.....About Newsletter

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

Diseases

When stigma sticks
Source: Zarrar Khuho, Dawn, 2020-05-11

HERE’S a funny story about syphilis: when this venereal disease came to Europe from the ‘New World’ along with Columbus’ sailors, it cut a swathe of death and disfigurement across the continent earning itself the title of the Great Pox. Since it quickly became evident that it spread through sexual contact, the stigma carried by this disease became all the greater and so did.....more >>

A divided world
Source: Editorial, Dawn, 2020-05-11

ON Friday, UN Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the “tsunami of hate” that is being witnessed in the midst of the novel coronavirus pandemic. There may indeed be a spike in the number of hate crimes and xenophobia globally, taking a uniquely ugly shape in each country it poisons, but much of these resentments were already in place before the pandemic unleashed itself......more >>

24 media people test positive for coronavirus in Balochistan
Source: Staff Correspondent, Dawn, 2020-05-11

QUETTA: Over two dozen journalists and other media workers were infected with coronavirus in Quetta on Sunday while 72 doctors and 40 paramedics also tested positive for the deadly virus and were quarantined in hospitals and in their homes. Health authorities said that Coronavirus cases were increasing with every passing day in the province. According to official reports, 82 new positive cases w.....more >>
Covid-19 death toll reaches 245 as KP records 11 new fatalities
Source: Bureau report, Dawn, 2020-05-11

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday reported 11 new deaths due to coronavirus as the province-wide tally of the people dying of the infection reached 245, the highest number of fatalities due to the pandemic in any province of the country. Among the fresh deaths, eight deceased belonged to Peshawar and one each to Mardan, Swat and Battagram, according to a daily situation report of Covid-19 re.....

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With over 30,000 cases, Pakistan now 20th most affected country
Source: NEWS REPORT, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

The tally of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the country has jumped to 30,416, with more than 2,000 new cases reported during the past 24 hours. Next Video Traffic Video Cancel Autoplay is paused This takes Pakistan to the 20th spot on the g.....

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Islamabad lockdown extended till 31st
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

The government on Sunday extended lockdown for another three weeks till May 31.ech Video 00:04 / 00:54 .....

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Experts discuss incentives for construction industry
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

Iqbal Institute of Policy Studies conducted an online interactive session to discuss Prime Minister Imran Khan's incentive package for construction industry in order to increase employment opportunities in the country amidst Covid-19 outbreak. The session was attended by experts from different fields of life, including Shafiq Akbar, CEO Imarat Group of Companies and Chairman IIPS, Vice Chair.....

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About that relief package
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

Employers, at least, are a little dumfounded because now that they are done thanking the government and state bank for offering relief packages to save jobs, there is so far zero implementation of any of the directives. Talking at a press conference, the chairman of the Pakistan Industrial Traders Association Front (PIAF) Mian Nauman Kabir said that not a single branch of any bank in Lahore was of.....

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Budget 2020: Paradigm shift needed
Source: Dr Ikramul Haq, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

Budget 2020 is in the making amidst very difficult times when we are faced with economic meltdown due to Covid-19 outbreak and extreme hardships by weaker segments of society. The traditional approach adopted for decades in Pakistan for balancing the books, levying more taxes, containing fiscal deficit and other number games will have to be given up in totality under the prevalent exceptional circ.....

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Red letters on Red Carpets: response to Coronavirus
Source: Naseem Javed, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

Best time to call all bureaucrats and related ministries on red carpets with red letters. The arrival of Covid19 did not break any systems, as systems were already broken; now as a mirror for us to face the truth, equipped with 'do or die' protocols; harshly teaching us in real time our national leadership response, execution speed and challenging our classifications and definitions of.....

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Role of University faculty members in the current crisis

The growth of society is dependent on education, which is imparted in educational institutions by faculty members. The life cycle of the higher education system revolves around faculty members who are experts in their domain and possess skills for disseminating innovative ideas and knowledge of that domain. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) criteria for institutional accreditation mentions dif.....

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Talking about Kashmir in the time of coronavirus
Source: Syed Ali Zia Jaffery, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

On May 5, the Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research, University of Lahore organized a webinar titled “Kashmir in the Age of Detention: What Changes for the Kashmiris Pre and Post-Pandemic ?”. The webinar was graced by some of those professionals who have spent their lives dealing with the Kashmir issue as scholars, diplomats and leaders. All speakers, rather poignantly, enu.....more >>

Policing and pandemic
Source: Tasneemur Rehman, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

There is no doubt that the novel coronavirus would emerge as a global epidemic. The pandemic has by now engulfed the entire world and it is rapidly changing the way every aspect of our society operates, including law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and the communities they serve. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on almost every facet of our lives as the virus continuous to spread acro.....

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Trump’s trumpets

Donald John Trump, the president of the US, seems to be in the habit of flinging bad intentions and worst policies for the US, Republican Party and the outer world. I believe he got the presidency accidentally. Let me start from his response to the most recent COVID-19 health crisis leading to global economic distortion! Halting the funding for the World Health Organisation is a silly action taken.....

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Heading towards an alternative economic model
Source: Professor Dr Muhammad Khan, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

Covid-19 has brought a grinding halt to international trade and commerce, which had reached its peak in the first two decades of the 21st century. Most economic experts consider this economic slow-down momentary and short-lived. However, another class envisions the long-term implications of this deadly pandemic on the global merchandise trade. As per estimates of the World Bank, global merc.....

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Evolution of the New Global System
Source: Shahrukh Mehboob, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

It was barely over a decade ago that the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) exposed the brittle, crisis-ridden, and polarising edifices of economic, political and cultural power that structure our lives. Marx was read widely again; the Occupy Wall Street and Arab Spring movements captured the imagination of a new generation of young people and the term “crony capitalism” was mainstreamed. A.....

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Iranians fearful as virus infections rise anew
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

While many residents in Iran’s capital are taking advantage of loosened COVID-19 controls, some worry about a new spike in infections in what remains the Middle East’s deadliest virus epicentre. Tech Video .....

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Sweden admits failure to protect elderly in care homes
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

Bjorn Branngard’s mother died in a Stockholm nursing home where five of the eight people in her section and more than a third of residents have so far succumbed to the new coronavirus. Tech Video .....
Hospitals treating COVID-19 in Mexican capital quickly filling up  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

Coronavirus patients were being turned away from hospitals in the Mexican capital on Saturday, as both public and private medical facilities quickly fill up and the number of new infections continues to rise. Of the 64 public hospitals in the capital’s sprawling metro area designated to receive patients sick with COVID-19, the highly contagious respiratory disease caused by the virus, 26 are.....

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Brazil tops 10,000 deaths from COVID-19  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

Brazil, the hardest-hit Latin American country in the coronavirus pandemic, has surpassed 10,000 deaths, according to figures released Saturday by the Ministry of Health. Tech Video 00:10 .....

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Five Million Births  

UNICEF has estimated that there will be approximately 5 million births amidst the coronavirus pandemic in Pakistan. Reports suggest that as much as 80 percent of resources in hospitals will be occupied to meet the needs of coronavirus patients. Amongst other things, this presents a serious challenge for ensuring antenatal care for pregnant women and neonatal care after birth. Pakistan does not do ..... 

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Confirmed coronavirus cases rise to 30,941 in Pakistan  

The nationwide tally of Coronavirus has soared to 30,941 with 1,476 new cases reported during the last twenty four hours. 11,568 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 11,480 in Sindh, 4,669 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,017 in Balochistan, 442 in Gilgit Baltistan, 679 in Islamabad and 86 in Azad Kashmir. 8,212 patients have so far recovered from the virus whilst the death toll stands at 667.....

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Two MPs test positive for Covid-19 as NA meets today  
Source: Rizwan Shehzad, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-11

ISLAMABAD : Two members of the National Assembly tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday, just a day before lawmakers are scheduled to attend a session of the lower house of parliament for a debate on the government’s response to pandemic and the future course of action. MNAs Syed Mehmood Shah from Mastung and PTI’s Gul Zafar Khan from Bajaur have contracted the infection. Apart f.....

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Six staffers of two superstores test positive for COVID-19 in random testing

Six staffers of two superstores in the Defense Housing Authority (DHA) and Clifton tested positive for the COVID-19 after the district administration conducted random tests. The six infected persons are asymptomatic. On the directions of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, the deputy commissioner (DC) of south, Ali Sodhar, has started testing staffers of different marts in the distri.....

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Covid-19 claims nine more lives in Sindh

As many as nine more people lost their lives due to the novel coronavirus in Sindh between Saturday and Sunday, raising the death toll due to infectious disease to 189 in the province, while 709 new cases of COVID-19 were also detected in the province. However, the case fatality rate in Sindh has been comparatively low despite the rapid increase in the COVID-19 cases when compared to Punja.....

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Another two die of coronavirus in Rawalpindi

Rawalpindi: Coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another two lives here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours that took the total number of deaths so far caused by the virus to 52 in the region including 47 deaths from Rawalpindi and five from Islamabad Capital Territory. One of the two patients died in the last 24 hours was a resident of the federal capital.....

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Mazari, 3 PA employees test positive for corona

LAHORE:Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Sardar Dost Muhammad Mazari has become the latest government functionary to be afflicted with the novel coronavirus. Deputy speaker and three employees of the provincial assembly have been diagnosed with the virus. Mazari and other affected persons are believed to have come into contact with several ministers and MPAs before they turned out to be coron.....

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Covid-19 cases hit 373 in Swat

MINGORA: Fifteen more reported positive for the coronavirus, raising the confirmed Covid-19 cases to 373 in Swat district on Sunday. A communique issued by the health department said that coronavirus was spreading rapidly in the
It said that 15 more suspected patients reported positive. The infected patients belong to different areas of Barikot and Babuzai tehsils in the district.....

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**Official tests positive for corona**

KHAR: Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Zamin Khan Momand tested positive for the coronavirus on Sunday. ADC Zamin Khan Momand, who was focal person for the coronavirus for Bajaur district, had undergone a test for the Covid-19. The result declared him the confirmed coronavirus case, making him the first official infected by the viral disease in the district administration. Meanwhile.....

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**Coronavirus cases worldwide surpass 4.1 million**

ANKARA: The worldwide tally for novel coronavirus infections surpassed 4.1 million early Monday, according to US-based Johns Hopkins University. The data also shows that the global death toll from the virus has reached 282,700 with the number of recoveries exceeding 1.4 million. The US remains the hardest-hit country by the pandemic with around 1.33 million diagnosed cases and 79,526 deaths.....

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**Wuhan, China reports first coronavirus cluster since lockdown lifted**
Source: Reuters, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-05-11

Wuhan, the epicentre of the novel coronavirus outbreak in China, reported on Monday its first cluster of infections since a lockdown on the central Chinese city was lifted a month ago, stoking concerns of a wider resurgence of the disease. The new infections sounded a note of caution amid efforts to ease coronavirus-related restrictions across China as businesses restart and individuals go back.....

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**Zoonotic tendency: Coronavirus threat worries Karachi Zoo**
Source: Shakir Sultan, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-05-11

KARACHI: After infecting millions of people worldwide, the deadly contagion has now turned towards animals; sending a wave of concern among researchers about the novel coronavirus’s newfound potential. Until a few months ago, it was believed with a sense of reassurance that the virus, although highly contagious, cannot be transmitted from humans to animals and vice versa. However, the rec.....

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K-P’s higher Covid-19 fatality rate puzzles observers

PESHAWAR: The novel coronavirus may have spared no country, but for Pakistan at least, the pandemic has not been as worse as it has been in other countries. Official figures released up till now have shown fatalities in the country to be much lower than other parts of the world. And although Covid-19 testing numbers in Pakistan have not been as high as other nations, there has been no sudden.....

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Health governance

Fault lines in focus
Source: Maleeha Lodhi, *Dawn*, 2020-05-11

A CRISIS is a crucial moment in the life of a nation that often denotes much deeper phenomena by laying bare long-standing flaws. The calamity wreaked by Covid-19 has exposed political, economic and social weaknesses in many countries as well as fatal gaps in medical care. The coronavirus challenge stretched the capacity of governments around the world and made unprecedented demands on healthcare .....

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Healthcare lessons

PARTS of the world are beginning to emerge from the worst of the coronavirus pandemic. Battered and bruised they understandably are, but in the long run what will sustain them and all the others who are still in the thick of the crisis are the lessons learnt from the horror they have lived through, and their willingness to act on them. On Wednesday, at a virtual briefing in Geneva, the World Health.....

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The informal challenge

INFORMAL workers everywhere are the most threatened by the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic. An ILO report has acknowledged this fact as it builds a case for maximum possible protection for the 1.6bn informal-sector workers across the globe. The report focuses on the double-edged sword that these countable, yet in so many ways unrecognised and exploited, workers have been exposed to .....

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Consumers urged to increase self-awareness of Covid impact

ISLAMABAD: The countries in Asia-Pacific region need an urgent and profound transition in its production and consumption patterns to ensure a sustainable future, suggests a new report published by the United Nations. The
2020 economic survey of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific suggests that consumers should choose sustainable lifestyles. Consumers should also increa.....

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Capital admin extends lockdown till May end

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The capital administration has extended the lockdown to prevent the spread of the coronavirus until May 31, but with a number of new exemptions. Some shops and businesses are now allowed to open five days a week from 8am to 5pm, but must close on Saturday and Sunday. However, larger markets in residential sectors and commercial areas such as Blue Area, Aabpara, Karachi Compa.....

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How to save the economy

Covid-19 has forced the world to learn several lessons it should have learnt long ago. The world now realizes that the financial economy cannot support the real economy in a period of calamity such as the current coronavirus pandemic. The world has also realized that the mere growth of the economy does not make people prosper, rather growth with shared prosperity is required for fighting a.....

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Covid-19: where we stand

In the end, we achieved nothing. In fact, we are much worse off than we were since the pandemic hit us in mid March. We have failed to contain the spread of the virus, which is reflected in the ever growing number of people who have been infected and the rising number of deaths. Not just the experts but the federal government also believes that we are far away from the peak of this pandemi.....

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Usman Buzdar allows COVID-19 patients to go for home isolation
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has granted permission for home isolation. Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department has formally issued a notification on the recommendations of Corona Expert Advisory Group and Technical Working Group. Usman Buzdar while granting permission for home isolation said that SOPs outlined by WHO have been taken into consideration for home isolation and pati.....

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Rethink needed urgently
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-11

Regrettably, it seems the government needs to rethink its decision to relax the lockdown, at least in the manner it is being relaxed, rather urgently. It seemed, going into this crucial phase, that everybody especially common people understood all the risks involved, which is why the government should be forgiven for believing that people would take the greatest care when venturing out. But it is.....

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As the economy reopens
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-11

The prime minister held nothing back as he laid out the facts related to relaxing the lockdown before the nation the other day. He is right that we must now open up the economy even though the curve, measuring new coronavirus infections is still rising pretty steeply. No doubt doctors and scientists still warning against opening up mean well but they are completely focused on the pandemic, and are.....

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Covid-19 in Pakistan: Unlocking strategy

KARACHI: It is ingrained in our DNA since the Stone Age that we run away from all the trouble and hide ourselves in caves when we face any existential threat. Therefore, our response to the coronavirus pandemic was natural and logical to lock ourselves inside. However, with the deteriorating global outlook, the pressure is mounting across the globe to ease the restriction slowly to allow som.....

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Covid-19 frontline: Unseen and unappreciated work of laboratory staff
Source: Tufail Ahmad, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-11

KARACHI: Akin to frontline doctors and nurses who have to constantly come in contact with Covid-19 patients, people working in different laboratories are also equally vulnerable to exposure. Although the work of laboratory staff during the pandemic may go unseen and unappreciated, accurately diagnosing coronavirus is critical for the life of each patient and the global response to Covid-19. .....

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Clause providing rebate in utility bills removed from Sindh’s virus relief ordinance
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-11

KARACHI: The Sindh government has removed a clause providing relaxation in electricity and gas bills from the Corona Relief Emergency Ordinance draft after the provincial governor’s objections. The draft ordinance was approved by the Sindh government on April 27 with the aim to provide relief to the people during the ongoing lockdown in the province. However, Governor Ismail pointed out.....
Future of health care at stake as 257 more workers diagnosed with coronavirus in five days

Health managers and officials have been worriedly trying to figure out who will treat patients at tertiary-care hospitals and serious cases at critical care facilities across Pakistan when healthcare workers themselves have been contracting COVID-19 at an alarming pace. The News has learnt that healthcare providers, especially doctors, nurses and paramedical staff members, are not only tes.....

Rs500m commitment made in fight against COVID-19

Islamabad: Reckitt Benckiser (RB), the multinational producer of hygiene, health, and nutrition products has pledged to invest Rs500 million to help the country fight the Covid-19 pandemic. The investment includes donations of PPEs and hygiene products that will be distributed at the national level through relevant government bodies and NGOs as per need of healthcare facilities across pro.....

Self-reliance in producing equipment termed miraculous development

Islamabad: The contribution of Pakistani researchers, engineers and scientists toward attaining self-reliance in manufacturing of the essential medical equipment like masks, sanitizers, ventilators and oxygenators to fight the prevailing health crisis of COVID-19 is not only a miraculous development but evident of having brilliant minds in the science and technology sector. The researcher.....

Govt lifting lockdown sans strategy to combat Covid-19

PESHAWAR: The government has decided to relax the so-called lockdown from Monday (today) without having a proper strategy to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. A government official seemed confused to explain the reasons behind allowing business and withdrawing ban on the movement of people for four days a week i.e. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and again imposing lockdown for the .....
PESHAWAR: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has provided an additional consignment of 35,000 testing kits to the KP Health Department. A press release said two automatic Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machines and three latest bio-safety cabinets were provided to the Health Department.....

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The continued fight
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-11

Much has been written about how medical professionals are the real heroes in the global fight against the novel coronavirus. These valiant and selfless professionals continue to play a critical role in saving lives across the globe even as infections barrel towards the four million mark. However, the situation is now beginning to take a toll on these frontline fighters. The International Council f.....

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100 tonnes of hospital waste stolen daily
Source: ADNAN LODHI, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-11

LAHORE: There are no incinerators in public sector hospitals across Punjab to dispose of waste, resulting in theft of almost 100 tonnes of garbage every day, a health department official has revealed. Speaking to The Express Tribune, he said there is no specialised authority in the health department tasked with monitoring the disposal of hospital waste; instead it is the responsibility of th.....

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Covid-19 poses great trade challenge
Source: Aadil Nakhoda, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-11

KARACHI: The Covid-19 will likely alter global trading patterns in the long term. Major economies constituting the core of the global trading system have been adversely impacted such that their import demand is likely to be severely inhibited for several quarters. The World Trade Organisation (WTO), in its recently released statement, expects world trade to plunge between 13% and 32% in 2020.....

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Hospitals begin plasma therapy trials as first Covid-19 patient fully recovered

KARACHI: Pakistan’s top hematologist on Sunday said that three hospitals in the country have started clinical trials for passive immunisation with the support of National Institute of Blood Disease (NIBD) to treat the Covid-19 patients. The NIBD head, Dr Tahir Shamsi, told The Express Tribune that five more hospitals across the country have also sought the Drug Regulatory of Pakistan (Drap).....

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**Punjab allows home isolation with SOPs**  
Source: *Our Correspondent*, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-05-11

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has granted permission for home isolation of patients having minor symptoms of novel coronavirus. The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department issued a notification in this regard on the recommendations of the Corona Expert Advisory Group and Technical Working Group. While granting the permission, the chief minister said the standard oper.....

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**Pharmacists seek probe into drug import from India**  
Source: *Staff Reporter*, *Dawn*, 2020-05-11

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Young Pharmacist Association (PYPA) has written a letter to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Accountability Shahzad Akbar urging him to look into the import of over 450 medicines from India despite a ban. They said the federal cabinet had been briefed that there was a shortage of medicines for cancer but a term “Therapeutic Goods”.....

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