the novel coronavirus. They are rendering selfless services in dealing with the exigencies of the reigning health crisis. The world needs their time, guidance and services more than ever in order to contain the spread of the deadly virus and build strategies to go about a new normal..... view more

China syndrome
A COMBINATION of the words ‘Hong Kong’ and ‘flu’ may ring a bell for older readers. A little more than 50 years ago, the phrase ‘Hong Kong flu’ briefly entered popular parlance internationally. It was a matter-of-fact term, not associated, as far as I can recall from my childhood, with any great sense of panic. It's somewhat sobering to realise, then, that the H3N2 strain of the influenza A virus is beli..... view more

Astrology and Covid-19
Source: Rafia Zikaria, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
THE world and its inhabitants are in a difficult place at this moment in time. In Pakistan, a Ramazan under lockdown has been followed by an Eid celebration haunted by the lingering and fatal presence of the coronavirus. There are those that have decided that they cannot bear the isolation and seclusion and are moving forward in full denial of the risks that lurk all around them. Those who are still socially isolating because they have pre-existi..... view more

Covid and the poor
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
A STARK reminder of the fight against Covid-19 has recently been issued by the United Nations. All things considered, the cost could represent “the largest reversal in human development on record”, according to a report issued by the United Nations Development Programme last week. The authors look at the human cost of the fight in comprehensive terms, from days of education lost for children to aggravation of gender-based inequality a..... view more

Crisis reality alert!
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
The Covid-19 crisis has the potential to unleash upon humanity an unprecedented developmental crisis which could severely affect income, health and education across the globe. In a recent report, the UNDP issued fair warning that global human development could plummet for the first time in 30 years. While both rich and poor nations will have to face the music, it is evident that a significant drop is predicted in underdeveloped countries that hav..... view more

COVID-19 and textile exports
Source: Dr Kamal Monnoo, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
The current situation on Pakistani Textiles is rather precarious. In April 2020, textile exports declined by 65 percent to $404 million against exports of $1,1139 million in the same month of the previous year. May 2020 is not looking
good either. As nearly 75 percent of the present installed capacity in the textile industry is based on exports, this erosion of such volumes, by any stretch of imagination, makes it to be an alarming situation. One.....

The historic trail of lethal biowarfare
Source: Senator Rehman Malik, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
The world seems to have touched the height of what it means to be ‘hi-tech’ and claims ultimate achievements in the fields of medical, science and technology. Man was proud of multiple inventions and discoveries such as laser surgeries, heart replacement, and many others in the field of medicine but the sudden outbreak of the invisible invader in the form of a virus reminded us that man has achieved nothing yet. Man, who has been clai.....

Reinstating The Lockdown
After the rise in the coronavirus cases and the general public’s wanton abuse of the standard operating procedures, the government is considering reinstating the lockdown; and this might be the only option left at this current juncture. Before it is too late and the government has no other choice but to reimpose a lockdown, the people need to sort out their own actions and behaviours, lest they regret the policies implemented by the governm.....

Pending Legislation
Much like almost everything else, parliamentary business has also experienced a lull due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The session could not be convened, and when it was earlier this month, the ongoing pandemic remained the sole agenda for deliberations. Important pieces of legislation remain pending, nearing closer to the 90-day deadline for passing or rejection of bills as per Article 70(2). To deal with this, the government is planning to convene ..... A long, dark tunnel
The World Bank’s warning on Tuesday that the coronavirus pandemic could push up to 60 million people into extreme poverty, erasing “all the progress made in poverty alleviation in the past three years”, is disturbing but not altogether difficult to understand. Its president, David Malpass, also explained that the global economy was now expected to shrink by about 5.5 percent this year, confirming a steep recession which will tak.....

The gendered face of Covid 19
Source: Asif Khan Shinwari, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
The world is tragically suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Caught unprepared, more than 188 countries are impacted, confirmed cases almost reaching 5,326,230 and more than 330,000 people losing their lives at the time of this write-up. Pakistan now has a reported 50,830 cases and 1,101 fatalities as of 23rd May, 2020 with numbers spiraling as testing capacity expands and markets teemed with customers as the nationwide lockdown restrictions ease.....
From patriotism to humanity: China leading the fight of the COVID-19
Source: Sabah Aslam, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
The outbreak of the novel coronavirus has not only impacted human and social life in terms of disease and infection but also created a controversy in the international media and social networks to the point that some western media fell into the trap of racism and xenophobia showing an unusual and an inhuman reaction, instead of solidarity and unity exhibition. Since China is the first country infected with this virus, so it has already started its fi..... view more

Will our people accept the Covid-19 vaccine?
Source: Shakir Lakhani, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
A few days back I read an article in the New York Times about what would happen if half of the U.S. population refused to get vaccinated against Covid-19 (whenever a vaccine is developed). I found there is a very vocal anti-vaccine movement in the United States (despite its literacy rate being much higher than that of Pakistan). It is very likely that a great number of Americans (probably more than a quarter of the population) would reject the vacc..... view more

COVID-19 — response, data and behavior
Source: M Muneebur Rehman, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
People across the globe are fighting against an invisible enemy today: COVID-19. Although this battle is tough yet the only option humanity has is to win decisively. Things escalated briskly since the World Health Organization (WHO) issued its preliminary guidelines on the Novel Coronavirus in January this year. Within a short period of two months, COVID-19 was characterized as a pandemic. Since then, most of the countries are in a state of stagna..... view more

Education amid Covid 19
Source: MEHER AZEEM HAKRO, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
In addition to affecting economies, agriculture, businesses, people’s employment and social lives in countries around the globe, where Coronavirus has severely damaged children’s education. Students studying in schools and universities have also fallen into the trap of worrying about what the future holds for them. Since the Coronavirus started to spread in the country, all educational institutions were closed at an earlier stage as a..... view more

Marred preferences
Source: Zainab Sohail, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Pandemics is not a novel concept. If we turn the pages of history it is evident that it has not only cost the precious lives of people but the pandemics have impacts on the political course of history as well. Kolbert rightly stated that it has suspended the development or broad down once mighty states and empires. For instance, the Black Death which claimed the life of one third of the world population, lead England and France to call a truce to..... view more

The world after Corona and beyond
Source: Imtiaz Rafi Butt, Daily Times, 2020-05-24
The COVID-19 virus began its onslaught in the beginning of the year 2020. The World Bank, IMF and History academia around the globe are calling it, “the Great Lockdown”, and that is how it will be known after many centuries have passed. It is a pandemic that shook humanity to its core and brought it to the knees. The epicenter of the virus was initially China, after that the epicenter became Italy in Europe and now it is in New York, ..... view more
Corona care hospital from dream to reality
The killer coronavirus disease COVID-19 spilled over to Pakistan in February. It soon took root and began to course through the length and breadth of Pakistan, taking its toll on more and more people. With the outbreak of the epidemic, the federal government together with the provincial governments, the armed forces and the international community and human rights organizations has moved heaven and earth to stem its tide, minimize infections and.....view more

Eid came as a silver lining amid COVID-19
Throughout the three day Eidul Fitr celebrations the movement of life went up and down considerably. For Pindiites like their fellow citizens in other cities confined to their homes following the outbreak of Coronavirus Pandemic, the beginning of Eidul Fitr depended on the decision of moon-sighting committees. “It was nice to see the government engaging with top religious leaders and scholars to reach a consensus for all Pakistanis to cele.....view more

Tackling American provocations
The writer is a freelance journalist. The tentacles of jingoism seem to be gripping several parts of the world. They appear to be stronger in Asia than anywhere else on the planet. China and the US recently traded barb over the ongoing pandemic, as well as over Taiwan and Hong Kong. Nepal and India seem to be locked into a dispute over the construction of a road, which Kathmandu claims was built inside its territory while Islamabad and New Delhi.....view more

Fifteen shades of fall
June is upon us, and somehow universities and the HEC managed to bring the Spring semester, which was unexpectedly interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, to a close. But there is no time to rest. The state has buckled under pressure from multiple quarters and reopened the economy, while voluntary precautionary measures are largely being flouted. At this point, a second wave of Covid-19 should be expected and planned for, not just for the educatio.....view more

Lockdown again?
Coronavirus cases in Pakistan have now reached nearly 60,000, with over 1,225 deaths in the country, leading the Prime Minister’s Special Advisor Dr Zafar Mirza to warn that the government could impose a new, stricter lockdown to curb the sharply rising trajectory. Pakistan is not alone in its struggle. But we have to say our attempts to combat the virus which causes serious disease and in a small number of cases death have been particularl.....view more

Living with the virus
Source: I.A. Rehman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
THE government had been warned in these columns of challenges to its campaign against Covid-19 during Ramazan from the religious lobby, profiteers and beneficiaries of Eid shopping and Eid-eve travellers. It chose to yield to all the pressure groups. Under the fig leaf of SOPs, which were respected more in the breach than the observance, the
ulema held congregations in mosques more or less as they pleased, took out processions in violation of an.....view more

Testing for the virus
Source: Khurram Husain, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
LOOK at the number of tests for the coronavirus that have been performed around the country and the number of positive cases and you will notice something. Take the number of positive cases as a percentage of total tests done in each province and you will discover that there is wide variation in this percentage among the provinces. More specifically, Punjab scores the lowest percentage whereas KP, Sindh and Balochistan are more or less the same. .....view more

Pink tax
Source: Saba Karim Khan, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
AS the world implodes, people are saying: “We might be in the same storm, but we are not in the same boat.” Front-line medical workers occupy a unique boat. Daily wagers are harder hit than most. And there’s women — mothers, single mothers, working mothers — longingly flicking through the ‘back to school’ calendar, struggling to make toddlers running through Zoom calls appear cute and customary. Covid-19.....view more

Relentless rise in Covid-19 cases
Source: Editorial, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
THE relaxation in countrywide lockdowns, coupled with the government and superior judiciary’s mixed messaging about the coronavirus threat, seem to have induced the public to throw already barely existent caution to the wind. Scenes of zero socially distanced revelry, with scarcely a mask in sight, have marked Eid — an occasion when toned down celebrations this year would have been appropriate for more than one reason. Special Assista.....view more

Lockdown – A tale of other diseases
Source: Andleeb Abbas, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
Lock down or die. Lockdown or economy. Lockdown or jobs. Lockdown or lives. These were the debates prevalent. World over and in Pakistan, from experts to individuals, the over whelming discussion was on the necessity of lockdown to defeat a virus that was crippling health. China was the first country to adopt the lockdown strategy, and as the disease spread, so did the lockdown strategy. The world was shut down. Economies crashed. As the discussi.....view more

Coronavirus and macroeconomic interventions
Source: M. ALI KEMAL, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
The incidence of the COVID pandemic was linearly increasing until it started affecting other parts of China and then exponentially increased as it spread globally. It has infected over 5 million people globally, with 335000 deaths (CFR 6.44%) and 2.1 million people recovered. The first case of coronavirus in Pakistan was reported on February 26, 2020. Over 50 thousand cases with more than one thousand deaths (CFR 2.15%) and over 15000 recoveries .....view more
The public role
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
Nonchalance is one thing. Disdain another. The way our public burst out of their homes for Eid shopping in the wake of the relaxation in the coronavirus lockdown speaks more of their contempt for the SOPs prescribed by the government and experts than their ignorance about the same. Jam-packed roads, cramped vehicles and overcrowded marketplaces — though not an unusual sight in urban centres during normal circumstances — aptly exemplify.... view more

The fifth horseman
Source: Harlan Ulman, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
A Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse now threatens mankind. This rider brings with it Massive Acts of Disruption. This new MAD must be contained and prevented as nuclear armageddon was under the Cold War MAD doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction. Corona/Covid-19 was the deadly purveyor of the new MAD. In earlier books I re-characterized the original Four Horsemen as Failed and Failing Government; Economic Despair, Disparity and Dislocation; Radical..... view more

COVID-19, climate change and biodiversity
This year, the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDBD) marked on May 22 highlights significant improvement in the environmental conditions because there was no or extremely low human intervention around the world. Wildlife was roaming on the streets in many cities close to the habitats. Vegetation and biological diversity had deep breathing in the absence of human presence and interventions. Even the wildlife was seen down the footsteps..... view more

HEC guidelines for assessment and examination
Being a responsible organization at the national level, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has involved university leadership in a number of consulting meetings for developing guidelines for engaging students in teaching and learning activities in this pandemic. Like the HEC was engaging university leadership on various matters, the same approach is expected from the university leadership for involving faculty and supporting staff to create an..... view more

Pakistan the day after the corona pandemic crisis: a vision
Source: Mohammad A Qadeer, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
A new world. How and when will the Corona virus pandemic end in Pakistan is an open question. It may end with hundreds of deaths and thousands of infections. Or the crisis may end with vast devastations of families, institutions and businesses. We do not know what it will be. Yet, one way or the other, the pandemic will end as did the past plagues, famines or wars. Apart from the pandemic, like the rest of the world, Pakistan is also facing an unp..... view more

Pandemic tests scientific organizations’ potential
Source: Muhammad Aftab Alam, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Corona pandemic, on one hand, is shattering the nerves of countless organizations fighting for their survival all over the world. On the other hand, however, it is also testing the true potential of scientific organizations because people
look up to them in these testing times for leading rescue and relief operation. Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), one of the most respected Research and Development (R&D) organisations of Pakistan fo......view more

Covid-19 crisis in Pakistan: can we ease the lockdown?
Source: Dr Talat Waseem, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
The government faces a tradeoff between economic survival and a significant loss of life at this point. The decision is probably the biggest in the last five decades of Pakistan's history. Here, we debate medical, economic and political facets of the pandemic and try to find solutions to minimize the loss of human life and its economic repercussions. COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed world healthcare systems and economies including that of......view more

Reopening universities
Source: Faisal Bari, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
WILL universities be able to allow all students to be physically present on campuses for the coming semester? Will they go online? Or will they offer a hybrid mode of instruction, in which some students and classes are online and others are on campus? There is a lot of debate around this issue all over the world. Opening universities when a vaccine for Covid-19 is still not available is a difficult decision and one that cannot be taken lightly. U.....view more

Compensating the expendable
Source: Asha’ar Rehman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
A TINY bit of news in a national daily on Thursday matter-of-factly reports on a group of 50 people who had been struck with Covid-19 during the Eid holidays. It could well have escaped the trained eye of many of us with so many issues competing for attention. For instance, the readers can hardly be faulted if they found more juice in the equally small news item that recorded the theft of three suits from the Lahore residence of Nadeem Afzal Cha.....view more

Covid-19 and campuses
Where Covid-19 has disrupted economic and cultural life, it has also interrupted our social and educational life. All human activity has come to a crushing standstill and educational institutions have been shut down. According to observational research by Unicef, 186 countries are currently implementing nationwide closures. Approximately, two billion learners are currently affected due to school closures in response to the pandemic. In response ......view more

IMF review
The IMF is reported to have resumed discussions with Pakistan to complete the second review of the country’s extended fund facility (EFF) programme. This review was deferred last month as the Covid-19 pandemic reached Pakistan and with it new challenges for the economy surfaced. The six-billion-dollar deal with the IMF gave the PTI-led government some fiscal space so that the immediate danger of an economic meltdown could be avoided. The ag.....view more
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<td>Dr Omer Javed, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-05-29</td>
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Nearly six months after the outbreak of Covid-19, it is time to analyse what lessons can be learned by the world in terms of its physical, economic, social and psychological fallout. With more than 357,000 deaths since December 2019, around two-thirds of deaths have taken place in Europe and the United States. Trillions of dollars of economic losses because of lockdowns have caused unprecedented unemployment and enormous economic hardships to peo.....[view more]

The Sindh government is laying more emphasis on the prevention side in the fight against the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic. But, at the same time, it is leaving nothing to chance to face situations arising from both natural causes and our people's disregard for regulations put in place to prevent the spread of the contagion. It is in line with this two-pronged strategy that Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has announced the release .....[view more]

The whole world has succumbed to the pressures offset by COVID-19, and like all other professions and vocations, for most practicing musicians, this has also brought many adverse consequences. However, for them, the struggle must go on and new strategies be sought to keep the ball rolling. When the crisis was announced by WHO, many musicians and artists took to coming live on their Facebook, Instagram and Twitter feeds, struck by the idea that si.....[view more]

The decision to carry out widespread testing of police personnel after a surge in positive cases among them in the cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad should be replicated across Pakistan. Though exact figures are hard to come by, several police personnel have tested positive for COVID-19 in different areas of Pakistan. This is not surprising because their duties necessitate contact with other people. Those deployed at quarantine centres, hospitals.....[view more]

The failure to tap the actual tax potential by the federal and provincial governments is the real issue and not the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010 [hereinafter “18th Amendment”] vis-à-vis the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award. Dismal performance [Annexure ‘A’ & ‘AA’, some differences in figures by FBR and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) need to be reconciled by Ministry of Finance] .....[view more]

There were already discussions gaining momentum since the Global Financial Crisis 2007/08 in many policy corners of economy and politics globally – but still remained far from reaching any meaningful threshold in terms of consequences on three main areas mainly, on the role of state as against market fundamentalism, the quality of
growth given exorbitant rise in income inequality and reliance on fossil-fuel industry, and the performance of ..... view more

Pakistan Covid: Peak or plateau?
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
Pakistanis shopped for Eid alright. They seem to have paid for it too. There was one positive case reported for every sixth test conducted in the week ending May 28, 2020. Right after the Eid holidays, the ratio worsened to a case for every fourth test. There is more than one way to look at the number. Some will see this as part of strategy, others will see this as a fallout of a failed strategy that led to early lifting of the lockdown. Th.....view more

Great distractions
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
For those who wish to conclude unfinished agenda, be it of benign or sinister kind, the news cycle dominated by Covid-19 has provided ample cover. Earlier this month, following prolonged litigations, Johnson & Johnson announced that it would stop selling its legendary (and allegedly carcinogenic) baby talcum powder in US and Canada. How convenient, critics charged, that this “development” came when the rest of the world, where thi.....view more
## National News

### Balochistan

**Justice Mandokhail tests positive for Covid-19**  
**Source:** Anadolu Agency, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-29  
PAKISTAN: Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court (BHC) Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and his eight family members have tested positive for coronavirus as the country’s Covid-19 tally topped 64,000 with record 57 deaths in the past 24 hours. Justice Mandokhail inked by poor hospital facilities and his family members have gone into self-isolation after being tested positive, local broadcaster 24 News reported quoting high.... view more

### Islamabad

**Over 2,000 more test positive for coronavirus**  
**Source:** Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23  
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 52,013, with 18,455 cases reported in Punjab, 20,883 in Sindh, 7,391 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3,198 in Balochistan, 602 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1,326 in Islamabad and 158 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 1,087 lives while some 15,201 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. The Balochistan Health Department, in its daily situational report, confirmed 124 new cases of coronavirus..... view more

**PIMS contradicts sensational news on coronavirus**  
**Source:** Our Correspondent, The News, International, 2020-05-23  
Islamabad: The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has dubbed as “totally fake, fabricated, and misleading,” a sensational notice circulating on the social media about a “worse type of coronavirus” hitting the community, with people dying in countless numbers and dead bodies piling up in hospitals. Issued on a letterhead bearing the official monogram of PIMS, the notice draws the attention of the residents of R..... view more

**An altogether different Eid in coronavirus times**  
Islamabad: Eidul Fitr is right around the corner but things are altogether different in the run-up to the post-Ramazan festival this time around due to coronavirus-induced restrictions, infection scare and squeezed incomes. Women shoppers may be seen push their way through the rush in bazaars after the easing of over a month-long shutdown but many complain about a lack of the traditional festivity. “Eidul Fitr is an occasion of great fun..... view more

**Diversion of funds for workers’ welfare demanded**  
**Source:** Our Correspondent, The News, International, 2020-05-23  
Islamabad: The National Labour Federation (NLF) has demanded diversion of non-development funds in government, non-government and autonomous organisations to the welfare of workers. In a statement on Friday, the NLF President, Shamsur Rehman Swati called for a ban on the purchase of new vehicles for officers in OGDCL and other organisations for three years. “The saved money can be spent on the welfare of workers who have been affected by ..... view more
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<tr>
<td>Chinese embassy donates 8,000 food packages</td>
<td>Embassy of China in Islamabad has donated 8,000 food packages for distribution among most vulnerable Afghan refugees, especially those who have been adversely affected due to current COVID-19 pandemic.</td>
<td>2020-05-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many more Eids to come, if you survive this pandemic</td>
<td>Large number of families have thronged markets and shopping malls to give final touches to their Eidul Fitr shopping in total disregard for the social distancing norms, major precaution against the spread of coronavirus pandemic.</td>
<td>2020-05-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSL-3 laboratory at KU turned into large COVID-19 testing facility</td>
<td>The biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory at the University of Karachi’s Dr Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine &amp; Drug Research has been transformed into a large testing facility to help the nation during the COVID-19 pandemic.</td>
<td>2020-05-23</td>
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<td>Poor handling of pilgrims from Iran led to Covid-19 controversy: report</td>
<td>The government’s poor handling of the pilgrims upon their return from the pandemic-stricken country intensified the controversy. The report claimed that the pilgrims remained in quarantine for a minimum of 28 days and were allowed home only after they tested negative for Covid-19.</td>
<td>2020-05-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grim numbers</td>
<td>Commercial activity and the enthusiastic queues outside stores are anything to go by, it appears that both the government and the public have largely accepted the coronavirus as a non-issue.</td>
<td>2020-05-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covid-19; Situation could further worsen if SOPs not followed, warns Dr Zafar</td>
<td>Special Assistant on National Health Services Dr Zafar Mirza on Friday warned that the Covid-19 situation could further worsen if the people did not follow the precautionary measures.</td>
<td>2020-05-23</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Confirmed coronavirus cases rise to 52,437 in Pakistan
The nationwide tally of coronavirus has risen to 52,437 with 1743 cases reported during the last twenty-four hours. 18730 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 20883 in Sindh, 7391 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3198 in Balochistan, 1457 in Islamabad, 607 in Gilgit-Baltistan, and 171 in Azad Kashmir. 16,653 patients have so far recovered from the virus while the death toll from it stands at 1101 with thirty-four deaths reported during the last.... view more

Eid shopping rush across Asia despite virus risk
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
Muslims across Asia have packed out markets as they prepare for the annual Eid ul Fitr holiday, ignoring coronavirus guidelines even as infections rise. The celebration, the most important in the Muslim calendar marking the end of the holy month of Ramazan, is preceded by a rush to buy new clothes, gifts and sweet treats for loved ones. It is expected to begin over the weekend in most countries, and Sunday or Monday in Pakistan, depending on when t.... view more

NDMA starts dispatching PPEs to provinces
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) started dispatching sixth consignment of medical and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to the provinces including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). The dispatches of sixth tranche of safety equipment would be completed before Eid-ul-Fitr, said a news release quoting the spokesman. Sharing the details of the sixth consignment sent to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan province ..... view more

Chinese embassy donates 8,000 food packages to Afghan refugees
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
The Embassy of China in Islamabad has donated 8,000 food packages for distribution among most vulnerable Afghan refugees, especially those who have been adversely affected due to current Covid-19 pandemic. In this regard, a ceremony was held in Embassy of China and participated by Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan, Director General (Afghanistan) Foreign Office, Ambassador of China in Pakistan Yao Ji..... view more

Mirza urges citizens to follow Covid-19 SOPs vigorously
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Zafar Mirza on Friday advised the citizens to strictly follow social distancing and other precautionary measures to stop increasing local transmission of Covid-19 in the country. In a media briefing at the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), Dr Mirza said now the use of mask was compulsory during Eid shopping in markets and using public transport. He also appealed to th..... view more

UMT helping people establish small businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
Due to pandemic and lockdown several businesses all across the globe are suffering and the economy is in free fall. In such times, under the young dynamic education leadership of UMT President Ibrahim Hasan Murad, UMT is serving
the nation by providing helping hands with such as financial resources, moral support or even through services. During this lockdown situation particularly small businesses are usually at the receiving end, therefore faculty ...... view more

Nationwide coronavirus death toll crosses 1,100; total cases hit 53,500
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-05-24
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 53,517 on Saturday, with 18,730 cases reported in Punjab, 21,645 in Sindh, 7,685 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3,198 in Balochistan, 607 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1,457 in Islamabad and 195 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 1,123 lives while some 16,851 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department of Punjab confirmed 14 more casualties d..... view more

Monday last day to submit applications on Ehsaas Labour Portal
Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation Dr Sania Nishtar has said that Monday will be the last date for submitting applications on Ehsaas Labour Portal. In a tweet on Saturday, Dr Nishtar said, “Ehsaas Labour Portal will be closed for applications till 11:30 pm on May 25 (Monday)”. She urged those who lost their jobs due to Coronavirus lockdown to submit their applications at their earliest t..... view more

Rise in mercury, humidity may slow down Covid-19 transmission: Met Office
Source: news desk, Daily Times , 2020-05-24
The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Saturday told the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) that its study has found a decline in Covid-19 transmission rate related to rise in temperature and humidity. The PMD official briefed the NCOC meeting headed by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar through video link about the findings of its research conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health S..... view more

Dispatch of Covid-19 PPEs to provinces completes
The dispatch of fresh tranche of sixth consignment containing medical and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for doctors and paramedics have been sent on Saturday to Sindh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). According to NDMA spokesman, the transported equipment to Sindh province contained 52,500 N-95 and KN-95 masks and 63,000 protective suits. Sharing the details of equipment sent to AJK, he said 5,250 N-95 and KN-95 mask..... view more

Coronavirus pandemic and the unafraid Eid shoppers!!!
First of all lockdown, then soft lockdown and then smart lockdown, now it seems the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) has been given a free hand to attack as many Pindiites as possible, as permission has been given to the city residents to flock to city markets for Eid shopping. “Are the authorities blind to the fact that following SoPs without proper monitoring by them has proved a complete failure? Most of the shoppers are wearing neither ..... view more
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<td>IAEA provides latest testing labs to Pakistan</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International</td>
<td>2020-05-24</td>
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<td>Number of Covid-19 cases rises to 53,517 across country</td>
<td>Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-05-24</td>
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<td>Confirmed coronavirus cases in Pakistan soars to 56,349</td>
<td>Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
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<td>Over 50 labs available in Pakistan to test for COVID-19</td>
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<td>Turkey vows to stand with Pakistan in all difficult times</td>
<td>Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>2020-05-24</td>
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**IAEA provides latest testing labs to Pakistan**

Islamabad: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will provide COVID-19 testing equipment worth more than 100,000 euros to Pakistan in response to a request made by the country. The equipment includes Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) machine, Biohazard Safety Level (BSL) level-3 cabinets, testing kits and related paraphernalia to set up a complete testing laboratory. Some of the equipment including the latest real-time PCR mac.... view more

**Is it so easy to blackmail the government?**

Islamabad: At times one wonders how spineless and helpless the governments, the federal as well as the provincial, turn out to be against the ‘cartels’ that are out there to exploit general public, especially those belonging to lowest, lower and lower-middle strata of society. The latest example was the ‘ridiculous’ dialogues between the governments and the private transporters. One can only express shock and dismay as t..... view more

**Number of Covid-19 cases rises to 53,517 across country**

ISLAMABAD: The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases rose to 53,517 on Saturday after Sindh reported 762 new Covid-19 cases. The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Health Department, in its daily situational report, has confirmed eight more casualties due to coronavirus in the past 24 hours to bring the provincial death toll to 389. Two deaths were reported from Peshawar, and one each in Swabi, Swat, Buner, Abbottabad, Haripur, and Kohat. 294 new ..... view more

**Confirmed coronavirus cases in Pakistan soars to 56,349**

The nationwide tally of Coronavirus has risen to 56349 with 1748 cases reported during the last twenty four hours. 20,077 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 22491 in Sindh, 7905 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3407 in Balochistan, 1641 in Islamabad, 619 in Gilgit Baltistan, and 209 in Azad Kashmir. 17,482 patients have so far recovered from the virus while the death toll stands at 1,167 with thirty-four deaths reported during the last twenty..... view more

**Over 50 labs available in Pakistan to test for COVID-19**

Parliamentary Secretary for Health Dr Nosheen Hamid has said over fifty laboratories are available in Pakistan for testing coronavirus patients. Talking to a private news channel, she urged the people to adopt standard operating procedures to avoid coronavirus and warned that if anyone found involved in violating SoPs and instruction given by the civil administration for trader community, the punishment would be awarded as per law. About lo..... view more

**Turkey vows to stand with Pakistan in all difficult times**

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases have reached 53,774 with 1125 fatalities and 17,198 recoveries being reported from official sources. Following are the number of reported COVID-19 cases in provinces: Sindh (21,645), Punjab (18,730), Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (7685) Balochistan (3306), AJK/GB (197/619) and Islamabad Capital Territory (1592). ..... view more
Corona cases, deaths continue to rise  
ISLAMABAD: The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and fatalities in Pakistan rose to 58,533 and 1,210 respectively on Tuesday due to the people’s least adherence to the health protocols pleading cough etiquette, respirator hygiene, and social distancing. Of 58,533 confirmed cases, Sindh reported 23,507 cases, Punjab 20,654, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 8,259, Balochistan 3,536, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 1,728, Gilgit-Baltistan 638, and Azad ......view more

PM’s Corona Relief Fund crosses Rs4bn mark  
Source: Amir Wasim, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-27  
ISLAMABAD: Amid calls by the opposition parties for auditing of the amount so far spent by the government in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) has announced that the Prime Minister Corona Relief Fund (CRF) has swelled to over Rs4 billion. The announcement was made by PTI Senator Faisal Javed Khan through his official social media account on Twitter. “The PM (Corona) Relief Fu...... view more

Govt mulls lockdown across country as tally nears 59,000  
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-27  
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 58,477 on Tuesday, with 20,654 cases reported in Punjab, 23,507 in Sindh, 8,080 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3,468 in Balochistan, 638 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1,728 in Islamabad and 223 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 1,211 lives while about 18,314 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. The confirmed Covid-19 cases have exceeded 5.5 million globally, with over 346,000 fatali...... view more

Surge in Covid-19 cases likely due to poor following of SOPs: NCOC  
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-27  
The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday maintained that a surge in Covid-19 cases is likely due to unsatisfactory following of guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOP) by masses during the Eid holidays. The meeting reviewed and analysed the Covid-19 latest cases, including existing coronavirus cases, deaths, patients on ventilators and estimates of new possible coronavirus cases of Eid holidays shared by the health m...... view more

Pakistan, Turkey agree to fight Covid-19 jointly  
Source: news desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-27  
Prime Minister Imran Khan and President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation against Covid-19 pandemic to jointly address the situation. During a telephonic conversation, the Turkish president offered condolences on the tragic crash of airplane in Karachi. He reiterated Turkish nation’s strong support to its Pakistani brethren in this difficult time, Prime Minister Office Media Wing said in a press rel...... view more
Covid-19 cases continue to emerge in Islamabad, Rawalpindi district
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: As many as 271 confirmed cases and three deaths from Covid-19 were reported in Islamabad and 97 positive cases and two deaths in Rawalpindi during the last three days. Till Saturday, the tally of deaths and confirmed cases in the capital was 14 and 1457, which on Tuesday rose to 17 and 1728, respectively. The positive cases in the capital were reported at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), CDA Hospital, Rawal H..... view more

Finance advisor vows to provide maximum relief in upcoming budget
Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Abdul Hafeez Sheikh has said the government is preparing 'Corona Budget' and vowed to provide maximum relief to the people in the upcoming budget. Talking to a private news channel, he said the government is facilitating the business community as it is playing an important role for boosting economic activities in the country. The adviser said the government is facing the challenges of coronavirus..... view more

Pak-UAE agree to work closely to contain virus
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to work closely for effective containment of the coronavirus outbreak and strengthening of bilateral cooperation. The concurrence came during a telephone call made by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to Prime Minister Imran Khan. Thanking the Crown Prince for pardoning Pakistani prisoners and timely repatriation of Pakistani citizens from UAE, the Pr..... view more

COVID-19 cases on the rise; No shortage of PPEs, ventilators: NDMA chief
Source: ZULFIQAR AHMAD, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
ISLAMABAD: As there is no let-up in the coronavirus cases, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lt Gen Muhammad Afzal Tuesday said that there was no shortage of Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) and ventilators to treat the COVID-19 patients in the country. Speaking at a presser here, he said that currently there were 4,200 ventilators in public and private sector hospitals in addition to 500 ventilators in military hos..... view more

Prospect of another lockdown
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Now, since far too many people took the partial reopening – later complete reopening since the honourable Supreme Court itself pretty much settled the matter – as some sort of sign that all the threats related to the spread of the coronavirus had somehow receded, it turns out that things have indeed got so bad that we might need another shutdown very soon. And going by early reports, which will of course be verified or rejected by the..... view more

Nationwide coronavirus death toll crosses 1,100; total cases hit 53,500
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 53,517 on Saturday, with 18,730 cases reported in Punjab, 21,645 in Sindh, 7,685 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3,198 in Balochistan, 607 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1,457 in Islamabad and 195 in...
Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 1,123 lives while some 16,851 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department of Punjab confirmed 14 more casualties.

Support of people vital to control spread of Covid-19, says Buzdar
Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Saturday called on Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar. During the meeting steps taken to tackle coronavirus came under discussion. The chief minister said that standard operating procedures (SOPs) should be implemented in an effective manner. He appealed to the people to follow preventive measures against Covid-19 besides maintaining social distancing during ‘Chand Raat’ and Eidul Fitr.

Dispatch of Covid-19 PPEs to provinces completes
The dispatch of fresh tranche of sixth consignment containing medical and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for doctors and paramedics have been sent on Saturday to Sindh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). According to NDMA spokesman, the transported equipment to Sindh province contained 52,500 N-95 and KN-95 masks and 63,000 protective suits. Sharing the details of equipment sent to AJK, he said 5,250 N-95 and KN-95 mask.

Low-profile Eid planned in Pakistan amid coronavirus pandemic
Traditional festivities will be absent on Eid-ul-Fitr marking the end of Ramazan as people prepare to celebrate the Muslim festival in low profile amid the coronavirus pandemic that has left hundreds of thousands unemployed. Major markets and shopping centers are brimming with shoppers after the government relaxed a months-long lockdown but business activity remains far lower when compared to last year. The government has allowed traditional Eid pray.

AIOU policy for assistance during lockdown
Islamabad: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has formulated a policy for providing financial assistance to the deserving students on the basis of their attested documents during the lock-down period of COVID-19. The students who have applied for assistance in phase-2 of semester Spring 2020 would only be required to provide attested documents in support of their applications to their respective regions. These documents will be verified by the.

Online courses for women entrepreneurs
Islamabad: Keeping in mind the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on economy and the small businesses of women, IWCCI decided to design and help women entrepreneurs to learn the tactics of commerce so that they can successfully run their businesses using e-commerce. These online programmes are not only limited to the women entrepreneurs of twin cities but they are also extending these services to women entrepreneurs from all over Pakistan. In collabor....
Corona confirmed cases cross 60,000
LAHORE/KARACHI/PESHAWAR: The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and fatalities in Pakistan rose to 60,074 and 1,240 respectively on Wednesday. Of 60,074 confirmed cases, Sindh reported 24,206 cases, Punjab 21,118, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 8,483, Balochistan 3,536, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 1,879, Gilgit-Baltistan 638 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) 214. Of 1,240 deaths, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported 425 deaths, Sindh 380, Punjab 362, Balochist..... view more

31 to 45 age bracket most affected by Covid-19 in capital: NHS ministry
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
ISLAMABAD: Capital residents within the ages of 31 and 45 appear to be the most vulnerable to Covid-19, as they make up the majority of the working class and their movement cannot be curtailed. A document from the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) available with Dawn shows that of the 1,728 cases reported in Islamabad so far, 570 of the people affected are between 31 and 45, while 376 patients are between the ages of 21 and 30. There h..... view more

QAU researchers identify novel vaccine candidates against virus
Source: Kashif Abbasi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
ISLAMABAD: A team of researchers at the Quaid-i-Azam University National Centre for Bioinformatics Computational Biology Lab have identified novel vaccine candidates against the coronavirus. The researchers have utilised indigenously developed computational methods to design a novel vaccine construct available at the lab to identify novel multi-epitope based vaccine candidates, a statement issued by the university on Wednesday said. It said tha..... view more

201 passengers quarantined in Jhelum
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
GUJAR KHAN: A total of 201 passengers who returned from Qatar were quarantined in various facilities in Jhelum on Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner Saif Anwar Jappa told Dawn that a special flight, QR-632, brought 251 expats to Islamabad International Airport from Doha. Of them, 201 passengers were directly transferred to quarantine centres in Jhelum district. There are 51 passengers quarantined in the Sohawa quarantine facility, while 150 are at ..... view more

Islamabad sees another record surge in Covid-19 cases
Source: Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: Islamabad saw another record increase in Covid-19 cases on Wednesday after 151 people tested positive for the disease. Two patients have also died. At least 1,879 people have now been diagnosed with Covid-19 in the capital, and 19 people have died, officials in the capital administration said. They said that the two most recent deceased patients lived in F-7 and G-13. Both of them were hospitalised and their condition had ..... view more

Big businesses urge furlough system to avoid layoffs
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
ISLAMABAD: With the prolonging Covid-19 pandemic and its economic fallout, big businesses have started making the case for cash contribution from the government to put in place a furlough system for labour to avoid big layoffs
and insolvency challenges. Informed sources said leading businessman Mian Mansha led a delegation of his business group and met with Finance Adviser Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh. The meeting aimed to sensitise the federal govern.....view more

Youth disproportionately affected by pandemic, says ILO
Source: Amin Ahmed, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-05-28
ISLAMABAD: More than one in six young people have stopped working since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic while those who remain employed have seen their working hours cut by 23 per cent, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said in a report on Wednesday. According to the ‘ILO Monitor: Covid-19 and the World of Work’, youth are being disproportionately affected by the pandemic, and the substantial and rapid increase in youth .....view more

May 28: PM Imran calls for global initiative to fight Covid-19 as nationwide tally surpasses 63,000
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-05-28
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 contagion has so far infected more than 5.6 million people in 202 co.....view more

Number of coronavirus cases surpasses 60,000 in country
ISLAMABAD: The number of coronavirus cases surpassed 60,000 on Wednesday after new cases were reported from various parts of the country. According to official figures, the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the country rose to 60,074 after new infections were confirmed in the country. According to province-wise break up, Punjab reported 464 more Covid-19 cases and 10 new deaths. With the new cases, Punjab’s tally ha.....view more

Coronavirus cases rise to 61,227 in Pakistan
The emergence of 2,076 new infections over the last twenty-four hours has taken the nationwide tally of coronavirus to 61,227. 22,037 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 24206 in Sindh, 8483 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3616 in Balochistan, 2015 in Islamabad, 651 in Gilgit-Baltistan, and 219 in Azad Kashmir. 20,231 patients have so far recovered from the virus while the death toll stands at 1260 with 36 deaths reported during the last twen.....view more

PM taking wise decisions to control coronavirus, says Sheikh Rasheed
Railways Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad Thursday said that the Prime Minister Imran Khan was taking strict wise decisions to control spread of the pandemic and to overcome the economic crisis engulfing the country. Railway minister claimed that the federal government has taken corrective measures as compared to Sindh government in order to contain the spread of Coronavirus. The government has taken acknowledge able steps keeping in view the h.....view more
Nationwide tally of coronavirus crosses 60,000; 1,240 lives lost
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 60,083 on Wednesday, with 21,118 cases reported in Punjab, 24,206 in Sindh, 8,483 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3,536 in Balochistan, 638 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1,879 in Islamabad and 223 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 1,240 lives while about 19,142 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. Punjab on Wednesday reported 464 more Covid-19 cases and 10 new deaths, according to the Pr..... view more

ICA urges govt to allow opening of marquees and marriage halls
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
The Islamabad Caterers Association has demanded that the federal and Islamabad district administration allow marquees and marriage halls to operate with due precautionary measures. ICA Chairman Mukhtar Abbas, President Salman Ashraf and General Secretary Bakhtawar Butt in a meeting with media representatives expressed their concerns over ongoing closure of marquees and wedding halls in the wake of coronavirus outbreak and demanded that the governm..... view more

Mrs Raheela Khan — a beacon for humanity
Source: Saqib Malik, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
The entire world, including Pakistan, has been hit hard by global pandemic COVID-19, leaving populations devastated in many countries due to the extended lockdowns and ceased economic activities. In this troubled period, many governments and humanitarian organizations are coming forward to help people in need. The Inter-Governmental Institution for the use of Micro-algae Spirulina against malnutrition (IIMSAM) a permanent member for the United Nat..... view more

Businessmen urged to adapt to Covid-19 realities to avoid bankruptcy
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Prolonged lockdown has changed the habits and preferences of consumers and the business community should carefully analyze the situation and adapt to new realities to save their businesses from bankruptcy. Mian Zahid Hussain, Senior Vice-President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry’s (FPCCI) Businessmen Panel, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provi..... view more

A new way of living
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Rather than adopting a reactionary approach about the matter of another lockdown, the government’s energies are better spent making everybody understand that we will just have to come to terms with a different way of living for quite a while. Sure, another lockdown is very much on the cards, but that is only because people didn’t behave in the way they should have over the past couple of weeks. And even now there’s only so long ..... view more

Covid-19 problem requires global solution: PM
Source: Kalbe Ali, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated on Thursday that the Covid-19 pandemic was a global problem that required a global solution, urging the developed world to "put their minds together". "If developed countries put
their minds together and treat this as a global situation, I think we will all come out of it unscathed. Right now things look bleak, but if we treat it as a global issue the world will come out of it, &rd..... view more

No immediate plan to go for stricter lockdown: govt
Source: Amir Wasim, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
ISLAMABAD: As the country registered thousands of new Covid-19 patients and witnessed many deaths from the virus on Thursday, the government expressed “satisfaction” over the situation in hospitals, saying it has no immediate plan to go for a stricter lockdown. Talking to Dawn after attending a meeting presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan to review the situation in the country in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and locust att..... view more

More infections, deaths as SOPs go unheeded
ISLAMABAD/PESHAWAR/KARACHI: The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and fatalities in Pakistan rose to 62,700 and 1,283 respectively on Wednesday, as majority of people seem least bothered about observing the health protocols set by the government. On Thursday, as many as 44 people died of complications related to coronavirus, while 2,622 new cases were reported. Of the total 62,700 confirmed cases, Sindh reported 25,309 cases, Punjab 22,037, K..... view more

Three more Pakistani media workers succumb to coronavirus
ISLAMABAD: Three media employees, including two at Radio Pakistan and one journalist, succumbed to the deadly coronavirus, reports published Thursday said. Radio Pakistan senior broadcast engineer Muhammad Ashfaq and Urdu newscaster Huma Zafar died of the virus, the publication said in its report. "Muhammad Ashfaq was a regular employee of Radio Pakistan and known for his competence and dedication to technical work. He was very humble and ..... view more

Risk of contracting Covid-19 looms large as positive cases are from everywhere in ICT
Islamabad: The risk of contracting coronavirus illness, COVID-19 is now ever greater in the federal capital as every nook and corner of the city has positive cases of the disease now and the data reveals that Islamabad is reporting the highest number of cases – 2015 so far reported as confirmed – as per its population compared with other districts of the country. The reasons behind maximum number of cases being reported from Islamab..... view more

LIVE: CAA announces resumption of int’l flight operations; Covid-19 tally hits 64,832
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
ISLAMABAD / KARACHI / PESHAWAR / LAHORE / QUETTA / MUZAFFARABAD: The novel coronavirus emerged in the central China city of Wuhan towards the end of last year and proliferated to almost the whole world within a couple of months. It’s not the virulence or fatality, but the infectivity of the new virus – also known as SARS-CoV-2 – that has set off a global frenzy. The Covid-19 respiratory illness caused by this mysterious co..... view more
Pakistan’s confirmed cases of coronavirus rise to 64,028
2636 new coronavirus cases has surfaced in the country over the last twenty-four hours, taking the tally to 64,028. 22,964 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 25309 in Sindh, 8842 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3928 in Balochistan, 2100 in Islamabad, 658 in Gilgit-Baltistan, and 227 in Azad Kashmir. 22,305 patients have so far recovered from the virus while the death toll stands at 1317 with 57 deaths reported during the last twenty four hou.....view more

With 38 new deaths, country’s infections surpass 60,000 mark
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Thursday stressed devising a mechanism of providing latest information about the availability of beds and ventilators in country’s hospitals to facilitate COVID-19 patients. On the other hand, with new the emergence of 2,076 new infections over the last twenty-four hours, the nationwide coronavirus cases reached 61,227 on Thursday. At least 22,037 cases have.....view more

World must see Covid-19 through ‘global lens’: PM
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-29
Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday reiterated his call for developed countries to augment aid to and ‘look after’ poorer nations, adding that Covid-19 pandemic is a global problem that requires a global solution. Addressing a virtual United Nations event on ‘Financing for Development in the Covid-19 Era and Beyond’ hosted by UN secretary general and Canadian and Jamaican prime ministers, Prime Minister Imran Khan urged t.....view more

Pakistan deploys militant-tracking technology to hunt Covid-19 patients
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-29
The intelligence services are deploying secretive surveillance technology normally used to locate militants to instead track coronavirus patients and the people they come into contact with. In a programme publicly touted by Prime Minister Imran Khan, the government has turned to the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for help in tackling the virus, which still is spreading at an accelerating rate across Pakistan. Details about the project have not b.....view more

Covid-19: NCC to devise future strategy on June 1
Source: staff reporter, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Thursday said that a special meeting of NCC will be held on Monday (June 1) to finalise strategy regarding coronavirus for June. Chairing a meeting at National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC), the minister asked the provinces including GB and AJK to finalize their recommendations regarding Covid-19 by Saturday for consideration. He stressed for devising a mechanism to pro.....view more

Nationwide coronavirus tally nears 63,000; 43 more lose lives to virus
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-29
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients soared to 62,689 on Thursday, with 22,037 cases reported in Punjab, 25,309 in Sindh, 8,842 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3,616 in Balochistan, 651 in Gilgit Baltistan, 2,015 in Islamabad and 223 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir so far. The virus has claimed at least 1,283 lives while about 20,231 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. Sindh chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, sharing daily situation report of coron.....view more


Page 27
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Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-29
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Amid COVID-19, locust attack risks famine in Pakistan, India
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-29
Still reeling under the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, another severe crisis is staring at Pakistan and India, one with the potential to impact their food security. Swarms of locusts — short-horned grasshoppers — have invaded agriculture fields in both countries decimating crops and risking famine in the region. In Pakistan, hopper bands of the Schistocerca gregaria — commonly known as the desert locust — have al... view more

Covid-19 must be dealt with globally: PM
Source: Zaheer Abbasi, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said that the Covid-19 is a global issue and must be dealt with globally, and emphasized the need that the help to developing world has to be much bigger than what has so far been envisaged. Speaking to the virtual UN event on financing for development (FFD) in the era of COVID-19 and beyond, the prime minister stated that G20 had taken recently a big initiative of giving debt relief but bear i... view more

Covid-19 cases surpass 62,000 mark in country
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Covid-19 cases have surpassed 62,000 mark following Sindh and Punjab collectively reported over 2,000 cases in the past 24 hours. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) and the Covid-19 figures released by the provincial governments, the total confirmed coronavirus cases in Pakistan reached 62,689 with 1,283 deaths and 20,231 recovered. With 62,689 cases, Pakistan has jumped from 19th t... view more

NHS ministry to expedite Covid-19 hospital in anticipation of dengue virus outbreak
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
ISLAMABAD: Expecting a spike in cases of the dengue virus, the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) has decided to expedite the construction of a dedicated facility for Covid-19 patients in Chak Shahzad. Last year, outbreaks of the dengue virus were reported Rawalpindi and Islamabad, with more than 13,000 cases in the capital alone. Of the 10,118 cases in Punjab, almost 60pc were in Rawalpindi. An NHS ministry official who was not authori... view more

Attock sees drastic jump in Covid-19 cases
Source: A Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
TAXILA: A woman died from Covid-19 in Attock on Thursday and 31 more people were diagnosed with the disease, district health authorities have confirmed. There have now been 131 cases of Covid-19 in Attock district and five deaths. According to health authorities, the deceased was a 60-year-old woman from Shakardara. She had been
admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Attock, where she tested positive for Covid-19 a few days ago. 

**Patients admitted to DHQ hospital complain about lack of facilities**


TAXILA: Covid-19 patients admitted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Attock on Thursday alleged that doctors were not attending them and there was also a paucity of facilities. The patients told newsmen on phone that since they were isolated after testing positive, no physician had visited them and even paramedics on duty were reluctant to give treatment to them. They alleged that doctors on duty never came to the isolation ward and in.....

**KPK**

**Entertainment industry suffered loss due to Covid-19 pandemic**


PESHAWAR: Like other segments of the society, the entertainment industry and showbiz have also suffered due to closure of the entertainment-related activities for the last couple of months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. After the outbreak of the coronavirus, the artistes lost their jobs and producers, directors and drama/film makers as well as cinema and theatre owners suffered financial losses due to the lockdown. The situation went from bad to ..... 

**Nowshera reports 15 fresh cases of Covid-19**


NOWSHERA: Another 15 people tested positive for coronavirus in Nowshera that took the number of patients suffering from the viral infection to 308, officials said. Deputy Commissioner Shahid Ali Khan said of the 308 patients confirmed for Covid-19, a good number – 89 - were from a tobacco company. The official said as many as 651 people had tested negative for the viral disease. Five people have recovered from the disease, he added. The d.....

**Covid-19 threat: People asked to stay at home on Eid**


PESHAWAR: Contrary to the previous years, the people will be celebrating this Eidul Fitr amid growing fear of coronavirus pandemic. This will be the first Eidul Fitr in the country where politicians, government officials, elders and head of various families and organizations have requested their near and dears to stay at home instead of visiting them for exchanging Eid greetings. Before coronavirus pandemic, the elders and leaders would feel th.....

**Two more die of coronavirus in Mardan**


MARDAN: Two more people died of coronavirus in the district, raising the total number of casualties to 25, official sources said. Also, 31 more people tested positive for corona virus during 24 hours, increasing the numbers of patients to 405. About 318 suspected coronavirus patients were allowed to go home from quarantine centers. Around 236 suspected patients were discharged from different isolation centers in the district while 35 patients are......
HMC acknowledges CAA efforts for flying plasma from Karachi to save lives
PESHAWAR: The Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) has acknowledged the efforts and support of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials at the Bacha Khan International Airport for timely delivery of plasma from Karachi for clinical trial to save the lives of coronavirus patients. This was stated by Abdul Sattar Khokhar, senior joint secretary and spokesperson of ision. According to details, the HMC Hospital Director Dr Faisal Shahzad wrote a let..... view more

9 more test positive for corona in Nowshera
NOWSHERA: Nine more suspected patients of coronavirus tested positive, taking the tally of confirmed Covid-19 cases to 317 in the district on Saturday. A communique issued from the deputy commissioner office said that nine reported positive for the fast-travelling viral infection. The patients identified as Dr Muhammad Suhraab Khan, Naseem Begum, Nehar Begum, Shahan Murad, Tasawwar Dawood, Shireen Taj and Syed Ali Khan had undergone a test for C..... view more

KP police review Covid-19 preventive steps taken in 2 months
PESHAWAR: A high level meeting held at Central Police Office (CPO) Peshawar on Saturday with IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Dr Sanaullah Abbasi in chair, reviewed the steps taken for prevention of Covid-19 during the period of last two months. The main purpose of the steps taken by KP was to ensure safety and security of the general public against Covid-19. The meeting was informed that as per directives of the KP government, police stri..... view more

Number of Covid-19 patients goes up in Takhbahi
TAKHTBHAI: An unprecedented increase of 21 patients of coronavirus was seen owing to the relaxation of lockdown during Eidul Fitr in Takhbahi tehsil. With the new cases, the number of confirmed Covid-19 patients reached 62 in the tehsil. Officials said that the most affected areas included Shergarh, Lundkhwar and Takhbahi city. They said that most of the patients were quarantined at their respective homes while the serious ones were shifted t..... view more

5 more test positive in Nowshera
NOWSHERA: Five more suspected patients tested positive for the coronavirus, raising the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases to 223 in district. Officials said that a total of 144 workers of Pakistan Tobacco Company in Akora Khattak reported positive for the fast-spreading viral infection. Earlier, the company was closed down due to the spread of coronavirus outbreak in the workers and senior officials. However, the company is now being reopened wi..... view more

Increase feared in Covid-19 cases as people violate social distancing rules
PESHAWAR: An overwhelming majority of people in the provincial capital and the rest of the province kept violating the standard operating procedures (SOPs) about social distancing during the Eidul Fitr holidays and this may cause an increase in the Covid-19 cases in coming days. A large number of people were seen thronging the bazaars in the
last days of Ramazan to do shopping for Eid. During the Eid days, people received guests as usual without..... view more

**Adviser fears spike in Covid-19 cases if social distancing ignored**  
PESHAWAR: Adviser on Information and Public Relations Ajmal Wazir visited the Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) on the third day of Eid. HMC Medical Director Dr Shehzad Akbar briefed him on the latest situation on coronavirus epidemic, said an official handout. Ajmal Wazir also met doctors, nurses and paramedics besides other staff members fighting on the frontline against coronavirus. Speaking on the occasion, he said the doctors, nurses and para..... view more

**Peshawar district records 20pc of nationwide coronavirus deaths**  
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-27  
Graphs prepared by Dr Sareer Badshah, dean of faculty of basic and social sciences, at Islamia College University, depict the Covid-19 situation. PESHAWAR: Peshawar district with two per cent of the country’s population accounted for 20 per cent of the nationwide and 58 per cent mortalities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to Covid-19 pandemic. The reasons for the higher mort..... view more

**Chief secretary tests positive for Covid-19**  
Source: Bureau report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-27  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary Dr Kazim Niaz has tested positive for Covid-19. Reports of Dr Niaz having contracted the virus emerged when Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in a tweet paid tribute to the officer for leading the fight against Covid-19, and prayed for his speedy recovery. Mr Niaz was in high spirits when Dawn contacted him. He said he couldn’t sit around while professionals and officers were on the front-lines fight..... view more

**Covid-19 survivors urged to donate plasma**  
Source: Bureau report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-27  
PESHAWAR: Adviser to the chief minister on information Ajmal Khan Wazir on Tuesday urged all residents, who have recovered from novel coronavirus (Covid-19), to donate blood plasma for transfusion to other patients. “The transfusion of plasma from recovered Covid-19 cases helps with the fast recovery of patients,” Mr Wazir said during a visit to the Hayatabad Medical Complex. During a meeting with Hayatabad Medical Complex medical d..... view more

**Siraj wants SOPs for burial of virus victims reviewed**  
Source: Bureau report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-27  
PESHAWAR: Jamaat-i-Islami chief Siraul Haq has expressed concern over growing number of coronavirus patients in the country and urged the government to take practical steps to overcome the pandemic effectively. Speaking at an event organised by Al-Khidmat Foundation, a charity of JI, here on Tuesday, he asked for provision of personal protective equipments (PPEs) to the health professionals fighting the pandemic on the front-lines. He said the g..... view more
People throng picnic spots ignoring Covid-19 guidelines
SHANGLA: People thronged upper parts of Shangla and riversides in Swabi for picnic amid closure of major tourist sites while in most districts, including Bajaur, the locals largely ignored the standard operating procedures set for Eid prayers in view of coronavirus pandemic. In Shangla, thousands of local tourists, including those of nearby districts, visited the upper mountainous parts of the district in groups. Areas seen buzzing with picnick..... view more

2 more die of Covid-19 in Abbottabad
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
ABBOTTABAD - At least two people on Tuesday died of COVID-19 in Tehsil Havelian and Lora district Abbottabad and buried following the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in their native areas. Sajawal Khan was resident of Salwala village in the area of Havelian police station who was admitted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Rawalpindi after testing COVID-19 positive but could not survive. At the time of burial, Assistant Commissioner H..... view more

Govt mulling lockdown to put brakes on coronavirus spread
PESHAWAR: The constant violations of the lockdown have prompted the government to state that it would enforce strict lockdown if the number of Covid-19 cases increased after Eidul Fitr. The experts said that the number of Covid-19 cases have increased and would further increase within next few weeks. The Covid-19 pandemic evoked an unprecedented response across the world. Countries like China introduced a strict lockdown in Wuhan. This was foll..... view more

Another man dies of Covid-19 in Mardan
MARDAN: Another man died from coronavirus in the district, health officials said on Wednesday. The officials said that seven more people had tested positive for coronavirus in the district in the last 24 hours, taking the number of patients suffering from the viral infection to 444. About 1,846 tests were conducted in the district in which the reports of 1121 people came back negative while the results of 281 suspected patients were still await..... view more

Covid-19 pandemic: Elders to hold corner meetings to pay tributes to martyrs of Takkar
TAKHTBHAI: Owing to the coronavirus pandemic, the Awami National Party (ANP)'s local elders and other nationalists are holding corner meetings today to pay tributes to the martyrs of Takkar, who were massacred by British forces on May 28, 1930. In the past, a big gathering used to be arranged at the monument of Shuhada-e-Takkar to remember the martyrs who were massacred on the orders of the British colonial rulers. They British were enrage..... view more

Business restrictions return in KP amid rising coronavirus incidence
Source: Bureau report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday reverted to the pre-Eid market timings amid spike in the incidence of novel coronavirus (Covid-19). “Shops and markets will open from Monday to Thursday between 10am and 5pm, while pharmacies and other essential services will continue to be an exception,” adviser to the chief minister on information Ajmal Khan Wazir told reporters during a visit to different markets here. Mr Wazir said barbe..... view more

**Business restrictions return in KP amid rising coronavirus incidence**  
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**Hospital closure sought over 26 virus cases**  
ABBOTTABAD: The Provincial Doctors Association (PDA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on Wednesday demanded closure of the district headquarters hospital after 26 employees tested positive for Covid-19. Addressing a press conference, office-bearers of the association said that the hospital should be closed till disinfection spray was carried out. They said that coronavirus cases in the country had jumped to 59,151 after 1,441 new cases were reported during ..... view more

**Death toll reaches 425 as nine more die of Covid-19**  
PESHAWAR: The death toll due to Covid-19 reached 425 on Wednesday as doctors at the medical teaching institutions of the provincial capital wanted the district level hospitals to manage the patients locally and save the Peshawar-based hospitals from overburdening with patients. “We are actively admitting Covid-19 patients but other MTIs should step up efforts to lessen patients' load on us,” a senior doctor at Hayatabad Medical..... view more

**Revised lockdown to be imposed in K-P**  
PESHAWAR: The provincial government on Wednesday said that they will re-impose a lockdown with set times for stores to close as part of measures to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19). This was stated by the Adviser to the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister on Information Ajmal Wazir on Wednesday after visiting different markets in the provincial capital. He said that keeping in view the Covid-19 pandemic, which has in..... view more

**46 Pakistanis test positive for COVID-19 upon return from Afghanistan**  
Forty six Afghanistan-returned Pakistani citizens were identified corona positive on the last day. The district administration official told that previous week after brought them back from Afghanistan and quarantined in various centre in Landi Kotal, test samples of 278 suspected had been collected and sent to laboratory test. As per the test results, announced by the health officials’ last day 46 persons out of 278 were found COVID 19 effe..... view more

**An Eid spent in service of humanity**  
Source: Ahtesham Khan, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-05-29  
PESHAWAR: As Eidul Fitr rolls around each year, most relish a chance to spend quality time with their loved ones and take much needed respite from their daily routines. The novel coronavirus pandemic, however, has meant this
Eid came and went like no other before it. Still, imagine being unable to even have that brief respite that many of us were still able to enjoy. And imagine being in that situation thousands of miles from your family. .....

**Coronavirus kills first health worker in Kohat**
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-05-29
PESHAWAR / KOHAT / CHARSAADDA: A nurse has succumbed to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in Kohat on Thursday officials said in the first fatality of a health care worker in the district from the virus. Mussarat Dilbar was a nurse at the Kohat Development Authority (KDA) hospital and had tested positive for the virus a few days ago. She had been admitted to the facility but her health condition continued to deteriorate and on Thursday, she s....

**Eight more succumb to pandemic in KP**
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-05-29
PESHAWAR: Eight more people died of Covid-19 on Thursday, taking the province-wide death toll due to the virus to 435. Hayatabad Medical Complex Peshawar is becoming the favourite destination of suspected coronavirus patients as it has testing facility as well as offers treatment through plasma immunisation. The other two medical teaching institutions in Peshawar -- Lady Reading Hospital and Khyber Teaching Hospital -- don't have testing ..... view more

**KP has highest recovery rate, says Ajmal**
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the highest recovery rate among patients of coronavirus, says Adviser to Chief Minister on Information Ajmal Wazir. He said that the province had 200 isolation wards for Covid-19 patients with the capacity of 5,598 beds. He said that 359 quarantine centres and more than 550 ventilators had been reserved for patients of the pandemic. "Still citizens should follow the guidelines issued by the government as t..... view more

**Punjab**

**Dr Yasmin Rashid reviews emergency plan for Covid-19 patients**
LAHORE:Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid chaired a meeting to review the emergency plan for Covid-19 patients, duty rostrum during Eid days and other key affairs at the Committee Room of the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department here on Friday. Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department Secretary Barrister Nabeel Awan, Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Captain (Retd) Usman Younis, SHME Additional Secr..... view more

**Sirajul Haq calls for releasing Rs10b corona relief fund**
LAHORE:Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Senator Sirajul Haq has demanded the government immediately release Rs10 billion to protect the masses from corona and to improve the health services in the country. Delivering Friday sermon at Mansoora mosque, he called for arranging free corona tests to know the exact number of virus patients which would help to check the spread of the disease. Calling for lifting the curbs on the Eid prayers, Sirajul Haq said tha..... view more
Critical Covid-19 patient left to die in ambulance
Source: Afzal Ansari, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-23
KASUR: A critical patient of Covid-19 died in a Rescue 1122 ambulance on way to the Lahore Expo Centre Field Hospital after two health facilities refused to accept him. Following a phone call, a Rescue 1122 team received Zaheer Asghar, 53, from the DHQ Hospital to shift him to the Lahore General Hospital. The report said the LGH refused to accept the patient and rather referred him to the Expo Field Hospital. The Rescue report said the patient ......

Buzdar underscores need for taking safety measures to contain coronavirus spread
Source: MUHAMMAD SALEEM, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-23
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has appealed the citizens to protect themselves from coronavirus as well as their loved ones, follow the SOPs, maintain social distance and use masks during Eid shopping. He said this during meeting with the provincial ministers Dr Yasmin Rashid, Akhtar Malik, Nauman Langrial, Sardar Asif Nakai and assembly members who called on him here Friday and discussed matters of mutual interest. ..... view more

Over 2,000 more test positive for coronavirus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 52,013, with 18,455 cases reported in Punjab, 20,883 in Sindh, 7,391 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3,198 in Balochistan, 602 in Gilgit Baltistan, 1,326 in Islamabad and 158 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 1,087 lives while some 15,201 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. The Balochistan Health Department, in its daily situational report, confirmed 124 new cases of coronavirus..... view more

CM Buzdar urges people to stay safe by following COVID-19 SOPs
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
 Provincial Ministers Dr Yasmin Rashid, Akhtar Malik, Nauman Langrial, Sardar Asif Nakai and assembly members called on Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office and discussed different matters of mutual interest. Talking on this occasion, the CM appealed to the citizens to protect themselves from coronavirus as well as their loved ones. Following the relevant SOPs should be ensured and along-with it, social discussing and use of masks sh..... view more

Police force presented positive image of department during COVID-19 crisis: IG
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
Punjab Police Inspector General Shoaib Dastgir said that the police have rendered services for citizens’ protection with high spirit and diligence during corona crisis and also presented a real and positive image of police before all. He further said that Police Force performed their duties in Corona lockdown, Quarantine Centers and Ehsas Kafalat centers with full commitment and during execution of their duties, around 500 officers and officia..... view more
Support of people vital to control spread of Covid-19, says Buzdar
Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Saturday called on Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar. During the meeting steps taken to tackle coronavirus came under discussion. The chief minister said that standard operating procedures (SOPs) should be implemented in an effective manner. He appealed to the people to follow preventive measures against Covid-19 besides maintaining social distancing during ‘Chand Raat’ and Eidul Fitr t..... view more

Hospitals' OPDs, main OTs to reopen after Eid
Rawalpindi : The outpatient departments and main operation theatres at the allied hospitals in town including Holy Family Hospital, Benazir Bhutto Hospital and District Headquarters Hospital shall remain closed till Wednesday in connection with Eid holidays though the healthcare facilities working for management of coronavirus illness would operate their specialized units as per routine to cater to the needs of COVID-19 suspects and patients. Th..... view more

Another 159 test positive for Covid-19 in twin cities
Rawalpindi : Another 159 patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours taking total number of patients so far confirmed positive from the region to 3326 though no death was reported in the region due to the disease on Saturday. Data collected by ‘The News’ reveals that a new record of highest number of patients confirmed in a day from Islamabad C..... view more

Four cops test positive for COVID-19
Rawalpindi: Four police personnel of Naseerabad Police Station including Station House Officer (SHO) Inspector Nadeem Abbas have tested positive for coronavirus. Police officials have been playing frontline force role against coronavirus pandemic. Following symptoms of COVID-19, the entire staff of Naseerabad Police Station was tested for COVID-19 and four police officials including SHO were found positive with coronavirus. Among police offici..... view more

Skipping family bonding time on Eidul Fitr amid COVID-19 outbreak
Rawalpindi : Saeeda Bibi, a 52-year-old woman, did not go back to her hometown in Sindh, during the holy month of Ramazan this year following the government’s restriction on transport and fear of coronavirus in her native province. Saeeda, has been living in Islamabad with her 60-year-old husband for more than 30 years. The couple, living in Muslim Town, usually return to their hometown to celebrate Eidul al-Fitr - the end of the month-lo..... view more

Health department, corona related staff to perform duties on Eid holidays
Rawalpindi : All the staff members at the district health department along with doctors, nurses and paramedics at the public sector healthcare facilities including allied hospitals in the district having responsibilities related to surveillance and management of patients and suspects of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 are ready to serve as per routine during Eid holidays though they have appealed to people to stay at home to stay safe. Hundreds of..... view more
**People will have to change lifestyle after Covid-19: CM Usman Buzdar**
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said the world has changed due to coronavirus and people need to change their lifestyle in accordance with the new changes. He was speaking to provincial Ministers Muhammad Basharat Raja, Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed and Malik Muhammad Anwar, who called on him here on Saturday. According to official sources, during the meeting standard operating procedures (SOPs) to control the spread of COVID-1....

**Health officials snubbed for delay in Corona test reports**
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-24
LAHORE: The Punjab Home Department has admonished the provincial health authorities for, what it called, inordinate delay in generating Covid-19 test reports of the expats and others arriving from abroad, besides questioning the testing capacity of the province. The department also sought action against the health department officials concerned for their “failure” to address the issue of delayed reporting, causing a great deal of inc....

**Minister tests positive for Covid-19**
Source: Staff Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-24
MULTAN: Provincial minister for energy Dr Akhtar Malik quarantined himself at his residence after he was tested positive for coronavirus. According to family sources, Dr Malik got his test conducted and was tested positive. While requesting for prayers for early recovery of the minister, his family said Dr Malik had isolated himself in his house and was in good condition. Dr Malik visited Nishtar Hospital and quarantine centre established i....

**14 more fall prey to virus in Punjab**
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-24
LAHORE: Punjab reported only 275 new confirmed cases of Covid-19 on Saturday which were significantly less than those highest figures recorded on Friday. The virus, however, claimed the lives of 14 more patients during the last 24 hours across the province. Of them seven died in Lahore, three in Rawalpindi and two each in Faisalabad and Gujranwala. The death toll in Lahore reached to 123 while in Punjab 324, said official figures released to t....

**Metro bus faces Rs500m loss during lockdown**
Source: Imran Adnan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-24
LAHORE: Despite a revenue loss of Rs500 million during the lockdown, the Punjab Mass Transit Authority (PMTA) has decided not to ply metro and feeder busses during Eidul Fitr holidays as the government has not permitted it. Though the inter-city public transport has been allowed to ply after implementing standard operating procedures (SOPs) to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the fate of metro and feeder bus services is still uncertain. .....
the disease were reported from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi while the virus claimed at least another 10 lives in last three days. The virus claimed five lives in the district one each from Ra.....view more

Coronavirus fails to deter travellers visiting picnic spots
Rawalpindi: The COVID-19 failed to deter dwellers of twin cities and suburbs from adjacent areas to visit recreational spots and hill stations during Eidul Fitr in wake of coronavirus pandemic. Ahead of Eidul Fitr, city district administration of Islamabad and police from twin cities has inked out special plan for traffic as well as complete lockdown of recreational spots in the twin cities. All parks in Rawalpindi and Islamabad were closed in .....view more

Coronavirus fails to deter travellers visiting picnic spots
Rawalpindi: The COVID-19 failed to deter dwellers of twin cities and suburbs from adjacent areas to visit recreational spots and hill stations during Eidul Fitr in wake of coronavirus pandemic. Ahead of Eidul Fitr, city district administration of Islamabad and police from twin cities has inked out special plan for traffic as well as complete lockdown of recreational spots in the twin cities. All parks in Rawalpindi and Islamabad were closed in .....view more

SOPs breach increasing cases, deaths: governor Sarwar
LAHORE: Governor Ch Muhammad Sarwar has said federal and provincial governments will decide about relaxing or tightening the lockdown. People are not ready to take coronavirus serious in Pakistan. Cases of coronavirus and death toll are rising because people are not following SOPs. We assure people that transparent investigation will be done in plane crash. The Prime Minister has strictly instructed that merit must be guiding principle during inv.....view more

138 PIA passengers test negative for coronavirus
TOBA TEK SINGH: All 138 passengers, who returned from Dubai by a PIA special flight at Faisalabad airport on Saturday, tested negative for coronavirus on Tuesday. Earlier, the passengers were quarantined at Toba Tek Singh and after the reports of their tests they were allowed to go to their homes. Meanwhile, District Police Officer (DPO) Waqar Shoaib Qureshi on eid day visited DHQ hospital's isolation ward and inquired after the health of s.....view more

Post-lockdown surge in Covid -19 cases poses fresh challenge to caregivers
Source: Asif Chaidhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
LAHORE: The Covid-19 pandemic may lead to a surge in the number of critically-ill patients and shortage of ventilators in the intensive care units of teaching hospitals in Punjab in the coming weeks. The medical and health experts say the situation is not as alarming as is being portrayed as around 30-40 per cent ventilators are occupied in Punjab. According to the official figures, 1,296 ventilators were available at the state-run teaching hos.....view more
MPA, brother test positive for coronavirus
SAHIWAL: In Eid holidays, 11 people died from coronavirus related complications in different districts. Moreover, a ruling party MPA from Arifwala, his younger brother, their two Lahore-based friends and two drivers have tested positive for coronavirus. After the test reports, the MPA and his family members have been quarantined in a private residence in Lahore. The MPA’s close circles added that he had been extensively traveling between ......

People not ready to take coronavirus serious: says Punjab governor
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has said that the federal government and provincial government will decide about relaxing or tightening the lockdown. People are not ready to take coronavirus serious in Pakistan. Cases of coronavirus and death toll are rising because people are not following SOPs. We assure people that transparent investigation will be done in plane crash. Prime Minister has strictly instructed that merit must be guiding ..... view more

Absence of strategy resulted in rise in COVID-19 cases: Shehbaz
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Had there been a strategy in place at the time of the imposition of lockdown or when the decision was taken to lift it, the number of COVID-19 cases in the country would not have increased at such a rapid rate.According to a statement posted by the PML-N’s official Twitter account, the former Punjab chief minister called on the government to “not waste more time” in creating an effective national strategy to cope with the corona..... view more

Anti-COVID-19 SOPs: people spend Eid holidays indoors
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Contrary to past practices and traditions, majority people have preferred to stay at their homes instead of visiting relatives, friends and recreational sites during Eid-ul-Fitr holidays in compliance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) introduced by the government for containment of the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) spread.The government had announced that picnic points would remain closed due to the looming threat of the virus, which ..... view more

Govt to ensure availability of ventilators in hospitals across Punjab: Dr. Yasmin Rashid
Punjab Minister for Health, Dr. Yasmin Rashid has said that availability of ventilators is being ensured in all hospitals across the province. Chairing a meeting at Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education in Lahore, she reviewed the selection process of members for Provincial Policy Board under Medical Teaching Institutions. She said that academic and career record would also be reviewed for selection of members. During the meeting, me..... view more

176 Pakistanis stranded in India due to COVID-19 lockdown to return home today
Another one hundred and seventy-six Pakistanis stranded in India due to COVID-19 lockdown will return home via Attari-Wagah border today. These Pakistanis were stranded in different Indian states including Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and Delhi due to the extended lockdown and closure of Attari-Wagah border following the outbreak of coronavirus. In line with the Prime M..... view more

Shehbaz expresses alarm over increasing Covid19 deaths, infections
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
LAHORE - National Assembly Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif while expressing alarm over the increasing number of deaths and infections by the new coronavirus, has said had there been a comprehensive strategy before imposition and lifting of the lockdown, the disease would not have spread this aggressively across the country. In a statement on Tuesday, Shehbaz demanded making details of the testing data public. He also asked the government to shar.....view more

28 more die during Eid days as death toll reaches 352 in Punjab
LAHORE - As many as 28 more COVID-19 patients breathed their last in Punjab during the last three days of Eid, taking the death toll to 352. As many as 1,926 new cases of novel coronavirus were reported in the province on Eid-ul-Fitr and the following days, taking the number of such cases to 20,656. So far 132 casualties have been reported from Lahore, 69 Rawalpindi, 44 Multan, 31 Gujranwala, 29 Faisalabad, nine Sargodha, eight Gujrat, five.....view more

Federation, provinces to decide about lockdown: Governor
Source: MUHAMMAD SALEEM, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
LAHORE: Expressing concern over surge in cases of coronavirus, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that federal and provincial government will decide about relaxing or tightening the lockdown in the country. "The people are not ready to take coronavirus serious in Pakistan and the cases of Covid-19 and death toll are rising because people are not following the SOPs," he said while talking to media during his visit to C.....view more

Centre, Punjab govt failed to control Covid-19: PML-N
LAHORE: PML-N Punjab secretary information Uzma Bokhari said death toll and patients due to corona virus increasing day by day because of inadequate measure and failed policies of the Punjab government. Uzma said federal and Punjab government for last three months failed to give any clear line of action to face the corona pandemic. She said the Punjab government has not enough money to buy a single ventilator and finding escapes from perfor.....view more

KP govt may tighten lockdown, warns CM’s aide
PESHAWAR: Adviser to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information, Ajmal Wazir Khan here on Tuesday warned of further tightening the lockdown if the SOPs were not fully followed by masses or cases of corona pandemic would increase in upcoming days. Ajmal Wazir Khan said if precautionary measures are taken, the virus can be eradicated but in case they are ignored and the virus starts spreading, the government will be compelled to tak.....view more
COVID-19 hitting population badly
Rawalpindi: COVID-19, the disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus is hitting population badly in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi where the illness claimed another five lives in last 24 hours taking death toll to 104 while another 208 patients have been confirmed positive from the region. Four of the five patients died in Rawalpindi district in last 24 hours including a 54-year old female. One of the patients died at Corona Manageme.....view more

RCCI calls for effective drive to tackle corona
Rawalpindi: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has urged for an effective awareness drive for the prevention of coronavirus. The number of cases can be reduced only by strictly implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs). In a statement, RCCI president Saboor Malik said that due to ease in partial lockdown, the common man has ignored precautionary measures. The electronic and digital media being an effective medi.....view more

Opp's corona politics won't work: CM Usman Buzdar
LAHORE:Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that “Corona Politics” of opposition leaders will not work now. First opposition made politics a business and now they are playing political gimmick over corona issue. The chief minister said that 220 million people had been fed up with the negative politics of the dual faced politicians. Pakistani nation will not forgive those who were politicising corona pandemic. In a statement he.....view more

Punjab okays drug to treat Covid-19 patients
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
LAHORE: The Punjab government has approved the use of Actemra, a life-saving drug, for treating critically ill Covid-19 patients in the wake of a sudden rise in the death rate reported by state-run hospitals across the province. The 400mg injectable drug — an interleukin-6 inhibitor which goes by the generic name of tocilizumab — will be prescribed to patients who develop lung complications and an abnormal level of IL-6 in the blood.....view more

Five virus deaths in six days
SHEIKHUPURA: In the last six days, five people, including three women, have died in the district due to coronavirus related infections. In Muridke, four people admitted to the THQ hospital five days ago have also been declared coronavirus positive. BAHAWALPUR: An Islamia Colony lane on Airport Road has been sealed after a coronavirus case was detected there on Wednesday. According to health department officials, a man, of street No 3, tested p.....view more

Massive coronavirus testing of police personnel planned in twin cities
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
RAWALPINDI: Following a surge in coronavirus cases in the district police, the city police officer (CPO) has decided to conduct testing of personnel on a massive scale from Thursday. CPO Mohammad Ahsan Younas said 12 police officials had so far tested positive and a majority of them had been deployed at quarantine centres during the lockdown. He said the SHOs of Naseerabad, Civil Lines and Taxila were among the positive cases. After the SHOs w.....view more
IT, ITES sectors may lay off staff to survive Covid-19 impact
Source: ITRAT BASHIR, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
LAHORE: Companies working in the information technology (IT) and information technology enabled services (ITES) sectors are feeling the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic; these companies fear that they will have to lay off staff in order to survive the impact. In a report 'Effects of Covid-19 Crisis on the IT/ITES Sector of Pakistan’ recently published by the Pakistan Software Houses Association (PASHA), it was revealed that 68 pe.... view more

10 more die due to coronavirus in Punjab: toll now 362
Source: Our Staff Report, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
LAHORE: As many as 10 more COVID-19 patients breathed their last in the province on Wednesday, taking death toll to 362. As many as 464 new cases of novel coronavirus were reported in the province, taking the number of confirmed COVID-19 patients to 21, 118. Out of total COVID-19 patients in Punjab so far, as many as 1,926 are preachers of Tableeghi Jamaat, 768 pilgrims, who returned from Iran, 86 prisoners in nine districts and 18, 248 citiz..... view more

Opposition’s ‘corona politics’ won’t work anymore: Buzdar
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that “corona politics” of opposition leaders will not work now.First opposition made politics a business and now they are playing political-gimmick over corona issue. 22 crore people have been fed up from the negative politics of the dual face politicians. Pakistani nation will not forgive those who are politicizing corona pandemic. He said that attitude of opposition leaders are like..... view more

Punjab approves Covid-19 drug for trial use
LAHORE: A meeting of healthcare professionals, led by Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, on Thursday approved a drug for use by seriously-ill Covid-19 patients, on the prescription of pulmonologists. The meeting, attended by vice chancellors, principals, medical superintendents and officials of the Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department (SH&MED), approved Actemra – interleukin-6 inhibitor with generic name of Toc..... view more

New record set for highest number of cases in a day from twin cities
Rawalpindi: A new record has been set for the highest number of patients tested positive from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in one day since the coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak hit this region of the country as in last 24 hours, 261 new patients were confirmed positive taking tally to 4,139 while the virus claimed another four lives taking death toll to 108. Many health experts believe that the massive spread of coronavirus..... view more

Radio Pakistan announces two employees succumb to virus
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
LAHORE - Radio Pakistan on Thursday said, “It is announced with profound grief and sorrow that two employees of Radio Pakistan succumbed to coronavirus. Muhammad Ashfaq, a Senior Broadcast Engineer and Huma Zafar, an
Urdu newscaster, died of the virus. Muhammad Ashfaq was a regular employee of Radio Pakistan and known for his competence and dedication to technical work. He was very humble and friendly personality. Huma Zafar was a co.....

Death toll from Covid-19 in Punjab reaches 381 as 19 more succumb to virus
Source: Iqtidar Gilani, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-05-29
LAHORE - As many as 19 more COVID-19 patients breathed their last in Punjab on Thursday, taking the death toll to 381. Similarly, as many as 919 new cases of novel coronavirus were reported in the province during the last 24 hours, taking the number of these cases to 22,037. Out of the total number of COVID-19 patients reported in Punjab so far, as many as 1,926 are the preachers of Tableeghi Jamaat, 768 Shia devotees, who had returned from.....

229, of 425 suspected patients, test positive for Covid-19: DC
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
SARGODHA - Of 425 suspected coronavirus patients in the district, 229 have tested positive for the virus and out of these 221 are locals, which is a matter of concern. This was disclosed at a meeting held here on Thursday to review the situation with respect to coronavirus in the district. The meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh, was attended by CO Health Authority Dr Rai Samiullah, ADCG Bilal Feroze Joya, DHO Dr .....

28 staff members of DHQ Hospital Abbottabad test positive for COVID-19
Source: Abdul Khaliq Qureshi, Daily Times, 2020-05-29
District Head Quarter (DHQ) Hospital commonly known as Benazir Bhutto Shaheed (BBS) Hospital Abbottabad has become a serious threat where 28 members of the staff, including six doctors, six nurses, four lady health visitors and other allied staff have been reported COVID-19 positive, according to official documents. The list of staff Corona positive in last 9 days w.e.f 14.5.2020 to 23.5.2020 dully signed by Dr. Jawad Majeed, Focal Person COVID-19.....

Rescue 1122 provides care to 19,285 emergency victims in Punjab during Eid
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-29
The Director General of Punjab Emergency Service, Dr Rizwan Naseer, said that Rescue 1122 provided emergency care to 19,285 emergency victims of 18728 emergencies across Punjab during Eid holidays. The Rescue Service responded to 7065 emergencies of road traffic crashes in which 71 precious lives were lost in these holidays. The Emergency Ambulance, Rescue and Fire Services responded to 7065 emergencies of road traffic crashes, 8892 medical.....

Lahore doctor in her 20s treating Covid-19 patients passes away from virus
Source: Kinza Malik | Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
A female doctor in her 20s died at a private hospital in Lahore after testing positive for the novel coronavirus, the Punjab health department confirmed on Friday. According to the health department, Dr Sana Fatima was treating Covid-19 patients at Fatima Memorial Hospital. She was admitted to Doctors Hospital and Medical Centre on May 20 after testing positive for the virus and developing symptoms of its related disease — Covid-19. She d.....
Govt in a fix over economy, contagion
Source: Mansoor Malik, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
LAHORE: The Punjab government is finding itself in a catch-22 situation as it feels pushed to gradually open businesses to keep the wheel of the economy moving but its backlash in terms of surge in coronavirus infections and deaths is even more drastic. A marathon meeting of the Cabinet Committee to Combat Coronavirus Threat at chief minister’s secretariat on Thursday reviewed the opening of markets and shopping malls [ahead of Eid] and ca.....

LGH section shut down after nine corona cases
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
LAHORE: The neuroangiography section (neuroradiology department) of the Lahore General Hospital has been shut down for 10 days after its five medics including head of the department and four paramedics tested positive for Covid-19. The neuro CT Scan and MRI sections have also been declared vulnerable as a majority of the employees of the said facilities are at great risk of contracting the virus. Sixty-nine doctors, nurses and paramedics of the.....

Covid-19 fallout: Lack of legislation hinders govt support for hapless home-based workers
Source: Irfanul Haq, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
RAHIM YAR KHAN: The coronavirus outbreak has adversely affected every sector of life while the informal sector, including the home-based jobs, seems to have been hit more severely. The home-based workers (HBWs), mostly consisting of women, of the Rahim Yar Khan district who have lost their work are still deprived of receiving any support from the government because of their non-registration, the missing data and delay in legislation that may pro.....

Two more Covid-19 patients die
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
SHEIKHUPURA: Two more Covid-19 patients died in the local DHQ Hospital on Thursday. Two infected doctors were also shifted to Lahore from the DHQ Hospital owing to their serious condition. BAHAWALPUR: Two more persons tested positive for coronavirus on Thursday and were admitted to the civil hospital. According to focal person Dr Zakir Hussain, as coronavirus was spreading here, the number of infected people rose to 175. Article continues .....
This laboratory is a part of the National Institute of Virology that was established last year with the financial support of the federal government. Following the instructions of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Mura.....

**Hilton Pharma partners with NIBD for Covid-19 Plasma Clinical Trial**
KARACHI: Hilton Pharma, a top research based pharmaceutical company of Pakistan and manufacturer of quality medicines is supporting National Institute of Blood Disease (NIBD) in conducting a clinical trial where blood plasma collected from recovered COVID-19 patients is transfused to moderate and severely ill patients of COVID-19. The initial results of 14 patients released by Dr. Tahir Shamsi of NIBD, shows a promising response of up to more t.....

**Covid-19 infections at Karachi Central Jail cross 300**
Source: Raheel Salman, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-23
KARACHI: The number of coronavirus-infected inmates at Karachi Central Jail has soared past 300. This is despite jail authorities taking measures to curb the spread of the virus after the contagion reared its head in the prison. On the other hand, according to sources at the prison, the quarantine facility set up on jail premises has the capacity to accommodate 400 persons and given the rapid rise in the number of infected inmates, it may s.....

**Covid-19 wreaks havoc: Mango exports in jeopardy**
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-23
KARACHI: The export of Pakistani mangoes is in jeopardy due to coronavirus pandemic coupled with devastating impact of climatic change on agriculture in the country. The lockdown in mango-importing countries has triggered a sharp decline in the demand for Pakistani mangoes while a virtual halt to flight operations and an extraordinary hike in freight charges pose harrowing problems for exporters. Keeping all this in view, All Pakistan Frui.....

**Engro, Sehat Kahani join hands to promote quality healthcare**
KARACHI: As part of the Rs 1 billion Hussain Dawood Pledge, Engro Fertilizers (a subsidiary of Engro Corporation) has joined hands with Sehat Kahani, a leading e-health solution provider, to use its telemedicine platform to promote quality healthcare for all amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Under the initiative, Engro will support Sehat Kahani by adding 100 more doctors to the telemedicine app to facilitate a greater number of virtual consultati.....

**Jummatul Wida offered amidst strict implementation on SOPs**
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
JummatulWida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramazan, was observed with religious solemnity across the country. The Jumma gatherings were held as per the standard operating procedures (SOPs) agreed between the government and the religious scholars in view of the threat posed by coronavirus outbreak. All the provincial governments had been directed to make sure implementation on the SOPs during the congregation of Friday and Eidul Fitr prayers.....
Sindh loses 14 more lives to COVID-19 as another 762 test positive
Fourteen more people lost their lives to COVID-19 in the past 24 hours in Sindh, majority of them residents of Karachi, while the condition of 155 patients under treatment at various hospitals is serious. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily statement on Saturday that with 14 more lives lost, the province’s novel coronavirus death toll has reached 354, adding that 34 patients are on life support at various hospitals. ..... view more

Transgender activists urge people to follow social distancing to prevent spread of COVID-19
With COVID-19 cases on the rise in the country, a large number of members of the transgender community organised a rally on Friday from the Karachi Press Club to the Zainab Market, appealing to the public to maintain social distancing and stay at their homes. The Gender Interactive Alliance, a transgender rights group, organised the rally. Participants of the rally were holding placards urging the people to follow social distancing and take the ..... view more

14 more people die of Covid-19 in Sindh; 762 new cases emerge
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-24
KARACHI: As many as 762 new cases of the coronavirus have been detected through 4,336 tests while 14 more patients died during the last 24 hours in Sindh. This was stated by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued from the CM House on Saturday. According to the statement, 4,336 samples were tested against which 762 new cases emerged. The government had conducted 153,902 tests so far which resulted in 21,645 confirmed virus case..... view more

Schools violating fee cut law will face action, SHC told
Source: Ishaq Tanoli, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-24
KARACHI: A top provincial law officer has informed the Sindh High Court that the law about 20 per cent concession to parents in school fees was in the field and in case of any violation the authorities will take action against offenders. A two-judge bench headed by Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar directed the directorate of inspection/registration of private schools to file comments by June 3 in a petition moved by the parents of some students seeki..... view more

‘Covid-19 pandemic may lead to greater number of fistula cases’
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-24
KARACHI: The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic will compromise the care of young pregnant population and there are chances that they will suffer from fistula and will not be able to get treatment because of non-existing support for these patients. These concerns were shared by experts on International Day to End Fistula observed every year on May 23. The theme of this year is ‘End gender inequality, end health inequalities, end fistula now’. ..... view more

Sindh appeals to recovered coronavirus patients for plasma donations
KARACHI: The Sindh health department on Monday appealed to former Covid-19 patients for plasma donations, upon being informed that the stock donated voluntarily has now depleted. The plasma collected from patients, who have already recovered from the novel coronavirus, was being used for passive immu..... view more
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<td>Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Sunday reported 846 new novel coronavirus cases and 13 more deaths in the province. He said the number of total positive results from the tests conducted amounts to 24 per cent, which is the highest percentage of positive cases in a single day till now. The chief minister added that he was reluctant to share the new information with the people of Sindh on the first day of Eidul Fitr but decided to update.</td>
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<td>KARACHI: As many as 762 new coronavirus cases have been detected after 4,336 tests were conducted, while 14 more patients have died, according to a statement issued by Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday. Shah revealed that with the addition of the 4,336 tests the total number of tests conducted by the Sindh government has reached 153,902, and the resultant positive cases are 21,645, which constitutes 14 per cent of th</td>
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<td>Twenty people lost their lives due to COVID-19 over the past three days across Sindh, mostly in Karachi, while 1,862 others tested positive for the novel coronavirus in 72 hours. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah pointed out in his daily statement on Tuesday that due to the Eidul Fitr holidays, fewer people were screened for COVID-19 across the province. According to the breakdown of deaths due to the novel coronavirus and fresh cases ov</td>
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<td>Sindh Information and Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said the lockdown measures against the spread of coronavirus will continue in the province after Eid too. “But no curfew will be imposed in the province,” he said, while speaking at a press conference on Tuesday. He said there had been a rapid spread of the coronavirus epidemic in the province. He appealed to the people to observe cautions and avoid going out.</td>
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<td>1,862 new Covid-19 cases detected in past three days</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, <em>Dawn, Islamabad</em>, 2020-05-27</td>
<td>2020-05-27</td>
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<td>KARACHI: As many as 20 coronavirus patients lost their lives and 1,862 new cases were detected over the past three days taking the death toll to 374 in the province, it emerged on Tuesday. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 2,327 samples of coronavirus patients were tested during the last 24 hours. He said that the provincial government had so far tested 161,628 samples, which produced 23,5</td>
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<td>HYDERABAD: One more coronavirus patient died on the first day of Eidul Fitr in Kohsar Hospital Latifabad while another is in serious condition at Liaquat University Hospital (LUH). The total tally of Covid-19 deaths has risen to 28. The 70-year-old patient was a resident of Talab Hyderabad No. 3. He was said to be in home isolation and shifted to Kohsar Hospital on May 15. According to hospital MS Dr Suresh, he was diabetic, hypertensive and als</td>
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Sindh govt to launch anti-Covid-19 programme
KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to launch an anti-Covid-19 programme, along same lines as campaigns against other diseases, aiming to curb the rapid spread of the coronavirus by raising awareness among masses about its prevention and by widening the range of plasma therapy. Speaking particularly with regards to passive immunisation therapy, Sindh Blood Transfusion Authority (SBTA) Director Dr Durre Naz Jamal told The Express Tribu.....view more

573 more Covid-19 cases reported as number of cases in Sindh reach 23,507: Murad
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-27
KARACHI - As many as 573 coronavirus cases were reported in Sindh during the last 24 hours while five more people died during the same period, raising the death toll to 374. In all, 2,327 samples were tested which resulted in the detection of these 573 fresh cases. In a video message issued from the CM’s House on Tuesday, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said so far 161628 samples had been tested which led to the detection of .....view more

Rise in mercury, humidity may slow down Covid-19 transmission: Met Office
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24
The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Saturday told the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) that its study has found a decline in Covid-19 transmission rate related to rise in temperature and humidity. The PMD official briefed the NCOC meeting headed by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar through video link about the findings of its research conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health S.....view more

Six more die as another 699 diagnosed with coronavirus in Sindh
Six more people lost their lives due to COVID-19 as another 699 were diagnosed with the novel coronavirus infection in Sindh during the past 24 hours, while 559 of those who tested positive for the infectious disease were from Karachi. Local transmission of the viral infection has added another 699 patients to the province’s healthcare service system, increasing the toll of the patients to 24,206. During the past 24 hours, 2,177 tests wer.....view more

Only nine beds left in Karachi hospitals’ high-dependency units for COVID-19 patients
Due to the growing number of COVID-19 infections, only nine beds are available in high-dependency units (HDUs) at Karachi’s 10 public and private hospitals treating such patients, while 61 ventilators are available at these facilities, Sindh Health Department officials said on Wednesday. The officials told the chief minister during a meeting that 927 COVID-19 patients are under treatment in the province, of whom the condition of 235 is cri.....view more

SHC moved for reinstatement of labourers sacked during COVID-19 lockdown
A petition was filed in the Sindh High Court seeking the restoration of thousands of labourers, including 4,000 polio workers of the health department, sacked during the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown the government has
imposed to prevent the spread of the virus. Petitioner Syed Iqbal Kazmi submitted that the Sindh government had issued instructions to the factory owners to not sack employees during the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown and.....view more

**Sindh CM wants 500 monitors, 200 ventilators available, two hospitals completed by June end**
Source: APP, [Dawn, Islamabad](https://dawn.com), 2020-05-28
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday directed the health department to make at least 500 monitors and 200 ventilators available in Sindh apart from completing a 50-bed hospital in Gulistan-i-Jauhar and a 200-bed infection disease control hospital at NIPA latest by end of June. “We have arranged Rs2.7 billion to upgrade the existing facilities and operationalise two new hospitals in the city and, hopefully, with th.....view more

**Covid-19 teaches millennials to tighten their wallets**
Source: Zofeen T. Ebrahim, [Dawn, Islamabad](https://dawn.com), 2020-05-28
KARACHI: They may be among those fortunate ones who have the lowest rate of catching the coronavirus, but the pandemic and the lockdown has come with its own set of burden for the millennials. For one, it has changed the way they spent their earnings pre-pandemic. “Being at home has made me realise I can do a lot of things myself and save money,” said Karachi-based 30-something Khadeja Shah* (name changed on request) working in a mul.....view more

**‘Sindh will consult with centre over decision on lockdown’**
Source: Staff Reporter, [Dawn, Islamabad](https://dawn.com), 2020-05-28
KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Wednesday said the provincial government would consult with Islamabad to reach any new decision about lockdown but warned that carelessness by the people was causing increase in the cases of Covid-19. He said the Sindh government was reviewing the situation and it would consult the federal government before taking any new decision regarding the lockdown. “The shopkeepers shou.....view more

**‘Schoolchildren’s future, livelihood of teachers at stake due to lockdown’**
Source: Staff Reporter, [Dawn, Islamabad](https://dawn.com), 2020-05-28
KARACHI: Private schools’ managements on Wednesday again asked the government to allow them to reopen all schools in the interest of children of the country as the children were losing out on their education due to the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown and schools’ closure. Syed Tariq Shah of the All Private Schools Management Association said that students were losing out on their education and the government should b.....view more

**Two Covid-19 patients with other comorbidities die at LUH**
Source: [Dawn Report](https://dawn.com), [Dawn, Islamabad](https://dawn.com), 2020-05-28
HYDERABAD: Two Covid-19 patients, who had other health issues as well, died at the Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) on Wednesday, increasing tally of the virus’ victims to 30 in Hyderabad’s hospitals. A patient from Naushahro Feroze died early on Wednesday morning at the LUH's high dependency unit who was earlier admitted to a private hospital where he had been put on ventilator, said LUH medical superintendent Dr Shahid Junej.....view more
‘Covid-19 patients not forced to go to hospitals’
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
KARACHI: Sindh government spokesperson Barrister Murtaza Wahab dispelled on Wednesday the impression that government officials had been forcing coronavirus-infected persons to shift to hospitals. “Some elements are creating and promoting this false impression and this needs to be dispelled so that people can be encouraged to get themselves screened for the virus without any fear,” he said. Wahab further appealed to asymptomatic......

Hospitals overflow as Covid-19 spikes
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
KARACHI: Scores of coronavirus patients poured into Karachi’s hospitals as Eidul Fitr came to an end, further burdening facilities that were already overwhelmed. Consequently, several patients were reportedly denied admission due to a lack of beds, even as the National Disaster Management Authority insisted there was no shortage of beds or ventilators. “We had to treat many patients in ambulances and we tried to do it in the be......

Covid-19 lockdown; Federal govt to be consulted before taking any decision: minister
KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Local Government, Housing & Town Planning, Religious Affairs, Forest and Wildlife Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that no new decision has been taken so far to tighten or relax the lockdown in the province. The provincial Information Minister said that the Sindh government was reviewing the situation, adding that the federal government would be consulted before taking any new decision regarding .....

Teli asks govt to deploy troops to enforce SOPs
KARACHI: Former President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) and Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Siraj Kassam Teli has advised the government to deploy troops from the Army whose presence and patrolling at various commercial markets would ensure strict adherence to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) devised to contain further spread of the coronavirus pandemic. While urging the government to completely wind-up the lock.....

Centre to be consulted before deciding lockdown: Sindh
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-28
KARACHI - Sindh Minister for Information, Local Government, Housing & Town Planning, Religious Affairs, Forest and Wildlife Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said no new decision had been made so far to tighten or ease the lockdown in the province. The provincial information minister said the Sindh government was reviewing the situation, adding the federal government would be consulted before taking any decision regarding the lockdown, according t.....

Pakistan Navy continues to provide assistance to deserving families
Source: INP, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Pakistan Navy continues to provide assistance to the deserving families affected by the coronavirus in different parts of the country. A spokesperson of Pakistan Navy said ration and protective equipment was provided by the force in far flung coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan especially Ormara, Hub Goth, Gadani, Mirpur Sakro, Sajawal, Saipur, Goth Shah Abdul Latif Jandani and Goth Muslim Abad. It also provided assistance to the deserving fam.....

view more
Tourists stopped from visiting Gorakh Hill Station
Tourists were stopped from visiting the coldest tourist place Gorakh Hill Station by the Gorakh Hill Station Development Authority. Due to spreading the fear of Coronavirus, GHDA stopped the tourists to visit Gorakh Hill station. Chairman GHDA, PPPMNA Sardar Rafiq Ahmed Jamali said that GHDA was following the directives of Sindh government due to Coronavirus outbreak, the visitors were not allowed to visit. He said that at current position, the rep.....view more

16 more die, 1,103 new Covid-19 cases found: Murad
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said that 1,103 new Covid-19 cases were detected by testing 4,101 samples while 16 more patients died during the last 24 hours taking the death toll in the province to 396. “Emergence of 1,103 cases against 4,101 tests is one of the highest figures and it shows 27 per cent result, therefore, we all have to ponder over why the local spread is increasing day by day,” he said.....view more

With 905 fresh covid-19 cases, Karachi continues to be Sindh’s worst-hit division
Sixteen more patients have lost their lives due to COVID-19 across Sindh in the past 24 hours, while another 1,103 people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus during the period, with 905 being diagnosed in Karachi Division alone. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily message on Thursday that most of the deaths because of COVID-19 have occurred in Karachi, raising the novel coronavirus infection death toll of the pr.....view more

Pakistan to import remdesivir from Bangladesh
Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-29
A pharmaceutical company in Pakistan plans to import the antiviral drug remdesivir, which has shown promise in treating coronavirus patients, from Bangladesh, it said in a stock exchange filing on Friday. The announcement by Searle Company Limited came a day after 56 virus deaths recorded by the country, its highest toll in a single day. The firm said it had entered into an exclusive licensing and marketing agreement with Bangladesh’s.....view more
International News

US plans massive coronavirus vaccine testing effort to meet year-end deadline
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-05-23
The United States plans a massive testing effort involving more than 100,000 volunteers and a half dozen or so of the most promising vaccine candidates in an effort to deliver a safe and effective one by the end of 2020, scientists leading the program told Reuters. The project will compress what is typically 10 years of vaccine development and testing into a matter of months, testimony to the urgency to halt a pandemic that has infected more than... view more

US thanks Pakistan for medical supplies to fight Covid-19
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
The United States on Friday thanked Pakistan for its donation of protective gear and surgical masks to support the fight against coronavirus. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a tweet appreciated Pakistan’s goodwill donation of surgical masks and protective suits to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). “This delivery is a symbol of Pak-US solidarity in the fight against Covid-19,” he said. He termed it a “partnership... view more

Brazil suffers record daily coronavirus death toll, soon to be world No. 2
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
Brazil suffered a record of 1,188 daily coronavirus deaths on Thursday and is fast approaching Russia to become the world’s No. 2 COVID-19 hot spot behind the United States. Brazil also passed 20,000 deaths on Thursday and has 310,087 confirmed cases, up over 18,500 in a single day, according to Health Ministry data. The true numbers are likely higher but Brazil has not carried out widespread testing, the ministry said. President Jair Bolson... view more

Australia seeks exemption from UK quarantine as COVID-19 cases slow
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
Australia, after bringing its coronavirus outbreak largely under control, said on Friday it is seeking an exemption from a requirement that travellers arriving in the UK quarantine for 14 days to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The British government is planning a 14-day quarantine for most people arriving in the country in the coming weeks to try to prevent a second peak of the pandemic, with details to be finalised next month. Heathrow Airport ha... view more

How South Korea turned an urban planning system into a virus tracking database
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
When a man in Seoul tested positive for the new coronavirus in May, South Korean authorities were able to confirm his wide-ranging movements in and outside the city in minutes, including five bars and clubs he visited on a recent night out. The fast response – well ahead of many other countries facing outbreaks – was the result of merging South Korea’s already advanced methods of collecting information and tracking the virus into a... view more

Uruguay and Costa Rica: beacons of Latin American virus success
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
In Latin America, a region experiencing ever-increasing growth in the number of coronavirus infections and deaths, Uruguay and Costa Rica stand out as success stories. Despite never declaring a general lockdown, Uruguay had... view more
recorded 749 cases and 20 deaths by Thursday among a population of 3.4 million. In Costa Rica there have been just 903 cases and 10 deaths in a country of five million. The numbers don’t lie, and the outbreak in Uruguay view more

In Savannah and Charleston, early reopenings draw tourists
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
Tired of claustrophobic coronavirus stay-at-home orders, some restless Americans are opting for a change of scenery and heading to states like Georgia and South Carolina, preferred destinations of quarantine-defying tourists. Ghosts are no longer the only ones wandering the shady, tree-lined squares of seductive Savannah, promoted as one of the most haunted cities in the United States. After Georgia’s Republican governor began lifting state restrictions, view more

Coronavirus detected in Haiti’s largest prison
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
Nearly a dozen detainees in Haiti’s largest prison have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, an administrator told AFP Thursday, as fears mounted that the disease could spread like wildfire through the country’s dirty and overcrowded correctional system. Last week, approximately 50 prisoners in the Port-au-Prince penitentiary reported having a fever, prompting health officials to test 12 inmates as a sample. Results indicated that view more

‘It has even changed death’: Virus disrupts burials in Turkey
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
In normal times, almost 200 people would have attended the funeral for Ahmet Ucukcu’s 95-year-old father at an Istanbul cemetery. The coronavirus which took his life has changed all that. “Many of my relatives wouldn’t come except for close family members and his sons who were authorised to attend only,” Ucukcu told AFP. “We are just six or seven people.” The scaled-down ceremony took place at a cemetery in the city view more

Chechen leader hospitalised with suspected coronavirus: reports
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
The strongman leader of Russia’s southern Chechnya region, Ramzan Kadyrov, was in hospital in Moscow on Thursday suffering from suspected coronavirus, news agencies reported. “Ramzan Kadyrov was taken by plane to Moscow with a suspected case of coronavirus. Now (he) is under medical supervision,” state news agency TASS reported, citing a medical source who said Kadyrov was in a stable condition. News agency RIA Novosti also quoted a view more

Keeping fit, going hi-tech: Malaysia’s Mahathir, 94, in lockdown
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
Malaysia’s Mahathir Mohamad, who is 94 and was the world’s oldest leader until he quit earlier this year, has passed the country’s virus lockdown by keeping fit on a treadmill and exercise bike. He’s also been getting to grips with video platforms like Zoom — although the political heavyweight admitted he needed help from younger relatives as he is “very primitive” when it comes to technology. Mahathir had view more
Coronavirus fails to halt conflict in DR Congo’s powder-keg east
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
Coronavirus has swiftly gained status as the world’s No. 1 threat but in eastern DR Congo, one of Africa’s most volatile regions, militia killings and ethnic violence are an older and — for now — far greater source of dread. Some 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) distant from the capital Kinshasa, this beautiful region bordering Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi has been a notorious flashpoint since the Congo Wars of the 1990s.

South Africa scientists say up to 50,000 COVID-19 deaths possible
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-23
South Africa could see up to 50,000 coronavirus deaths and as many as 3 million infections by the end of the year as the southern hemisphere winter leads to a higher rate of infection, scientific models showed on Thursday. The country already has the highest number of infections and deaths on the continent, with more than 18,000 identified cases and 339 deaths, but a national lockdown entering its ninth week had slowed infections. However scientists...

Corona is not finished yet Fears real of 2nd virus wave: WHO
GENEVA/RIYADH/MADRID/New York/BEIJING: Countries where coronavirus infections are declining could still face an “immediate second peak” if they let up too soon on measures to halt the outbreak, the World Health Organisation said on Monday. The Worldometer recorded over 5.6 million cases of coronavirus while over 350,000 deaths across the world. The world is still in the middle of the first wave of the coronavirus outbreak, WHO emerged.

In Bolsonaro’s Brazil, everyone else is to blame for virus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
With Brazil emerging as one of the world’s most infected countries, President Jair Bolsonaro is deflecting all responsibility for the coronavirus crisis, casting blame on mayors, governors, an outgoing health minister and the media. By contrast, he portrays himself as a clear-eyed crusader willing to defend an unpopular idea – that shutting down the economy to control COVID-19 will ultimately cause more suffering than allowing the disease...

Oil climbs as suppliers stick to output cuts, coronavirus lockdowns ease
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Oil prices rose on Tuesday on clear signs that producers are sticking to commitments to cut crude supply as more cars get back on the road with coronavirus lockdowns easing around the world. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures gained 2.3%, or 75 cents, to $34.00 as of 0057 GMT. There was no WTI settlement on Monday because of the US Memorial Day holiday. Brent crude futures inched up 0.7%, or 23 cents to $35.76, adding to a 1.1% gain.

‘How about next June?’ Small meat processors backlogged as virus idles big plants
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Inside the small-scale Iowa abattoir Stanhope Locker and Market, owner Shaunna Zanker yawns with exhaustion as she listens to yet another farmer asking her to slaughter his pigs. “I’m so sorry, but we’re booked through March of next year,” Zanker said on the phone. “How about next June?” Slaughter operations like Zanker’s are booming as novel coronavirus outbreaks at major US and Canadian meat plants force...
US small firms leave $150 billion in coronavirus stimulus untapped
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
When the US government first rolled out forgivable loans to small businesses in early April under the Paycheck Protection Program, loan officers at Bank of the West in Grapevine, Texas worked nights and weekends to process a tsunami of applications. But since those first few frantic weeks, demand has "just dried up," said bank president Cindy Blankenship. On May 15 the bank stopped taking applications for PPP loans. Nationally the pr..... view more

Americans make low-key Memorial Day tributes, coronavirus overshadowing events
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Americans paid a low-key tribute to those who died serving in the US Armed Forces on Monday, with many Memorial Day events cancelled because of the coronavirus epidemic that has killed nearly 100,000 people in the United States alone. In some places, scaled-down ceremonies were broadcast over the internet, as shutdowns to curb the spread of the virus put a damper on what is usually a day of flag-waving parades and crowds celebrating the unofficial..... view more

Scientists fight online virus misinformation war
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
With cat photos and sometimes scathing irony, Mathieu Rebeaud, a Swiss-based researcher in biochemistry, has nearly tripled his Twitter following since the coronavirus pandemic began. With 14,000 followers, he posts almost daily, giving explanations on the latest scientific research and, in particular, aims to fight misinformation that spreads as fast as the virus itself. He is among a growing number of doctors, academics and institutions who in ..... view more

UK to reopen thousands of shops in easing of coronavirus lockdown — Johnson
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Britain will reopen thousands of high street shops, department stores and shopping centres next month, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday, setting out a timetable for businesses as part of moves to ease the coronavirus lockdown. He told a news conference that from June 1, outdoor markets and car showrooms could be reopened as soon as they are able to meet the COVID-19 secure guidelines, and all other non-essential retail from June 15 if t..... view more

Study shows 8,000 additional deaths in Mexican capital as coronavirus rages
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Mexico's capital registered 8,072 more deaths in the first five months this year than the average from the same period over the past four years, an analysis by independent researchers showed on Monday, suggesting a possible surge due to the coronavirus. Health officials have reported 1,655 deaths from the virus in Mexico City, out of 7,394 deaths nationwide. They have also acknowledged that the true death toll is higher, but difficult to est..... view more

Saudi Arabia allows mosques to open for Friday prayers
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Saudi Arabia will allow mosques to open for Friday prayers, state TV reported on Tuesday, as the kingdom eases restrictions on movement to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Mosques will be authorised to open 20 minutes before
Friday prayers and should close 20 minutes after they finish, state TV said on Twitter, citing the ministry of Islamic affairs. Saudi authorities said on Monday that restrictions would be lifted in three phases, culminatin.....view more

Wave of migration strains Spain's Canary Islands amid pandemic
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
About 80 African migrants packed aboard two fishing boats landed on the Spanish island of Gran Canaria on Tuesday, adding to the hundreds of new arrivals now stuck there while the coronavirus lockdown prevents transfers to the mainland. The first boat docked at the port of Arguineguin with about 50 people aboard, 23 of whom are believed to be children. “They arrived in good health, although a little dehydrated,” said Gerardo Santana, he.....view more

Virus traps poor foreign workers in deserted Maldives
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
Tens of thousands of impoverished foreign labourers have been left stranded and ostracised in one of the world’s most densely packed cities as the tourist paradise of the Maldives battles coronavirus. The turquoise waters and pristine beaches that draw honeymoon couples from around the world have been empty for weeks since a government order to close all resorts. That has left an army of migrant workers jobless. Like Singapore, which recorded a.....view more

As Pakistan raises concerns, UN terms countering Islamophobia ‘top priority’
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27
United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres told a virtual meeting of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states at the United Nations (UN) that countering anti-muslim hatred and Islamophobia was his ‘top priority’, saying he ‘fully agrees’ with the assessment that it could pose a threat to international peace and security, according to informed sources. The UN chief was responding to the comments from P.....view more

Xiamen joins hands with Pakistan to fight coronavirus
The officials in Xiamen, Fujian province of China announced that it would donate 400,000 yuan (US $56,560) to help Pakistan fight the novel coronavirus spread. Li Xiaoping, director of the Xiamen foreign affair office held a video meeting with Pakistan Ambassador to China, Naghmana Hashmisaid Pakistan and China are strong partners, Chinese media reported on Saturday. Pakistan was quick to support China by sending coronavirus-related donations and a.....view more

US veterans agency has given hydroxychloroquine to 1,300 coronavirus patients
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24
The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has treated 1,300 coronavirus patients with the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, which a study has tied to an increased risk of death, according to a document released by a Senate Democrat on Friday. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, who received the information from the VA in response to questions he submitted on the issue, said he was “deeply troubled” by the data. President Donald Tru.....view more
In video, Bolsonaro says wanted cops replaced to stop family being ‘screwed’
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24
Brazilians got a shocking look Friday at an expletive-laced meeting between President Jair Bolsonaro and his cabinet when a Supreme Court judge released a video at the center of an investigation targeting the far-right leader. The April 22 cabinet meeting is under scrutiny by prosecutors probing allegations by former justice minister Sergio Moro that Bolsonaro tried to interfere in federal police investigations. But it could prove just as damaging to..... view more

Isolation not enough to save Amazon indigenous village from COVID-19
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24
Tres Unidos, an indigenous village in Brazil’s Amazon rainforest, locked out all visitors, hoping that isolation would keep it safe. And yet the new coronavirus still came. It arrived, most likely up the Rio Negro, the giant snaking river that connects Tres Unidos with the Amazon’s largest city, Manaus – five hours away by boat. The rivers, the lifeblood of these remote communities, are now also bringing disease. The dots of confirmed..... view more

Covid-19, state terrorism and the loot of Kashmir
The heaven on earth: Kashmiris under continuous lockdown since BJP led Indian Government abrogated Article 370 & 35A, which established a separate constitution a separate flag and denied property rights in the region to the outsiders. The aftermath was bloody, Hurriyat and political leaders were jailed, and Education, Businesses, and daily life was halted under 1 million Indian Brutal force’s presence in the region. While Kashmir was..... view more

Peru extends protracted national lockdown until end of June
Peru on Friday extended its state of emergency and a nationwide lockdown to fight the coronavirus pandemic until the end of June, marking one of the longest periods of mandatory isolation in the world. The Andean nation, which began the lockdown in mid-March, will have lived under it for more than 3-1/2 months by a June 30 expiration, outlasting restrictions in Italy, Spain and China, some of the hardest hit countries in the pandemic. Friday’s..... view more

Rohingya targeted in Malaysia as coronavirus stokes xenophobia
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24
Eleyas, a Rohingya Muslim, fled to Malaysia six years ago, seeking a safe haven from persecution in Myanmar. Now he has been fired from his job by a boss who told him it was because of his origins and he is scared to leave his home in fear of arrest or harassment. “I want to find a new job, but it’s not safe. We’re all just staying at home,” Eleyas, 38, told Reuters, not giving his full name for fear of retribution. For decades..... view more

Mexico says it has avoided coronavirus ‘deluge’ even as cases mount
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24
Mexico’s government said on Friday it had the coronavirus outbreak under control even as the country becomes one of the global hotspots for the pandemic. The health ministry had forecast the outbreak could peak two weeks ago, but Mexico has posted its highest totals of deaths and infections in the past two days, trailing only the United States and Brazil for fatalities on Wednesday and Thursday. “My grandparents were admitted the day be..... view more
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<th>Brazil jumps to world No. 2 in coronavirus cases, behind the US</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24</td>
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<td>Brazil became the world No. 2 hotspot for coronavirus cases on Friday, second only to the United States, after it confirmed that 330,890 people had been infected by the virus, overtaking Russia, the Health Ministry said. Brazil registered 1,001 daily coronavirus deaths on Friday, taking total deaths to 21,048, according to the Health Ministry. In Sao Paulo, the worst hit city, aerial video showed rows of open plots at the Formosa Cemetery as it rush.....<a href="#">view more</a></td>
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<th>Coronavirus edges Greece closer to e-governance</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24</td>
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<td>The coronavirus crisis has forced Greece to take rapid steps to computerise its lumbering civil service and belatedly introduce e-governance in one of the EU’s worst digital laggards, experts say. After recording its first coronavirus death on March 12, Athens took unprecedented measures totally at odds with its previous love affair with paperwork and red tape. Diomidis Spinellis, head of the department of management science and technology at t.....<a href="#">view more</a></td>
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<th>Chileans rediscover community kitchens as coronavirus, and hunger, bite</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24</td>
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<td>Poor neighbourhoods in the Chilean capital Santiago have seen a resurgence in the use of community kitchens once prevalent in the darkest days of dictatorship, as coronavirus shutdowns put pressure on jobs and send thousands into poverty. With winter approaching and temperatures chilling, canteen-style operations provide plates of hot food to those with dwindling incomes or nothing at all. They are organized by neighbors, local leaders and councils.....<a href="#">view more</a></td>
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<th>Virus spread feared where water is scarce around the world</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24</td>
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<td>Violet Manuel hastily abandoned her uncle’s funeral and grabbed two empty containers when she heard a boy running down the dirt road shouting, “Water, water, water!” The 72-year-old joined dozens of people seeking their daily ration in Zimbabwe’s densely populated town of Chitungwiza. “Social distancing here?” Manuel asked tartly. She sighed with relief after getting her allotment of 40 liters (10.5 gallons) but wo.....<a href="#">view more</a></td>
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<th>Far-right protests erupt in Spain against coronavirus lockdown</th>
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<td>Thousands of cars and motor-bikes honking horns and waving Spanish flags drove in procession through Madrid on Saturday as part of a nationwide protest called by the far-right Vox party against the country’s coronavirus lockdown. Spain, which imposed one of Europe’s toughest lockdowns on March 14, has started to ease restrictions, but Madrid and Barcelona have remained in lockdown for longer because of more severe coronavirus outbreaks. T.....<a href="#">view more</a></td>
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<th>Latin America named virus epicenter as Trump seeks US reopening</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-24</td>
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<td>The World Health Organization declared Latin America “a new epicenter” of the coronavirus pandemic as President Donald Trump ramped up pressure on state and local governments to speed up the reopening of the reeling American economy. Surges in infections across much of Central and South America have driven the global case count to nearly 5.2 million, with more than 337,000 deaths, even as hard-hit Europe and the United States cautiousl.....<a href="#">view more</a></td>
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Scientists find two drugs they claim can treat Covid-19
JERUSALEM: The Ministry of Defense-run Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR) says two drugs designed to treat Gaucher’s disease could also be an effective treatment against COVID-19, foreign media reported on Wednesday. Gaucher’s disease is a genetic disorder that causes a fatty tissue to build up in certain organs, especially the liver and spleen. The fatty substances cause the organs to become enlarged and affect their fu..... view more

Azerbaijan considers Pakistan its close fraternal country, will continue to support it at every forum
is the National Day of Azerbaijan, the day of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and a historic event when a democratic republic was created for the first time in the Muslim world in 1918. The Government and state institutions, armed forces of Azerbaijan were created, a democratically-elected Azerbaijani parliament was formed, official state attributes of Azerbaijan – the national tricolour flag and anthem were adopted..... view more

Spread of coronavirus fuels corruption in Latin America
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-05-28
Even in a pandemic, there’s no slowdown for swindlers in Latin America. From Argentina to Panama, a number of officials have been forced to resign as reports of fraudulent purchases of ventilators, masks and other medical supplies pile up. The thefts are driven by price-gouging from manufacturers and profiteering by politically connected middlemen who see the crisis as an opportunity for graft. “Whenever there’s a dire situation..... view more

Coronavirus may sow seeds of next financial crisis: ECB
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-05-28
Europe’s coronavirus pandemic has amplified financial vulnerabilities, raising the spectre of further crises ahead as debt levels soar and banks struggle, the European Central Bank said on Tuesday. With the euro zone economy expected to shrink by a tenth this year, governments have pulled many stops to limit the damage but there is a longer-term price to pay and some countries could struggle to repay their debts, increasing the risk of them..... view more

Japan eyes fresh $1.1 trillion stimulus to combat pandemic pain
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-05-28
Japan will compile a fresh stimulus package worth $1.1 trillion that will include a sizable amount of direct spending to cushion the economic blow from the coronavirus pandemic, a draft of the budget obtained by Reuters showed on Wednesday. The stimulus, which will be funded partly by a second extra budget, will be on top of a $1.1 trillion package already rolled out last month, putting the total amount Japan spends to combat the virus fallout at ..... view more

Salvadoran leader says he takes drug touted by Trump for coronavirus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times , 2020-05-28
Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele said on Tuesday he takes hydroxychloroquine, an antimalarial drug that U.S. President Donald Trump has promoted as a way to ward off the novel coronavirus, though experts have warned about its safety. Bukele told reporters that El Salvador was not promoting it anymore as a treatment, following the
recommendation of the World Health Organization, though patients would still be able to take it as a preventative mea.....view more

Bushfire-hit Australians still in tents as virus slows recovery
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Victims of Australia’s catastrophic bushfires are still living in tents, garages and makeshift shelters months after the blazes ended, with efforts to rebuild their lives hampered by the coronavirus pandemic. Inside a small tin shed on Australia’s southeast coast, a family of six takes refuge from the cold as the southern hemisphere winter begins to bite. The structure — chock-full of toys and beds — has been home to 51-year.....view more

Mourning New York pastor feeds faithful devastated by COVID-19
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
New York pastor Fabian Arias has been in constant mourning these past two months — the coronavirus has killed 44 of his mostly Hispanic parishioners, highlighting inequalities he says are being worsened by Donald Trump’s government. Amid the tragedies, the Argentine priest is providing a lifeline to his devastated congregation: every week, he distributes food to more than 500 families affected by unemployment caused by lockdowns to slo.....view more

Virus takes toll on mental health of Europe’s medics
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Steve, a paramedic in northeast England, contracted the coronavirus two months ago. Then his wife fell ill. Both recovered but throughout they were concerned about passing it on to their two young sons. “On my return to work, I couldn’t sleep properly, as I was worried that I could still bring the virus home and that I could still get it again,” the 46-year-old told AFP. “I never thought I would ever have to work on the fron.....view more

Australia records youngest coronavirus victim with death of 30-year-old
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Australia recorded its youngest victim of COVID-19 after a 30-year-old man with underlying health conditions died in Queensland state, having shown symptoms of the disease for weeks but without getting tested, officials said on Wednesday. The latest case brings to 103 the number of deaths recorded in Australia, from more than 7,100 cases. The island continent been among the most successful nations to contain the coronavirus spread, which officials.....view more

Germany extends distancing rules to end of June
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Germany has extended social distancing rules aimed at containing the spread of the coronavirus epidemic to June 29, Chancellor Angela Merkel’s government said on Tuesday. Up to 10 people will be allowed to gather in public places but Germans should be in contact with as few people as possible, according to the rules agreed between the federal government and 16 states. Merkel’s government had been embroiled in disagreements with the le.....view more
Biden brands Trump ‘absolute fool’ for mocking mask use
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Joe Biden attacked President Donald Trump as an “absolute fool” Tuesday for belittling his election rival over recently wearing a mask, an issue that has become a partisan flashpoint during the coronavirus pandemic. The Democratic Party’s presumptive 2020 presidential nominee had a series of choice words for the Republican incumbent, telling CNN in his first in-person interview since March that Trump has become increasingly errat.....view more

Bolsonaro follows Trump on virus, and then some
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who is often compared to his US counterpart, Donald Trump, has followed in his footsteps on the coronavirus crisis — and gone even further. Known for their shared talent for vitriol, social media rants and riling up their conservative bases, Trump and Bolsonaro have followed the same script on the virus: downplay its severity, don’t sweat the facts, bet big on hydroxychloroquine, get the economy reop.....view more

Rio governor’s residence raided in virus graft probe
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Brazilian police raided the Rio de Janeiro state governor’s official residence Tuesday as part of an investigation into the alleged embezzlement of funds to build field hospitals for coronavirus patients. Governor Wilson Witzel, however, condemned the raid as “political persecution” by President Jair Bolsonaro’s government. Federal police also raided Witzel’s former home and several other targets in Rio de Janeiro and .....view more

Chinese in Canada a target of increased hate during pandemic
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Vancouver resident Trixie Ling recalls her disgust and anger after a passing stranger taunted her with racial and sexual slurs in early May. Then he spat on her face. “I was feeling a mixture of shock, disgust and sadness that it happened to me,” Ling said in an interview with AFP near the scene. “But I knew I’m not the only one this has happened to.” Ling is indeed not alone. From spitting and violent attacks, to verba.....view more

Venezuela’s official virus data is ‘absurd’: HRW and Johns Hopkins
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
Venezuela’s low case count and death toll from the coronavirus are likely false and could in fact be thousands of times higher than official figures, according to the Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Johns Hopkins University. President Nicolas Maduro’s government has reported 10 COVID-19 deaths out of 1,121 cases in a country of 30 million people, numbers a report from the HRW and Johns Hopkins calls “absurd.” “We believe .....view more

Do not prescribe hydroxychloroquine for COVID: France
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-28
The French government said Wednesday that doctors should no longer prescribe hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 patients, an unproven and potentially harmful treatment for the disease nonetheless promoted by US President Donald Trump. The move came after two French advisory bodies and the World Health Organization (WHO) warned this week that the drug, a treatment for rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, had been shown to be dangerous in several studies. Eu.....view more
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dozens of Sri Lankans from Kuwait test positive for coronavirus</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-28</td>
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<td>Coalitions against IS to meet virtually amid virus</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-28</td>
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<td>Bill Gates conspiracy theories echo through Africa</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-29</td>
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<td>Philippines task force backs easing one of world’s toughest lockdowns</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-29</td>
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<td>Turkey claims healthcare ‘transformation’ helped vanquish virus</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
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<td>South Korea sees largest spike in virus cases in nearly two months</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-29</td>
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<td>Heat, water woes and coronavirus: India’s perfect storm</td>
<td>AFP, Daily Times, 2020-05-29</td>
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<td>Brazil tops 25,000 virus deaths</td>
<td>AFP, Daily Times, 2020-05-29</td>
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<td>Pandemic puts up to 86mn children at risk of poverty: study</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-29</td>
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<td>China for international cooperation to fight Covid-19, restore economy</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-29</td>
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**World Bank okays $500m programme to help Pakistan reduce COVID-19 social impacts**


Islamabad: The World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors has approved a $500 million programme to help Pakistan improve access to quality healthcare and education, support economic opportunities for women, and strengthen social safety nets as the country braces to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Securing Human Investments to Foster Transformation (SHIFT) programme will support policy reforms to help Pakistan's COVID-1.....[view more]

**What you need to know about coronavirus right now**

Source: Reuters, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-27

Here’s what you need to know about the coronavirus right now: ‘Jump up at any time’ Countries where coronavirus infections are declining could face an “immediate second peak” if they let up too soon on measures to halt the outbreak, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned. “We need also to be cognizant of the fact that the disease can jump up at any time,” said WHO emerg.....[view more]

**WHO fears ‘silent’ virus epidemic unless Africa prioritises testing**

Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27

Africa has so far been spared the worst impact of the coronavirus, but the World Health Organization is worried the continent could face a “silent epidemic” if its leaders do not prioritize testing for it, a WHO envoy said on Monday.”My first point for Africa, my first concern, is that a lack of testing is leading to a silent epidemic in Africa. So we must continue to push leaders to prioritize testing,” special envoy Samb.....[view more]

**Brazil stands by hydroxychloroquine despite WHO**

Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27

Brazil’s health ministry said Monday it would not change its recommendation to treat coronavirus with hydroxychloroquine, despite the World Health Organization deciding to suspend trials of the drug over safety concerns. Like his US counterpart Donald Trump, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has touted the supposed benefits of hydroxychloroquine and a related drug, chloroquine, against the new coronavirus. Studies, however, have questioned.....[view more]

**WHO stops hydroxychloroquine trials over safety concerns**

Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-27

The WHO suspended trials of the drug that Donald Trump has promoted as a coronavirus defence, fuelling concerns about the US president's handling of the pandemic that has killed nearly 100,000 Americans. Trump has led the push for hydroxychloroquine as a potential shield or treatment for the virus, which has infected nearly 5.5 million people and killed 345,000 around the world, saying he took a course of the drug as a preventative measure. Bra.....[view more]

**Virus spread ‘still accelerating’ in Brazil, Peru, Chile: WHO**

Source: AFP, Daily Times, 2020-05-28

International health authorities expressed concern Tuesday over signs the spread of the new coronavirus is still accelerating in Brazil, Peru and Chile.”In South America, we are particularly concerned that the number of new cases reported last week in Brazil was the highest for a seven-day period, since the outbreak began,” said Carissa Etienne, director of the Washington-based Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).“Both Peru .....[view more]
Pandemic puts 86m children at risk of poverty: study
Source: AFP, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-05-29
UNITED NATIONS: The economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic could push as many as 86 million more children into poverty by the end of 2020, a joint study by Save the Children and Unicef showed on Wednesday. That would bring the total number of children affected by poverty worldwide to 672 million, an increase of 15 per cent over last year, the two aid agencies said in a statement. Nearly two-thirds of those children overall live in sub-Sa.... *view more*
SDPI Engagements

Researchers Articles

**Avoiding a national catastrophe**
Social distancing is a set of non-medical measures that can prevent the spread of a contagious disease. It works by ensuring that the physical distance between people is maintained and the number of times people come into close contact with each other is brought to the minimum. During the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, social distancing has been accompanied by a strict prohibition, or a lockdown, on all social and economic activities in many countries.... [view more]

Webinars

**Global response needed to fight Covid-19 effectively**
Source: Our Correspondent, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-05-23
ISLAMABAD: Since all the countries of the world are intertwined, a global response to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic is imperative. This was stated by Canadian High Commissioner Wendy Gilmour during an online policy dialogue titled ‘Canada-Pakistan relations and cooperation amidst Covid-19’. The dialogue had been organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Friday. Gilmour said that the Canada..... [view more]