…..About Newsletter

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

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**Diseases**

**Experts call for effective use of SAARC forum**


Islamabad: Knowledge sharing and learning each other’s best practices to deal with global pandemics like COVID-19 would be significantly important for the South Asian countries in the future. The platform of SAARC, despite all challenges, could be used effectively at least by applying a sectoral approach, especially in the areas of health, food security, social sector development and climat.....[more >>](#)

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**Global coronavirus toll crosses 262,000: Countries easing lockdowns with caution**


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**Public disregard for SOPs aids corona spread**


ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: People’s willful disregard for the health protocols set by the government and false sense of immunity against the COVID-19 has led to a surge in positive case and fatalities in the country. The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in Pakistan rose to 24,041 on Wednesday after 1,165 new infections were confirmed countrywide as of 12:30am. Of the 24,041 positive cases,.....[more >>](#)
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**CM Usman Buzdar urges MPs to play effective role against virus**

LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has directed the parliamentarians to play more effective role with regard to steps taken for overcoming the coronavirus. Talking to Punjab Ministers Syed Sumsam Bukhari, Malik Asad Khokhar, Nauman Langrial, Sardar Asif Nakai, Sardar Muhammad Sibtain Khan, Ghazanfar Abbas MPA and former assembly member Rai Hasan Nawaz at his office here on Wednesday, the .....

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**Now is time to soften lockdown for economy: Aleem Khan**

LAHORE: Punjab Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan has said that over time Prime Minister Imran Khan’s opinion has proved to be correct, therefore, 82 per cent of citizens are satisfied with the government’s policy on coronavirus. He expressed satisfaction over the fact that in the last one month 22 per cent more people have given a positive opinion on the present government&rsquo.....

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**Corona in Kashmir**
Source: Asad Rahim Khan, *Dawn*, 2020-05-07

AS a symbol of cruelty, the Nazis have it all: hate, fear and fanaticism. The genocide of the Jewish people was driven by all three, but also by epidemic typhus, a disease that often follows war. This was a boon for the Nazis, who used typhus prevention as a ploy to ramp up the death toll. “Jews were labelled disease carriers and a public health risk to justify the creation of ghettos,&rdquo.....

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Doctor’s death
Source: Editorial, Dawn, 2020-05-07

THE death of senior medical practitioner Dr Furqanul Haq in Karachi a few days ago has raised serious questions about the state of preparedness of the health system in Sindh, and its ability to handle patients in case of medical emergencies on a mass scale. Of particular concern was the claim made by an office-bearer of the Pakistan Medical Association that no ventilator was available at any of t.....

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104 Covid-19 cases in a single day in Gujrat

GUJRAT: The district recorded the highest confirmed cases of Covid-19 in a single day on Wednesday as 104 people tested positive for the virus. Of them, 15 are police officials. Several pregnant women also tested positive for the virus. Local administration and health authorities say that the rapid increase in the number of infected patients is the result of an aggressive campaign of random samp.....

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12 more die in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-07

LAHORE: A dozen more people died and 560 others tested positive for coronavirus in Punjab in the last 24 hours. Six patients each died in Lahore and Rawalpindi, taking the death toll in Punjab to 156. Out of the 560 new cases, 329 were reported from Lahore where the number of cases has jumped to 3,210. The total number of cases in Punjab is 8,693. Gujranwala, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi were the .....
hours. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center, Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtu.....

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40 virus patients die in a single day
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-07

LAHORE - With 40 deaths in a single day, the coronavirus infections in the country swelled to 22,550 on Wednesday as no less than 1,049 new cases were reported by government officials. According officials, the total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country reached 22,550. Of these, 8,189 were reported in Sindh, 8,420 in Punjab, 3,499 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1,495 in Balochistan, 485 in Islam.....

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Hendra Virus to Coronavirus: WHO to Wake Up
Source: Senator A Rehman Malik, Daily Times, 2020-05-07

I wish the Hendra virus had been persuaded clinically and medically to invent vaccine for this mother virus which could have enabled the scientists, virologists, biologists to progress quickly in inventing the vaccine for Coronavirus. The study in the past and now.....

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A war will not beat Corona
Source: Harlan Ulman, Daily Times, 2020-05-07

Too often, as this column has noted, declaring war against something is a common political response to crises. Unfortunately, America’s record in winning wars it starts, either against military or non-military dangers, would not gain entry into the geopolitical equivalents of the Super Bowl or World Series. Indeed, that record has been pretty dismal. Wars against alcohol, crime, drugs, i.....

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Insane rift and provincial autonomy
Source: Munir Ahmed, Daily Times, 2020-05-07

The recent rift between the federal and the Sindh governments is getting fierce. Conflicting opinions emerging from arrogantly conceived confusions are turning loud enough to intensely insane political emasculation of each other. Both are trying to behave like an immaculate reality though they are the victim of their own dilemmas of public perceptions. The federal government cannot hide its politi.....

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Health governance

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Murad orders random testing to check quantum of Covid-19 exposure
Source: Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn, 2020-05-07

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday directed the health department to start random testing of people at grocery and vegetable shops so that local spread of coronavirus could be checked and contained. In a
video message released from the CM House, he said that cases of local spread were increasing equally in urban and rural areas. He added that a villager recently visited Hyd.....

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Inquiry report says CHK medical officer’s ‘misjudgement’ led to Dr Furqan’s death
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-07

KARACHI: The chief minister’s inquiry committee on Wednesday found serious lack of coordination and “misjudgement” on part of a medical officer at the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK) as key factors behind the death of Dr Furqanul Haq, who became the third member of the medical fraternity in Karachi to have died of the coronavirus. The chief minister on Monday had set u.....

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Covid-19 in Pakistan: Online retail offers little hope for vendors
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-07

KARACHI: Karachi, the largest city of Pakistan, is home to a vast informal economy and was once a land brimming with opportunities for enterprising individuals. Its social fabric comprises a large multi-cultural population, including vendors and retailers from across the country, working in the formal as well as the informal sector, who would spend their days running small shops, moving pushcar.....

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Easing The Lockdown

After more than a month of lockdown, the federal cabinet has approved easing restrictions in the country gradually after May 9 to open earning facilities to workers and daily wage earners. This means businesses of garment/cloth, shoes, automobile and spare parts will be reopened, a touch of normalcy in these dystopian times. It is understandable why the government has decided to ease the lock.....

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China lauds Pakistan’s efforts to fight off COVID-19

China has appreciated Pakistan’s singular drive to fight off COVID-19 challenge. The appreciation was made by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing during his meeting with Information Minister Shibli Faraz in Islamabad. He also expressed Beijing determination to keep up its support to Pakistan at this critical juncture. On the occasion, Information Minister Shibli Faraz said the con.....

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Chinese aid to combat corona another sign of deep-rooted ties: Shibli
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-07

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Wednesday said the continued Chinese assistance to Pakistan for combating the COVID-19 pandemic was another manifestation of the deep-rooted and time tested Pak China friendship. He said this during a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing, who called on him here. The information minister said the gov.....

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Rehman Malik calls for APC on coronavirus pandemic
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-07

ISLAMABAD - Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior Senator A. Rehman Malik has urged Prime Minister Imran Khan to call All Parties Conference (APC) to formulate a consensual Coronavirus National Action Plan to counter the pandemic effectively. In a series of tweets, he said “It looks as if political elite in our country is getting confused by every passing day. We all know that once.....

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Eight out of 10 people in Karachi know someone who has lost their job or business during lockdown, says study

A study conducted in Karachi shows that eight out of 10 people know someone who has lost their job or business during the preventive lockdown against COVID-19, while three out of 10 are now in need of financial assistance to run their daily lives. Pulse Consultant, a leading marketing and social research firm, conducted an in-depth study through the computer-assisted telephone interviewing.....

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250 cops of West Range undergo tests for infectious diseases

The blood samples of 250 police officers and personnel deputed in the West Range of the Karachi Police were collected on Wednesday in order to do testing and screening for various infectious diseases. The blood samples were collected at the auditorium of the Sindh Boys' Scouts Auditorium. This is the second phase of the clinical testing and screening of police personnel in collaborat.....

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PRCS resolves to boost response against Covid-19

Islamabad : The PRCS on Wednesday resolved to continue to play its role to augment the government efforts to contain the spread of coronavirus in the country and take further steps to boost response to the pandemic, says a
press release. A meeting of the Executive Committee held here with PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq in the chair recounted the efforts put in by the Society to help tackle the.....

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Irresponsibility on part of leaders
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-07

It just beggars belief that the federal and Sindh governments still haven’t agreed on the necessity of the lockdown, or lack thereof. Considering how practically every municipality and every government in every corner of the world really believed it was the right thing to do in the initial stages of the pandemic, it seems the Sindh government had it right and the centre was just wrong to get.....

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Coronavirus and new fortune tellers
Source: Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, Daily Times, 2020-05-07

Nearly three decades ago, I left my country for the first time to start postgraduate studies in the University of Bristol. I was allowed just 20 kg luggage and I had to make sure that I pack most important things which will help me survive in a new land. Among those priority items, I had four pages ripped from Nawa-i-Waqat newspaper. These four pages were an article by legendary palmist late Malik.....

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More challenges for gender equality
Source: Shagufta Gul, Daily Times, 2020-05-07

As the world lies shaken to its core after being hit with the biggest pandemic since SARS 2002-2003, the COVID 19 has forced people across the globe, into their shelters and homes with a total transformation in the lifestyles, behaviors, virtual learning and much more. It was heartening to see the appreciation and positive comments for the few female leaders around the globe for their effective an.....

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Relief package for small businesses  
Source: MEHER AZEEM HAKRO, Daily Times, 2020-05-07  

The federal government has announced a special relief package of Rs125 billion for labourers – Rs50 billion for SMEs and Rs75 billion for daily or unemployed laborers who have lost jobs because of coronavirus pandemic. Under the package the government would pay bills of power for SMEs for three months and through Ehsaas Assistance Programme, Rs12,000 per family is being given to another four.....

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Coronavirus: global economy and its recovery  
Source: Osama Rizvi, Daily Times, 2020-05-07  

If on the one hand global health infrastructure have been choked due to COVID-19, the international economy suffers in tandem -may be a tad more with grim and far reaching consequences. Bourses all around the world have shed the weight they accumulated over a decade ago (U.S. stock market is a case in point), job gains have been wiped off, Global Value Chain disrupted – debate about a recess.....

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Medicine  

‘Fast track vaccine in development for coronavirus underway’  

Islamabad: There is no huge delay in the vaccine development for COVID-19. This was stated by leading American expert Prof. Dr. Saad B. Omer while delivering his online seminar arranged by Comstech here on Wednesday for OIC
countries. He described the vaccine development process in detail by discussing all technical aspects involved in process. He informed that the fast-track vaccine deve.....

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