…..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.

Newspapers Covered:

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

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Team:

Data Managed by: Shahid Rasul, Abid Rasheed
Compile & Layout Design by: Ali Aamer Javed

Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

10-D West, 3rd Floor, Taimoor Chamber, Fazl-ul-Haq Road,
Blue Area, Islamabad, Pakistan,
Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135, Ext – 155
A gloomy outlook
Ignoring the impassioned appeals of the medical community, the federal and provincial governments have eased the lockdown prompting people to throng markets, shops and other places. The ease was announced at a time when the country was already witnessing a phenomenal surge in corona cases that are likely to haunt our doctors, nurses and paramedical staff. Our health system risks getting overwhelmed while fatalities may also rise as our faltering ...... view more

Social psyche and limitations
Source: Muhammad Omar Ifikhar, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
The lockdown implemented across the world and in Pakistan has brought to fore several limitations. While the lockdown in Pakistan could never be implemented in the true spirit, it has added confusion to the chaos. Europe, the US, and the Middle East implemented a curfew prohibiting residents from exiting their homes except during pre-decided time slots. In Pakistan, however, the situation is different. People need to be aware of the predicaments ..... view more

Trump and his ‘facts’
Source: S P Seth, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
President Trump is ingenious—if that is the right word. If facts do not fit into the narrative, his approach is to change the ‘facts’. For instance, he doesn’t like the way his task force on COVID-19 tried to highlight the intensity of the crisis in the US in terms of likely fatalities. He was, therefore, going to disband his task force because they didn’t not fit into his political trajectory, which is to downplay the cri...... view more

Covid-19 — a conspiracy or retribution?
Source: Daud Khan / Leila Yasmine Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-12
As Covid-19 spread rapidly around the globe, so did various theories about what caused the pandemic; who, if anyone, was behind it; or was it retribution for an increasingly recalcitrant human race. These theories have persisted in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence. Why? First, let’s look at the evolution of these conspiracy theories. The initial candidate for the villain of the plot was the United States. Given various ong...... view more

In the growth phase
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-12
With more than 31,000 cases of infection and 673 deaths as of Monday noon, Pakistan ranks at 19th in the world in terms of the spread of the novel coronavirus, well ahead of neighbouring Bangladesh which is placed at 34. The cases of the deadly infection are now doubling in every 10 to 11 days — from about 7,500 on April 18 to 15,000 on April 29 and 30,000 on May 10. While the country is already in the growth phase, the government orders to..... view more
A worrying gamble
Source: Editorial, Dawn, 2020-05-12
AS was expected, hundreds of thousands of people came out of their homes on the first day of the relaxed lockdown. In every province, markets and shops were crowded as if the virus and its very real threat were things of the past. Scenes in bustling commercial areas showed that the practice of ‘social-distancing’, mask-wearing and general precaution were all but forgotten. This happened as Pakistan crossed the 30,000 mark for positive..... view more

Media workers at risk
Source: Editorial, Dawn, 2020-05-12
FIFTY journalists were tested for the coronavirus in Quetta recently. The results of no less than 27 — more than half — turned out to be positive. It is yet another reminder that the list of those who advocate protection against the virus but do not always practise what they promote doesn’t end with the government. Media workers, in their rush to get the news, are constantly seen exposing themselves to the danger the virus prese..... view more

Emerging trends
Source: Dr Hafiz A Pasha, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-12
The key macroeconomic variables of the national economy are beginning to show sharply divergent trends from those observed earlier since June 2019. This includes developments in the real economy, monetary sector, inflation, public finances and the balance of payments. These sharp changes in trends are primarily attributable to Covid-19. The consequences of this pandemic are both global and domestic in character. World trade has begun to fal..... view more

Xenophobic hate tsunami
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-12
In the midst of the myriad tragedies unfolding the world over because of the Covid-19 pandemic, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has made a heart-rending appeal (without naming specific countries) for all-out efforts to end the tsunami of hate, xenophobia, scapegoating and scaremongering that seems to have been sparked off by the coronavirus crisis. He went on to point out that anti-foreigner sentiment has surged online and on the streets. W..... view more

Covid-19: Impact on oil sector
Source: Syed Jawaid Iqbal, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-12
Recent key developments in Pakistan’s oil sector underscore that there is always a need for the country to maintain its strategic oil reserves. Shortages of the commodity became evident when COVID-19 started spreading around the world. The government could have made good use of the benefits of globally falling oil prices at that time. The Ministry of Energy had the option to import oil when prices were at rock-bottom and to balance th..... view more

Inadequate testing overestimates fatality risk
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-12
“Record” new cases are being reported every other day. The outbreak sure seems to have gathered pace as expected earlier. Eyebrows are being raised on the timing of the lockdown easing. On the face of it, the daily reading of confirmed cases does make the decision to ease restrictions look untimely. More tests are being conducted every day than previous weeks. And the pace of confirmed cases per test is also rising gradually. Ar..... view more
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<td>Should economists lead Covid...</td>
<td>BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-12</td>
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<td>As lockdown fatigue sets in Pakistan, the lives versus livelihood debate have intensified in the country. Political feuds aren’t helping, nor are TV anchors. Equally shocking is to see the mental inflexibility of the scholarly and influential people, not just among politicians, their followers and troll-army but also among professional economists. Perhaps narcissism of small differences is real after all, as is thick skin and cynicism manif...</td>
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Covid-19: what is wrong with random testing?
Source: Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-13
Pakistan is relaxing its lockdown. According to global public health experts, a relaxation in lockdown should only be extended with enhanced contact tracing and testing to ensure there is no sudden rise of cases. Pakistan’s declared strategy to control Covid-19 is “Tracing, Testing and Quarantine (TTQ)”. The government declared it would like to do 20,000 to 30,000 tests per day to make this work. However, we are struggling with ......

Budgeting for a life with Covid-19
Two of the major burdens on the forthcoming federal budget are likely to be relatively lighter compared to what successive budgets had to bear under these heads over the last many decades. The first is the foreign debt, part of which, thanks to Covid-19, one would hope would be written off and part rescheduled. The second is the oil import bill which because of the collapse of world oil prices is expected to be less than half of what budgets over....

Dangerous defiance
With the coronavirus lockdown easing across the country after around two months on Monday, the public has erupted on roads and streets and in markets, flouting the SOPs needed to keep the contagion at bay. Unfortunately, what is being witnessed over the past two days does not inspire much hope as to the containment of the deadly virus. People have been thronging markets in large numbers and are throwing all cautions to the wind, as if the pandemi.....

COVID-19 – can it shake us into action?
Source: Dr Kamal Monnoo, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-13
Pakistan, a nuclear power, albeit one where nearly 30 percent live by or under the poverty line, supports one of the youngest populations of the world with nearly 3 million entering the job market every year amidst a paltry annual GDP growth rate that hovers around the 3 percent mark. The financial budget consistently runs in a deficit (by some account close to a double digit deficit), periodic external account pressures invariably force successi.....

Policies and COVID-19
Last night, while I was a reading O’Casey’s “Juno and the Paycock” I came across this line uttered by the titular character of the play where she finds herself totally powerless in the face of impending doom that ultimately befell her family; “What can god do against the stupidity of men?” Now, this very dialogue struck me like a lightning bolt, and the epiphany I experienced afterward, made me realise th.....

Afghanistan – The Middlegame
Source: Ambassador (R) Tariq Osman Hyder, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-13
In chess, the middlegame begins when both players have positioned their major pieces as securely as possible, and leads into the endgame. However, theory is much less developed than in the endgame, since positions are unique in the middle game to game and there are too many pieces on the board – too many potential variations – to be completely analysed as can be done in the less complex endgames. The middlegame description is not.....
**Business As Usual**  
The government of Pakistan approved easing the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in the country gradually after May 9, provided that strict implementation of the coronavirus-related preventive measures suggested by the government was ensured. But looking at the activity in public spaces in general, and markets in particular, it is unfortunate that people have entirely ignored the authorities’ instructions regarding preventive measures. The pub.....[view more]

**Surrender most foul!**  
One must give full credit to Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah for having grasped the gravity of the situation at the outbreak of devastating COVID in Sindh. His immediate measures to stem the COVID tide in the best interest of the people got him well deserved plaudits from the WHO that did not hesitate to acknowledge that Sindh had responded to COVID challenge most bravely and in a befitting manner. .....[view more]

**COVID19, Technology, Ehsaas and Pakistan’s Fintech!**  
For the last one week I watched my wife hooked to a Facebook Live site where this young Pakistani gentleman, sells women’s clothes (joras) and jewellery faster than the guy making pakoras and jalaybees just before Iftar. Tech Video 00.....[view more]

**Healthcare system needs overhaul!**  
Source: IKRAM SEHagal and DR BETTINA ROBOTKA, Daily Times, 2020-05-14  
Both Pakistan’s current health policy framework and its implementation is a far cry from the goal of universal health coverage. Every citizen should have access to health care but that is not the case. The consequence of the sparse and low-quality services provided by the public sector means that most people in Pakistan rely on private healthcare. In the absence of a state-supported health financing system, payments for private services bei.....[view more]

**Succession in the age of Corona**  
Source: Harlan Ulman, Daily Times, 2020-05-13  
With the Corona Virus and Covid-19 infecting the White House, the issue of presidential succession is no longer academic. Elected leaders are not immune to this equal opportunity pandemic. Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson was so afflicted and temporarily turned his duties over to the Foreign Secretary. Tech Video .....[view more]

**The case of SM Law College**  
Source: Alveena Agha, Daily Times, 2020-05-13  
The SM Law College has been a couple of times in the news, but is this the fate of every student who enrolls in the college? Who is responsible for violating the student’s fundamental right of education for decades – state, PPP as its ruling for decades, students, SM Law College management or Karachi University? This is a big question mark for concerned authorities. Saeed Ghani looks busy in making Covid-19 policies rather than focusi.....[view more]
Prints of art for pandemic relief
Source: Nabiha Shahram, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
The lockdown enforcement locked a lot of sources of employments for the people already on the verge of maintaining a day to day life, it’s not only the daily wagers but the white collared, the sales staff who got laid off, the waiters who are no more serving, the cab and rickshaw drivers who have no passengers and even the teachers now short of tuition deals. List is endless but the light at the end of tunnel we see is the relief and suppor.....view more

National welfare programmes and COVID-19 — part I
Last month, Prime Minister Imran Khan announced country’s biggest emergency cash programme under which Rs 144 billion are be disbursed to 12 million beneficiaries. The World Bank has praised the PTI government’s Ehsaas Welfare Programme, and its effectiveness in providing aid under the critical threat environment formed by the sharp spike in COVID-19 infections. The World Bank has urged considering making this method central to the na.....view more

Undoing a federation
Recent developments regarding undoing the 18th Amendment of the Constitution have stirred up a debate between the government and the opposition and caused disturbance among those governed. This is no ordinary question but is something about the long due autonomy to the provinces which was taken away by use of an iron hand by the military dictators, wanting a one-man show in the country. The questions regarding who will benefit from undoing the am.....view more

Danger in the neighbourhood
In a country not well known for its discipline or its civic sense, the decision by the federal government after a meeting of the National Coordination Committee – that we as citizens should ourselves assume responsibility to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by observing social distancing voluntarily and with discipline – was never going to work. Evidence of this already came just a day after the lockdown was ‘relaxed’.....view more

The trauma of a pandemic
Covid 19 has had traumatic consequences because of the uncertainty, fear and helplessness resulting from the outbreak. In the face of every trauma resilience plays an important role in helping people cope with the consequences of the event. In order to build resilience, the ability to recognize one’s helpful and unhelpful thought patterns is important. Social support, making sure that one is staying in touch with those that help the.....view more

Amplifying port benefits
Amidst the daily grind of grim news relating to Covid-19 infections and deaths has come one welcome development, showing that life goes on. The news relates to the federal government’s decision to open the Gwadar Port for Afghan Transit Trade. This is a very positive development for several reasons. To begin with, it will enhance capacity utilization of the port. However, the accrual of full benefits of this decision will need a num.....view more
A scientific future
Source: Ghufnan Ahmad, Dawn, 2020-05-14
THE pandemic has clearly and firmly established the value of science in making important decisions that affect lives and livelihoods across the world. No ideology, political creed, religious belief or philosophical orientation can defeat the virus. Only hardcore science can — and will. It is difficult to imagine any other situation where the value of scientific opinion and the contributions of scientists were so evidently manifest. Individu..... view more

Local transmission on the rise
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
How can a second wave of the coronavirus not come when people just refuse to take responsibility for their own actions and continue to violate vital social safety protocols? Let's start with the world's most powerful and apparently aware country, the United States. Scenes, visible on TV for weeks now, of people brandishing arms, taking out rallies and demanding an immediate end to the lockdown were very hard to understand. And even as..... view more

US blocks the UNSC resolution ‘seeking a global ceasefire’
Source: Syed Qamar Afzal Rizvi, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
The United States on May 8 stunned the 15 UNSC members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent) by preventing a vote on a resolution for a ceasefire in various conflict zones around the world to help troubled nations better fight the coronavirus pandemic, diplomats said. Needless to say, the latest stalemate continues to leave the global peace and security Organisation largely marred by unpredictability amid the growing pandemic that has killed more th..... view more

Online classes: what survey says?
Source: Ahmed Umer Sohaib, Daily Pakistan, 2020-05-14
Pakistan's acquaintance with online education is not an old subject. As COVID-19 slammed an unprepared Pakistan specifically, many of the previously exercising systems and practices in the country have transformed. Higher education also received a drastic shift in learning mechanisms. Since the last one and a half month, online classes kick-started and with this, the reservations of university students also came to the surface. Low speed or..... view more

COVID-19: Blessing in Disguise for Pakistan’s Health Sector
Source: Haider Ali, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease believed to have erupted from Wuhan in China, which engulfed more than 250,000 lives within no time and paralysed life on the only planet. The WHO first announced this deadly outbreak as
an epidemic when it hit China but when it made its way to Europe followed by the US, it was declared pandemic. However, the agency has now been accused of delaying to declare the outbreak a global pandemic. This enemy of hu.....

“Starbucks at a storm shelter”  
Source: Syed Nameer Ahmed, Daily Times, 2020-05-14  
The World Bank describes how cash transfers are considered to be “central in mitigating the impact of the upcoming recession,” and that doing this will ensure that consumption by the poorest segments of the population contributes to local economies. The main suggestion for the government on this issue would be to not just give them the money, but give them a way to use it, and to develop themselves by it. At least make it hygienic oth.....

We’re not doing it right  
Source: Editorial, Daily Times, 2020-05-15  
Federal as well as all provincial governments must very quickly wake up to the fact that we are not going about relaxing the lockdown quite like we should and there is a very real danger of people’s widespread disregard for social safety protocols triggering a very deadly second wave of the coronavirus in Pakistan. For days, if not weeks, local media has been lamenting the rapidly rising percentage of locally transmitted Covid-19 cases, yet.....

Family planning in the time of COVID-19  
Source: Anza Abbasi, Daily Times, 2020-05-15  
Last month, a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) report shared a shocking estimate: there will be 7 million more unwanted pregnancies in middle and low-income countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. This spike is caused by 47 million women in such countries losing access to modern methods of contraception due to closure of many family planning (FP) services. This disruption of FP services could lead to the death of many women and children aro.....

Developing countries and online education (Part II)  
Source: Syed Shahabuddin, Daily Times, 2020-05-15  
A poorly implemented online learning could make a student feel isolated, making learning more frustrating and unpleasant, causing a student to fail. Failure is more likely when a student has limited opportunities to connect to classmates or the outside world. To know the problems of each student, an instructor must carefully analyze the data on each student, pay careful attention to any sign of difficulty and learning, and quickly provide support.....

Correlating the Spanish Flu and COVID-19: Probability of a Second Wave in Pakistan  
Source: Dr Awais Zafar, Daily Times, 2020-05-15  
The relative stability of coronaviruses might prevent an unexpected spike in the mortality in the second wave of COVID-19. “The single largest threat to man’s continued dominance on the planet earth is the virus.” “Outbreak,” the Hollywood pandemic thriller starts with this quote from Nobel Laureate virologist, Joshua Lederberg. While those dwelling in palatial offices around the world ignored the threat from .....
**Covid-19, Kashmir and us**  
The writer is a former ambassador to the US, India and China and head of UN missions in Iraq and Sudan. No one knows how long Covid-19 pandemic will last. Or if it will be followed by sequential waves over decades, some of which may be much more lethal than the present wave. How many will die before an effective vaccine is available or the virus mutates into less lethal forms? If we wait for the acquisition of ‘herd immunity’...**view more**

**What lies ahead**  
There is an overload of talk about the pandemic but not too many answers or even the right questions being asked. The lifting of the lockdown was imminent even as cases are on the rise. In Pakistan, we still have little idea about how many people have the virus or why fatality is low. Worldwide there is a rush to find a vaccine that would make these questions irrelevant. Science will eventually prevail over the virus. A bigger question is.....**view more**

**Depressing times**  
UN health experts have warned that alongside Covid-19, the mental illness crisis that has hit the world is a major hazard to humans. The issue arises from a situation in which people are surrounded constantly by death and disease, forced into isolation, stalked by poverty and pushed into severe anxiety. Healthcare professionals are as badly or worse affected than the rest of the population since they must deal with the terrible situation in hospi.....**view more**

**Budgets 2020 amid Covid-19 crisis—t:Revival, growth and revenues**  
“If we were to construe Entry 52 of the Legislative List keeping in view the above meanings of the expression “in lieu of”, it becomes evident that the Legislature has the option instead of invoking Entry 47 for imposing taxes on income, it can impose the same under Entry 52 on the basis of capacity to earn in lieu of Entry 47, but it cannot adopt both the methods in respect of one particular tax. Since under sections 80-C and 8.....**view more**

**A post-Covid-19 world**  
Source: Dr Omer Javed, *Business Recorder, Islamabad*, 2020-05-15  
Major wars and pandemics, are the sort of happenings that change the world as we know it before they have happened. The Black Death lead to massive deaths in the Middle Ages, also it broke the back of feudalism and created a working class. On the positive side, the dominantly dogmatic thinking gave way to a greater wave of scientific explanation of nature and the phenomena happening within it, and became the precursor of the whole Renaissance Mov.....**view more**
National News

AJK

AJK reports first death as Covid-19 nationwide tally jumps to 31,744
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
The Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Monday reported first death due to Covid-19 as nationwide tally of people affected by the virus jumped to 31,744, with 11,568 cases reported in Punjab, 12,017 in Sindh, 4,875 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,061 in Balochistan, 457 in Gilgit Baltistan, 679 in Islamabad and 87 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 691 lives while some 8,342 coronavirus patients have recovered. ..... view more

India destined to lose war in Kashmir: AJK president
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan while strongly condemning the brutal killing Pir Merajuddin Shah at the hands of Indian forces in occupied Kashmir, on Thursday, said that the aggravation of the Indian Army is a proof that Delhi has lost its war in the disputed region. Tech Video ..... view more

AJK reports more Covid-19 cases
Source: Tariq Naqash, Dawn, 2020-05-15
MUZAFFARABAD: With the appearance of 12 more positive cases over the past 24 hours, the number of confirmed Covid-19 patients in Azad Jammu and Kashmir swelled to 105, a minister said on Thursday. Five of the new patients were the family members of a medical store owner living in Plate neighbourhood of Muzaffarabad who had himself tested positive on Wednesday, said Dr Mustafa Bashir Abbasi, minister for information technology. Another five were..... view more

Balochistan

Balochistan future of Pakistan: Army Chief
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
While interacting with officers and men, COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa has lauded dedication and professionalism of soldiers.00 0:54 00:00 Next Video × ..... view more

Islamabad

Corona now aiming at journalists, media workers; 54 tested positive
ISLAMABAD: Let’s call him by a pseudonym, Asad Shehzad, a Peshawar-based reporter working with a TV channel. Day in and day out, he would spend time reporting about zaireen kept at quarantine centers, visiting hospitals and attending pressers held to update public about coronavirus unless he fell sick. Upon test, Asad turned out positive. He’s 41. His younger brother who is also a journalist was tested the same day and found ..... view more
Opp lambasts PTI govt over handling of Covid-19 crisis
Source: Ijaz Kakakhel, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
The major opposition parties on Monday came down hard on the federal government for its handling of the country’s coronavirus crisis, calling its Covid-19 strategy ‘confused’. Tech Video 00.....view more

PTI’s annual 18th Amendment debate
Source: Hassan Niazi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-12
Whenever the PTI faces criticism for its response to national issues, its rank and file appears on television to deliver a stump speech blaming the 18th Amendment. Sometimes, they even start contemplating more drastic changes to our constitutional system, such as the last year’s debate on whether Pakistan should adopt a presidential model of government. This spell of daydreaming is interrupted by reality reminding members of the PTI that th.....view more

Relief packages for businesses, industry to help economy rebound
Source: Special Correspondent, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
The huge challenge in the shape of Covid19 outbreak has provided the sitting government a rare opportunity to exhibit its unwavering commitment and unflinching resolve to prudently tackle the crisis facing the country. Amid nationwide lockdown in the recent weeks, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led federal government has not only taken multiple initiatives to mitigate the sufferings of the vulnerable segments of the society but also introduced sepa.....view more

Coronavirus: act as a nation, not a crowd
Source: Khalid Bin Majeed, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
There has never been such a time in recent human history when virtually everyone on planet Earth is under threat from the same enemy. The global pandemic, which now threatens countless lives worldwide, came out of the blue, catching China off guard. It reared its ugly head in the sprawling commercial Wuhan city of Hubei province housing a population of over 190 million people. As the alarm bells rang in Beijing, not only total lockdown was enforc.....view more

More Covid-19 cases reported in Attock
Source: The Newspaper's Correspondent, Dawn, 2020-05-12
TAXILA: Two more cases of Covid-19 reported on Monday have brought Attock’s total to 61. According to data updated and shared by the district administration, a 65-year-old woman who lives in the Jatail village in Hazro has tested positive for Covid-19. Her husband had previously tested positive and is being treated at the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex Hospital in Kamra. A 22-year-old police constable in training at district police li.....view more

Death toll from Covid-19 rises in twin cities
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-12
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Eight more deaths from Covid-19 in Rawalpindi district and two in Islamabad on Monday took the tally in the two cities to 55 and six, respectively. The confirmed cases also jumped to 679 in Islamabad in the last two days, sources told Dawn. According to the officials of the capital administration, one of the Covid-19 patients reportedly died on Sunday and another on Monday. District Health Officer Dr Zaeem Zia confirmed t.....view more
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<td><strong>Government notifications in the time of COVID-19</strong></td>
<td>Daraab Wali Furqan, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2020-05-12</td>
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<td>Our provincial governments love their notifications, especially in these grave COVID-hit times. These governments have been dishing out notifications like our Pakistani game show hosts do in Ramzan. Just like these hosts, our provincial governments give away notifications to keep us – the spectators – happy. Recent focus has been on the Punjab government’s ‘well-intended’ working-class friendly notification issue.</td>
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<td><strong>Govt devising developmental program for nurses: Zafar Mirza</strong></td>
<td>Web Desk, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2020-05-12</td>
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<td>Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Dr. Zafar Mirza says the government is devising developmental program for nurses across the country. Addressing a ceremony in connection with International Nurses Day in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said the nurses have immense importance in health reform agenda of the incumbent government. The Special Assistant said the importance of nursing profession has multiplied manifold.</td>
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<td><strong>Senate session begins today to debate COVID-19 situation</strong></td>
<td>Web Desk, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2020-05-12</td>
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<td>The Senate session begins in Islamabad today at 11 am to discuss and debate upon the current situation in the country. Earlier, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani had summoned the Upper House session.</td>
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<td><strong>Qureshi explains govt’s approach to Covid-19</strong></td>
<td>NAVEED BUTT &amp; ZULFIQAR AHMAD, <em>Business Recorder, Islamabad</em>, 2020-05-12</td>
<td></td>
<td>ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday informed the National Assembly that the country has the highest coronavirus testing capacity of 20,000 tests per day to date among all South Asian countries. While opening debate in the National Assembly on the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, he said that health experts around the world were trying their level best to come up with strategies to curb the virus till a vaccine is inv.</td>
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<td><strong>Faraz launches ‘Masks for All’ campaign</strong></td>
<td>Recorder Report, <em>Business Recorder, Islamabad</em>, 2020-05-12</td>
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<td>ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Monday officially launched “Masks for All” campaign as part of the government’s measures to contain the Covid-19. While talking to media after the launching ceremony, he said under the campaign, Chainstore Association of Pakistan in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting would distribute five million masks across the length.</td>
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<td><strong>No let up in Covid-19 cases while Rawalpindi residents crowd markets</strong></td>
<td>Aamir Yasin</td>
<td>Munawer Azeem, <em>Dawn</em>, 2020-05-13</td>
<td>RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: There has been no reprieve from the spread of Covid-19 in Rawalpindi after four more deaths and 52 more cases were reported on Tuesday. Meanwhile, people appear to have thrown caution to the wind, crowding markets while the district administration and police appear helpless before traders. A 52-year-old man who lived in Khayaban-i-Sir Syed died of Covid-19 on Tuesday. He had been admitted to the Rawalpindi Institute of Urol.</td>
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Caution must or stricter lockdown to return
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Tuesday warned that the government would have no option but to impose complete lockdown again if the people failed to act in a responsible and cautious manner in the wake of COVID-19. Addressing launching ceremony of corona relief Tiger Force activities in the federal capital, he said people were apparently taking the decision of easing lockdown, easily by freely..

737 die as corona continues to prey on more
ISLAMABAD: Coronavirus disease COVID-19 continues to infect and kill more people in Pakistan with the number of confirmed cases rising to 34,325 and fatalities to 737 on Tuesday as of 1:30am. As many as 31 people died of the COVID-19 on Tuesday. Of the reported 34,325 confirmed cases, Sindh reported 12,610 cases, Punjab 13,259, KP 5,021, Balochistan 2,158, Islamabad Capital Territory 716, Gilgit-Baltistan 457, and AJK 86. Of 737 deaths, Khyber

Another 3 die of COVID-19 taking death toll to 65
Rawalpindi: The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another three lives in the district in last 24 hours while another 89 locals belonging to the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been tested positive for the disease where as another 64 travellers who reached Rawalpindi from UAE three days back have also been confirmed positive for COVID-19. All the three patients including two males and one female died of.....

Panic among employees of HFH
Islamabad: A panic like situation and unrest have been created amongst paramedics of the Holy Family Hospital after at least five of their colleagues tested positive for COVID-19. One of the paramedics is Senior Operator Theater Technician (OT technician) whose wife has also been tested positive and both of them have been shifted to a quarantine center at the Rawalpindi Institute of Urology (RIU), a couple of days back. The infected memb.....

HEC directs varsities to declare exam policies
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-13
ISLAMABAD: To save the academic year of students, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Tuesday turned down the notion of direct promotion to the next semester and asked universities across the country to announce examination policies within a week. The purpose of examinations is to reward students for actions that will make them successful in their future lives, explained HEC Chairman Dr Tariq Banuri in a meeting with vice-chancellors a.....

Centre under fire yet again over coronavirus handling
Source: Ijaz Kakakhel, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
A day after National Assembly session, opposition parties in the Upper House of Parliament on Tuesday again grilled the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government over what they said insufficient and unclear response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the country. Tech Video
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Govt set to launch ‘We Care’ drive for protection of medical personnel</td>
<td>Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-05-13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed coronavirus cases surge to 34,336 in Pakistan</td>
<td>Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-13</td>
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<td>42 more lose lives in a single day; tally of positive cases nears 33,000</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13</td>
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<td>Cabinet to amend laws for appointing heads of public sector institutions</td>
<td>News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-13</td>
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<td>Chinese Ambassador calls on COAS</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opposition continues criticism of govt’s coronavirus strategy in NA</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-13</td>
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Assembly (NA) session, Abbasi said the opposition is willing to work with the government but urged the Centre to form a unified strategy on the pandemic. Criticising the government further, the PML-N stalwart said the only ......

**E-commerce: a ray of hope for garments, footwear traders**  
Source: Shehzad Yousafzai, *Daily Times*, 2020-05-13  
Prime Minister Imran Khan had announced phased-wise relaxation in the coronavirus lockdown to resume business activities and keep the economy running; however, several businesses, like garments, footwear, cosmetics, etc would remain closed to contain the spread of the virus. However, e-commerce offers a perfect solution to mitigate the sufferings of traders caused by lockdown at one hand and offer goods and services to customers at their doorstep.....

**PM lauds EU for continuation of GSP+status to Pakistan**  
Source: *News Desk, Daily Times*, 2020-05-13  
Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday while expressing satisfaction over the progress made so far on implementation status of GSP Plus related conventions, appreciated EU’s decision for continuation of GSP+ status to Pakistan which contributed towards enhancement of country’s exports and further strengthening of its ties with the member countries. Next Video.....

**Is a second wave coming?**  
Source: *News Desk, Daily Times*, 2020-05-13  
Everybody’s talked about the chances of a second wave of the coronavirus coming this fall if relaxing the lockdowns, literally all across the world, doesn’t go down quite as expected. Yet beyond the words and concern, which is understandable, there’s little that any country can do to prepare for it should push really come to shove. The best that can be done, really, is follow safety protocols to the dot and hope for the best. If.....

**Pakistan reports record 2,300 Covid-19 cases in a single day**  
Source: *News Desk, Daily Times*, 2020-05-14  
Pakistan on Wednesday reported a record 2,300 new coronavirus cases in a single day as nationwide tally of patients jumped to 35,303, with 13,230 cases reported in Punjab, 13,341 in Sindh, 5,252 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,158 in Balochistan, 475 in Gilgit Baltistan, 759 in Islamabad and 89 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 761 lives while some 8,812 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. The Punjab health department on.....

**Corona crisis exposed drawbacks in 18th Amendment**  
ISLAMABAD: The opposition members in the National Assembly on Wednesday while accusing the government of lacking in having a national strategy against COVID-19, asked the rulers to adopt a cross party approach and development synergy among the provinces to control the pandemic. “Will the government agree on national listening and consult the opposition on the situation instead just delivering speeches and telling stories of consensu.....
COVID-19 claims another life, 122 tested positive in twin cities
Rawalpindi: The disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19 has claimed another life here in the district in last 24 hours while as many as 122 new patients have been tested positive for the illness in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi taking total number of confirmed patients so far reported from the region to 1958 on Wednesday. Data collected by ‘The News’ on Wednesday reveals that 68-year old male patient ..... view more

Joint efforts stressed against coronavirus
Islamabad: As Pakistan sees a surge in coronavirus cases, Germany is offering it humanitarian assistance at both multilateral and bilateral levels. Most of such financial support comes through multilateral institutions like the World Bank or Asian Development Bank. However, in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis funds for bilateral projects in Pakistan have been partially reallocated – especially in the field of humanitarian aid. Acco..... view more

‘Smart Lock Down’: Are we rushing to embrace a nightmare?
It was simply shocking. In fact, extremely frightening! What this scribe witnessed while passing through the PWD main road, a big commercial hub catering to the needs of hundreds of thousands of people living in almost a dozen thickly populated private housing societies. The response of public as well as trader community’s, towards the government decision to ease down the ‘lockdown’ appeared suicidal if one may believe ..... view more

Coronavirus strategy; Provinces should be taken on board: Opposition
Source: ZULFIQAR AHMAD & NAVEED BUTT , Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2020-05-14
ISLAMABAD: The opposition lawmakers in the National Assembly on Wednesday continued criticism of government’s coronavirus strategy, saying the federal government should chalk out a joint strategy – with all the provinces onboard – to fight the deadly disease. Taking part in the debate in a special session to discuss Pakistan’s strategy against the pandemic, ex-prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi lambasted the governm..... view more

No shortage of necessary medical equipment: NDMA chairman
Source: ABDUL RASHEED AZAD , Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2020-05-14
ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt General Muhammad Afzal on Wednesday announced that there was no shortage of necessary medical equipment to handle the coronavirus in the country. Addressing a press conference here, he said the entire Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) required for dealing with Covid-19 patients, except ventilators, were being manufactured in Pakistan. Afzal said civil work in the..... view more

Confirmed coronavirus cases surge to 35,788 in Pakistan
33 deaths due to coronavirus reported during the last 24 hours while the number of infection cases in the country has reached 35,764. 1,452 cases reported during the last twenty-four hours and 13,051 tests conducted. Confirmed positive cases reported in Sindh have risen to 13, 341, in Punjab 13,561, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 5,252, in Balochistan 2,239 in Islamabad 822, in Gilgit Baltistan 482, and in Azad Kashmir 91. 770 patients have died so..... view more
Senate calls for uniform policy to deal with COVID-19
Resuming the discussion on COVID-19 in the Senate today, Senator Aurangzeb said the government should provide Personal Protection Equipment and other facilities to health workers, who are the frontline soldiers in fight against the contagion. He said also demanded of the government for early repatriation of stranded Pakistanis in various countries. Mian Ateeq said problems of common Pakistanis should be resolved under a collective vision. He.....view more

Pakistan: Lifting virus lockdown may lead to 'herd immunity'
Source: Anadolu, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-14
Pakistani health experts fear a steep rise in already raging coronavirus cases in the country in days to come following easing of lockdown restrictions, with crowds of people pouring into markets. Footage aired on local broadcasters on Tuesday showed may markets, and shopping areas in the capital Islamabad, commercial capital Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, and other cities packed with shoppers, who hardly bothered to follow precautions. .....view more

PM Khan to participate in meeting under COVID Action Platform of WEF
Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says Prime Minister Imran Khan will participate in meeting to be organized under COVID Action Platform of World Economic Forum (WEF). He was chairing a video link meeting in Islamabad. The Minister said Prime Minister will apprise the international community of Pakistan's viewpoint while discussing corona pandemic, situation in Occupied Kashmir, and his debt relief proposal for weaker economies of t.....view more

Pakistan reports record 2,300 Covid-19 cases in a single day
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Pakistan on Wednesday reported a record 2,300 new coronavirus cases in a single day as nationwide tally of patients jumped to 35,303, with 13,230 cases reported in Punjab, 13,341 in Sindh, 5,252 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,158 in Balochistan, 475 in Gilgit Baltistan, 759 in Islamabad and 89 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 761 lives while some 8,812 coronavirus patients have recovered so far. The Punjab health department on W.....view more

More cases arrive in capital's hospitals
Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, 2020-05-14
ISLAMABAD: A suspected Covid-19 patient died at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) while 43 more people were diagnosed with the disease in the capital, taking the tally to 759. Pims Joint Executive Director Dr Minhajul Siraj told Dawn that the suspected patient was brought to the hospital from Khyber Teaching Hospital Peshawar and kept at the isolation ward on May 11. The patient was 55 years old and a resident of Peshawar, Dr Siraj .....view more

Over Rs3.5 billion donated to Corona Relief Fund
Source: News Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-14
More than Rs3.5 billion has so far been donated to the Prime Minister Corona Relief Fund to help the people affected by lockdown in the wake of coronavirus pandemic, Prime Minister’s Focal Person on Corona Philanthropy Drive Khurshid Alam said on Wednesday. Speaking in a programme of Radio Pakistan, Alam said that the people from all walks of life, government departments, private organisations and philanthropists were contributing to t.....view more
Opp again slams Centre for ‘lack of strategy’ to deal with Covid-19
Source: Ijaz Kakakhel, Daily Times , 2020-05-14
The opposition parties on Wednesday continued to criticise federal government for what they said inappropriate measures against coronavirus outbreak in the country, also claiming that the Centre had totally failed to provide a strategic plan to contain the pandemic. Tech Video ..... view more

Link between population size and Covid-19
Source: Dr Ali M Mir, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-05-14
Ever since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic in Pakistan, the media, politicians, and policymakers have been discussing and debating our epidemic control strategies. Should we go for a complete or smart lockdown? Or should we impose a curfew or gradually relax the existing partial lockdown? Ostensibly, economics and the number of emerging cases are the two major considerations influencing our decisions. But we hope that at this critical time, t......view more

Govt allows air transportation of COVID-19 infected bodies
Source: INP, Daily Times , 2020-05-14
The government on Wednesday allowed air transportation of Covid-19 infected bodies so as to bring back to the country the bodies of Pakistanis who died of the coronavirus abroad. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the purpose. The SOPs will come into immediate effect with instructions for all airline operators/authorized flight permission agents/charter operators/ground handlers to fully adhere to t......view more

Terrorism should not be used as a tool to malign any country or religion: FM
Source: News Desk, Daily Times , 2020-05-14
Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Wednesday emphasised that tackling terrorism and extremism must continue to be a priority, but terrorism-related allegations must not be used as a political tool to malign and victimise any country or religion. Tech Video ..... view more

Developing countries and online education (Part I)
Source: Syed Shahabuddin, Daily Pakistan , 2020-05-14
Many higher education institutions in the world offer or are planning to offer online courses. Whether online education is better or worse than traditional face-to-face education is no longer a question. Due to the pandemic of COVID 19, almost all educational institutions are now forced to offer some or all of their courses online, including K-12 (U.S. school system), and other school systems around the world. The question now is how many countri.....view more

ECC approves agriculture package to provide subsidy to farmers
Source: News Desk, Daily Times , 2020-05-14
The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet has approved a multi-billion-rupee agriculture package to provide the farmers subsidy on fertilizers, reduction in bank mark-up on agriculture loans, subsidy on cotton seed and white fly pesticides and sales tax subsidy on locally manufactured tractors. Tech Video ..... view more
UK repatriation effort in Pakistan helps more than 25,000 people return home
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Nearly 5,000 British travellers, on 21 special charter flights, have returned to the UK from Pakistan, as the last currently scheduled charter flight lands in Manchester. Ad ends in 13s Next Video ....... view more

University exams
Source: Editorial, Dawn, 2020-05-15
COVID-19 is pushing tech-based innovation to new levels. As all areas of life prepare to put into practice a new workable system, the model is experiencing a baptism by fire in the most basic of sectors — education. Like the rest of the world, Pakistan is trying to find a way to handle the tough challenge the virus has thrown up. There are no easy answers and the solutions that have so far been offered for junior classes, in which millions ....... view more

Centre unveils exams policy in backdrop of Covid-19
Source: Kashif Abbasi, Dawn, 2020-05-15
ISLAMABAD: Almost a week after the National Coordination Committee’s decision to cancel all the board examinations in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood on Thursday announced the examination and promotion policy, aimed at ending restlessness among students. The minister revealed the policy at a press conference he addressed after attending an online Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Confere..... view more

Govt mulls lockdown in areas violating SOPs
Source: Amir Wasim, Dawn, 2020-05-15
ISLAMABAD: Amid rising cases of Covid-19 and after getting reports of continued violations of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and guidelines for prevention of coronavirus by people from almost all parts of the country, the government has now decided to go for a stricter lockdown, but only at places where such violations will be more flagrant. This was stated by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz while talking to Dawn aft..... view more

Govt, opp remain at odds over coronavirus strategy
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
The blame game between government and the opposition parties continued on Thursday in the Upper House of parliament over handling of the coronavirus crisis, with treasury benches underlining the need for exhibiting greater national unity by all political parties to tackle the threat, especially the post-Covid-19 challenges."At this time, we need national unity so that the coming challenges, which will be harder than of today's, could ..... view more

Nationwide Covid-19 tally nears 37,000; 9,695 recovered so far
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 36,801 on Thursday, with 13,561 cases reported in Punjab, 14,099 in Sindh, 5,423 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,310 in Balochistan, 482 in Gilgit Baltistan, 822 in Islamabad and 104 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir so far. The virus has claimed at least 791 lives while some 9,695 coronavirus patients have recovered.Tech Video ..... view more
Pakistan’s deficit, poverty rate to soar amid coronavirus outbreak
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
Pakistan’s fiscal deficit will be significantly worse than projected this fiscal year, with the fallout from the novel coronavirus pandemic pushing millions into unemployment and poverty, according to government estimates. The country began a phased lifting of its countrywide lockdown last week despite a rising rate of cases – a move pushed primarily by fears of an economic meltdown. The country has reported 36,717 Covid-19 cases and 7..... view more

Lockdown no solution to coronavirus outbreak: PM
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday said imposing lockdown is not a solution to the coronavirus rather a temporary step and that the government will take its decisions according to the ground realities and condition of the people. Tech Video .....view more

PIA airlifts three coronavirus infected bodies from Spain
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
Three bodies of Pakistani nationals, who lost their lives due to coronavirus in Spain, have been air transported in Lahore on Thursday. According to the Pakistan International Airlines’ (PIA) spokesperson, the repatriated bodies were handed over to the heirs by Station Manager and Cargo Terminal Manager. The PIA is carrying out relief flight operations under the designed SOPs in the wake of coronavirus, the spokesperson of the PIA said. It .....view more

215 retail shops sealed for breach of virus protocol in Lahore
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, 2020-05-15
Cantt AC Ms Marsia Saleem got 27 shops of famous brands sealed in DHA (Y Block) market. Model Town AC Zeeshan Nasrullah Ranjha visited Model Town Link Road, Chungi Amar Sidhu and Ferozpur Road and got 15 shops sealed on violations. He also sealed Pace shopping centre. Similarly Shalimar AC Maloof Mehdi inspected Ghari Shahu and Harbanspura Bazaar and issued warnings to shopkeepers. Moreover, Minister for Trade and Commerce Main Aslam Iqbal, DC.....view more

Shafqat says students of IX & XI classes promoted to next classes
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood has said that in the wake of coronavirus situation, all decisions relating to education sector have been made with consensus of all boards.ech Video 00:00 / 00:54 .....view more

Balanced, skilful diplomacy essential for Pakistan amid evolving new world order: moot
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
The present world order is at stake due to the coronavirus pandemic and the new world order is apparently starting to take shape with China taking the lead. Pakistan however should not opt to pillion-ride with China on every issue and must engage in skilful balancing of its relations with other important countries as well. Tech Video .....view more

NCOC reviews COVID-19 situation, implementation of sops, availability of health facilities
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Thursday took an in-depth analysis of existing beds, ventilators and other facilities in the hospitals keeping in view the possible spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and present available data.

**PIA flight carrying 150 stranded Pakistanis leaves Paris for Islamabad**  
**Source:** News Desk, *Daily Times*, 2020-05-15  
A special PIA flight took off from Paris to Islamabad carrying 150 stranded Pakistanis on board. The flight had been arranged by the Government of Pakistan to repatriate stranded Pakistanis in France. Apart from France, a number of stranded Pakistanis from neighbouring countries, including Belgium, Italy and Poland also travelled on the special flight. In addition to the passengers, three dead bodies of Pakistani nationals who had unfortunately p......

**Covid-19 cases surge in Attock district**  
**Source:** The Newspaper's Correspondent, *Dawn*, 2020-05-15  
TAXILA: Covid-19 cases surged in Attock district, with13more patients reported on Thursday. According to data updated by the district administration, the number of Covid-19 patients in the district has now reached 83. All of the new cases are of local transmission, as are 98pc of the cases overall. The district focal person for Covid-19, Dr Asif Arbab Niazi, confirmed that this was the highest single-day rise in cases since the district's.....

**Coronavirus may never end: WHO**  
ISLAMABAD: The coronavirus may never go away and populations will have to learn to live with it just as they have HIV, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned, as the global death toll from the disease crosses 300,000. There were also gloomy forecasts from the US Federal Reserve, which said prolonged shutdowns to stem the spread of the virus could cause lasting economic damage in America. Washington ratcheted up tensions over the pandemic.....

**Least regard for SOPs causes surge in corona cases**  
ISLAMABAD: The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pakistan rose to 36,736 and fatalities to 788 on Thursday, as buyers and traders' willful disregard for the safety protocols has given the virus a free rein to infect and kill more. The federal and provincial governments have set safety/health protocols for the masses and exhorted the masses to adhere them to the letter for their safety, but all these SOPs are being flouted by the.....

**Virus lockdown: Asad Umar says world now reaching ’PM Imran’s vision’**  
Federal Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar said on Friday that the entire world is coming to the same decision on lockdown against the pandemic, as Prime Minister Imran Khan earlier envisaged and emphasised in his speeches. The federal minister said that the government is saying since day one that it is imperative to save people from financial woes. Umar said that the countries around the world have started to ease the lockdown .....
Islamabad: The Young Consultants Association of Pakistan (YCAP) has demanded of the government to close all outpatient departments of all secondary and tertiary care hospitals for non-coronavirus patients. YCAP chairman Dr Asfandyar Khan told reporters that the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases were 30,320 with a death toll of 667. He said more than 700 plus medical p.

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**Dynamics of COVID-19 in era of fourth industrial revolution**
Islamabad: During the current phase of history defined as the fourth industrial revolution, different assessments have been proffered about its impact on sustainable development. The adoption of 2030 Global Development Agenda with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is meant to address some of the dire inequalities in a spirit of international solidarity. The novel corona virus has, without doubt, exposed in varying degrees the vulnerabi.

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**5,000 masks donated to Islamabad police**
Islamabad: Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) on Thursday handed over 5,000 masks to Islamabad police which is standing on the frontline in struggle to curb COVID-19. These masks were formally handed over to Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar by CAP representative Aamira Hikmat here at Central Police Office. AIG Establishment Kamran Adil, AIG Operations Harron Joya, SSP (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed were also pre.

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**Covid-19 cases surge to 36,717 across country**
Source: ABDUL RASHEED AZAD, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-15
ISLAMABAD: The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in Pakistan has surged to 36,717 on Thursday after confirmation of fresh infections countrywide. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) total confirmed corona cases in Pakistan have reached 36,717, while the corona-related deaths climbed to 788 and over 9,700 patients have recovered. The province-wise break up of the total number of cases as of 4:55pm, on May 14,

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**Senate rejects ‘propaganda’ against China on coronavirus**
Source: SARDAR SIKANDER SHAHEEN, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-15
ISLAMABAD: The Upper House of the Parliament on Thursday dismissed as baseless the "propaganda against China from certain quarters, which stems from geopolitical rivalry and is more an attempt to divert attention from their own internal failings as it has no factual basis." This was the text of the resolution unanimously passed by the Senate during its session presided over by Chairman Sadiq Sanjirani, which was requisitioned by ....

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**Total tally of confirmed coronavirus cases surge to 37,218 in Pakistan**
The nationwide tally of coronavirus cases has soared to 37,218 with 1,430 new cases reported during the last twenty-four hours. Overall 13,914 cases have so far been detected in Punjab, 14,099 in Sindh, 5,423 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,310 in Balochistan, 501 in Gilgit Baltistan, 866 in Islamabad and 105 in Azad Kashmir. A total of 10,155 patients have so far recovered from the virus whilst the death toll stands at 803 with 33 new deaths re.
**Sealing Markets**  
As soon as the government decided to relax restrictions that it set to curb COVID-19, the people teemed the markets. In the process, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that the government instructed everyone to follow were thrown out the window. Over the last few days, we have witnessed the worst forms of violations of SOPs. While shopkeepers flouted them to make some quick money, the buyers did so to do Eid shopping. The latest news that.... view more

**Lockdown policy is very clear: PM**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-05-15  
ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday emphasized on implementation of SOPs regarding control and preventive measures against coronavirus to protect lives of people. He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting in Islamabad today on COVID-19 situation. The Prime Minister said our population faces dual threats of lockdown as well as hunger and poverty. He said we have to create a balance between hunger and measures..... view more

**Pakistani company to manufacture coronavirus drug, says Dr Zafar Mirza**  
A Pakistani pharmaceutical company will start to manufacture coronavirus drug Remdesivir within two months, said Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirza on Friday. "American company Gilead has manufactured this drug and it has proven effective in treating coronavirus patients," he said during a press conference. "It is said that the use of the drug has reduced the intensity of the coronavirus by 30% in..... view more

**President for varsities innovative approach to meet post COVID 19 challenges**  
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-05-15  
ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday urged the universities to adopt innovative information communication technologies for imparting quality education to the students keeping in view of the challenges posed by coronavirus pandemic. The President said this during a presentation given by Rector of National Textile University (NTU), Professor Dr Tanveer Hussain, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr here told about the role of university in providing qua..... view more

**PM Imran says 'we have to live with coronavirus' as cases shoot past 38,000**  
ISLAMABAD: The country will have to live with the coronavirus this year, Prime Minister Imran Khan said Friday while explaining the government's point of view in easing the imposed lockdown restrictions. The premier said that he would like to especially address the medical community, because he is aware of how alarmed they were at the announcement of an ease in curbs, given the pressure it would create on medical facilities. "I assure ..... view more
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<tr>
<td>Hazara police launch ‘No Mask, No Shopping &amp; No Mask, No Petrol’ drive</td>
<td>Abdul Khaliq Qureshi, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84pc of Covid-19 deaths reported in Peshawar hospitals</td>
<td>Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn</td>
<td>2020-05-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shopkeepers, customers violate SOPs as businesses reopen</td>
<td>Ali Hazrat Bacha, Dawn</td>
<td>2020-05-12</td>
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KPK

Hazara police have launched “No Mask, No Shopping & No Mask, No Petrol” drive in all the eight districts of Hazara division and had directed the traders to fully implement the SOPs designed by the KP government for the markets and at petrol pumps. Tech Video view more

PESHAWAR: Of the total province-wide deaths due to Covid-19, 84 per cent occurred at the three medical teaching institutions in Peshawar, mostly due to non-availability of intensive care specialists, co-morbidities, older ages and late hospitalisation of the infected people. On Sunday, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 245 deaths including 149 residents of Peshawar, which constituted 61 per cent of total fatalities while 205 among these deaths occurred view more

PESHAWAR: Both shopkeepers and customers blatantly violated the standard operating procedures issued by the government to stem the spread of novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in Peshawar on Monday as the businesses reopened after a closure of 50 days. The customers mostly women along with minor children flooded bazaars and markets without wearing face masks or following others safety guidelines. The provincial government had declared the use of face view more

PESHAWAR: Ten people died of Covid-19 on Wednesday as number of confirmed patients diagnosed with the infection reached 5,021 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The province-wide fatalities due to the pandemic have reached 267. According to daily situation report released by health department, of the newly-recorded deaths, five belonged to Peshawar, three to Mardan, one each to Swabi and Malakand districts. The province tested positive a total of 146 pati view more

PESHAWAR: The government collected donations from the people in the country and abroad to face the economic challenges in the wake of the lockdown due to coronavirus pandemic but it ignored furloughing the non-essential staff as was practiced elsewhere in the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has badly hit economies all over the world and Pakistan is no exception. Majority of the countries responded to the Covid-19 outbreak by imposing lockdow view more

MANSEHRA: Over 100 Covid-19 patients quarantined at the Elementary College for Girls have left for their homes following complete recovery on Tuesday. The last patch of around 18 patients left quarantine centre following their
test of pandemic were proven negative after repeats. According to district administrations’ handout, over 100 Covid-19 patients were quarantined at elementary college during the last one-month and all had left.....

Corona testing laboratory goes functional at Bannu hospital
BANNU: The coronavirus testing laboratory on Tuesday went functional at the Khilfa Gulnawaz Hospital, Bannu. Talking to The News, Bannu Division Commissioner Adil Siddiqui said that the laboratory had an enhanced capacity to conduct tests of many people for the coronavirus and get result instantly. He said the people, particularly those who had a history of travelling, should come for the coronavirus test without any hesitation to stem th.....

Number of corona cases reach 270 in Mardan
MARDAN: The number of coronavirus positive cases reached 270 in Mardan district while the test reports of 751 people came back negative, health sources said. So far, 19 people have died of coronavirus in the district. The sources added that the test of former district naib Nazim Asad Ali Kashmiri also came back positive. The samples of 29 contacts and relatives of former nazim were also sent for test. The sources added that 1,276 tests w.....

MNA Ali Wazir tests positive for Covid-19
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-05-13
PESHAWAR: National Assembly Member (MNA) Ali Wazir from South Waziristan has tested positive for the novel coronavirus (Covid-19). Swab samples of Wazir, who represents the NA-50 constituency, were taken at the Mufti Mehmood Memorial Teaching Hospital in Dera Ismail Khan. Results of the test were received on Tuesday, according to which the lawmaker had contracted the virus. The provincial health authorities have advised the MNA to have his.....

Violators of Covid-19 restrictions face summary trial
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has promulgated an ordinance giving wide-ranging powers to the designated officers to place restrictions on people and establishments across the province to stem the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19), and try violators summarily. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Epidemic Control and Emergency relief Ordinance, 2020, also delayed the holding of the local government elections until the continuation of the health em.....

Death toll reaches 275 as eight more die of Covid-19 in KP
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn , 2020-05-14
PESHAWAR: Eight more people died of coronavirus on Wednesday making the overall number of fatalities due to the pandemic 275 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Four deaths occurred in Peshawar, two in Nowshera and one each in Khyber and Lower Dir districts, according to daily situation Covid-19 update of the health department. The province also recorded 231 new confirmed cases taking the province-wide tally of positive patients to 5,252. The number of pat.....
13 shops sealed over violation of COVID-19 SOPs
Source: Abdul Khaliq Qureshi, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
District administration along with TMA Abbottabad staff has sealed 13 shops over the violation of SOPs by the shopkeepers and general public for not maintenance the social distance and not use of mask and hand gloves here on Wednesday which includes seven clothes, 6 garments and one shoes shop. Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad on the ease of lock down visited Abbottabad city bazaars with TOR (Taxation Officer Revenue) Mazhar Awan who in repeated view more

Covid-19 claims nine more lives in KP
Source: Bureau report, Dawn, 2020-05-15
PESHAWAR: Nine more persons died of coronavirus on Thursday bringing the total number of fatalities due to the infection in the province to 284 as 171 new cases were reported. Daily update report by health department said that the deceased persons included four from Peshawar and one each from Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi, Swat and Malakand districts. With 171 new cases, the province-wide tally of confirmed cases reached 5,423. The province also rec view more

Tobacco company office closed in Akora Khattak as virus infects 44 employees
Source: The Newspaper's Correspondent, Dawn, 2020-05-15
NOWSHERA: Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) closed its offices in Akora Khattak here on Thursday after 44 of its employees tested positive for coronavirus. “The company has specially hired services of a private laboratory in Islamabad which tested all its employees, including 200 permanent and 600 contractual. The samples of 800 employees had been sent to the lab for tests to find out the affected employees,” said a PTC official. In th view more

Punjab

‘Covid-19 tests not 100% accurate’
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-12
LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid during the session of the Punjab Assembly on Monday admitted that 100% accurate results are not possible through the currently available kits that are being used for testing patients for novel coronavirus. The house proceedings started after a delay of more than an hour. Panel of Chairpersons (PoC) member Mian Shafi presided over the session. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmaker view more

10,000 doctors to be selected for coronavirus-specific duties
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-12
LAHORE: The second sitting of the Punjab Assembly was held here on Monday with panel of chairman Mian Muhammad Shafii in the chair. Law Minister Muhammad Basharat Raja moved two bills in the house and both were passed with a majority vote. These were the Punjab Village Panchayats and Neighbourhood Councils (Amendment) Bill and the Code of Civil Procedure (Punjab Amendment) bill 2020. Earlier during the Question Hour, Health Minister Dr Yasmin Ra view more
S. Punjab reports most recoveries of patients
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, 2020-05-12
LAHORE: Three districts of south Punjab have reported the highest ratio of Covid-19 recoveries across the province, while Gujranwala recorded the lowest. In Muzaffargarh, the recovery ratio was 97.7 per cent, followed by Bahawalnagar with 87.2, Bhakkar 82.7 and Dera Ghazi Khan 80.2pc. Gujranwala has shown 19.2pc recoveries only. The three south Punjab districts have also reported no death from coronavirus so far despite several infected patient.....

Govt passes two bills in PA session called on opposition’s requisition
Source: Hassaan Ahmed, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
The government easily passed two bills in the Punjab Assembly on Monday without any resistance from the opposition benches despite the fact that the session was convened over the requisition of the opposition. ‘The Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill’ and ‘The Punjab Village Panchayats and Neighbourhood Councils (Amendment) Bill’ were passed in Punjab Assembly on Monday. It seems that the government is capita.....

Punjab governor cuts the ribbon for TECNO donation ceremony
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
TECNO, a premier smartphone brand conducted a CSR donation ceremony on May 11, 2020 in which Governor of the Punjab Choudhry Mohammad Sarwar along with other provincial government officials were also present. The ceremony took place at Hafeez Centre in Lahore, the biggest I.T Market of the country. Fulfilling its corporate responsibility, TECNO has taken an admirable initiative to distribute medical products and equipment. ..... 

Punjab CM inaugurates Insaf Imdad Programme in Nankana
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Monday inaugurated the Insaf Imdad Programme during his visit to Nankana district, where he also inspected the aid distribution in Government MC Girls School on Monday. The aid recipients expressed their satisfaction over the arrangements while talking to hm. Tech Video ..... 

New guidelines for home isolation
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-13
RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government has issued new guidelines for home isolation of Covid-19 patients and asked district administrations across the province to form a committee to separate confirmed patients from the public and examine asymptomatic cases. Talking to Dawn, Deputy Commissioner retired Capt Anwarul Haq said: “The committee, titled ‘Home-Isolation Committee’ will examine patients who had no symptoms of Covid-19 but te.....

14 more succumb to virus in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-13
LAHORE: As many as 14 more Covid-19 patients succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours in Punjab, including nine in Lahore. Meanwhile, the 301 more suspected patients tested positive for the virus, taking total number of confirmed cases to 11,889 in the province so far. In Lahore, the death toll reached 78, while in Punjab it rises to 211, according to the official figures released on Tuesday. Of the new confirmed cases, 194 were reporte.....
Another 3 die of COVID-19 taking death toll to 65
Rawalpindi: The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 has claimed another three lives in the district in last 24 hours while another 69 locals belonging to the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been tested positive for the disease where as another 64 travellers who reached Rawalpindi from UAE three days back have also been confirmed positive for COVID-19. All the three patients including two males and one female died of..... view more

'Covid-19 hits oil industry hard'
LAHORE:Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the governance systems of the world. Capitalism, authoritarianism, the free market, international trade, world healthcare, etc., have been brutally evaluated to be grossly ineffective. The first direct impact of the virus came as a shock to medical facilities. This is the analysis of Imtiaz Rafi Butt, Chairman of Jinnah Rafi Foundation, shared with The News in a straightforward and logical manner. Imti...... view more

Strict lockdown if SOPs defied, says minister
LAHORE:Punjab Minister for Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal Tuesday warned re-imposition of lockdown following the non-implementation of SOPs in Lahore markets by the traders. In a meeting with the traders at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the minister rebuked the traders and LCCI leaders on failure of the SOPs on the first day of the resumption of business activities in the City markets. “We have opened the markets ..... view more

Over 285 Covid-19 cases confirmed in Punjab police dept
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-13
LAHORE: As many as 285 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Punjab Police. Only in Lahore, the figure has crossed 60. There has been at least 20 times increase in only one month as the first three cases were reported in the first week of April. The figure may rise to a much higher level as the tests of at least 4,100 police officials are awaited. Out of 285 patients, 58 personnel have rejoined duties after rec..... view more

Pindi’s virus tally soars past 1,000
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-13
RAWALPINDI: The number of novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases in the garrison city crossed the 1,000 mark on Tuesday with Rawal Town and Cantonment Board areas accounting for the most cases. A daily situation report issued by the Punjab Directorate of Public Relations (DPR) on Tuesday read that around 4,242 suspected Covid-19 patients have been brought to the quarantine facilities set up across the district or who have been quarantined at ho..... view more

CM Usman Buzdar slams ‘coronaviruses of corruption’ for doing politics over COVID-19
Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that “coronaviruses of corruption” are even doing politics over a serious issue like coronavirus. In a statement, he said the opposition is only point-scoring on coronavirus issue and those who are making tall claims have not done anything practical. Opposition parties have been isolated and have also left the people alone, he told. He said that it is the best time to rise above mundan..... view more
72% wheat procurement target achieved, PA told
Senior Minister Abdul Aleem Khan, who also holds the portfolio of food department said that the Punjab government made a comprehensive policy regarding wheat procurement this year and therefore the procedure is going very smooth. “The government has so far achieved the 72 percent target of wheat procurement while 92 percent gunny bags have been distributed in transparent way,” said senior minister, while answering the queries of lawmakers.

UN-Habitat, NCPC launch project on urban slums response
Rawalpindi : National Cleaner Production Center (NCPC) in collaboration with UN-Habitat, Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC), Sheher Saaz, Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC), AHKMT and UET (Taxila) have launched a project of Pakistan COVID-19 Urban Slums Response Programme (PCUSRP) in Dhok Hassu and Dhok Mangtal. Malik Amin Aslam Adviser to PM on Climate Change formally inaugurated the project. On this occasion he appreciated.

Number of Covid-19 patients keeps climbing in Rawalpindi
Source: Aamir Yasin, Dawn, 2020-05-14
RAWALPINDI: The number of confirmed patients has been increasing with each passing day as on Wednesday 133 more tested positive for Covid-19 in the garrison city while a person died and three recovered. A 50-year-old resident of Khayaban-i-Sir Syed was brought to Benazir Bhutto Hospital on May 12 with symptoms of Covid-19. However, he passed away on the morning of May 13. Health experts blamed opening of bazaars and markets in Rawalpindi and.

Buzdar concerned over people not adopting precautionary measures in markets
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has expressed concern over contravention of precautionary measures in markets after easing lockdown and directed the administration and police to ensure implementation of SOPs. In a statement, he directed that all precautionary measures should be implemented to save the people from coronavirus. The citizens should also avoid going outside without any need, he added. He said that lockdown has been eased.

Governor for ordinance to hold officers accountable for delaying official files
Source: INP, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has hinted that an ordinance may be promulgated to hold officers accountable for delaying official files for more than five days. Bureaucrats must perform their duties actively for the progress and prosperity of the country, the Governor Punjab stressed adding that it was his life dream and objective to ensure safe drinking water for masses, who were still being denied of this basic human need and contra.

‘COVID-19 patients suffering because of Gujranwala administration’
Source: Correspondent, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
The patients of coronavirus are facing difficulties due to incompetency of Gujranwala administration. After spending millions on field hospital, government has failed to provide basic necessities. Tech Video 00:01
The murderous ‘mazdoor’
Source: Asha’ar Rehman, Dawn, 2020-05-15
THE lockdown debate has turned into an even heavier exchange of argument with the easing of restrictions. The officials, the shopkeepers, the media, which has long turned into everyone’s favourite whipping boy for living with the curse of permanently flawed judgement, are all surprised by the torrents of unmasked non-aliens let loose in the bazaars. Once again the historical refrain has been recalled as the most convenient explanation of t.....view more

Relief & rehabilitation
Source: Faisal Bari, Dawn, 2020-05-15
“MY brother and I are engineers. We used to work in Lahore. When the lockdown started we moved back to our house in the village. This was to reduce expenses as well. My father has a small business. Well, he had one, I am not sure if he will be able to resume activities after the lockdown. We have a severe cash flow crunch. My brother was laid off when the lockdown started. I got my salary for the last two months, but I am not sure how long .....view more

Lahore in complete lockdown mode again today
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-15
LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Zulfiqar Hameed says there is a complete lockdown due to coronavirus in the city on Friday (today) and strict action will be taken against the violators of the standard operating procedure (SOP). He said according to the SOP of the Punjab government, all markets, bazaars, shops, gatherings and movement of the public, all kinds of transport, including pillion riding, would also be banned. He said check p.....view more

Nine more succumb to virus in Punjab
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-15
LAHORE: As many as nine more Covid-19 patients succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours in Punjab, including four in Lahore. The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Thursday stated that 336 suspected patients tested positive for coronavirus. In Lahore, the new patients’ number was recorded at 178, which is more than 50 per cent of all cases reported in Punjab, followed by Gujranwala with 53 cases, Khushab 24 and F.....view more

215 retail shops sealed for breach of virus protocol in Lahore
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, 2020-05-15
Cantt AC Ms Marsia Saleem got 27 shops of famous brands sealed in DHA (Y Block) market. Model Town AC Zeeshan Nasrullah Ranjah visited Model Town Link Road, Chungi Amar Sidhu and Ferozpur Road and got 15 shops sealed on violations. He also sealed Pace shopping centre. Similarly Shalimar AC Maloof Mehdi inspected Ghari Shahu and Harbanspura Bazaar and issued warnings to shopkeepers. Moreover, Minister for Trade and Commerce Main Aslam Iqbal, DC.....view more
### Nine more succumb to virus in Punjab

Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn*, 2020-05-15

LAHORE: As many as nine more Covid-19 patients succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours in Punjab, including four in Lahore. The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Thursday stated that 336 suspected patients tested positive for coronavirus. In Lahore, the new patients’ number was recorded at 178, which is more than 50 per cent of all cases reported in Punjab, followed by Gujranwala with 53 cases, Khushab 24 and F.

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### Corona expenses open to forensic audit: minister

Source: Staff Reporter, *Dawn*, 2020-05-15

LAHORE: Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has rejected reports claiming Rs900 million expenses on the setting up of the Lahore Expo Centre field hospital to treat Covid-19 patients. The minister also pledged to conduct forensic audit of the funds being spent in the wake of the pandemic in Punjab. “I think the video circulating in the social media is not based on facts. The amount in question is actually meant for emergency situation if the.....

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### Six new Covid-19 cases in Sheikhupura


SHEIKHUPURA: The flagrant violation of SOPs has intensified the spread of coronavirus as six new cases were reported in the district on Wednesday and Thursday. Of them, two cases were admitted to Muridke Tehsil Headquarters Hospital while the four other patients were admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital. Among the new cases includes a medical officer. TOBA TEK SINGH: Two new Covid-19 positive cases have been detected in Kamalia.

[View more](#)

### ‘Healthcare system can’t handle massive spread of COVID-19’

Source: Staff Report, *Daily Times*, 2020-05-15

Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that the non-seriousness shown by people may lead to spread of coronavirus beyond the handling capacity of the healthcare system, therefore only option is left to observe the laid down SOPs in letter and spirit.

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### No respite in Covid-19 cases in Rawalpindi, Islamabad


RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: The twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad continued to see surge in Covid-19 cases as 117 patients tested positive in the garrison city while Islamabad received 63 cases on Thursday. At least three people have died and nine were discharged in Rawalpindi. Meanwhile, markets and shopping malls in the twin cities were allowed to reopen do not appear to be following social distancing guidelines or taking other preventive mea.

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### COVID-19 pandemic: Punjab isn’t panicked?


ISLAMABAD: The Punjab government feels that the COVID-19 pandemic is being dealt with largely by the existing medical professionals, if the number of new doctors it has recruited to cope with the situation is any guide. It has not gone for a large-scale recruitment of doctors and has hired the professionals only as per the actual requirements in various areas. Sometime back, Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar had announced that his adm...
2 more die of COVID-19, another 180 test positive taking tally to 2138
Rawalpindi: The coronavirus illness, COVID-19 outbreak is getting more and more intense with every passing day in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as in last 24 hours, another two confirmed patients of the illness died here in the district while as many as 180 new patients have been tested positive from the twin cities taking tally to 2138 on Thursday. To date, the illness has claimed at least 62 lives in Rawalpindi district w..... view more

Collective measures imperative to defeat corona
Islamabad: The international community should take more collective measures to defeat coronavirus. Japan will continue to provide support to Pakistan not only for fighting COVID-19 but also for matters related to Japan-Pakistan socioeconomic cooperation. This was stated by Ambassador of Japan Matsuda Kuninori as his government decides to provide fifth cache of assistance worth $4,000,320 to Pakistan through the United Nations Office for..... view more

12 corona victims’ bodies shifted to native areas
LAHORE: The Edhi Corona Task Force shifted 12 bodies to the graveyards of their native areas on Thursday. The deceased have been identified as Abdul Ghaffar, 70, a resident of Australia Chowk, Tariq Butt, 65, a resident of Mozang, Moazam Butt, 75, a resident of Islampura, Sultan Hussain, 85, a resident of Harbanspura, Javed Iqbal, 57, a resident of Samanabad, Khalil, 50, a resident of Sheikhupura Road, Suhail, 55, a resident of Rawalpindi, Nisar A..... view more

Punjab permits opening of malls, public transport from May 18
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-05-15
The Punjab government announced further relaxations in the lockdown on Friday. Public transport services, shopping malls and automobile production units were allowed to resume activity in Punjab from May 18. According to Punjab Industries and Trade Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal, the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for shopping malls and the automobile industry had been finalised. They would be allowed to resume business activity from Monday,..... view more

Sindh

If raw material imports from India stopped: Drug manufacturers warn 30-35pc medicine shortages in Pakistan
KARACHI: Pakistani drug manufacturers on Monday claimed that somebody was misleading the federal cabinet about the import of medicines and its raw material from India, saying at the moment, only the necessary and vital drugs were being imported from the neighbouring state, whose shortage could result in serious consequences for the people in Pakistan. “Pakistan is importing some finished products including Anti Rabies Vaccine (ARV), ..... view more
PTI seeks audit of funds released by Sindh govt to fight Covid-19
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-12
KARACHI: The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf on Monday questioned the funds spent by the Sindh government in the name of coronavirus pandemic and demanded an independent audit of the funds released for the fight against Covid-19, casting doubts over the role of private hospitals and non-governmental organisations which it felt were being “obliged” out of the way. Addressing a press conference here, city president of the PTI MPA Khurram Sher.... view more

Another policeman dies of coronavirus in Karachi
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-12
KARACHI: One more policeman died of Covid-19 on Monday, taking the death toll from the pandemic in the force to three, a police spokesperson said. Assistant sub-inspector Sher Gul Niazi, 48, died during treatment at an isolation ward of the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi. He was posted at the motor transport section in the Garden area. The ASI was diagnosed with the virus on April 29. He was the third policeman who had fallen victim to th..... view more

Sindh govt spends about Rs1bn on procuring ventilators, other equipment
Source: Imran Ayub, Dawn, 2020-05-13
KARACHI: The Sindh government has spent around $6 million, or nearly Rs1 billion, mainly for imports and procurement of key medical equipment, including ventilators, to build capacity of its healthcare system to meet coronavirus challenges and enhance its treatments facilities, which have been under serious criticism from its political opponents and experts, officials and sources said on Tuesday. An official said that an amount of $4m had alread..... view more

Murad warns of tightening lockdown if SOPs not followed
Source: Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn, 2020-05-13
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah warned on Tuesday that he would be left with no other option but to tighten the lockdown again if the traders and people of the province did not follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs). In a video message released from the Chief Minister House, he said he had eased the lockdown and allowed business activities to resume within prescribed time frame immediately after a meeting with a delega..... view more

Sindh to promote students of grades I through VIII without exams
KARACHI: Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani said on Tuesday that students of classes I through VIII across the province will be promoted to the next grades without having to take the annual examinations, but school administrators can have them take exams on important subjects. To decide the fate of students appearing for the annual exams of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC), the releva..... view more

Sindh records highest number of COVID-19 deaths in a day as 18 perish
The highest number of deaths in 24 hours due to COVID-19 was recorded in Sindh between Monday and Tuesday when a total of 18 people, including five women and 13 men, lost their lives due to the viral disease. Meanwhile 593
new cases of COVID-19 were diagnosed in the province, of which 412 were from Karachi. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Tuesday. “At least 18 people have lost their l.... view more

Nurses Day celebrated
Islamabad : The first batch of 25 nurses qualifying basic diploma from the College of Nursing, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) this fall, will be enrolled in a one-year post-basic diploma programme in public health, which will be extendable to a two-year Masters’ Degree programme. The PM’s Special Assistant on Health Dr. Zafar Mirza shared this piece of information through a press release issued in connection wit..... view more

Five private hospitals agree to treat needy COVID-19 patients
Five leading private hospitals in Karachi have finally agreed to treat deserving COVID-19 patients at their respective high dependency units (HDUs) and intensive care units (ICUs) at the Sindh government’s expenses. The Sindh government will pay money to the private hospitals in advance for the treatment of coronavirus patients, The News has learnt. “The Sindh health department and five leading private hospitals in Karachi hav..... view more

Invest in nurses and midwives to achieve health for all by 2030, advise experts
Nurses and midwives are the lynchpin of healthcare around the world, and investing in these health professionals represents an investment in resilient health systems that can be the first line of defence against international crises such as COVID-19. Focusing on the needs of nurses and midwives can also help meet people’s health needs and expectations, said speakers at a virtual seminar held to celebrate International Nurses Day and 2020 Ye..... view more

Governor Sindh approves COVID-19 Emergency Relief Ordinance
Governor Sindh Imran Ismail on Wednesday approved Sindh (Covid-19) Emergency Relief Ordinance which aims to provide relief to lockdown-hit people of the province. According to the new ordinance, fine for violating any clause has been increased to Rs one million. The Sindh government more than a week ago approved the Sindh Covid-19 Emergency Relief Ordinance, 2020 to provide relief to the people and address the challenges emanating from the ..... view more

Syed Abdullah Shah Institute starts testing COVID-19 patients
Syed Abdullah Shah Institute of Medical and Health Sciences Sehwan started conducting the tests of PCR-Coronavirus for the first time on Tuesday.taking with journalists, director of Syed Abdullah Shah Institute of medical and health sciences Sehwan said that first 14 PCR tests of Corona Virus tests were conducted by Institute of Syed Abdullah Shah medical and health sciences and their results confirmed negative.He said that samples of 22 more pat..... view more
Sukkur special education deputy director died from coronavirus
Source: Abdul Mateen Mahar, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
Deputy Director of Special Education, Sukkur, Abdul Rasheed Mahar died due to coronavirus on Tuesday. According to detail, deputy director special education Sukkur Abdul Rasheed Mahar was admitted at Gambat Institute of Medicine Science (GIMS) two days ago due to illness and he was tested for corona virus (COVID-19) and result found positive therefore his sons decided to retest from agha khan lab Sukkur and they rushed to Sukkur Gamabat on Tuesday..... view more

364 children die in 90 days at CMCH Children’s Hospital
Source: Jamal Dawoodpoto, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
As many as 364 children died in Paeds Medicine Department (Children’s Hospital), Chandka Medical College Hospital (CMCH), Larkana during first three months January-March 2020. Tech Video ..... view more

Sindh to promote students of Grade 1-8, says Ghani
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
Sindh Minister for Education and Labor Saeed Ghani has said that examinations for children from class I to VIII will not be held in Sindh province and they will be promoted to the next classes.ech Video 00:05 / ..... view more

2,255 cases reported in 24 hours: Sindh seals malls, markets
KARACHI: On the direction of Commissioner Karachi Iftikhar Sahwallani, several markets and shops were sealed on Wednesday evening in the District South and East for blatantly violating the social distancing order for the past two days. Zainab Market, the Victoria Center, the International Center, Madina City Mall in Saddar were sealed. Also, Haram Center and Gul Plaza were sealed in the Garden area while Jillani Center in Arambagh area was also ..... view more

16 die in Sindh as active COVID-19 cases climb to 10,272
As many as 16 more people, including three women, died in Karachi due to the novel coronavirus between Tuesday and Wednesday while 731 more people were diagnosed with the viral disease in Sindh, including 625 in the city. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Wednesday. "Three women among 16 people became the victims of COVID-19 in Sindh, all of them in Karachi, during the last 24 hours..... view more

Covid-19 climate debate – worthwhile?
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-05-14
No doubt that carbon dioxide emission will be significantly down in 2020 due to Covid-19 and the accompanying lockdown. Meaningful decline in emissions have been witnessed across the globe, which started the Covid-19 climate debate – the discussion whether this decrease in CO2 emissions is setting the stage for the much-needed climate change efforts. International Energy Agency (IEA) in its first report since the coronavirus outbreak ..... view more
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<th>SHC asks hospitals to reopen emergency wards and OPDs</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Tanveer Ahmed, <em>Business Recorder, Islamabad</em>, 2020-05-14</td>
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<td><strong>KARACHI:</strong> Sindh High Court (SHC) ordered all public and private hospitals across the province to reopen emergency wards and outpatient departments (OPDs) immediately to treat the patients suffering from various ailments. A division bench of the SHC headed by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar issued the orders on a petition against the non-provision of treatment to general patients at public and private hospitals in light of the coronavirus outbreak..... [view more]</td>
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<th>Sindh Epidemic Diseases (Amend) Ord Promulgated</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> MOHAMMAD BILAL TAHIR, <em>Business Recorder, Islamabad</em>, 2020-05-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KARACHI:</strong> The Sindh Governor Wednesday promulgated the Sindh Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. This Ordinance shall come into force at once. According to the text of the Ordinance: “In the Sindh Epidemic Diseases Act, 2014, hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 3, in sub-section (3), after the words “Deputy Commissioner”, the words “or Assistant Commissioner or any other Officer&amp;..... [view more]</td>
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<th>Major city markets sealed for violation of SOPs by shopkeepers, customers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Imran Ayub, <em>Dawn</em>, 2020-05-14</td>
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<td><strong>KARACHI:</strong> Just two days after the lockdown was eased after a 50-day closure, the city administration sealed on Wednesday major markets of the metropolis for violation of the defined standard operating procedures (SOPs) by both traders and shoppers. It triggered brief but strong protests at a few places as a key member of the Sindh cabinet warned that the decision could be reversed anytime to contain the spread of the virus. Among the commercial c..... [view more]</td>
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<tr>
<th>Markets, shopping centres sealed in Karachi over violation of SOPs</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> News Desk, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2020-05-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Karachi administration on Wednesday sealed a number of major markets and shopping centres and at least three stores in the port city for violating the standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the government before easing the coronavirus lockdown for traders and the public. / 00:54 ..... [view more]</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bilawal wants next budget to focus on Covid-19</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> INP, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2020-05-14</td>
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<td>Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Wednesday said that the country has to fight the Covid-19 challenge on both health and economic fronts. Tech Video 00:01 / ..... [view more]</td>
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<tr>
<th>Dadu reports its first COVID-19 death</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Imdad Ali Khushik, <em>Daily Times</em>, 2020-05-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>A patient of coronavirus belonging to Dadu district died on Wednesday. According to reports, 65 years old Begum Khoso was buried at her native graveyard following the SOPs. Head of rapid response team of health department for Corona Virus in taluka Johi, Dr Zulfiqar Khoso, led the teams of health department for her burial, Dr Zulfiqar Khoso , Johi taluka, driver two others. Earlier, her funeral prayer was held at her ancestral grave yard followi..... [view more]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sindh government allows another 35 factories to open
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
The Sindh government on Wednesday granted permission to 35 more factories to resume their operations which were suspended in the wake of coronavirus outbreak. In a notification issued by the Sindh home department, factories related to garments, textiles and steel have been allowed to resume their operations to complete their pending orders. A total of 746 factories have now been allowed to function in the province by the Pakistan People’s P..... view more

Sindh governor approves Sindh COVID-19 Relief Ordinance
Source: INP, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Sindh Governor Imran Ismail on Wednesday approved Coronavirus Emergency Relief Ordinance aimed at providing relief to the people amid the Covid-19 pandemic.According to the new ordinance, fine for violating any clause has been increased to Rs one million. The draft ordinance had been approved by the provincial cabinet on April 27, with the aim to provide relief to the people during the ongoing lockdown in the province.However, Sindh Governor Imra..... view more

UBL donates ventilators to hospitals amidst COVID-19 crisis
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
The COVID-19 virus pandemic has shaken the foundations of the modern world. Under these very testing times, it is essential that we don’t lose sight of the suffering and pain caused by this disease, rather play our part in contributing back to our communities. UBL, as a Corporate Citizen, has always been at the forefront in times of natural disaster by assisting the impacted in the most humane way possible. ..... view more

Consumer behaviour has completely been changed by Covid-19, webinar told
Source: Shazia Hasan, Dawn, 2020-05-15
KARACHI: Hysab Kytab, a mobile app aimed to help people stay within budget and spend and live better by managing their finances better, organised a webinar on the topic of Covid-19 and its impact on consumer spending behaviour on Thursday. The world has changed a lot. From a 66 per cent decline in the amount spent on eating out, to a 70 per cent increase in the amount spent on groceries, the discussion looked at what else has changed with actual..... view more

758 new coronavirus cases detected, nine more patients die, says CM
Source: Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn, 2020-05-15
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Thursday that 758 new cases of the coronavirus were detected by testing 4,487 people, while nine more Covid-19 patients died lifting the death toll to 243. In a statement, he said that 4,487 tests were conducted against which 17 per cent, or 758, new cases were diagnosed while so far 107,827 samples had been tested surfacing 4,099 cases, or 13.1 per cent of the total tests. Mr Shah said that n..... view more

Patient’s death sparks violent protest at JPMC
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-15
KARACHI: A breakdown of law and order occurred at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) on Thursday when a man suspected for Covid-19 died and his family and relatives demanded his body without fulfilling ‘due procedure’ and turned violent when asked to follow the procedures and protocols, officials and sources said. They said Abdul Salam from Garden was referred to the JPMC with all symptoms and clinical picture of coronavir..... view more
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<th>Topic</th>
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<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Covid-19 patient to receive plasma fully recovers</td>
<td>Dawn Report, Dawn, 2020-05-15</td>
<td>HYDERABAD: The first Covid-19 patient, who had received plasma therapy, has fully recovered at isolation ward in Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) and is ready to be discharged as 62 more people tested positive for coronavirus in Larkana and one retired army man was found to have the contagion in Umerkot on Thursday. The patient whose successful recovery has kindled hope in other critically ill Covid-19 patients was donated the plasma by a cured.</td>
<td>view more</td>
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<td>‘Centre failing to cope with coronavirus’</td>
<td>Staff Correspondent, Dawn, 2020-05-15</td>
<td>HYDERABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) information secretary Senator Maula Bux Chandio on Thursday said that the federal government had failed to evolve a strategy or formulate a policy to cope with coronavirus outbreak in the country. In a statement issued here, Mr Chandio said that parliament’s session was called to discuss the issue but no such strategy or policy was unveiled by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government.</td>
<td>view more</td>
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<td>Sindh health secretary forms committee to probe CMC principal’s complaint</td>
<td>Jamal Dawoodpoto, Daily Times, 2020-05-15</td>
<td>Sindh Health Secretary Zahid Ali Abbasi has constituted a three-member committee to probe the complaint received by him from the Principal, Chandka Medical College (CMC). The committee is headed by Naeemuddin Mirani, Additional Secretary, Health Department, Dr. Aijaz Khanzada OSD and Zulfiqar Dars, Section Officer. The committee shall examine the complaint and records, fix responsibility and submit its report within seven days.</td>
<td>view more</td>
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<tr>
<td>CM Murad Ali Shah calls for eschewing propaganda as COVID-19 affects 758 more, kills another nine in Sindh</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi, 2020-05-15</td>
<td>The novel coronavirus claimed nine more lives between Wednesday and Thursday in Sindh, raising the death toll due to the infectious disease in the province to 243, said Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued on Thursday. He added that 758 new cases of COVID-19 had also been detected in Sindh during the 24 hours. The CM maintained that they had tested 4,487 samples between Wednesday and Thursday, of which 758 tested...</td>
<td>view more</td>
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<td>Fifth cop dies of coronavirus in Karachi</td>
<td>Our Correspondent, The News, International, Islamabad/Rawalpindi, 2020-05-15</td>
<td>One more policeman died of COVID-19 on Thursday, taking the death toll from the pandemic in the force to five. Head Constable Abdul Aziz, son of Khuda Bakhsh, was under treatment at the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT), where he breathed his last. He was posted at the sub-divisional police officer (SDPO), Risala, as a driver. He is the fifth policeman to have fallen victim to the deadly contagious virus in the metrop.</td>
<td>view more</td>
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SPO launches project to create COVID-19 awareness in eight UCs
The Strengthening Participatory Organisation (SPO) has initiated a short-term project in Malir and East districts, covering eight union councils (UCs) to create awareness about coronavirus prevention among the residents. The project, named 'Provision of Hand washing Facilities and Community Awareness on COVID-19', has been launched in the selected union councils of Karachi’s two districts, which are COVID-19 outbreak hotspot.....view more

Six hospitals for infectious diseases to be set up in all divisional headquarters
The Sindh government has decided to establish six hospitals for infectious diseases, one each in every divisional headquarter in the province. The decision was taken in a meeting on Thursday with Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah in chair. Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho, Planning & Development Board Chairman Muhammad Waseem, Finance Secretary Hassan Naqvi, Health Secretary Zahid Abbasi, Works & Services Secretary I.....view more

‘Economic damage caused by coronavirus is yet to be ascertained’
KARACHI: President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, Mian Zahid Hussain, has proposed the establishment of a national authority to combat the virus which must include health experts, industrialists, traders, academicians, media professionals which can frame a proper policy to boost the economy. He noted that the economic damage caused by the virus is yet to be ascertained by our authorities, but it is safe to assume that it h.....view more

173 policemen test positive for Covid-19
KARACHI: As many as 173 police personnel including officers in Sindh province have so far been tested positive for the coronavirus (Covid-19). Sindh police spokesman said 22 new cases have been reported in the last four days. Five officers infected with coronavirus were martyred. The number of personnel undergoing treatment is 135. Some 32 officers and personnel have recovered and left for home. Corona-affected personnel are being tak.....view more
International News

Corona cases surge to 4,232,582
MOSCOW/LONDON: Coronavirus cases surged to 4,232,582 with 54,430 new cases while 285,763 deaths with 2030 news deaths reported across the world on Monday. On the other hand 1,517,557 patients recovered from the pandemic, the Worldometer stated. President Vladimir Putin on Monday said stay-at-home orders for most workers in Russia would end this week even as the country registered a record increase in new coronavirus infections. With more.....view more

Scientists highlight importance of ‘open science’ as response to tackle COVID-19
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in partnership with Pakistan Academy of Sciences hosted a webinar on “COVID-19 and Open Science”, as a follow up to the UNESCO Virtual Online Ministerial Dialogue on COVID-19 and ‘open science’ International scientific collaboration, held in March this year. Tech Video .....view more

Wuhan reports first coronavirus cluster since lifting of lockdown
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
Wuhan, the original epicentre of the new 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.0 Loading Ad Next Video × .....view more

New Zealand to reopen malls, cafes from Thursday as virus curbs eased
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
New Zealand businesses including malls, cinemas, cafes and gyms will be allowed to reopen from Thursday as tight restrictions put in place to stop the spread of the coronavirus were further eased on Monday. Tech Video 00:03 .....view more

New York steps up coronavirus protections for nursing home residents
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
New York state on Sunday announced new coronavirus-safety measures to better protect nursing home residents, who are highly vulnerable to the respiratory illness and account for a large share of the nearly 80,000 Americans who have died from it. Tech Video .....view more

Masks and no touching: Indonesia aims to keep traditional markets alive
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
A traditional market on the island of Java has moved outdoors and set stalls at least a metre (3.3 ft) apart as Indonesia looks to safely maintain the bazaars where most people go to get affordable food and are part of the fabric of society. Tech Video .....view more
Australia's Victoria state relaxes shutdown as virus spread slows
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
Australia's second-most populous state on Monday relaxed bans on social visits, religious gatherings and community sports, joining other states which have begun to ease measures intended to slow the spread of the new coronavirus. Ad ends in 10s ..... view more

A tale of two outbreaks: Singapore tackles a costly setback
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
Weeks after two of his roommates were diagnosed with COVID-19, Mohamad Arif Hassan says he's still waiting to be tested for the coronavirus. Quarantined in his room in a sprawling foreign workers' dormitory that has emerged as Singapore's biggest viral cluster, Arif says he isn't too worried because neither he nor his eight other roommates have any symptoms. Tech Video ..... view more

Rise in German virus infections spurs concern
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
Germany's coronavirus spread appears to be picking up speed again, official data showed Sunday, just days after Chancellor Angela Merkel said the country could gradually return to normal. Ad ends in 12s Next Video × ..... view more

Europe emerges from confinement, but Asia infections spike
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
Swathes of Europe began the long process of reopening from coronavirus lockdowns on Monday, but a resurgence of infections in China and South Korea offered a sobering reminder of the dangers of a second wave of cases. Ad ends in 8s Next V..... view more

Virus symptoms multiply as pandemic deepens
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
Every week, it seems, the list of coronavirus symptoms — ranging from disagreeable to deadly, from “COVID toes” to toxic shock — grows longer. Tech Video 00:06 / ..... view more

UK govt sets out phased plan to ease virus lockdown
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
The British government on Monday published what it said was a “cautious roadmap” to ease the seven-week coronavirus lockdown in England, notably recommending people wear facemasks in some public settings. Tech Video 00:00 / ..... view more

Global death toll of COVID-19 crosses 290,000
ISLAMABAD: The novel coronavirus has killed at least 290,462 people since the outbreak first emerged in China last December, according to international media reports. At least 4,310,946 cases of coronavirus have been registered in...
195 countries and territories. Of these, at least 1,566,775 are now considered recovered. The US has the highest number of total deaths with 82,855 out of 1,395,026 cases. Britain has the second highest toll with.... view more

Coronavirus vaccine may never be found, warns UK premier
LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has warned that a mass vaccine for the novel coronavirus may be over a year away and, in the worst-case scenario, may in fact never be found, foreign media reported on Tuesday. In his foreword to the government’s new 50-page guidance on a step by step easing of the lockdown measures in place to control the spread of the deadly virus, the UK prime minister lays out plans for businesses to.... view more

Biden ramps up digital footprint, still trails omnipresent Trump
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
Joe Biden is rapidly scaling up his digital campaign as he scrambles to compete with Donald Trump’s formidable online operation, but Democrats say the presidential hopeful must move beyond flat speeches delivered from his basement. Tech Video .....view more

Beer, tapas, friends: smiles as bars open in some of Spain
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
Basking in the sun, an icy cold beer in hand, two friends are catching up at a bar terrace in Tarragona, savouring a simple but much-missed pleasure axed during eight weeks of lockdown."It’s very emotional, almost as if we were opening for the first time,” smiles Raffa Olivier who has just set up tables outside his ice-cream parlour in this northeastern Spanish seaside town for the first time in two months.Staying at home has be.... view more

Border nurses forced to choose between Canada, US
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Canadian nurse Nikki Hillis-Walters was asked to choose between her two healthcare jobs — one in Canada, and one in the United States.ech Video 00:02 / 00:54 .....view more

Indonesia’s ‘rice ATMs’ provide staple amid corona crunch
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
The global pandemic has left millions of Indonesians struggling to make ends meet. Now the authorities are rolling out "rice ATMs" in a bid to ensure greater access for those in need to the essential Asian staple. This month Linda Syafri, a 28-year-old expectant mother was among the many who lined up in masks at a military base in Depok, on the outskirts of the capital Jakarta, for their 1.5 kilogram (3.3 lb) rice ration. “I was......view more

Greek migrant hotel ransacked in latest tensions over relocations
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
When plans were leaked last week to move dozens of asylum seekers from an island camp to a hotel in the northern Greek village of Arnissa, there was a swift and violent response. Tech Video 00:52 / .....view more
Virus unleashes wave of fraud in US amid fear and scarcity
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
A 39-year-old former investment manager in Georgia was already facing federal federal charges that he robbed hundreds of retirees of their savings through a Ponzi scheme when the rapid spread of COVID-19 presented an opportunity.Tech Video 00:04 view more

Trump casts doubt on mail voting. His campaign promotes it.
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
While President Donald Trump claims mail-in voting is ripe for fraud and “cheaters,” his reelection campaign and state allies are scrambling to launch operations meant to help their voters cast ballots in the mail. Tech Video 00:00 view more

In Brazil, gyms and hair salons are ‘essential' businesses
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
In Brazil, exercising at the gym and getting a haircut are essential activities — so says President Jair Bolsonaro, who claims that COVID-19 is just a weak case of flu.ch Video 00:04 / 00:54 view more

New Zealand’s pandemic budget sets stage for Ardern’s re-election bid
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
New Zealand will unleash billions of stimulus dollars at its annual budget this week to cushion the economic blow from the coronavirus pandemic, leaving it with ballooning debt and a dismal fiscal position that will take years to fix. Spending on infrastructure, healthcare projects, state housing and more subsidies for low income workers and cash-strapped businesses are on the cards in the annual budget to be unveiled on Thursday. The budget also p view more

New virus cases threaten world’s moves back to work
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
World powers including Russia and India pushed on with easing coronavirus restrictions on Tuesday, despite upsurges in infections in parts of the world and warnings of a second wave epidemic. Chinese authorities, meanwhile, moved to test the entire 11-million strong population of the city of Wuhan, cradle of the global pandemic, after new cases were reported there. In Russia, the government began to gradually ease lockdown rules, after reporting view more

Coronavirus may not be wiped out completely, says WHO
GENEVA: The new coronavirus may never go away and populations around the world will have to learn to live with it, the World Health Organization warned Wednesday. As some countries around the world begin gradually easing lockdown restrictions imposed in a bid to stop the novel coronavirus from spreading, the WHO said it may never be wiped out entirely. The virus first emerged in Wuhan in China late last year and has since infected more t view more
Greece reports two COVID-19 cases among quarantined Lesbos migrants
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Two migrants who arrived on Greece’s outlying Lesbos island have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, migration ministry sources said on Tuesday, adding they were isolated with no contact with refugee camps on the island. The individuals had arrived on Lesbos on May 6. Since March 1 anyone arriving on the island has been placed in quarantine at a separate facility with no contact with larger groups of asylum seekers at other facilities......

Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Recently, some US politicians and media outlets have been fabricating preposterous allegations and lies of one kind or another in order to shift the blame to China for their inadequate response to Covid-19. However, as Abraham Lincoln said, “You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time”. Lies evaporate in the light of the truth. It is time to let facts......

Germany must help other EU states get back on their feet — Merkel
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Germany must help its European Union neighbours revive their economies after the coronavirus crisis, Chancellor Angela Merkel told a meeting of lawmakers from her conservative bloc on Tuesday, according to several participants. Tech Video......

Chile to face worst of coronavirus outbreak in coming weeks — Pinera
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Chile is set to face the worst of the novel coronavirus outbreak in the coming weeks, President Sebastián Piñera said on Tuesday, as a sharp spike in cases and the southern hemisphere winter push its healthcare system to the limit. The South American nation surpassed 30,000 confirmed cases of the virus this week amid a sharp spike in infections that has crammed critical care wards at hospitals throughout the capital Santiago, a city......

Lives Lost: Victims of the virus, remembered for tomorrow
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Across the world, the devastation caused by the coronavirus is told in the voices of those left behind. In England, the brother of Amed El-Hawrani, a Sudanese immigrant who became a successful doctor, says a rock of the family has been lost. “We would all lean on him very heavily.” In the United States, the son of Isaiah Kuperstein says although his dad studied one of humanity’s darkest chapters, the Holocaust, he was a light to......

Brazil cities lurch to lockdowns amid virus crisis red flags
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Faced with overwhelmed hospitals and surging coronavirus deaths, Brazilian state and city governments are lurching forward with mandatory lockdowns against the will of President Jair Bolsonaro, who says job losses are more damaging than COVID-19. Tech Video......
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<th>Article Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>‘Arf!: Chatty Congress is learning to respect mute button</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-14</td>
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<td>Hey, everyone on the call? We can hear a dog barking. Could senators please</td>
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<td>make sure you are on mute? It was a serious meeting on a frightening global</td>
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<td>pandemic. But as the Senate health committee on Tuesday convened by video</td>
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<td>conference, the session became a reminder that the nation’s lawmakers and</td>
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<td>the world’s foremost health experts are learning the awkward business of</td>
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<td>doing business from home, right along with the rest of us.</td>
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<td>Coronavirus complicates safety for families living together</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-14</td>
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<td>At the age of 24, Francy Sandoval has unwittingly become the sole bread</td>
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<td>winner for her family, after her mom, dad and brother—a nanny, a painter</td>
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<td>and a server—all lost their jobs in the coronavirus pandemic.</td>
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<td>Biden plans to stay home, testing limits of virtual campaign</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Biden has no foreseeable plans to resume in-person campaigning amid a</td>
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<td>pandemic that is testing whether a national presidential election can be</td>
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<td>won by a candidate communicating almost entirely from home.         Tech</td>
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<td>Video 00:00 / ..... view more</td>
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<td>Workers’ rights at risk as Indian labour laws face post-lockdown challenge</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-14</td>
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<td>Workers in India are set to face longer days and lower pay in a “race to the</td>
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<td>bottom”, academics, activists and unions said, as six states plan to</td>
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<td>suspend labour laws to help industry recover from the coronavirus lockdown.</td>
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<td>Saudi to enforce round-the-clock virus curfew at Eid</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-14</td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia will enforce a round-the-clock nationwide curfew during the</td>
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<td>five-day Eid al-Fitr holiday later this month to fight the coronavirus,</td>
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<td>the interior ministry said Tuesday, as infections spike. The kingdom, which</td>
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<td>has reported the highest number of virus cases in the Gulf region, is</td>
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<td>scrambling to limit the spread of the deadly disease. Tech Video</td>
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<td>view more</td>
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<td>Five firms in Pakistan, India allowed to make and sell remdesivir</td>
<td>Reuters, Dawn</td>
<td>2020-05-15</td>
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<td>NEW DELHI: To expand the drug’s access, Gilead Sciences said this week it</td>
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<td>had signed non-exclusive licensing pacts with five generic drug-makers</td>
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<td>based in India and Pakistan, allowing them to make and sell remdesivir for</td>
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<td>127 countries. But health access groups claim the pacts mean cheaper</td>
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<td>forms of the drug may not become available in nations seen as</td>
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<td>non-profitable to the five drug-makers. Remdesivir is the only drug</td>
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<td>approved to treat Covid. view more</td>
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<td>Trump calls Fauci remarks on risks to reopening schools, economy unacceptable</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nearly 600,000 Australians lose jobs as virus lockdown bites</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>US allegations against China on Covid-19: a reality check – Part II</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan seeks to lift virus emergency in most regions</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
<td>2020-05-15</td>
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<td>In virus-hit Iraq, shrine visits go virtual</td>
<td>Agencies, Daily Times</td>
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<td>Donors News</td>
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<td>Rs 100m Chinese gifts land in Lahore</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, Dawn</td>
<td>2020-05-12</td>
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US working on additional contributions for Pakistan
Source: Staff Reporter, Dawn, 2020-05-12
LAHORE: The United States (US) will contribute $15 million to new funding in its joint efforts with Pakistan to fight Covid-19 and its economic impacts. “The US has now committed nearly $15 million in new funding to our joint efforts to fight coronavirus and its economic impacts,” says US Ambassador to Pakistan Paul Jones in a letter to PML-N President and National Assembly Opposition Leader Shahbaz Sharif. “We are actively wor..... view more

WHO says ‘extreme vigilance’ needed in exit from lockdowns
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-12
The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday that “extreme vigilance” was needed as countries begin to exit from lockdowns imposed to curb the spread of the new coronavirus, amid global concerns about a second wave of infections. Germany earlier reported an acceleration in new coronavirus infections after it took early steps to ease its lockdown. South Korea, another country that had succeeded in limiting virus infections, has s..... view more

UNICEF more than doubles coronavirus appeal to $1.6 billion
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-13
United Nations children’s agency UNICEF appealed on Monday for $1.6 billion, more than doubling its initial request for money two months ago to help children already suffering through humanitarian crises and now hit with the coronavirus pandemic.Tech Video 0..... view more

Two special flights carrying COVID-19 relief leave China for Pakistan
Two special flights from China, carrying COVID-19 donated and procured relief items left for Pakistan this morning. The flights from Shanghai and Chengdu will further strengthen Pak-China iron clad friendship. So far, 25 total flights have been handled by Pakistan mission in China. ......view more

'Major' mental health crisis looming from pandemic: UN
Source: AFP, Dawn, 2020-05-14
The coronavirus outbreak risks sparking a major global mental health crisis, the United Nations warned on Thursday, calling for urgent action to address the psychological suffering brought on by the pandemic. While protecting physical health has been the main concern during the first months of the crisis, it is also placing huge mental strains on large swathes of the global population, the UN said in policy brief. “After decades of neglect..... view more

Surge in child mortality forecast in pandemic-hit developing countries
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-14
Deaths from preventable disease in children under five could rise by almost 45 percent over the next six months as the COVID-19 pandemic diverts scarce health resources in developing countries, a UN report said Tuesday. Poorer nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America could see an additional 1.2 million infants die over the period, according to the study published by The Lancet Global Health. About 56,700 more maternal deaths could also occur in ..... view more
UN warns of global mental health crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
A mental illness crisis is looming as millions of people worldwide are surrounded by death and disease and forced into isolation, poverty and anxiety by the pandemic of COVID-19, United Nations health experts said on Thursday. Tech Video 00.....view more

Asia stocks down as Powell warning adds to second wave fears
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-05-15
Asian equities sank Thursday following another sell-off in New York after the head of the Federal Reserve warned of “lasting damage” to the economy from shutdowns caused by the coronavirus, compounding worries about a second wave of infections.Tech Video .....view more

IMF thanked for $1.4b support to counter pandemic fallout
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-15
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan, on Thursday, thanked International Monetary Fund (IMF) for its support of US$ 1.386 billion under the Rapid Financing Instrument to address the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Makhdum Khusro Bakhtiar, in a meeting with Resident Representative of International Monetary Fund in Pakistan, appreciated and thanked IMF for its support. The Minister highlighted that Goverme.....view more

Pakistan to get $4m from Japan to fight pandemic
Source: Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-05-15
Islamabad - The Government of Japan will provide fifth tranche of assistance worth $4.003 million to the Government of Pakistan through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to support the government's efforts in combating the novel coronavirus disease. Prior to this grant assistance, the Government of Japan had provided a total assistance of $ 3.410 Million to Pakistan through UNICEF, IOM, IFRC and UNHCR for a similar s.....view more
**SDPI Engagements**

### Articles

**The Interplay of Environment and Economy in Post COVID-19 Era**  
Source: Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, *Daily Times*, 2020-05-15  
International financial and economic institutions are expecting another economic recession due to COVID-19. The notion is substantiated by the worsening economic and financial indicators across the world. Restrictions on mobility has further worsen the economic plight of countries. The chances of recovery have been worsened. Although the impact will vary among the countries, but no one will be immune to the impacts. However, the least developed ......

### Webinars

**Govt's timely steps to contain corona surge: Shibli**  
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Monday expressed the hope that the government would succeed in controlling the spread of the coronavirus while keeping the economy afloat with the people acting responsibly and adopting precautionary measures after easing of the lockdown. Addressing the COVID-19 Video Conference organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here, he said the de.....

**Shibli urges joint efforts to respond to Covid-19 challenges**  
Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz has said the government is not only closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation but it is also trying to respond to it through national policies and collective efforts that is the only way to combat the challenge. He was speaking at an online policy dialogue titled: ‘COVID-19, Government Responses and Role of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting’ organized by.....

**‘Govt closely monitoring COVID-19 situation’**  
Islamabad : Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz has said that the government is not only closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation but is also trying to respond it through national policies and collective efforts which is the only way to combat the challenge. "The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) evaluates the spread of pandemic on daily basis and responds the situation by the measures a.....

**Low oil price benefit should be transferred to end-consumers**  
Islamabad : The government must ensure tax relief and reduced cost of business while announcing Federal Budget 2020-21 to save the small and medium business and industry from a total collapse. This was demanded by experts from economy at an online ‘Pre-budget public-private dialogue amidst measuring the impacts of COVID-19,’ organised by Sustainable Development Policy Institute here Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Saud B.....
Academia underpin need of broader policy dialogue on education in post-Covid-19 scenario
Source: SDPI, SDPI Press Release, 2020-05-15
The senior academia and educationists across Pakistan have termed Covid19 as an opportunity to align the entire higher education in the country with the future socio-economic realities. The situation resulted by the global pandemic therefore demands a total paradigm shift; and a broader academic policy dialogue is the need of hour to ensure the quality and future-oriented education. They shared these views with the audience at online ‘Post .... view more

Pre-budget dialogue Govt urged to announce tax relief to small businesses and industry to save economy
ISLAMABAD: (May 13, 2020) –Economists and bat a policy dialogue called upon the government to ensure tax relief and reduced cost of business while announcing Federal Budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 to save the small and medium enterprises and industry from a total collapse. The online dialogue titled: ‘Pre-budget public-private dialogue amidst measuring the impacts of COVID-19’ was organized by Sustainable Development Policy view more