About Newsletter

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

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

Newspapers Covered:

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

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A Product of ASRC-SDPI

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Sustainable Development Policy Institute, SDPI

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Tel: +92.51. 2278134, Fax: 2278135,
Decisive Action
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
Seventeen days of no new infections, and the last patient recovering on Sunday; New Zealand has officially become the first country to declare themselves ‘corona free’. With a total of 1504 cases and only 22 deaths, the measures taken by the government and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern have clearly proven to be effective. One of the most major reasons for success in New Zealand is the fact that action against the pandemic was tak....

Probing a post-Covid-19 world
Source: Jawed Naqvi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
WOULD the post-Covid-19 world see a more equitable socioeconomic order, with bourgeois parties forced to tend to the planet and the life it sustains? Or are we heading towards more of the same — an unequal world spawning brutal conflicts and human misery? Tariq Ali hosted an online Zoom discussion with Jeremy Corbyn and Arundhati Roy under his Stop The War banner. The topic was Coronavirus, War & Imperialism. The anti-war movement that.....

Only the paranoid survive
Andy Grove, founder of Intel, coined the fundamental management principle to navigate the exponential and unpredictable dynamics of the semiconductor sector, ‘Only the Paranoid Survive’. The semiconductor market grew 22 times in the two decades since 1975, or the market doubled every 1.2 years. Many initial players did not survive. In the 1980s, telecommunication giant AT&T hired the blue chip strategy consultancy McKinsey &.....

Landmark decision
Source: Kamal Siddiqi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
Owing to the focus on the Covid-19 pandemic, a decision in May by the Honourable Chief Justice Athar Minallah of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) did not get the attention it deserved. Many around the world did notice and appreciated the ruling. Some have said that it will help in the fight for animal rights in years to come. In the words of the Non-Human Rights Project, which works to secure fundamental rights for non-human animals, the decis.....

100,000 cases
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
With more than a hundred thousand Covid-positive cases and deaths in excess of two thousand, Pakistan now ranks at 15thin the world on the list of coronavirus-infested countries. The cases of the lethal infection are now coming thick and fast — nearly 5,000 a day on an average — and daily deaths are also numbering between 70 and 100. While the number of confirmed cases was bound to rise due to a rise in the number of tests conduc.....
**Covid-19 pushes government borrowing up**
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
Abnormally high money supply growth lately is the reflection of ballooning government borrowing. The state does not have any further room to run stimulus from both monetary and fiscal side. Massive injection through government spending in a short period is a telling sign. Both monetary and fiscal ammunitions are exhausted and there is not any more space. The SBP should go for a pause for the time being to unwind the deficits. The monetary ag.......

**Education in the time of corona**
Source: Mahvesh Mahmud, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
Having taught business studies for over 17 years in almost all major higher educational institutions in the country there are some important issues which need to be highlighted. I started teaching at Bahria University Islamabad and was exposed to an excellent student body, both executive and non-executive MBAs whom I had a chance to teach Strategy and Organisational Behaviour. This was a group of government employees, twenty somethings and c.....

**Path of disaster**
Source: News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
THE nightmare scenario that doctors in the country had warned of in April is fast approaching. At the time, senior doctors had written to the government urging it to reconsider its decision to allow congregational prayers during Ramazan, and had said that the number of Covid-19 patients in need of urgent medical care would “expand exponentially” if strict distancing was not enforced. More than a month later, with the government liftin.....

**Back to what?**
Source: Mahir Ali, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
THE time will inevitably come when we are able to look back on the current pandemic with mixed emotions — a mixture of horror and despair, and in all too many cases, a sense of bereavement. Yet, buried beneath the plethora of daily reports about the still unfolding health emergency and economic catastrophe, far less depressing stories have occasionally cropped up. Stories of uncommonly blue skies over New Delhi and Lahore. Of fresh air in .....}

**Neda Mulji**
Source: Neda Mulji, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
ELEVEN-year old Ayaan sits at his desk every morning, ready to log into Google Classroom, meet his friends virtually and learn as best as he can from his teacher in this new normal. However, multiple issues pop up. There is a power-cut less than 10 minutes after his class starts; there are horns blaring outside; a fight breaks out between his younger siblings and, when the electricity comes back on, his Wi-Fi connection takes its own sweet time. .....
Populism and the coronavirus
The writer has served as federal minister for finance, revenue and economic affairs. The collapse of communism in Europe, leading to the former Warsaw Pact countries progressing rapidly after adopting market economies, the unprecedented growth in China since the 1990s, and the focus on growth, development and trade in most developing countries has led to a kind of global wealth creation the world has never known. But the notion that history h.... view more

A missed opportunity
Despite the Covid-19 pandemic hogging headlines the world over, thanks to the massive havoc it is wreaking in terms of human and economic losses, the perennial India-Pakistan dispute continues to remain alive and kicking. The epoch-making step taken by the Modi’s nationalistic and Hindutva inspired government on August 5 last year upsets the status quo in a spectacular way and unleashed dynamics whose consequences have not only reshaped the.....view more

Science, Covid-19 and consciousness-raising
Source: Shariq Jamal Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
Science thrives during complex crises. It admires a riddle, respects a problem, adores a predicament and is perpetually on the lookout for a mysterious phenomenon that it can happily delve into. Science, or rather the scientific method, is the ultimate mirror that can reflect all reality in all its glorious exquisiteness. In a constantly changing, huffing and puffing universe, science not only gauges the rate of that change but also discovers the.....view more

The cost of power
Source: Dr Talat Shabbir, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
While the United States was grappling with Covid-19 and China, the gruesome lynching of 46-year-old African-American George Floyd occurred. A sad story was to unfold when Floyd bought a pack of cigarettes and gave $20 to a grocery store employee, who later reported it to the local police claiming the $20 bill was counterfeit. Minutes later, police arrived and Floyd was violently arrested by Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, who placed his kn.... view more

Time for compassion and unity
Source: Talat Masood, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
The majority of Pakistani citizens are facing an unfortunate situation that needs no elaboration. In broad terms, it is a lethal combination of natural and self-inflicted causes. A decimated economy is squeezing the poor to their limits and political infighting has exposed the fragility of our democratic structure and weakened our resolve to tackle problems. As though the adverse effects of an inimical neighbourhood, climatic changes, population ..... view more

Justified demands
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
Being at the forefront in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, doctors, nurses, lab technicians and all those associated with the medical profession are fully justified in asking for personal protection equipment, financial privilege, health insurance cover, and martyr package for those losing their lives while serving the ailing humanity,
and separate wards for medics and paramedics suffering from the deadly virus. On Monday, doctors and ......

**Nosedive**


The coronavirus pandemic has negatively impacted several businesses across the globe, but very few have been as hard hit as the aviation industry. The Pakistan International Airlines is no exception. Reportedly, its losses can reach Rs. 6.3bn a month if the situation persists. With rising cases and no end to the pandemic in sight as far as Pakistan is concerned, there is little cause for optimism for the PIA management. It is one of the most vuln.....

**Covid Pakistan: Testing boat missed**


Pakistan has increased its Covid testing capacity by multiple times since the first case. There is no award for that. What matters is if you have tested enough, or even close to enough. What is enough? Blue line in the chart that says “daily new confirmed cases of Covid-19” is an indication that you are doing near enough. The darker you go in blue, the nearer you are to have known the confirmed cases to the fullest. The darker you go .....
Random Thoughts
Source: Iftikhar Ahmad, *Daily Times*, 2020-06-10
Permit yourself a drift for a while, the pressure is removed, certainty returns to you for a way forward. Focus on possibilities of success. Stay close to reality, make sure your imagination is used not to escape reality but to create it. It is a small world that encourages integration, cooperation and coordination for peace, security and prosperity. Those who fail to understand the new philosophy and Sociology need to give up prejudice and hate. .....view more

The Economy is Not a Monolith
Source: Raana Shah, *Daily Times*, 2020-06-10
The pressure is on for economists the world over. Globalisation has brought umpteen benefits to countries and peoples across the world but has also bound us together in a net of inter-dependency and collective consequences. The novel Coronavirus took down country after country in record time and the metronomic regularity and the economic implosions that followed were just as rapid and inevitable. This economic crisis is not one perpetrated by finan.....view more

Coronavirus onslaught and Muslims
Source: Prof Dr Muhammad Mumtaz Ali, *Daily Times*, 2020-06-09
Coronavirus has affected the entire humanity the world over. We Muslims – Sunni and Shia, Dewbandi and Bareli, Qadariya and Chishtia, Sufi and Mujahid both revivalist and traditionalist, modernist and liberalist, rich and poor, urban and ruler, living in Muslim majority countries or minority ones – all are equally victims to the catastrophe caused by COVID-19. Everywhere mosques have been closed for Muslims irrespective of big or cosm.....view more

Spain’s de-escalation plan
Source: Nai1a Tasneem, *Daily Times*, 2020-06-09
Given the positive progress of the epidemic in Spain, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced recently that the sector should prepare for the summer season, and overseas tourists would be welcomed into the country under safety conditions from July. He also encouraged Spaniards to start planning domestic vacations from as early as June. A country worse hit by the current COVID-19 pandemic has managed to move swiftly towards a planned phased .....view more

WHO’s advice
THE writing was on the wall from the start. Only the government refused to see it. Now, the WHO’s letter to the provinces, expressing concerns over the steep spike in Covid-19 infections across the country owing to easing the lockdown without effective disease transmission control or surveillance systems, has only confirmed our worst fears. The government had erred in lifting restrictions and opening up the economy after two months of closu.....view more

Use of stun batons
IN a disturbing development, it has emerged that law-enforcement agencies in Faisalabad are using stun batons on citizens in a bid to enforce coronavirus-related SOPs. Local police are using these stun batons as a means of punishing those flouting Covid-19-related rules, with videos on social media showing how motorcycle riders with exposed faces are being subjected to this painful and unacceptable treatment. These handheld instruments — cl.....view more
Digital future
Source: Jeff Paine, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
THE news that Pakistan is facing its first economic contraction in 68 years is difficult. Like the rest of the world, Pakistan is not immune to the headwinds flowing from the pandemic. With disruption in every aspect of life, societies are relying on technology more than ever to communicate with families, keep businesses going and access essential services. Accelerating the pace of digital technology adoption in Pakistan has never been timelier. ......
view more

WHO warning
We have known for weeks that we have pretty much failed to handle our Covid-19 crisis. And now the WHO has felt compelled to point this out to Pakistan. The UN body has ranked Pakistan among the top 10 countries in the world reporting the highest number of cases of Covid-19. It also says that the hasty opening up of the poorly imposed lockdown in all four provinces did not help matters at all. Doctors and other experts inside the country have bee.....view more

Mocking the virus
Source: Durdana Najam, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
The second wave of the coronavirus pandemic is about to emerge anytime soon. The South Asian leaders are in a tight spot as they struggle to contain the disease and its economic fallout. From the warnings of the World Health Organization (WHO), it seems that South Asia may even become another epicentre of the disease. Admonishments have already been issued to Pakistan on mishandling the virus, after taking a good start through lockdowns. However,.....view more

WHO's concern
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
The rise in the number of Covid-19 cases — around 5,000 a day over the last 10 days or so — in Pakistan has raised WHO’s concern. The World Health Organization believes the authorities in the country need to impose an intermittent lockdown to curb the spread of the mushrooming virus that has infected 113,702 people and claimed 2,255 lives as of Wednesday, pushing the country to the 15thrank in terms of most Covid-19 cases. The U.....view more

Post-Covid World: Setting of New Normal-I
Source: Saud bin Ahsen, Daily Times, 2020-06-11
Just a few weeks ago, all of us were living our usual busy lives. Now, things normally taken for granted-an evening with friends, the daily commute, a plane flight home-are no longer possible. Daily reports of increasing infections and deaths across the world raise our anxiety and, in cases of personal loss, plunge us into grief. There is uncertainty about tomorrow; about the health and safety of our families, friends, and loved ones; and about o.....view more

COVID 19: Assessment of possible damages in the developing world
Source: Muhammad Abbas Hassan, Daily Times, 2020-06-11
2020 has been a catastrophic year so far and the world has seen some devastating events that have not only threatened peace and stability but also changed the future outlook of the world as we know it. At the onset of the year
on January 3, Middle East was cast with shadows of a bloody war when the United States assassinated Gen Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad. The Australian bush fire started and resulted in the deaths of over one billion animals. T.... view more

Coping with Information Disorder
Source: Tariq Farid, Daily Times, 2020-06-11
“We’re not just fighting an epidemic; we’re fighting an infodemic,” said the WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, after he realised that fake news spreads faster and more easily than the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Social media platforms are inundated with COVID-19 misinformation as people heedlessly share unverified claims about the virus’ origin, its symptoms, prevention, and other misleading updates..... view more

Epistemic myopia
Source: Faisal Bari, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
A COUPLE of months ago, when Covid-19 cases had just started to surface as a significant threat in Pakistan, my timeline on Twitter/Facebook used to have many people asking if anyone had a relative or friend who had had the disease, or who was currently suffering from it, or who had died after contracting the virus. Pakistan’s Covid-19 numbers were small at the time. But many countries were already facing the full fury of the pandemic. Chi..... view more

The veils come off
Source: Asha’ar Rehman, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
WHAT Covid-19 has done is that it has allowed various players on stage to speak with a justified lack of empathy from behind the security of the mask. The government had to lead the pack of cold-blooded actors. The tradition continues in the able hands of the prime minister’s adviser on health. But the others are also doing their best to keep emotions out of it. In its latest sign of maturity, Pakistan has acted like a patient who might co..... view more

Rote or reason?
Source: Kashif Shahzada, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
IF a patient recites the prescription given by his physician instead of practically acting on it, then will he be cured? Do tall buildings get constructed if workmen keep on singing the architect’s plans instead of embarking on the project taking the necessary actions? Will you reach your destination if you keep on rehearsing the directions, instead of getting into the driving seat, turning on the ignition switch, putting the car into gear ..... view more

Of Bramsh & statues
Source: Aasi An Sajjad Akhtar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
THE budget will be presented in the National Assembly today, much ado about nothing. On the surface of it, the main opposition parties will refrain from debate because of the pandemic, no more than 86 MNAs attending the budget session due to social distancing protocols. In truth, decisions about Pakistan’s economy have been made by foreign patrons and the domestic establishment for decades. Between ‘national security’ and renti..... view more
Among the top 10
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
Hopefully now, as the prime minister has promised to monitor implementation of SOPs (standard operating procedures), some of the most senior government officials will also take the matter seriously. It would help if the prime minister personally set an example as well, and started wearing a mask, not the least so others can learn from him and follow his example. It is precisely because of the carelessness of far too many people that Pakistan has ......

Signal from the markets
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
Finally, it seems international financial markets are turning even though it’s still too soon to tell if they have run out of steam or are just taking a breather before climbing once again. Experienced traders would no doubt bet that the huge and unexpected rally, which banked on record stimulus packages in some of the largest economies, has now all but run its course. Yet even they would think twice before counting too much on their own ex......

Virus — Friend or Foe (Part-I)
Source: Dr Wajahat Bokhari, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
Virus- what is it? Where has it come from? Why and how does it make us ill? What are humans’ past interactions with the virus? Do we, as humans have anything in common with the virus? What role does virus play in our evolution? How can we prepare to fight future viral pandemics? “From Virus everything” summarizes their role in life. From single-celled organisms to humans, viruses affect all life on earth; Viruses are her....

Post-Covid World: Setting of New Normal-II
Source: Saud bin Ahsen, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
During times of great crisis, such as World War II, citizens have proved willing to accept-even embrace-greater government control of the economy. Already, there has been economic intervention on a scale that hasn’t been seen for decades, if at all. Governments across the globe had announced stimulus plans amounting to $10.6 trillion-the equivalent of eight Marshall Plans. Most spending is directed to three areas i.e. supporting citizens&rs.....

Managing COVID-19 using behavioral nudges
Source: Ayesha Khan, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
Behavioral science has proved to be an effective tool to tackle socio-economic issues and this pandemic has posed a threat not just to health of individuals but also to social and economic machinery at global level. However, the use of behavioral science needs a close observation of the society that we are going to target. It claims that people do not act rationally. Now in order to bring out a possible change in their behavior, we need to study .....
**For a better strategy**  
We all know that the Pakistan government's struggle against the Covid-19 pandemic has been a fractured one. The lockdown spoken of never really happened or was at least not seen to have been properly implemented in most parts of the country. Now we hear that after the Eid break, for which the so-called lockdown was formally ended and travel opened up, more and more Covid-19 cases are being reported even from rural areas visited by those fr.....view more

**Time for a rethink?**  
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-12  
The letter from the World Health Organisation (WHO) to the Punjab government has kicked up a storm because it means that Pakistan’s steeply rising curve of new coronavirus cases as well as deaths is now causing global concern. It turns out that the decision to relax the lockdown when new infections were increasing, something no other country has done, wasn't such a smart idea after all. And it clearly didn't help that a very lar.....view more

**Freedom or health?**  
Source: Dr Tariq Hassan, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-12  
The new pathogen - coronavirus/Covid-19 - is a health hazard that has led to the declaration of a public health emergency internationally. Most countries have taken preventive measures to contain this deadly disease, including imposition and enforcement of isolation, quarantine, lockdowns and curfews. In Pakistan, the federal and provincial governments have imposed varying degrees of lockdowns and curfews and ordered isolation and quarantine....view more

**Covid-19 and we the resilient nation**  
Source: Dr Muhammad Akhtar Malik, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-12  
If recent weeks have shown us anything, it is that Covid-19 is not a myth. It is real. It is there. It exists. And, we must start treating it as such. I am aghast and totally stunned the way we have been behaving since the outbreak of the pandemic. I myself have been a victim of the virus. Got recovered and back in job but it did hit me. Just one day before Eid-ul-Fitr, I was tested Covid-19 positive. Also, please understand that being Covid.....view more

**Capitalisation of COVID-19**  
Source: Dr Maria Saifuddin Effendi, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-12  
While it locked the entire world, COVID-19 came with a little different face in Pakistan. Pakistan has been a resilient country, went through numerous nerve-wrecking crises since 1947. It stood firm on both internal and external fronts including political, ethnic, religious/sectarian violence, economic depreciation, military operations in different parts of the country to eradicate terrorism, uneasy borders with India, Afghanistan and Iran, the l.....view more

**Review COVID-19 Policy**  
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-12  
The Punjab government’s decision to shut down quarantine centres across the province ought to be reviewed since COVID-19 transmissions are increasing at an alarmingly higher rate with each passing day. Under the revised policy, persons travelling to Pakistan are no longer being tested and allowed to reach their homes with the advice of
monitoring their health and quarantining at home if they exhibit symptoms. While it is understood that loc....view more

**Insufficient Relief**
In a positive development, Pakistan has become one of the latest countries to secure debt relief from the Paris Club until December 31, 2020. With the rescheduling of the debt services, Pakistan's government – suffocated by COVID-19 – will surely get some breathing space. The authorities will be able to increase spending resources to mitigate the disastrous effects of COVID-19 on public health and the economy. Undoubtedly, .....view more

**Social stigma and Covid-19**
Source: Editorial, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-06-12
In spite of ceaseless talks in the media about preventive measures against the coronavirus, there is practically no mention of the superstition rife in our society and how it is playing out in the context of the unprecedented pandemic. A report in this newspaper has described several instances of how Covid-19 patients in Sindh are being shunned by society and even families and relations. A physician mentioned a patient in Korangi, Karachi, who wa.....view more
### National News

#### AJK

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<td><strong>Source:</strong> APP, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2020-06-10</td>
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<td><strong>MIRPUR (AJK) -</strong> In Azad Jammu &amp; Kashmir 32 new positive cases of coronavirus were registered during last 24 hours in various parts of the State raising the tally to 444 on Tuesday. The official statement released to the media here on Tuesday on the updated situation of pandemic in AJK by the State Health Services authorities confirmed the registration of 32 new cases in AJK – which include 14 in Muzaffarabad district, 02 in Palandri.....</td>
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<th>AJK registers 44 New COVID-19 positive cases Share: Share</th>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> APP, <em>The Nation, Islamabad</em>, 2020-06-11</td>
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<td><strong>MIRPUR -</strong> After 44 new positive cases of coronavirus appeared in Azad Jammu Kashmir during last 24 hours, the total number of the cases tested positive across the state reached to 488 on Wednesday, it was officially said. The official statement released to the media here Wednesday evening on the updated situation of pandemic in AJK by the State Health Services authorities confirmed the registration of 44 new cases in AJK – which include.....</td>
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#### Balochistan

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<td><strong>Source:</strong> DNA, <em>The Express Tribune, Islamabad</em>, 2020-06-09</td>
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<td><strong>QUETTA:</strong> One ninety four (194) more people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus disease in Balochistan in the past 24 hours taking the total number of infections in the province to 5,776. The pandemic has affected 93,983 people across the country with 4,734 new cases of infection reported nationwide during the last 24 hours. So far 54 patients have died of the contagious disease since the first case of the pandemic emerged in the p.....</td>
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#### Gilgit Baltistan

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<td><strong>Source:</strong> Our Correspondent, <em>The News, International</em>, 2020-06-11</td>
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<td><strong>CHITRAL:</strong> The Aga Khan Health Service, Chitral, is working along with the government to help contain the spread of coronavirus and mitigate the hardships of people in the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic. Deputy Commissioner, Lower Chitral, Naveed Ahmad said this while addressing the inaugural ceremony of a 20-bed emergency response centre established at the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Garam Chashma near here. The official said that people must obs.....</td>
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LIVE: Pakistan reports over 100 deaths in last 24 hours as nationwide tally crosses 108,317
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
ISLAMABAD / KARACHI / PESHAWAR / LAHORE / QUETTA / MUZAFFARABAD: The novel coronavirus emerged in the central China city of Wuhan towards the end of last year and proliferated to almost the whole world within a couple of months. It’s not the virulence or fatality, but the infectivity of the new virus – also known as SARS-CoV-2 – that has set off a global frenzy. The Covid-19 respiratory illness caused by this mysterious co.... view more

SC ‘feeling’ heat of coronavirus
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday directed the federal government to make legislation for combating COVID-19 and ensure its implementation on the national level. The court also modified its previous order and withdrew its decision of opening markets and shopping malls over the weekend and allowed the government to form its own policy in this regard. Last month, the court order opening of shops and markets for seven days a week to faci..... view more

Masking realities
One must shake one’s head in exasperation at the ad-hoc way decisions are made in Pakistan in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. By waiting two weeks after lifting the lockdown, the federal government’s decision to make face masks in public spaces mandatory is an example par excellence of locking the stable door after the horses have bolted. Unfortunately, the value of using a face mask to cover the nose and mouth was not appreciate..... view more

Health sector resources about to get exhausted
Rawalpindi:The failure in implementing partial lockdown in the country including this region has already caused a rapid spread of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 among residents in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi taking the situation to a point where the health sector resources may not be able to handle the burden of consistently increasing number of confirmed patients of the disease in next few days. It is obvious that the lockdo..... view more

Police officials at mercy of COVID-19 amidst rising positive cases
Rawalpindi:In wake of coronavirus pandemic, apart from general public, police officials playing frontline force role are the most vulnerable to fall victim to the pandemic without proper access to personnel protection equipment against coronavirus. Police officials have been fulfilling responsibilities at sealed areas following suspects of coronavirus as well as at special pickets to monitor law and order situation and routine policing affairs a..... view more

AIOU strengthens library network
Islamabad:Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has decided to further strengthen its library network to meet the academic needs of its students, particularly in wake of COVID-19. According to the University’s Chief Librarian Sahibzada Shah Farrukh, hundreds of digitalized text books and other research-based material of various programs
were being made available through the University’s website. As per the instructions of the Vice Chancellor ..... view more

ICT admin faces serious shortage of coronavirus testing kits
Source: Abdul Rasheed Azad, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2020-06-09
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration is facing serious shortage of coronavirus testing kits as new cases have overwhelmed the health facilities, the officials said. According to sources in the Ministry of National Health Services and Regulations, the coronavirus cases after the Eid in the limits of federal capital have witnessed a four-fold increase as it jumped from 1,457 cases on May 23, 2020 to 5,329 cases on Mo..... view more

SC judge goes into self-quarantine on suspicion of Covid-19 infection
Source: TERENCE J SIGAMONY, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2020-06-09
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned the hearing of Justice Qazi Faez Isa’s petition against the Presidential Reference as one of the members of the 10-member larger bench is suspected to have contracted coronavirus. Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Khalid Jawed, former law minister Farogh Naseem, Shahzad Akbar and other lawyers reached the Courtroom No.1 at 11:30am for hearing of the petition. However, the judges r..... view more

Confirmed COVID-19 cases surge to 108,317 in Pakistan
Pakistan has Tuesday reported record 105 deaths by novel coronavirus in one day and the number of positive cases has surged to 108,317. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 2,172. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 4,646 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Punjab is the worst-hit province by the pandemic followed by Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochista..... view more

Marriyum Aurangzeb tests positive for COVID-19
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb has tested positive for the coronavirus, party leader Ahsan Iqbal said on Tuesday. According to the former interior minister,Aurangzeb's mother has also tested positive for the virus along with her and wished her a speedy recovery. “She is party’s bold voice. We are all proud of her most valuable contribution,” Iqbal added. ..... view more

Federal cabinet meets today to discuss COVID-19
Federal Cabinet meets in Islamabad on Tuesday with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair. It will discuss overall political and economic situation of the country. Budgetary proposals for the next fiscal year will also come under discussion. The meeting will also review the steps taken to stifle the spread of coronavirus. ..... view more
Locust may prove to be more disastrous than COVID-19
Source: Javaid-ur-Rahman, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
ISLAMABAD - The lawmakers from treasury and opposition in Monday's national assembly session warned the government to treat locust on emergency basis, otherwise it would prove more fatal than COVID-19. The members were unanimously dissatisfied with the measures taken by the government so far to deal with devastating locust attacks in different parts of the country. The devastating effects due to locust attack on crops might turn the co.....view more

Corona growth fastest in Pakistan
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tuesday crossed 110,851 cases becoming the second largest most corona-infected nation in Asia with 2,216 deaths. As many as 45 infected persons died on Tuesday. Of 110,851 confirmed cases, Sindh reported 41,303 cases, Punjab 40,819, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 14,527, Balochistan 7,031, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 5,785, Gilgit-Baltistan 974, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) 412. Of 2,216 deaths, Punjab reported 773 deaths, Sin.....view more

104 Covid-19 deaths recorded in single day
Source: Ikram Junaid, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan reported 4,920 coronavirus cases and 104 deaths during the last 24 hours, taking the national tally of cases to 110,829 and fatalities to 2,216, Prime Minister Imran Khan has reiterated that another lockdown is not possible due to the current economic conditions of the country. Presiding over a meeting of the federal cabinet on Tuesday, the prime minister said there were misconceptions among the masses regarding the s.....view more

Plasma registry initiative launched
Islamabad: Director General (Health) at the Metropolitan Corporation, Islamabad, Dr Hasan Orooj has launched the plasma registry initiative for Islamabad. He said the initiative was meant to consolidate the data of potential plasma donors (recovered COVID-19 patients) for the capital city. The DG urged recovered patients to get themselves registered at the phone numbers, including 0333-5169663, 0321-5848177 and 0335-5135455, for plasma donatio.....view more

Private hospitals assure no profit making during pandemic
Islamabad: Islamabad's private hospitals have assured the district administration that they won't make profits during the COVID-19 pandemic and would charge patients only for diagnosis and treatment costs while providing the best care to them. The development comes during a meeting between deputy commissioner Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and representatives of the hospitals on the issue of exorbitant charges. According the DC, t.....view more

Pakistanis in Canada asked to contact consulate to return home
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner in Canada Raza Bashir Tarar has asked the Pakistani nationals who want to return home to register with the consulate general in Toronto for assistance. During a virtual meeting with leaders of the Pakistani community and representatives of the Canada-Pakistan affiliated Chamber of Trade on
Monday, Mr Tarar said the high commission had arranged special PIA flights to repatriate stranded Pakistanis, in.....view more

Record number of Covid-19 deaths in capital
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The capital saw a record increase in the number of deceased Covid-19 patients after five people died in one day. Another 456 people have also been diagnosed with the disease, bringing the capital's total to 5,785. At least 57 people have died from Covid-19 in Islamabad so far. Officials in the capital administration said that one death each was reported from G-10, G-7, H-13, Koral and Rawal Town. Lohi Bher also repo.....view more

Capital’s hospitals unable to accommodate more Covid-19 patients
Source: Ikram Junaidi | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Hospitals in the capital can no longer accommodate the number of Covid-19 patients coming from within and outside the city, while the Punjab government is increasing the number of allocated beds for patients in Rawalpindi for a fourth time due to the surge in cases. An employee of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) revealed in a video available with Dawn that after he was diagnosed with Covid-19, he did not f.....view more

LIVE: Dr Zafar Mirza defends govt decision to ease lockdown as national COVID-19 tally hits 113,702
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
ISLAMABAD / KARACHI / PESHAWAR / LAHORE / QUETTA / MUZAFFARABAD: The novel coronavirus emerged in the central China city of Wuhan towards the end of last year and proliferated to almost the whole world within a couple of months. It's not the virulence or fatality, but the infectivity of the new virus – also known as SARS-CoV-2 – that has set off a global frenzy. The Covid-19 respiratory illness caused by this mysterious co.....view more

Federal govt pursuing holistic strategy to combat Covid-19: Dr Zafar Mirza
Source: news Desk, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
In response to the World Health Organisation’s letter suggesting that Pakistan should reimpose intermittent lockdowns to curb the spread of Covid-19, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirza has said that the government was pursuing a "holistic strategy to combat the coronavirus". “The National Command and Operation Center, established under the auspices of National Coordination Committee for C.....view more

Nationwide tally of COVID-19 cases surge to 113,702
Pakistan on Wednesday has confirmed 83 deaths by novel coronavirus in one day and the number of positive cases has surged to 113,702. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 2,255. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), record 5,385 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Till now 43,460 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Punjab, 41,303 in Sindh, 14,527 in Khyb.....view more
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Operation Centre (NCOC) Wednesday told that 23,799 COVID-19 tests have been conducted in country during last.....view more

Provincial govts asked not to hold examinations
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training on Wednesday requested provincial governments not to allow any examinations to be conducted, as this could become a source of serious public health repercussions. Education Secretary Dr Sajid Yoosufani, in a letter addressed to chief secretaries stated: “It has been considered by the Ministry of Education, that this is not an appropriate time to give such exemption to condu.....view more

Capital’s Covid-19 tally continues to rise
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin | Anjnad Iqbal, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
ISLAMABAD: Five people died of Covid-19 in the capital on Wednesday and 178 tested positive for the disease. Capital administration officials said fewer cases were reported on Wednesday than previous days. Between June 1 and June 9, there were 304, 296, 356, 402, 377, 656, 350 and 456 new cases reported each day in the capital. At least 5,963 people have been diagnosed with Covid-19 in Islamabad so far, of whom 843 have recovered and 62 have di.....view more

Pims staff gets PPE
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
ISLAMABAD: Mayor Sheikh Ansar Aziz on Wednesday handed over 400 personal protective equipment (PPE) to the staff of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims). Over 100 employees of Pims have been infected with the virus, which claimed an official’s life. “Doctors are the frontline soldiers in the war against Covid-19 and all possible efforts will be made to provide them equipment for their safety,” Mr Aziz said while h.....view more

Plasma donation helpline launched
Islamabad: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has launched a helpline for plasma donation to treat the coronavirus patients. In a statement on Wednesday, the spokesman for NDMA said the people, who had recovered from novel coronavirus, could contact the helpline at 0304-111-01-61 for plasma donation. He said an officer of NDMA has been appointed as focal person for registration of data. The spokesman said the helpline will work.....view more

Six arrested for violating coronavirus SOPs
Rawalpindi: Naseerabad Police have arrested six persons over violations of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and preventive measures announced by the Punjab government in to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. According to a police spokesman, Naseerabad police on the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas conducted raids in different areas in its jurisdiction to check implementation of SOPs issued by the P.....view more
Islamabad mayor hands over PPE to PIMS
Islamabad: The Islamabad Mayor Sheikh Ansar Aziz on Wednesday handed over a consignment of protective equipment (PPPE) for doctors and paramedics to Dr. Ansar Mahmood, the executive director of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor paid tribute to doctors and paramedics as front line heroes who are fighting against the COVID-19 while performing their duties. He said it was the responsibility of the......view more

LIVE: Shehbaz Sharif tests positive for COVID-19 as national tally hits 119,536
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
ISLAMABAD/KARACHI/LAHORE/PESHAWAR: The novel coronavirus emerged in the central China city of Wuhan towards the end of last year and proliferated to almost the whole world within a couple of months. It’s not the virulence or fatality, but the infectivity of the new virus – also known as SARS-CoV-2 – that has set off a global frenzy. The Covid-19 respiratory illness caused by this mysterious contagion has so far infected mo.....view more

Nearly 100 Pakistani MPs infected by Covid-19
Source: Anadolu Agency, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
ISLAMABAD: Pakistani politicians and parliament members are facing a huge increase of coronavirus cases in their ranks as about 100 parliamentarians have contracted the virus in recent days, an official said Wednesday. Federal Minister for Science and Technology FawadChaudhry said one-third of the 342-member parliament tested positive, local media quoted. But when Anadolu Agency contacted Fawad to confirm his comment, he said, “Yeah, it&.....view more

Covid-19 lockdown badly affecting India’s households
Source: APP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
ISLAMABAD: Amid a gradual reopening of its economy, India has extended its nationwide lockdown in containment zones – areas where people have tested positive for Covid-19 – through June 30. A Knowledge @ Wharton Network report says the wisdom of even a phased reopening in select sectors such as malls, restaurants and markets selling non-essential goods and domestic travel and air travel is being questioned as the number of Covid-1.....view more

Covid-19: PTV takes precautionary measures
ISLAMABAD: In wake of Covid-19 pandemic Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) has put in place elaborate precautionary measures for its staff all over Pakistan, this was stated by Managing Director PTV Aamer Manzoor. The measures include providing proper guidance to our employees about their protection from infections, making the workplace safe for everyone and making available the testing facility for the symptomatic employees, added the MD.....view more

Pakistan reports record 5,834 coronavirus cases in one day
Pakistan has confirmed 101 deaths by novel coronavirus in one day and the number of positive cases has surged to 119,536. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 2,356, Dunya News reported on Thursday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), record 5,834 persons have been tested
positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic followed by Sindh, Kh..... view more

Khawaja Asif criticizes govt over failed policies to control virus
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Khawaja Asif on Thursday has advised the federal government to better focus on saving the lives of people from deadly coronavirus instead of doing politics on this matter. Speaking in National Assembly (NA), Khawaja Asif said that there is a contradiction in the statements of Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan regarding coronavirus issue. There is no one who can explain his statements, he added...... view more

Pakistan ready to help India to overcome COVID-19 crisis: PM Khan
Prime Minister Imran Khan has offered help to neighbouring India to help it overcome the coronavirus crisis, saying he was willing to share Pakistan’s successful cash transfer programme. Sharing a news report claiming that 34% of household across India ‘will not be able to survive more than a week without add (additional) assistance”, the prime minister said, “I am ready to offer help and share our successful cas...... view more

Mirza defends easing lockdown as 5,385 new virus cases surface
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Zafar Mirza on Wednesday said that the government was pursuing a holistic strategy to combat the coronavirus. In response to the WHO’s letter, he said, “We have made best sovereign decisions in the best interest of our people.” Dr Zafar Mirza said that the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) established under the auspices of National Co..... view more

Coronavirus has changed world: FM
Source: SHAFAQAT ALI, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
ISLAMABAD - Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi yesterday said the coronavirus pandemic had changed the world. Addressing senior officers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he said “coronavirus pandemic has changed the world, and we will have to prepare ourselves to move ahead in the changing environment.” The FM said as important meetings and conferences in the world were being held through video link, “we need to digi..... view more

Pakistan reports 105 deaths in a day; 58 people die in Punjab
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-11
Pakistan on Tuesday reported record 105 deaths by novel coronavirus in one day as the number of positive cases surged to 110,829. The nationwide tally f fatalities has jumped to 2,209. According to the latest figures, 40,819 cases have been reported in Punjab, 41,303 in Sindh, 14,527 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 7,031 in Balochistan, 952 in Gilgit Baltistan, 5,785 in Islamabad and 412 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir so far. The virus has claimed at least 2..... view more
NCOC considers special package for medical staff fighting Covid-19
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-06-10
A meeting of the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday discussed a special package for medical staff fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting, chaired by Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar, discussed 102 testing laboratories operating across the country and considered a short-term action plan in June and July to meet additional requirements. It also discussed assistance for treatment at home, after 5..... view more

Covid-19: WHO wants Punjab to impose two-week strict lockdown
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-10
The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended enforcing a strict two-week lockdown in Punjab as the number of coronavirus cases continues to grow in the province, a private TV channel reported. In a letter to the Punjab government, the WHO lauded the provincial government’s efforts in response to the pandemic. “Government intervention on April 12, 2020, detailing social distancing measures including restrictions, closure of ..... view more

FM calls for provision of funds, debt relief to refugee-hosting countries
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-10
Global challenges require a global response and the international community should work in harmony in an effort to ease the effects of coronavirus outbreak on vulnerable refugees. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi’s remarks came at an online panel titled “Situation of Refugees and Other Displaced Persons during the Pandemic: The Need for Cooperation, Antalya Diplomacy Forum” where top diplomats of Iraq, Jordan, Turkey an..... view more

cust a bigger threat than coronavirus for Pakistan: Bloomberg
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-10
The ongoing locust attack in Pakistan has become a much bigger risk than the coronavirus pandemic as they may affect agriculture output and threaten food security, said a report published in Bloomberg. Falak Naz, director general of crop protection at the Ministry of Food Security and Research, told the publication that the locust-invasion now covers an area of 57 million hectares, which includes 23 million hectares of a total crop area of Pakis..... view more

Only 3pc Pakistanis clear-headed about coronavirus disease: survey
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-10
As Pakistan witnessed its highest coronavirus-related death tally of 150 in a day, a survey reveals that only three percent Pakistanis are clear-headed about the disease, with no misconceptions about its prevention, spread and cure. A snap poll by Ipsos, a global market research and public opinion specialist, released on Tuesday showed public perceptions, attitudes and behaviors among Pakistanis towards the coronavirus pandemic. The survey was c..... view more

Speaker urges MPs to follow SOPs during NA session
Source: News desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-10
National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser Tuesday urged all the members to strictly follow the standard operating procedure (SOP) to prevent the spread of coronavirus.According to press release, the speaker underlined such a need while chairing a meeting of the parliamentary leaders in the National Assembly to discuss modus operandi for conducting sittings of the National Assembly during Covid-19.The speaker initiating the discussion said thirteen me..... view more
Hafeez blames Covid-19 for Rs3 trillion GDP loss
Source: Khaleeq Kiani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD: The data released by the government presented a dismal economic performance as all indicators painted broad-based setbacks and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh blamed Covid-19 for a loss of over Rs3 trillion to the national income. Presenting the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2019-20 at a press conference on Thursday — a day before the announcement of the federal budget for financial year.....view more

Provinces told not to hold exams amid pandemic
Islamabad : The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has asked the centre, provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan not to hold examinations without the approval of the National Command and Operations Centre, which is tasked with taking unanimous decisions regarding coronavirus emergency in consultation with stakeholders. According to a notification of the ministry, many professional training institutions such as.....view more

Smart lockdown is only option: PM Imran
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD: With the novel coronavirus rapidly spreading across the country, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said he was already aware that the number of Covid-19 cases and deaths would increase with the passage of time but smart lockdown was the only option for Pakistan to deal with the disease. The country reported 6,321 Covid-19 cases and 92 deaths during the past 24 hours, taking the national tally of cases to 123,493 and fatalities to.....view more

Comment: Budgeting in the time of corona
Source: Sakib Sherani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
THE federal budget for 2020-21 due today and the provincial budgets to follow are set to be announced in extraordinary times. In order to be relevant and meaningful, government budgets have to be responsive to the macroeconomic context, be based on realistic assumptions, and have an anchoring theme or reform idea set in the medium term, rather than merely be an accounting statement for the year ahead. However, this budget will be unlike any oth.....view more

Pakistan health data worrisome as compared to neighbouring states
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD: While life expectancy is the lowest in Pakistan as compared to other countries of the region, the cumulative health expenditures by federal and provincial governments in the Financial Year 2019 increased to Rs421.8 billion from Rs416.5bn of previous year, showing a growth of only 1.3 per cent. Moreover, the allocation in health sector was 1.1pc of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to Economic Survey 2019-20, the national he.....view more
Covid-19 restriction may cause loss of at least 1.4m jobs
Source: Bakhtawar Mian, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD: Lockdowns and restrictions required to stem the spread of coronavirus are expected to cause a loss of 1.4 million to 18.53m jobs in the country. According to the Economic Survey 2019-20, in case limited restrictions are imposed, as many as 1.4m jobs will be lost, which is 2.2 per cent of the employed workforce. In monetary terms, the wage losses will translate into Rs23.6 billion. Under moderate lockdowns, employment loss could be up.....view more

Economic Survey 2019-2020: Corona hampering economic progress
ISLAMABAD: The government has inserted a special chapter titled “COVID-19 Advent and Impact Assessment” into the Economic Survey 2019-20 and assessed that unemployment and poverty will rise in the country. It states that after recording its first contractionary year due to the COVID crisis since 1952, Pakistan is likely to face greater challenges in the next fiscal year starting July 2020. "With an expected 2 percent growth fo.....view more

Govt set to present over Rs8tr budget amid corona crisis
ISLAMABAD: The PTI government is going to present its second annual budget 2020-21 with the major thrust to manage lingering COVID-19 pandemic crisis with fiscal interventions but all will have to be done folded into “fiscal discipline” under the tight scrutiny of IMF programme. Minister for Industries Hammad Azhar will deliver budget speech for 2020-21 with total outlay of over Rs8 trillion whereby the government will make all out e.....view more

Teachers reject new proposed PhD admission policy of HEC
Source: Kashif Abbasi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD: Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Association (FAPUASA) on Thursday “rejected” the proposed PhD admission policy of Higher Education Commission (HEC). Currently, one year master’s degree after 16-year of schooling is the minimum requirement for direct admissions to PhD. However, according to new proposed policy, BS degree, or equivalent, will be the minimum criteria for PhD admission. The new pr.....view more

Two G-9 sub-sectors, Karachi Company to be sealed from tonight
Source: Mohammad Asghar | Aamir Yasin | Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The capital administration on Thursday night decided to seal two sub-sectors and markazes in G-9 from Friday night after the number of Covid-19 cases there reached 300. Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Hamza Shafqat said the decision was taken in response to the District Health Office’s recommendation to seal G-9/2 and G-9/3 along with the sector’s markaz, commonly known as Karachi Company. These areas will stay s.....view more

Mayor tests positive
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD: Mayor of Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz has tested positive for Covid-19. The Metropolitan Corporation (MCI) under the leadership of Mr Aziz has been running a campaign that covers disinfection spray to stop the spread of the cronovirus. A few days ago, the mayor had visited G-9 to encourage people to get themselves tested for the virus free of cost by the National Institute of Health (NIH) in collaboration with MCI. Speaking to Dawn, .....view more
Govt to get tough on violators of Covid-19 SOPs, warns PM
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said having witnessed the people ignoring the anti-coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs), the government will get tough on the violators and they will be even ‘locked up’.”So far we had not been much strict. But now will show inflexibility. We will take action through administration and the violators will have to face the music.” he warned the people in a televised address t.....view more

Shehbaz Sharif, two MPAs test positive as nationwide Covid-19 tally hits 124,000
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) member of Sindh Assembly Khurram Sher Zaman and lawmaker from KPQbal Wazir tested positive for the novel coronavirus on Thursday as the nationwide tally of coronavirus patients jumped to 123,539, with 45,463 cases reported in Punjab, 46,828 in Sindh, 15,787 in KhyberPakhtunkhwa, 7,673 in Balochistan, 1,018 in GilgitBaltistan, 6,236 in Islamabad and 534 i.....view more

Pakistan calls for holding India accountable for IHK violations
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
A top Pakistani diplomat has urged the world community to intervene and hold India accountable for its ‘grave’ breaches of international humanitarian law and war crimes in occupied Kashmir, as he highlighted the decades of Kashmiri people’s sufferings now compounded by the coronavirus pandemic.”“Our efforts to fight COVID-19 and its humanitarian impact must not remain oblivious to challenges posed by the pandemic in situati.....view more

Pakistan set to become net exporter of medical equipment, says Fawad
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Thursday said Pakistan is in a position to export safety equipment in the health sector which is a big milestone. He was addressing a news conference after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministries of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (NHSR&C) and Science and Technology. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health, Dr. Zafar Mirza.....view more

Over 84,294 SOP violations registered in last five days
Source: Over 84,294 SOP violations registered in last five days, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was apprised on Thursday that over 84,294 violations of Health guidelines were registered across the country in the last five days. Over 22,405 markets/shops, 97 industries, 91,197 transporters were fined sealed and cautioned on SOPs violations. The forum was told that 1,251 smart lockdowns were enforced across the country. Sharing province wise, details he said 884 smart lockdowns were enforced. Th.....view more

AKF, NIBD to treat Covid-19 patients thru plasma
Source: MANSOOR ALI, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD - The Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan in collaboration with the National Institute of Blood Diseases Karachi has started the Covid-19 treatment through the plasma therapy. While addressing the launching ceremony of the service, the head of the National Institute of Blood Diseases Dr Tahir Shamsi said that there was no specific treatment for the Covid-19 patients, but transferring plasma of the recovered patients to t.....view more
Former NA speaker Ayaz Sadiq tests positive for coronavirus
Former National Assembly speaker Ayaz Sadiq has become the latest PML-N leader to test positive for the coronavirus, announced party spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday. The PML-N stated that Sadiq has gone into quarantine in his home after testing positive for the virus. The announcement comes a day after Aurangzeb announced that party president and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif had also tested positive.... view more

Covid-19 casts significant impact on collection efforts
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD: Covid-19 pandemic has casted a significant impact on revenue collection efforts of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with an anticipated revenue loss of Rs 899 billion during 2019-20. According to the Economic Survey (2019-20) issued here on Thursday, during the first eight months of FY2020, FBR recorded total revenue collection of Rs 2,738 billion with a growth rate of 17.5 percent over last fiscal year. FBR wa..... view more

Covid-19 pandemic: [Minister urges nation to follow precautionary measures
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Thursday urged the nation to follow the precautionary measures issued by the government to defeat the challenge of Covid-19 pandemic. Qureshi was chairing a high-level meeting at the Foreign Office, in which situation in the wake of coronavirus, regional and national security, and Pakistan’s efforts for lasting peace in Afghanistan came under discussion. The meeting was attended by ..... view more

Pakistan reports record 6,397 cases of coronavirus in one day
Pakistan on Friday has confirmed 107 deaths – highest till date – by novel coronavirus in one day as the number of positive cases has surged to 125,933. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 2,463. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), record 6,397 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic followed by..... view more

Covid-19 may render 27.3m non-agri sector workers jobless
ISLAMABAD - As many 27.3 million workers in non-agriculture sector of the country are at risk of losing their livelihood besides an estimated 56.6 percent of the population is socio-economically vulnerable due to COVID-19 crisis, reveals the Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20 released here on Thursday. The survey says that total 37.9 million workers are employed in non-agriculture sector out of the total 61.7 million labour force across Pakis..... view more

Opposition blames govt for spread of coronavirus in country
Source: Javaid-ur-Rahman, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD - The Opposition on Thursday blamed PTI government for spreading COVID-19 in different parts of the country because of having no concrete policy to tackle the pandemic. The novel coronavirus could not be properly...
handled in the country due to lifting lockdown and taking insufficient measures to deal with it, this was the gist of speeches delivered by Parliamentary Opposition parties members while taking part in debate of Presidential a..... view more

Capital Hospital directed to be prepared regarding COVID-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD - The CDA administration has directed Capital Hospital to boost its capabilities to join national effort to combat COVID-19 pandemic. These directions have been issued particularly in the wake of rising number of COVID-19 patients in Islamabad. In line with directions of CDA administration, Capital Hospital has approached different government departments. Capital Hospital had earlier established an isolation ward consisting of 16 beds ..... view more

PMA releases list of healthcare professionals lost battle against coronavirus
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) on Thursday released a list of 41 healthcare professionals including doctors and paramedics who lost their lives in battle against novel coronavirus (COVID-19) demanding from the government a relief package for the aggrieved families. A statement released by PMA Secretary General (SG) Dr. Qaiser Sajjad said that till now 38 doctors and three paramedics have died due to COVID-19. According to the ..... view more

The Opposition’s Conundrum
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
At first glance, the agreement between the government and major opposition parties regarding the budget sessions in the parliament makes sense. The behind-the-scenes agreement, which provides the government with a virtual walkover for the budget sessions, allowing voting only to be conducted on the demands for the grants and final passage of the finance bill, appears to be justified in the context of the alarming situation which we find ourselves..... view more

LIVE: Govt prepares support package for health workers as Covid-19 tally hits 129,236
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD/KARACHI/LAHORE/PESHAWAR/QUETTA/MUZAFFARABAD: The novel coronavirus emerged in the central China city of Wuhan towards the end of last year and proliferated to almost the whole world within a couple of months. It's not the virulence or fatality, but the infectivity of the new virus – also known as SARS-CoV-2 – that has set off a global frenzy. The Covid-19 respiratory illness caused by this mysterious contagion ha..... view more

Over 57% to suffer Covid financial squeeze
Source: Shahbaz Rana, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD: Around 57% of the country’s population is economically vulnerable to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and between 12.5 million to 19.1 million jobs are at stake because of the partial and complete lockdowns imposed to stem the spread of the disease, according to the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2019-20 released on Thursday. The government also expects a second wave of Covid-19 that “could further threaten macroeco..... view more
Covid-19 shock may increase Pakistan's debt-to-GDP ratio
Source: Zafar Bhutta, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
ISLAMABAD: The total public debt of Pakistan increased 7.6% in first nine months of the current fiscal year compared to the same period of last year, reveals Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20. Total public debt was recorded at Rs35,207 billion at the end of March 2020 compared with Rs32,708 billion at the end of June 2019, registering an increase of Rs2,499 billion in first nine months of FY20. Federal government borrowing for financing its de..... view more

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Coronavirus pandemic: PHC moved for postponement of bar elections
PESHAWAR: A writ petition was filed in the Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Monday to seek the postponement of the elections of all the district bar associations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Peshawar High Court Bar Association in wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The elections are scheduled for June 13 and July 4 this year, respectively. Petitioner Khalid Hamid, a lawyer and candidate for the post of general secretary Peshawar Bar Association, said in..... view more

Awareness, kits distribution programme launched in Mardan
PESHAWAR: In order to provide protective equipment to medical staff, raise awareness among the general public and ensure cleanliness in government hospitals during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) has launched a programme in collaboration with the UNICEF and the provincial government in different hospitals of Mardan district. The project was launched in April this year in the target areas of Mardan Medical..... view more

Another cop dies of Covid-19
PESHAWAR: Another police official lost life to coronavirus on Monday. Sub-inspector of the Peshawar Police Nisar Khan had been suffering from Covid-19 for the last many days and lost life to the virus on Monday. He had remained the station house officer in Shah Qabool. The number of policemen testing positive for Covid-19 has increased in the last few days. At least five police have died of Covid-19 before Nisar Khan. Two cops of the capital city..... view more

Two more fall victim to Covid-19 in Nowshera
NOWSHERA: Another two people died of Covid-19, raising the death toll from the deadly viral disease to 24 in the district, an official said on Monday. About 33 more people tested positive for coronavirus, taking the number of confirmed cases of the fast-spreading disease to 424 in Nowshera. The test results of 865 people came negative while 22 more patients have recovered from coronavirus. Acting Deputy Commissioner, Nowshera, Noor Wali Kh..... view more
Several traders fined, arrested in Mardan for SOPs violations
MARDAN: District administration on Monday checked 591 shops, arrested 41 people and imposed Rs99,700 fines on traders for violation of SOPs, a senior official said on Monday. Assistant Commissioner (AC) Gul Bano told the media that on the directives of deputy commissioner, they continued a crackdown against the traders and shopkeepers on Bank road, Shamsh road, Charsadda Chowk, New Adda road, Shahidano Bazaar, Par Hoti, and Dwasaro Chowk. She a.....view more

28 corpses of overseas Pakistanis shifted to homes
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
PESHAWAR - Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan received 28 corpses of overseas Pakistani which were transported to their homes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday. The Foundation received 24 dead bodies at Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar and shifted them to their homes. The bodies were delivered to home districts of deceased including Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Waziristan, Malakand, Swat, Buner, Dir Lower and Upper and Torgar. The Foundation also rece.....view more

KP records highest number of Covid-19 deaths in single day
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 23 deaths due to Covid-19 on Tuesday, raising the overall number of people passed away from the infection to 610 in the province. It is the highest number of fatalities recorded by the province in a single day since the onset of the pandemic. A total of 521 new cases were detected during the last 24 hours, making the total count of the confirmed coronavirus-hit patients 14,527 in the province, according to a.....view more

Coronavirus patients at LRH see relatives by video link
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
PESHAWAR: The administration of Lady Reading Hospital has initiated a programme to connect Covid-19 wards through video link with the families of the patients to remove the misconceptions about their mistreatment at the hospitals and prevent spread of infection. “The people have misconception that corona-affected patients are being administered poisonous injections to kill them due to which many avoid to bring their patients to hospitals, &.....view more

15 test positive for corona
MARDAN: Fifteen more people tested positive for coronavirus, raising the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases to 665 in Mardan district in the last 24 hours. Officials said 310 patients had recovered and 37 died in the district due to coronavirus so far. The sources added that 2,569 tests were conducted in the district and 1,567 tested negative while the reports of 337 suspected patients were still awaited. Around 361 suspected patients were disch.....view more

Plasma transfusion: Corona patient recovering in Nowshera hospital
NOWSHERA: The experiment of plasma transfusion on a patient of coronavirus in Qazi Medical Complex (QMC), Nowshera, showing signs of improvement as the 37-year old man recovering with a fast pace. Deputy Medical Superintendent QMC Dr Zahid Khan said that the first experiment of plasma transfusion was going successfully as a
serious patient named Noman was recovering speedily. He said that the patient was in serious condition who was put on venti.....view more

**LR Hospital Peshawar extends state-of-the-art facilities to COVID-19 patients**
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
Since the start of COVID-19 pandemic in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in February this year, the Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) of colonial era in provincial capital of KP has been entertaining the influx of coronavirus patients from mountainous Chitral district to DI Khan in South. The hospital was named after wife of British Viceroy Lord Reading in 1927. It is pertinent to mention that Lady Reading, the wife of Viceroy Reading was very fond of Peshawar .....view more

**Call for reopening of schools under SOPs**
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
CHARSADDA/TIMERGARA: Owners and heads of private schools have demanded of the government to allow opening of educational institutions, saying they would follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set for them. They also sought a special package for private schools from the funds of Employees’ Education Foundation (EEF) as it was meant for uplift of private educational institutions. InCharsadda, the owners told a joint press conferen.....view more

**HMC stops plasma supply to other hospitals**
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
PESHAWAR: Hayatabad Medical Complex, the pioneer of passive immunisation therapy for treatment of Covid-19 patients in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has stopped supply of plasma to other hospitals following their failure to provide it with feedback in accordance with the laid down protocols, according to sources. HMC, which started passive immunisation trial two months ago, has collected 100 donations from recovered patients of Covid-19 and has transfused.....view more

**Over 1,000 medics affected by coronavirus in KP**
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
PESHAWAR: Fatalities due to Covid-19 reached 610 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as nine more persons infected with the virus passed away on Wednesday. The province recorded 679 new confirmed patients of coronavirus. It is the highest number of people affected by the pandemic in a single day since the onset of the disease. The province scorecard of positive patients stands at 15,206, according to Covid-19 report released by the health department. Meanwhi.... view more

**Death toll from Covid-19 reaches 25 in Nowshera**
NOWSHERA: A woman lost life to coronavirus on Wednesday, putting the death toll from the viral infection at 25 in the Nowshera district, said an official. Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Qazi Medical Complex (QMC), Dr Zahid Khan, told the media that the woman who became the latest victim of Covid-19 was the mother of Fazl-e-Amin who was on a ventilator after hospitalisation. The official said though the result of her test was yet to be rece.....view more
60 test positive for Covid-19 in Dir
DIR: The district recorded highest number of Covid-19 positive cases in a single day as 60 patients tested positive for the fast spreading virus on Wednesday. Sources said the whole staff of the National Bank of Pakistan Upper Dir branch, were tested positive and the branch was closed for an indefinite period. With the new cases, the number of confirmed patients in the district reached 347. The focal person for Covid-19 for Upper Dir Dr Nazar Muh....

K-P hospitals face acute shortage of beds, claims YDA
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
PESHAWAR: Young doctors in the province have warned that with a rapid spike, the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases in the province have reached a dangerous level and hospitals in the province are facing an acute shortage of beds and ventilators. Young Doctors Association (YDA) representatives, while talking to The Express Tribune, urged the provincial government to take emergency measures to deal with the alarming situation. The situation....

224 more arrested over violation of corona preventive SOPs
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
PESHAWAR - District administration Peshawar arrested 224 more persons in a crackdown on the violators of the corona preventive standard operating procedures (SOPs) from different localities of the districts, said a news release issued here Wednesday. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Mohammad Ali Asghar accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Ishfaq Khan and Assistant Commissioner (AC) Saddar, Islahuddin inspected filling s.....

166,387 fined for violating SOPs across KP: Ajmal
Source: Our Staff Report, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
PESHAWAR - Advisor to KP Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations Ajmal Wazir has said that the district administrations across the province have taken action against 166,387 persons for violating the SOPs besides 41,563 units / businesses have been warned and 3219 units sealed for violation of SOPs related to lockdown.....

SOPs relaxed for people returning from Afghanistan
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
LANDI KOTAL: With a change in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for returning Pakistanis from Afghanistan via Torkham border, the mandatory stay at quarantine centres in Khyber tribal district has been relaxed with the arrival of the 413 persons last Saturday. Officials said that no newly arrived Pakistanis were kept at any of the seven quarantine centres in the tribal district under the new SOPs. They were allowed to leave for their respecti.....

13 more die of coronavirus
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
PESHAWAR: Thirteen more persons have died of Covid-19, raising death toll due to the pandemic to 632 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as general patients continue to suffer for want of treatment because Mardan Medical Complex is the only medical teaching institution (MTI) in the province to offer OPD services in line with the government’s directives. The remaining 10 MTIs stay shut for patients with common illness despite government’s directive.....
Lower Dir residents complain of delay in virus test results
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
TIMERGARA: Suspected Covid-19 patients and their relatives from Lower Dir have complained that they had been waiting for results of their test for over a week and the delay was troubling them. Talking to mediapersons, they said they had quarantined themselves at homes after developing signs and symptoms of the infection about 10 days ago. They said their swabs had been taken a week ago, but the results were still awaited. The residents demanded....

Kohat university to start online classes on 15th
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
KOHAT: Vice chancellor of Kohat University of Science and Technology (Kust) Prof Syed Tasleem Hussain has said that a decision has been to start online classes from June 15. Talking to mediapersons here, he said that the Higher Education Commission had turned down a proposal of free promotions at the university level like schools and colleges and decided to start regular online classes from 15th of this month. About the tribal areas of Orakzai a.....

Massive operation against SOPs violators goes on across KP
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
PESHAWAR - Upon the directives of KP government, the district administrations of the districts have imposed a total fine of over Rs.1.2 million on 1985 violators, while 584 units/businesses were sealed for non-compliance of the government SOPs. According to the reports received to PMRU office of the Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Thursday, actions were taken against 357 shopkeepers for non-compliance of SOPs.....

Punjab

Drive against Covid-19 spread misconceptions
LAHORE: Punjab Ministry of Human Rights and Minority Affairs (MoHRMA) has launched a dedicated communication campaign containing messages of top community leaders, religious leaders and celebrities from various walks of life and faiths on peace, harmony and tolerance. The campaign has been launched to counter the practice in which different religious groups returning from Iran and members of Tablighi Jamaat are being held responsible for spreading.....

BISE accused of calling all staff on duty during pandemic
LAHORE: A number of employees of Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education (BISE) Lahore have accused the board’s administration of calling in the entire staff on duties during corona pandemic in violation of government’s instructions. Talking to The News, the employees alleged that since the government had announced promotion policy for students, a number of students also used to visit the board office for queries in this regar.....
89 shops sealed over SOPs violation
LAHORE: The district administration sealed 89 shops in various city areas for violating corona SOPs here on Monday. Lahore DC along with his team visited various city markets including Ichra, Hall Road, Gulberg and sensitised general public and shopkeepers about social distancing and use of facemasks. On the other hand, all assistant commissioners also checked markets in their own areas and sealed 89 shops. AC Model Town sealed 24 shops and impos..... view more

Anti-corona campaign: ‘Monitoring of shops, markets being carried out daily’
FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali has said that the campaign is underway against corona and monitoring of shops and markets is being carried out on daily basis. Speaking here on Monday, the DC said that the corona SOPs had been issued by the government to protect the lives of the citizens and it was responsibility of the citizens to implement it. He said that the implementation of the SOPs was being ensured through administrative meas.....view more

With 1,813 more cases, Punjab infections near 39,000
Source: Iqtidar Gilani, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-06-09
LAHORE - Thirty-two more succumbed to COVID-19 in the province on Monday, raising death toll to 715. As many as 1,813 more cases of novel coronavirus were reported from across Punjab, taking the number of confirmed cases to 38,903. So far 268 casualties have been reported from Lahore, 142 Rawalpindi, 72 Multan, 61 Faisalabad, 38 Gujranwala, 22 Sialkot, 18 Gujrat, 17 Rahim Yar Khan, 15 Bahawalpur, 11 Sargodha, eight Sahiwal, five each Nankana.....view more

Punjab health minister says will impose lockdown in areas with rising virus cases
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Yasmin Rashid said on Tuesday that the provincial government will impose a lockdown in areas with higher number of coronavirus cases to stem the spread of the disease. The provincial health minister spoke to media today, where she said that the government had warned earlier that the number of cases will rise. The minister said that the final decision regarding the lockdown will be taken by the cabinet committee. .....view more

Another 494 cases, one death from twin cities
Rawalpindi: The number of patients tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 and deaths caused by it have been registering sharp increase here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi for the last one week with well over 3,250 confirmed cases in just seven days along with 36 deaths due to the disease. It is important that the virus took nearly two months to infect the first thousand people in the twin cities as till May 4, there w.....view more

Punjab to conduct drug trial on 1,000 critical Covid patients
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid says Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has given approval for trial of the injectable drug Acterma on 1,000 serious Covid-19 patients. Addressing a press conference at the Chief Minister Secretariat on Tuesday, she said the trials of different medicines were underway across the globe. “In
Pakistan, we are also conducting the trial of medicine Acterma”, she said. Responding to a query, the he... view more

No exemption from wearing masks in govt offices: Buzdar
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Tuesday directed the provincial administrative machinery to ensure strict compliance with the use of face masks in government offices, saying no one should be allowed to enter offices without masks. In his directions, he stated: “No one is exempted from this restriction and any violation will not be tolerated. The habit of wearing masks and washing hands will save the people from this disease as the a... view more

Chinese firms donate masks, flour, rice
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
LAHORE: Two Chinese firms engaged in various mega projects in the country donated on Tuesday masks, rice and flour for the poor, facing the country’s worst ever recession caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. A Chinese bus transport company presented a consignment of 50,000 N-95 masks to Punjab Transport Minister Jehanzeb Khan Khichi. “We pay thanks to the Chinese company for presenting surgical masks to the transport sector,” said..... view more

Health CEO, two MS among dozens of medics test positive
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
CHINIOT: The district health chief executive officer (CEO), the medical superintendent (MS) of DHQ Hospital here and 11 other health professionals have contracted Covid-19. District Health Authority CEO Dr Mushtaq Bashir and DHQ Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Anjum Iqbal tested positive for coronavirus besides 11 other health professionals, doctors, nurses and support staff, and have been quarantined in their houses. The DHQ hospital doctor..... view more

Online OPD launched in Aziz Bhatti hospital
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
GUJRAT: The administration of the Aziz Bhatti Shaheed Teaching Hospital (ABSTH) has launched online outdoor patients department (OPD) services in the hospital to ensure social distancing of patients and doctors. Medical Superintendent Dr Abid Ghauri said that a patient would be asked to sit in a dedicated room from where he would be connected with the doctor concerned through online video link . Sitting in another dedicated room, the doctor woul..... view more

Following SOPs equal responsibility of every citizen: Attock DC
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
TAXILA: The district administration has decided to strictly ensure the implementation of standard operating procedures (SOP) to contain the spread of the coronavirus and directions have been issued to all the relevant authorities to remain in the field to enforce the precautionary measures, Attock Deputy Commissioner Ali Anan Qamar said on Tuesday. Speaking at a press conference at the deputy commissioner office, Mr Qamar said the implementation..... view more
### UHS allowed to conduct corona tests
Lahore: The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) has allowed University of Health Sciences (UHS) to conduct laboratory tests for detection of coronavirus in suspected patients. In a letter issued on Tuesday, the PHC chief executive officer granted UHS the "permission to proceed with PCR test for Covid-19" keeping in view the emergency situation caused by the pandemic. UHS laboratory facility was inspected by a two-member team of PHC.....*view more*

### Attock, Taxila see spike in positive cases
Source: Correspondent, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-10
Taxila: Three people died of Covid-19 in Attock and two in Taxila on Tuesday, taking the death toll in Attock to 12 and in Taxila to 14. A man from Mansar village and another from Attock and a 36-year-old woman from Pindigheb were admitted to Pims Islamabad and Holy Family Hospital Rawalpindi where they died, according to district health officer surveillance and preventive Dr Asad Ismail. District emergency officer Dr Ishfaq Mian said the three.....*view more*

### Concern over stun batons use to enforce Covid-19 SOPs
Lahore: The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has expressed concern over use of stun batons by the district administration and local police in Faisalabad to enforce Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). The HRCP press release issued here Tuesday stated, "This is in flagrant violation of both Article 14 of the Constitution of Pakistan and the UN Convention Against Torture, to which Pakistan is a state party.".....*view more*

### Punjab reports record single day COVID-19 deaths
Lahore - Fifty-eight more succumbed to COVID-19 in the province on Tuesday, the highest number of casualties reported in a day since pandemic outbreak. So far death toll has reached 773. As many as 1,916 more cases of novel coronavirus were reported from across Punjab, taking the number of confirmed cases to 40,819. So far 283 casualties have been reported from Lahore, 157 Rawalpindi, 76 Faisalabad, 72 Multan, 39 Gujranwala, 27 Sialkot, 19 G.....*view more*

### CET of China provides 10000kg flour, 10000kg rice for needy people
Source: Our Staff Report, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-06-10
Lahore - With the graph of COVID-19 continuing to rise at a fast pace, the state of uncertainty prevailing due to partial lock down and related future of daily wagers, the situation has never gone so unpredictable as is now in Pakistan. In these hard times, the project management of China Electric Power Equipment & Technology Co., Ltd (CET) decided to support the much needed, poor and underprivileged persons and families of the local community.....*view more*

### Stricter SOPs planned for worst-hit areas in Punjab
Source: Imran Adnan, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-06-10
Lahore: Following a stark warning from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has announced imposition of strict lockdown in the areas worst hit by coronavirus in the province. Addressing a daily briefing on the latest situation of novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in the province, the health minister said the government has decided to further tighten the implementation of the SOPs. The areas worst hit by.....*view more*
Moringa tree: a nutritional and medicinal miracle
Source: Imran Adnan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
LAHORE: Covid-19 has no cure so far besides one’s own immune system winning over the deadly virus. This has compelled people to look up to superfoods like moringa to build up their defence against the contagion. Agriculture scientists believe moringa oleifera, commonly called the ‘drumstick’ or ‘horseradish’ tree, can be helpful in boosting immunity owing to its extraordinary nutritional value. University of Ag.....view more

Shehbaz Sharif tests positive for COVID-19
LAHORE: PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif has tested positive for coronavirus, party spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Thursday, the latest among several lawmakers who tested positive for the infection in recent days. Aurangzeb said Shehbaz was isolating at home and following doctors’ advice on how to fight the infection. PML-N representative Ata Tarar, speaking to Geo News, revealed that Shehbaz had himself tested for COVID-19 after sho.....view more

Case against principal for opening school
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
SARGODHA: The Bhagtanwala police registered a case against Naheed Bibi, the principal of a private school, who called over 150 students of primary classes to school. The police found over 150 students in different classrooms of the school in violation of government instructions and found children sitting closely to each other. The police also sealed the school. The police have not arrested the principal. Private colleges and schools have alrea.....view more

UAF body approves Rs10.9bn budget
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Finance and Planning Committee approved Rs10.9 billion budget for the financial year 2020-21. UAF Vice Chancellor (VC) Dr Muhammad Ashraf chaired a meeting in the syndicate room in which Treasurer/Registrar Umar Saeed presented the agenda. The Higher Education Commission recurring budget of Rs5.2bn was also included in the total outlay; Rs3bn has been earmarked for development from the .....view more

Another LHC judge tests positive
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
LAHORE: The Covid-19 pandemic continued to hit the Lahore High Court as another judge and members of his personal staff tested positive for the virus on Wednesday. The reports of Justice Jawad Hassan, his private secretary Zahoor Ahmad, driver Azmat, orderly Abdul Wahab and another staff member Ziaur Rehman came positive. The judge and his staff members also quarantined themselves at homes. Last week, Justice Shahid Karim also tested positive f.....view more
Health experts prescribe strict lockdown
Source: Staff Report, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-11
LAHORE: Expressing concern over the rapid increase in the number of reported cases and deaths due to coronavirus in the country, the health experts have once again urged the public to stay home and adopt protective measures. While addressing a media briefing at the University of Health Sciences on Wednesday, UHS Vice Chancellor Prof Javed Akram said more than 100 people had lost their lives due to the deadly virus in the last 24 hours, making it..... view more

Quarantine centres being closed across Punjab
Source: Khalid Hasnain, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-11
LAHORE: The government has started closing quarantine centres across Punjab, including six in Lahore, following a change in the policy under which the suspected Covid-19 patients were earlier required to quarantine at these centres. Under the new policy, those arriving at Lahore and other airports from abroad are just being screened through thermal scanners rather than tested on the spot, Dawn has learnt. "It is really dangerous, as the g..... view more

UHS nod to 9,600 free beds in private teaching hospitals for Covid patients
Source: Asif Chaudhry, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-11
LAHORE: The Syndicate of University of Health Sciences (UHS) on Wednesday approved the allocation of 9,600 free beds for Covid-19 patients in private sector teaching hospitals of Punjab and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, affiliated with the varsity. Of the total beds, 600 would be allocated in the intensive care units (ICUs) of private hospitals where the poor patients must be treated free of cost as per the regulations of the Pakistan Medical and Den..... view more

Panic-stricken people prefer ‘home remedies’ amid spike in corona cases
Source: Saleem Mubarak, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-11
FAISALABAD: The death of a known doctor and a nurse who had been suffering from coronavirus on Wednesday further created panic in the district. Dr Javeed Iqbal and Perveen, a nurse, died of Covid-19. The number of health professionals falling a victim to the disease has crossed 200. The panic-stricken people prefer to stay home in case of any symptoms of the disease rather than reporting to the health facilities. Ahmed and four members of his f..... view more

Pulmonologist dies of Covid-19
SARGODHA: A senior pulmonologist died of Covid-19 here on Wednesday. Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) President Dr Sikandar, while expressing grief over the demise, said chest specialist Dr Tanveer Akram Bhatti was a renowned pulmonologist, who served in the TB hospital for several years and had retired six months ago. Addressing a meeting of the association, Dr Sikandar said Dr Bhatti was an executive member of the PMA and always keen to ser..... view more

Suspected Covid patients: SZMCH ‘flouts’ ministry guidelines on burial
Source: Irfanul Haq, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-11
RAHIM YAR KHAN: The Shaikh Zayed Medical College and Hospital (SZMCH) administration is not handing over the bodies of even the suspected Covid-19 patients who expire at the facility to their families in alleged violation of related guidelines issued by the Ministry of National Health Services. As per the ministry guidelines issued on May
26, 2020, the burial of the people who die of Covid-19 should be managed by the authorities on a case-to-case basis. Adiala jail doctor, prisoner test positive
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
RAWALPINDI: A senior doctor at Adiala jail hospital and an under-trial prisoner (UTP) tested positive for coronavirus. Though visits to prison and production of prisoners in the courts have already been banned after the coronavirus outbreaks across Punjab, two confirmed cases have emerged in the overcrowded Adiala jail so far. After the coronavirus cases came to light, the jail authorities allocated 16 cells for quarantine purpose. The jail administration... view more

Another 9 die of COVID-19 in twin cities
Rawalpindi: Another nine patients have died of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours taking total number of deaths so far reported from the region to 174 which is nearly three times as much as has so far been reported from Balochistan province. To date, a total of 62 deaths due to the disease have been reported from Balochistan from where a total of 7031 confirmed cases have so far... view more

SHO Waris Khan test positive for COVID-19
Rawalpindi: Station House Officer (SHO) Warris Khan Police Station has been tested positive for coronavirus. Following the confirmation of COVID-19, SHO Warris Khan Police Station Ghazanfar Abbas has been quarantined at his home. It is worth mentioning here that already six SHOs of different police stations of Rawalpindi have been tested positive with COVID-19 and have been quarantined at their A total of 36 officials of Rawalpindi police hav... view more

Another LHC judge, staff test positive for corona
LAHORE:Lahore High Court's another judge and members of his personal staff tested positive for the coronavirus on Wednesday. The test of Justice Jawad Hassan, his private secretary Zahoor Ahmad, driver Azmat, orderly Abdul Wahab and another staff member, Ziaur Rehman, came positive. The doctors of Mayo Hospital had taken the swab samples for the tests. The judge and his staff members have quarantined themselves at their homes. Last week, J... view more

Factory sealed for flouting corona SOPs
LAHORE:District administration sealed a garments factory for not implementing Corona SOPs here Wednesday. Officials said Commissioner Lahore Division along with AC Model Town paid a surprise visit to different factories and found non-implementation of corona SOPs at Mr Fabrics. Warning notices issued to others for improving the implementation of SOPs. Meanwhile, the district administration checked 301 buses and barred 33 of them from operation fo... view more
Dr Tahir Shamsi appeals for donation of plasma
Source: Sabah, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
LAHORE: The head of National Institute of Blood Disease & Bone Marrow Transplantation (NIBD & BMT), Dr Tahir Shamsi, has appealed to patients who have recovered from the coronavirus to donate their plasma so that other patients can be treated. “We are trying to treat coronavirus patients without medicine, Dr Tahir Shamsi said during a press conference on Wednesday. “Till now we have given plasma to more than 200 patients in .... view more

Health experts urge people to stay home, adopt precautions
LAHORE: Expressing grave concerns on rapid increase in number of reported cases and deaths from coronavirus in the country, the health experts have once again urged the public to stay home and adopt protective measures. While addressing a media briefing at University of Health Sciences (UHS) here on Wednesday, along with National Institute of Blood Diseases' (NIBD) head Dr Tahir Shamsi, UHS Vice Chancellor Prof Javed Akram said that more than..... view more

UHS affiliated private hospitals to allocate free beds for corona patients
LAHORE: The syndicate of University of Health Sciences (UHS) on Wednesday approved the allocation of free beds for corona patients in private sector teaching hospitals affiliated with the varsity. The 58th meeting of UHS syndicate was headed by the Vice Chancellor Prof Javed Akram. The members who were present included Prof Khawaja Sadiq Hussain, Prof Sajid Maqbool, Prof Abdul Nasir Shah, Dr Saqib Mehmood and representatives of Punjab health and ..... view more

Sirajul Haq raps govt for increasing corona cases
LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Senator Sirajul Haq has alleged that the non-serious attitude of PTI government towards coronavirus epidemic is the main reason for massive increase in number of corona cases. The situation would have been under control, had the PTI government adopted responsible attitude soon after the outbreak of coronavirus, he said in a statement from Mansoora here on Wednesday. Sirajul Haq expressed serious concerns over the WHO..... view more

PU former librarian dies from corona
LAHORE: Former Chief Librarian of Punjab University (PU) Ch Muhammad Hanif passed away on Wednesday. According to PU spokesperson, Khurram Shahzad, Ch Muhammad Hanif died of coronavirus. The university officials, teachers and staff expressed condolences with the family of late Ch Muhammad Hanif and prayed for the departed soul. ..... view more

Government utilizing all resources to overcome COVID-19: Commissioner
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
BAHAWALPUR - Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Asif Iqbal Chaudhry Wednesday said that government was utilizing all the available resources to overcome COVID-19 and people need to follow precautionary measures in order to mitigate the spread of this fatal virus. He was presiding over a high-level meeting at his office here. The
meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Shozab Saeed, Additional Commissioner Coordination Aftab Pee.....view more

2,641 new cases of corona detected in Punjab
Source: Iqtidar Gilani, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
LAHORE - Punjab got 2,641 new cases of novel coronavirus on Wednesday, the highest number of COVID-19 patients reported in a single day since pandemic outbreak. With 78 more healthcare workers getting infection, number of affected doctors, nurses and paramedics reached 799. So far 43,460 COVID-19 patients have been reported from across the province. About 34 more succumbed to COVID-19 in Punjab on Wednesday, taking the death toll to 807. S.....view more

No milk vehicle can now enter Lahore without testing, says Buzdar
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-10
Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar inaugurated the pilot project of six mobile milk testing laboratories and 10 bike squad of Punjab Food Authority here on Tuesday. Talking on the occasion, the chief minister stated that mobile milk testing labs will check milk quality in morning and evening timings at Thokar Niaz Beg, Ravi Toll Plaza, Bhabatian Chowk, Saggian Bridge, Gajumatta and Babu Sabu in the first phase. No milk vehicle will enter Lahore .....view more

Continuous rise in deaths, new cases set the alarm bell ringing
Rawalpindi : The continuous rise in number of patients being tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 and deaths caused by the disease in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi is hinting towards a much more alarming situation in the coming days. On Thursday, the number of confirmed patients reported from the twin cities crossed the figure of 9,000 and it is alarming that of a total of 9,077 confirmed cases so far reported, as many.....view more

CM Usman Buzdar for separate strategies for Covid-19 in City
LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar Thursday directed the authorities to devise separate strategies for the provincial capital amid rising number of Covid-19 cases in the city and stressed that no delay would be tolerated in this regard. He was chairing a meeting at his office to review different measures to control the spread of coronavirus in the province. The meeting took stock of various matters including patients’ case management, incr.....view more

Further cut in skeleton staff at offices
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
LAHORE: In view of the alarming increase in the number of Covid-19 cases, the Punjab government has directed further curtailing of the skeleton staff at its offices across the province. For offices opened with skeleton staff, the administrative secretaries and additional chief secretaries of their respective departments have been asked to re-determine their essentially required/skeleton staff to attend office. For offices opened, the administra.....view more
Cabinet body for separate strategy on Covid in Lahore
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
LAHORE: The Punjab cabinet committee on combating coronavirus threat has decided to devise a separate strategy for overcoming the Covid-19 in the provincial metropolis. The meeting decided to formulate an expert working group for devising a separate model for Lahore and to present its recommendations to the National Command and Control Centre for final approval. A comparison of Covid-19 cases among districts in Punjab shows there are 22,749 cor.....view more

Indictment in sugar mills case deferred: Shahbaz tests Covid-positive
Source: Zulqernain Tahir, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
LAHORE: As PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif on Thursday tested Covid-19 positive, his party held the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) responsible for it. According to the PML-N, Shahbaz contracted the virus after his appearance before the NAB Lahore on Tuesday last. It said NAB was informed multiple times in writing that Shahbaz was a cancer survivor with weak immunity; therefore, he should be allowed to record his statement through a video li.....view more

Schools panel announces protests
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
LAHORE: All Pakistan Private Schools Federation (APPSF) on Thursday announced starting protests across the country for opening of schools from Friday (today). APPSF President Kashif Mirza rejected the decision of the closure of educational institutions till August and demanded resignation of Punjab Minister for School Education Murad Raas. He said private, PEF and Punjab Education Initiative Management Authority (PEIMA) schools were being ‘f.....view more

Doctors agitate against sealing of health facility
Source: Saleem Mubarak, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
FAISALABAD: As many as 80pc doctors have stopped their private practice due to the threat of Covid-19 and others may also follow suit due to indifference of the district administration, claim two medical associations. The Pakistan Medical Association and the Medical Teachers Association have reacted to sealing of a private hospital by the district administration. On Wednesday evening, Assistant Commissioner (city) Syed Ayub Bukhari visited Bash.....view more

Coronavirus claims 10 lives in Punjab districts
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
BAHAWALPUR: The Covid-19 pandemic claimed the lives of a senior consultant and a professor on Thursday. According to doctors, the deceased neurosurgeon had been working for the last 10 years in a Khanpur private hospital where he contracted coronavirus. He was shifted two days ago to the Bahawal Victoria Hospital. His body will be shifted to Khanpur under SOPs for burial. The second casualty was of the chemistry professor, who taught at the Gove.....view more

PMDC may invoke rules to allocate free beds for Covid patients in private hospitals
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
LAHORE: The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has initiated a proposal to invoke special clauses for treatment of Covid-19 patients at the country’s over 110 leading private sector hospitals attached to the recognised
medical and dental colleges. The PMDC has called a meeting on June 16 in Islamabad to discuss one-point agenda - i.e, provision of free beds in teaching hospitals attached with the private sector medical colleges of ......

Eight NAB officials ‘test positive’
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
MULTAN/MUZAFFARGARH: Reports of some officials in the NAB Multan office testing positive for coronavirus are a cause of concern for colleagues and people facing alleged corruption inquiries. An additional director, two deputy directors, three assistant directors and another staffer have contracted virus but the NAB spokesman does not confirm or deny the reports. According to sources in the health department, tests of 80 officers and employees o.....

Buzdar orders separate strategy for Lahore to contain Covid-19
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Thursday chaired a meeting to review different measures for overcoming the spread of coronavirus in the province. The meeting took stock of different matters, including patient case management and an increase in the number of beds in hospitals. The participants expressed their concern over an increase in the number of coronavirus patients in Punjab, especially Lahore, and agreed to devise a separate strategy f.....

1,445 shops sealed, 201 FIRs registered against violators
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
LAHORE: The city district government with the assistance of police has so far sealed 1,445 shops and registered 201 FIRs against the violators of the standard operating procedures (SPOs) issued by the Punjab government to contain the spread of novel coronavirus. This was disclosed by Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Zulfiqar Hameed while informing reporters about the daily progress of police regarding enforcement of the SOPs on Thursday. D.....

Over 2000 cases, 34 deaths reported across Punjab
Source: Muhammad Saleem, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
LAHORE: With surge in Corona positive cases as well as related deaths, health professionals have dispelled the general perception that eventually everybody would fall a victim of the novel coronavirus. “In any case not more than 20-percent people would contract Covid-19 and of those only 5 to 7 per cent would fall seriously ill”, they said. As per the government’s Covid-19 portal, Punjab has recorded over 2,003 fresh c.....

Surge in Covid-19 cases ; Expert group to devise separate model for Lahore
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
LAHORE: Taking notice of increase in the number of coronavirus patients in Punjab, especially in Lahore, the Punjab government has decided to devise a separate strategy for overcoming the pandemic in Lahore City. Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired a meeting at his office here on Thursday, to review different measures for overcoming the spread of coronavirus in the province. The meeting took stock of different matters incl.....
Two persons die of coronavirus
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
Rawalpindi - Two persons including a caretaker of a shrine died of novel coronavirus in the district. Saeen Rashid, the caretaker of Kalyam Sharif shrine, has died of Covid-19 and was buried inside the tomb of his forefathers as per SOPs of Punjab government. Another woman died of coronavirus in Union Council Takhtpari and was laid to rest as per SOPs of government. They revealed the deceased was sister of Malik Akmal, a driver in National Acco..... view more

Sindh

Gadap City COVID-19 hospital upgraded, then downgraded, now virtually closed
At a time when health facilities around the world are being upgraded to deal with the growing number of serious patients of COVID-19, there is a 120-bed secondary-care hospital in Karachi's Gadap City that has been deprived of its newly purchased ventilators and downgraded to an isolation centre, which is now virtually closed in the absence of patients, The News has learnt. "This is probably the only health facility in the world that..... view more

Sindh’s coronavirus death toll rises to 679 as 29 more die
As many as 29 more people, including six women, have lost their lives due to COVID-19 in Sindh during the last 24 hours, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Monday, adding that at least 24 people died at health facilities in Karachi alone. "We have lost 29 more people due to COVID-19 in Sindh during the last 24 hours, including six women. At least 24 patients have lost their lives in Karachi alone since yesterday," he said in ..... view more

UNDP organises digital hackathon in Sindh to find solutions to climate change and COVID-19
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) concluded the Sindh segment of the ‘Master the Disaster” Digital Hackathon for Disaster Risk Reduction’ on Sunday, the second in a series of online hackathons held in partnership with Concepts Unlimited. The first was held in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said a press release issued by the UNDP. The hackathon aimed to generate innovative ideas related to preparedness and response for climat..... view more

Significant drop in air pollution amid lockdown
Source: Tufail Ahmed, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
KARACHI: While the imposition of the coronavirus lockdown has adversely affected almost all aspects of life, there is one silver lining to emerge from the situation: a decrease in environmental pollution because of reduced traffic on the roads and limited factory hours. A recent report released by the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) revealed that the lockdown has led to significant reduction in air and noise pollution in big ci..... view more

Over 7k beds reserved for Covid-19 vacant
Source: Yusuf Abbasi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-09
LAHORE: The Punjab health ministry has allocated 9,037 out of the total 43,097 beds in its 249 hospitals across the province for coronavirus patients, of which about 7,000 are currently vacant. On the instruction of the provincial
government, the ministry has also earmarked 763 ventilators exclusively for Covid-19 patients. Of the over 9,000 beds, about 2,000 are filled and 7,025 are vacant, while 95 ventilators are being used and 668 are ..... view more

29 more coronavirus patients die in Sindh: Murad
Source: Recorder Report, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2020-06-09
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 1,447 new cases of the coronavirus have been detected when 8,513 samples were tested while 29 more patients died, taking the death toll to 679. In a statement issued from the Chief Minister’s House here on Monday, the chief minister said he had ordered the testing capacity enhanced to 8,600 tests a day. “Utilizing 99 percent of our testing capacity, we tested 8,..... view more

More than 700 recover from COVID-19 in Sindh within 24 hours: Wahab
KARACHI: In Sindh, around 750 people have recovered from the coronavirus within the past 24 hours, said Sindh government Spokesman Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday. According to the Sindh government spokesman, 19,800 patients have recovered from the province so far. Wahab said that those isolating themselves and resting are the ones speedily recovering. The official urged the public to make the use of face masks mandatory, appealing people to not leav..... view more

Sindh health dept to set up five hospitals to handle critical Covid-19 situation, says minister
Source: Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
KARACHI: As the Covid-19 situation gets critical in the country with a steep rise in the number of affected patients, the provincial health department announced on Tuesday a series of steps to tackle the emerging challenge. These steps included establishment of five hospitals and high dependency units with 800 beds. “In an effort to provide treatment to Covid-19 patients, the government plans to set up five more hospitals with the help of..... view more

KE consumers complain of excessive billing amid pandemic
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
KARACHI: While a large number of consumers complained of overbilling by K-Electric this month, the power utility denied on Tuesday that excessive bills were being sent to Karachiites. Several consumers calledDawnoffices to complain that the KE had sent them hefty bills for last month. One of the complainants said he was issued a Rs27,000 bill by the KE against Rs7,000 average bill in summers. Another consumer said he got a Rs15,000 bill this m..... view more
17 corona patients die, 1,748 new cases: CM
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
KARACHI: As many as 17 Covid-19 patients died and 1,748 new cases emerged overnight across the province. This was disclosed by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday in his regular press statement on coronavirus situation. He said that 6,995 samples were tested which detected 1,748 new cases during the past 24 hours. “This shows 25 per cent positive result, the highest percentage so far,” he said and added that so far 2..... view more

17 more succumb to COVID-19 in Sindh as 1,748 fresh cases emerge
Seventeen more people, most of them men, have died due to COVID-19 and another 1,748 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease in the province reaching 696. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Tuesday that 6,995 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 1,748 people, or 25 per cent of those who were scree..... view more

Police officer tested negative for Covid-19 twice dies
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
HYDERABAD: Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) medical superintendent on Tuesday set up a three-member inquiry committee to establish the cause of a police officer’s death whose back-to-back tests had stood negative. Inspector Rana Shafiq was admitted to the hospital and kept in its Covid-19 ward. He died on Monday (June 8) after his two back-to-back tests for the virus turned out to be negative. The committee is headed by Prof Iqbal Shah o..... view more

210 ventilators to be available in Karachi by end of July, says health minister
Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho on Tuesday claimed that the health department was establishing and upgrading five hospitals in Karachi to increase the number of beds with ventilators and establish High Dependency Units (HDUs). By the end of July, she said, there would be 210 beds with ventilators available for the COVID-19 patients in Karachi. “We are in the process of upgradation of our existing health facilities and establishing n..... view more

Protest outside LNH’s isolation ward
Source: Monitoring Desk, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
KARACHI: Dozens of people on Tuesday protested outside the Covid-19 isolation ward of the Liaquat National Hospital (LNH) against the hospital management for keeping a coronavirus patient in the ward and not releasing his wife’s body. Maqbool Kakar, a local leader of the Awami National Party (ANP), and his wife were shifted to the hospital after being involved in an accident while travelling from Quetta. Their son died in the accident. An..... view more

Steps taken to reach out to coronavirus-infected cops, their families
A meeting was held at the Special Security Unit (SSU) Headquarters to deliberate on ways to ensure welfare of coronavirus-infected police personnel. Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Maqsood Ahmed Memon, chief the Security and Emergency Services Division Sindh, said that in view of the recently established Police Corona Patients
Pakistan to extend scope of plasma therapy
Source: Tufail Ahmed, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
KARACHI: The federal government on Tuesday decided to extend the scope of passive immunisation plasma therapy to treat the Covid-19 patients in the country. For this purpose, the authorities invited the head of National Institute of Blood Diseases (NIBD) Dr Tahir Shamsi to the federal capital to discuss the results and treatment through passive immunisation. Dr Shamsi met Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Zafar Mi.....

Door-to-door virus testing collapses in Karachi South district
Source: Hafeez Tunio, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
KARACHI: Given the rapidly rising number of Covid-19 cases, the provincial government’s attempt to conduct door-to-door tests for the virus in the Karachi’s South district has almost collapsed as officials are now refusing to entertain new suspected patients, The Express Tribune has learnt. Sources privy to the matter said around 25 health department staff members deputed in the South district to deal with the coronavirus situat.....

Infected cops to be sent on 14-day leave in Sindh
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
KARACHI: A meeting called on Tuesday, on the directives of Karachi AIG Ghulam Nabi Memon, to discuss the prevalence of the coronavirus among police personal, decided that cops infected with the virus would be sent on a leave spanning 14 days. The meeting also agreed that focal persons from the department would work in collaboration with relevant district administrations to ensure that all policemen suspected of having contracted the virus w.....

Assessing Covid’s impact on SMEs
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-10
Pakistan’s quest to understand the impact of Covid-19 on SMEs continues. From what it appears, everyone seems to be grappling with it – hanging on to whatever strands of information, proxy analysis or surveys one can get their hands on. This is what happens when the federal and provincial statistics bodies have been catching rust for decades, and when the academia and research community isn’t adequately funded by the government .....
Traders violating Covid-19 restrictions warned of on-the-spot heavy fines, seizure of assets
Source: Imran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
KARACHI: The provincial administration on Wednesday warned that businesses and markets violating standard operating procedures (SOPs) set to contain the spread of coronavirus would face serious action, including heavy fines and seizure of their assets. The warning came at a meeting chaired by Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah at his office regarding implementation of the SOPs. It was attended by Sindh IGP Mushtaq Ahmed Mahar, additional.....view more

Data, evidence-based steps sought to control coronavirus
Source: Shazia Hasan, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
KARACHI: What lessons should be drawn from this Covid-19 pandemic? What are the specific pain points that define and shape Pakistan’s governance system with respect to data and public health? How can reductive, personality-driven debates be replaced with data and evidence-driven positions? These were the key questions tackled by a panel of speakers with diverse experiences and expertise at the Tabadlab Policy Roundtable in collaboration wi.....view more

Governor provides 1,500 PPE, 2,000 masks to CHK doctors, staffers
Source: APP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
KARACHI: Sindh Governor Imran Ismail has handed over 1,500 complete personal protective equipment (PPE) clothing, 2,000 face masks and hand sanitizer for the medical staffers of the Civil Hospital Karachi. CHK medical superintendent Dr Khadim Qureshi, additional MS Dr Ismail Memon and Dr Rubina Bashir were also present on the occasion, said a statement issued from the Governor House on Wednesday. The governor said that doctors, medical and sani.....view more

HU launches Covid-19 dashboard
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
KARACHI: The Habib University recently launched a dashboard titled ‘Pakistan Covid-19 Resource Centre’ featuring latest Pakistan-specific coronavirus data with analysis of nationwide trends. The dashboard provides province-wise Covid-19 data, general nationwide statistics as well as contact information about the country’s different hospitals and health centres, symptoms of the disease and precaution against the illness. &.....view more

Sindh records highest COVID-19 deaths in a day with 42 more victims
Forty-two more people have died due to COVID-19 — the highest number of deaths yet in a single day — and another 2,487 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease in the province reaching 738. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Wednesday that most of the deaths occurred, as usual, in Karachi. “This is the highes.....view more

42 Covid-19 patients die in 24 hours, says CM
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-11
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that 2,487 new cases of coronavirus emerged when 9,100 samples were tested which constituted 27.3 per cent result, the highest ever, and 42 more patients died lifting the death toll to 738. “This is the highest rate of new cases, and the situation has become alarming and worrying.” In a statement issued from CM House, the chief minister said that again the provincial gove.....view more
Sindh governor hands over 1,500 sets of PPEs to Civil Hospital
Sindh Governor Imran Ismail on Wednesday handed over 1,500 sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and 2,000 face masks and hand sanitizers to the administration of the Civil Hospital Karachi. Medical Superintendent Dr Khadim Qureshi, AMS Dr Imsail Memon and AMS Dr Rubina Bashir were present on the occasion. Sindh Governor said the doctors, paramedics and janitorial staff were the front-line soldiers in the fight against COVID-19. "T.....view more

Farooq Sattar demands relief in federal budget for coronavirus-hit people
Continuing the practice of presenting a shadow federal budget, a trend the Muttahida Qaumi Movement had pioneered in 2012, the party’s disgruntled leader Dr Farooq Sattar said on Wednesday that Pakistan’s economy had already sunk even before the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic. Sattar, who is now heading the MQM-Organisation Restoration Committee, addressed a press conference at the Karachi Press Club to present a shadow budget a.....view more

Violating COVID-19 SOPs in Sindh could result in Rs1 million fine, warns CS
Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah has warned that any commercial establishment or outlet in the province found violating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) announced by the government during the coronavirus emergency could face penalty up to Rs1 million. Chairing a meeting at the Sindh Secretariat on Wednesday, the Sindh chief secretary warned that any shop or market found violating the SOPs would be sealed by the authorities. He .....view more

DIG Memon reviews steps for police welfare amid COVID-19
Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Maqsood Memon of the Security Division Sindh reviewed the welfare and logistics issues of police personnel at a meeting on Wednesday. The spokesman for the Security Division of the Sindh Police said the DIG Ahmed held the Orderly Room meeting at the Special Security Unit’s Headquarters. He met personnel of the Security Division, including the SSU, Madadgar 15, Security-I , Security-II, Foreign Secur.....view more

Zong 4G initiates’ awareness campaign about COVID-19 at Shikarpur
SHIKARPUR: In a recent series of healthcare partnerships to support federal, provincial and local governments battle COVID-19 and create awareness about the pandemic, Pakistan’s leading telecommunication network, Zong 4G has announced a new strategic partnership with government authorities at Shikarpur. As part of the partnership, the leader in innovation and technology, Zong 4G has provided the local government authorities free voice, dat.....view more
Covid-19 patients struggle with stigma
Source: Sameer Mandhro, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-11
KARACHI: It was two days after Siddique returned to his native town, Qazi Ahmed, from Karachi – where his son, 40-year-old Mobeen*, resides – that he received news of the latter showing symptoms for Covid-19. Living in a town 273 kilometres from the metropolis, he could do little to help his son. But while the distance prevented him from taking care of his son, it didn’t prove enough to ward off the stigma attached to......view more

Car sales dive 75% owing to Covid-19
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-11
KARACHI: The Covid-19 pandemic continued to batter the automobile sector in May 2020 as car sales plunged 75% on a year-on-year basis primarily due to the shutdown of businesses under a lockdown imposed to contain the spread of the disease. However, automakers managed to sell a modest quantity of vehicles compared to virtually no sales in April 2020 as businesses were shuttered. According to data released by the Pakistan Automotive Manufac.....view more

Doctors back WHO lockdown advice
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-11
KARACHI: Health experts voiced support for the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) recommendation to enforce a complete lockdown after every 15 days. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday at the Karachi Press Club organised by the Sindh Doctors Ittehad, they maintained that the only way to prevent the spread of coronavirus was to strictly follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and practice social distancing. “Sympto.....view more

Survivors fear stigma more than the disease
Source: Umer Farooq, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-11
As Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa contends with the health emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic, those suffering from the disease have other battles to win — the battle against loneliness and the battle against the social stigma that follows. “Living in isolation is painful. More so when you are attached to your children and can’t live without them,” claimed Dr. Alamgir Shah, who tested positive for the respiratory disease. Shah, .....view more

Corona cases jump to 145 in Kandhkot
Source: PPI, Business Recorder, Islamabad , 2020-06-11
KANDHKOT: A Medical Officer of 18th grade, died of coronavirus disease in Kandhkot on Wednesday as the virus cases toll climbed to 145 in the city since the outbreak of the disease. The Medical Officer, Mohammad Younus Chana, was tested positive for coronavirus some days back and was at home isolation. On Wednesday his health deteriorated resulting in his death. The incident created a mourning atmosphere and panic in the locality of the city.....view more

2,487 new cases, 42 more deaths in Sindh: Murad
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 2,487 new cases of coronavirus emerged when 9,100 samples were tested which constituted 27.3 percent result, the highest so far, and 42 more patients died, lifting the death toll to 738. “This is the highest rate of new cases, and the situation has become alarming and worrying.” In a statement issued from the CM House, the chief minister said that again the prov....view more
38 more perish as Sindh's coronavirus death toll reaches 776, says CM Murad Ali Shah
As many as 38 people, including 16 women, lost their lives due to COVID-19 in the province during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 776, deplored Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday. In his daily brief, he said, at least 30 people, including 13 women, died in Karachi alone. “It was another sad day when we lost 38 more people due to COVID-19 in the province in the last 24 hours. They include 16 women. At least 30 ..... view more

1,712 children under 10 diagnosed so far with covid-19: Murtaza Wahab
Sindh Law and Environment Adviser Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that at present 1,712 children up to the age of 10 have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the province. In a statement issued on Thursday, Barrister Wahab, who also acts as the spokesman for the Sindh government, said some 12,490 women were had also contracted the viral disease. He said the virus spread was at an alarming rate in the province, with its presence among children and ..... view more

Karachi faces shortage of oxygen cylinders as COVID-19 cases rising
After all the COVID-19 treatment wards at most of the health facilities have been occupied by patients, the availability of oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators and pulse oximetry devices, or oxygen saturation meters, have either disappeared from the local market or are being sold or rented out at exorbitant rates, The News has learnt. As patients infected with the novel coronavirus need high-flow oxygen to maintain their blood oxygen, they ar..... view more

Capital markets likely to face challenging time amid COVID-19
KARACHI: Pakistan’s capital markets may face a challenging time if the cases of COVID-19 rise exponentially after witnessing wide fluctuations during the outgoing fiscal year of 2019/20, government’s economic survey document said on Thursday. “The government is gradually easing the lockdown to invigorate the economy. However, much will depend on the epidemiological data,” the survey document said. In FY2020, the capital ..... view more

Covid-19 hits new high in Sindh with 3,038 new cases, 38 deaths overnight, says CM
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the cases of coronavirus hit new highs on Thursday when 3,038 persons tested positive while 38 patients lost lives, increasing the number of deaths to 776. In a statement regularly issued from the CM House, he said that after enhancing the capacity of labs, 10,088 tests were conducted, detecting 3,038 new cases which is 30 per cent of the total. “This is the highest number of test..... view more

Thousands of patients suffer as hospital staff boycott OPDs across Sindh
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
KARACHI: Thousands of patients seeking consultation and medical intervention had to return home in sheer disappointment when they visited many government hospitals in Sindh on Thursday as house officers, doctors, paramedics and other support staff observed a boycott of outpatient department (OPD) duties on a call given by the
recently formed Grand Health Alliance (GHA). The alliance has vowed to continue the boycott till Monday. In Hyderabad, O.....view more

Covid-19 impact assessment and recovery
Source: BR Research, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
It was expected that the Economic Survey 2019-20 would have a special section on Covid-19, the virus that has battered the economy hard. Released yesterday, the survey highlights most of what has already been heard and analyzed in terms of Covid-19's economic impact. As a result of Covid-19, contraction in GDP is set to decline in manufacturing and the services sector, which particularly included the wholesale and trade with these sectors w.....view more
### International News

#### Countries News

**Brazil govt yanks virus death toll as data befuddles experts**  
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-09  
Brazil's government has stopped publishing a running total of coronavirus deaths and infections in an extraordinary move that critics call an attempt to hide the true toll of the disease in Latin America's largest nation. The Saturday move came after months of criticism from experts saying Brazil’s statistics are woefully deficient, and in some cases manipulated, so it may never be possible to gain a real understanding of the dep.....[view more](#)

**World Bank’s latest Global Economic Prospects report; Covid-19 drives broadest collapse since 1870**  
Source: AFP, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-09  
WASHINGTON: The coronavirus pandemic inflicted a “swift and massive shock” that has caused the broadest collapse of the global economy since 1870 despite unprecedented government support, the World Bank said Monday. The world economy is expected to contract by 5.2 percent this year — the worst recession in 80 years — but the sheer number of countries suffering economic losses means the scale of the downturn is worse t.....[view more](#)

**‘Premature easing’ of virus restrictions worries experts**  
Source: AP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10  
SAO PAULO: As many countries gingerly start lifting their lockdown measures, experts worry that a further surge of coronavirus in under-developed regions with shaky health systems could undermine efforts to halt the pandemic, and they say more realistic options are needed. Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India and Pakistan are among countries easing tight restrictions, not only before their outbreaks have peaked but also before any detailed survei.....[view more](#)

**China removes pangolin from traditional medicine list**  
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10  
BEIJING: China has removed pangolin parts from its official list of traditional medicines, state media reported on Tuesday, days after increasing legal protections on the endangered animal. Pangolins were left out of the official Chinese Pharmacopoeia this year, along.....[view more](#)

**New Delhi could soon see half a million virus cases, say officials**  
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10  
NEW DELHI: Delhi authorities warned on Tuesday that they expect cases in the Indian capital to shoot up almost 20 times to more than half a million in the coming weeks. India is easing its national lockdown to ease the devastating economic blow dealt by the virus, but the disease is still raging across the world’s second-most populous nation with around 270,000 reported infections — the fifth-highest caseload in the world. It has re.....[view more](#)

**US protests show closing gaps creates spaces for coronavirus**  
Source: Anwar Iqba, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-10  
WASHINGTON: Almost half of the 50 US states were showing upward trends in coronavirus cases as nationwide anti-racism protests abruptly ended social-distancing, the US media warned on Monday. About 20 of these 22 states had seen decreases in recent days, and eight states were holding steady, showed statistics collected byCNN.
“Reopening states are blindsided by protests,” observed The New York Times, while pointing out that the outra.....view more

Belgian aged 103 walking marathon to raise funds for Covid-19 research
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-10
ROTSELAAR: A 103-year-old Belgian doctor is walking a marathon around his garden in daily stages to raise money for research into the new coronavirus, inspired by a centenarian who became a hero in Britain for clocking up the charity miles with a walking frame. Alfons Leempoels, a retired general practitioner, started his 42.2 km journey in the municipality of Rotselaar, north-east of Brussels, on June 1 and plans to complete it on June 30. Eve.....view more

Europe to accelerate trials of gene-engineered Covid-19 vaccines
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-11
BRUSSELS: European officials aim to speed up trials for coronavirus vaccines containing genetically modified organisms, two EU sources said, in a move that could help shots developed by companies like AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson. The European Commission is expected to put forward the plans as early as next week. They are part of a wider EU strategy aimed at securing enough doses of a possible vaccine for the bloc as it fears lagging be.....view more

Pakistan among six nations with upward virus trends
Source: Anwar Iqbal, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-11
WASHINGTON: America's most reliable source of data on the spread of coronavirus on Wednesday placed Pakistan among those six countries where the disease continues to show an upward trend. Although the US is on a list of countries where coronavirus cases are going down, by Wednesday it had registered a total of 1,982,264 cases. Also, on Wednesday Arizona reactivated hospital emergency plans as almost half of the 50 US states reported spike.....view more

‘Kawasaki disease’ doctor dies at 95
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-11
TOKYO: The Japanese doctor who discovered the mysterious “Kawasaki's disease” — recently in the headlines for some similarities to coronavirus — has died of natural causes aged 95, his research NGO said on Wednesday. Paediatrician Tomisaku Kawasaki first noticed the disease in the 1960s as a junior doctor when he began treating children with fever, red eyes and a rash with no clear cause. He reported 50 cases as an.....view more

Virus to slice at least 6% off world economy
Source: AFP, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-11
PARIS: The global economy will contract at least 6% this year, with an unprecedented loss of income and “extraordinary uncertainty” caused by measures to contain the coronavirus outbreak taking a heavy toll, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said on Wednesday. In the event of a second wave of contagion later in the year, the economic output could even shrink by as much as 7.6%, it warned. In both s.....view more
In poor regions, easing virus lockdowns brings new risks
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-10
As many countries gingerly start lifting their lockdown measures, experts worry that a further surge of the coronavirus in under-developed regions with shaky health systems could undermine efforts to halt the pandemic, and they say more realistic options are needed. Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India and Pakistan are among countries easing tight restrictions, not only before their outbreaks have peaked but also before any detailed surveillance an...... view more

Experts question WHO comment on ‘rare’ asymptomatic COVID-19 spread
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-10
Disease experts on Tuesday questioned a statement by the World Health Organization that transmission of COVID-19 by people with no symptoms is “very rare”, saying this guidance could pose problems for governments as they seek to lift lockdowns. Maria van Kerkhove, an epidemiologist and the WHO’s technical lead on the coronavirus pandemic, said on Monday that many countries undertaking contact tracing had identified asymptomatic c..... view more

Covid-19 survivor in US receives double lung transplant
Source: AP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
SURGEONS in Chicago have given a new set of lungs to a young woman with severe lung damage from the coronavirus. Northwestern Medicine on Thursday announced the procedure, which took place last Friday. Only a few other Covid-19 survivors, in China and Europe, have received lung transplants. The Chicago patient is in her 20s and was on a ventilator and heart-lung machine for almost two months before her operation at Northwestern Memorial Hospita..... view more

Malaysia pulls out of Haj due to pandemic
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia on Thursday pulled out of Haj over coronavirus fears days after neighbouring Indonesia, the world’s biggest Muslim-majority nation, also withdrew. Millions travel from around the world to Saudi Arabia every year to perform the haj, a ritual that every Muslim must do once in their lives if able. The virus pandemic, which has killed more than 400,000 people worldwide, has thrown the end-of-July celebration into doubt..... view more

IMF says debt suspension fast-acting response to coronavirus crisis
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
WASHINGTON: Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva said on Thursday that debt service suspension was a fast-acting measure to help developing economies deal with the Covid-19 crisis. In a post mailed to media outlets, the IMF chief warned that the Covid-19 crisis could lead to a sharp rise in inequality, pushing millions of people into extreme poverty. “The IMF and the World Bank have championed de..... view more

Assad sacks PM as economic crisis grows
Source: Agencies, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Thursday sacked his prime minister of four years, in a move that follows weeks of deepening economic hardship and a rare outbreak of anti-Assad protests in government-held areas. “President Assad issues decree number 143 for year 2020 which relieves the prime minister Imad Muhammad Dib Khamis of his position,” the presidency said in a statement. State media did not give a reason for the s..... view more
### Italy reports 53 coronavirus deaths on Thursday, 379 new cases
**Source:** Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2020-06-12

Deaths from the COVID-19 epidemic in Italy climbed by 53 on Thursday against 71 the day before, the Civil Protection Agency said, but the daily tally of new cases rose to 379 from 202 on Wednesday. The total death toll since the outbreak came to light on Feb. 21 now stands at 34,167, the agency said, the fourth highest in the world after those of the United States, Britain and Brazil. The number of confirmed cases amounts to 236,142, the seventh 

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### Donors News

#### Coronavirus transmission from asymptomatic patients rare: WHO
**Source:** news Desk, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-06-09

The World Health Organization (WHO) has said that transmission of the novel coronavirus from asymptomatic patients is rare. The head of WHO’s emerging diseases and zoonosis unit, Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, said during a press briefing: “From the data we have, it still seems to be rare that an asymptomatic person actually transmits onward to a secondary individual”. She added that governments should focus on tracing and isolatin

#### WHO says Punjab needs to enforce 2-week lockdown to curb COVID-19 spread
**Source:** Web Desk, *The News, International*, 2020-06-09

The World Health Organisation has recommended that the Punjab government enforce a strict two-week lockdown in the province to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus. In a letter to the Punjab government, WHO lauded the provincial government’s efforts in response to the pandemic. “Government intervention on April 12th 2020 detailing social distancing measures including restrictions, closure of schools and businesses, international

#### WHO urges two-week lockdown, more tests
**Source:** Asif Chaudhry, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-10

Lahore: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said Pakistan has been ranked among the top 10 countries in the world reporting the highest number of new cases of Covid-19 and advised the government to enhance daily testing capacity to 50,000 to assess the actual prevalence of coronavirus across the country. While expressing concern over the hasty lifting of restrictions, the WHO in a letter to the four provinces stated Pakistan did not meet any

#### WHO retracts remarks, says asymptomatic transmission of coronavirus is occurring
**Source:** Reuters, *The Express Tribune, Islamabad*, 2020-06-10

World Health Organisation officials are walking back some statements from Monday, now saying that they are “absolutely convinced” that asymptomatic transmission of the novel coronavirus is occurring. Disease experts on Tuesday questioned a statement by the World Health Organisation that transmission of Covid-19 by people with no symptoms is “very rare,” saying this guidance could pose problems for governments as they

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Concerns voiced over WHO's letters to Sindh, Punjab govts over COVID-19 cases' surge
Showing concerns over the letters sent to the Punjab and Sindh governments by the World Health Organisation (WHO) about the rapid increase in coronavirus infections in Pakistan, experts have said the governments have miserably failed to implement the six points the world health body has suggested for containing COVID-19. In a press release issued on Wednesday, the Sindh Social Scientists Forum (SSSF), a social think-tank, appealed to the federal.....view more

Pandemic is growing fast in Africa: WHO
Source: Reuters, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-12
GENEVA: The coronavirus pandemic is accelerating in Africa, spreading to rural areas after international travellers brought it to capital cities, the World Health Organisation said on Thursday. But the WHO said there was no indication that large numbers of severe cases and deaths were being missed, nor has the virus caused significant infections in refugee camps across the continent. Ten countries are driving Africa’s epidemic, accounting.....view more

WHO warns pandemic accelerating in Africa
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-12
The speed the new coronavirus jumped from 100,000 to 200,000 confirmed cases in Africa shows just how quickly the pandemic is accelerating on the continent, the World Health Organization said Thursday. According to an AFP tally, Africa topped the 200,000 mark on Tuesday. “It took 98 days to reach the first 100,000 cases, and only 18 days to move to 200,000 cases,” Doctor Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO’s regional director for Africa, to.....view more
## SDPI Engagements

### Researchers Articles

**We brought Corona complementary with Eid Shopping!**
Source: Hassan Murtaza Syed, *Daily Times*, 2020-06-10
The casualties and financial losses by the deadly coronavirus are increasing day by day but all over the world, most affected countries have almost controlled or reduced the increasing numbers of cases and deaths. The United States is still on top in figures and Brazil is on second in the race. However, the initial toppers like Spain, Italy, France and the United Kingdom have almost reduced the ratio of increasing numbers in terms of deaths and new cases.

**Redistribution of resources, equality and Islamic economic system**
Source: Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, *Daily Times*, 2020-06-10
The dream of equality is as old as the human history. Humans have been deceived in the name of equality time and again. The evolution of civilization could not present an answer. The world kept on experimenting but is nowhere near a solution. In recent years the spread of inequality accelerated and now it is a widespread phenomenon. Technology is feared to further enhance those inequalities. The most concrete example can be quoted from the recent.

**Crises and catastrophes — a real test of leadership**
Source: Brigadier (Retd) Mohammad Yasin, *Daily Times*, 2020-06-11
Pandemics, disasters, crises and catastrophes pose extraordinary challenges for leaders. Facing the grim times is the real test of leadership. If stakes are low then most rulers are willing to take risks, but if the penalties for failure are large then most leaders think many times before taking a decision. Wallach, a US film actor who died in 2014 at the age of 98, says: “There is a particular class of leaders characterized as anxious and .....

### Webinars News

**Covid-19 enhanced e-learning**
Islamabad: Despite posing posed serious challenges for education and health sectors across the world, COVID-19, however, has only accelerated the already inevitable process of e-learning including in Pakistan. This was a consensus reached between educationists and research analysts during an online dialogue “COVID-19 Pandemic and health and education challenges to public and private education system’ organized here by Sustainable De.....

**Educationists Term COVID 19 An Opportunity To Strengthen E-learning**
Source: APP, *UrduPoint*, 2020-06-10
Islamabad: Despite posing posed serious challenges for education and health sectors across the world, COVID-19, however, has only accelerated the already inevitable process of e-learning including in Pakistan. This was a consensus reached between educationists and research analysts during an online dialogue “COVID-19 Pandemic and health and education challenges to public and private education system’ organized here by Sustainable De.....
**AIOU, SDPI call for broader policy dialogue on education in wake of COVID-19**

Source: Web post, AIOU Tutors Islamabad, 2020-06-11

Islamabad: Senior scholarly community and educationists across Pakistan have named Covid-19 as a chance to adjust the whole advanced education in the nation with the future financial real factors. The circumstance came about by the worldwide pandemic along these lines requests an absolute change in perspective and a more extensive scholastic approach discourse is the need of hour to guarantee the quality and future-situated training. They shar.....[view more]

**Covid-19: Special measures imperative to boost SMEs**

Source: Web Desk, Pakistan Observer, 2020-06-12

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Thursday organized online public-private dialogue session to discuss before and the post COVID-19 effects on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country. Speakers were of the view that 'special measures to help and boost SMEs was imperative after-Covid19 scenario. They have suggested to provide a short-term and long term relief to country’s SMEs which may be announced addre.....[view more]

**COVID-19: Special Measures Imperative To Boost SMEs**

Source: APP, UrduPoint, 2020-06-12

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 11th Jun, 2020 ):Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Thursday organized online public-private dialogue session to discuss before and the post COVID-19 effects on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country. Speakers were of the view that 'special measures to help and boost SMEs was imperative after-Covid19 scenario. They have suggested to provide a short-term and long.....[view more]

**Measures to help SMEs imperative: experts**

Source: DNA News, DNA News, 2020-06-11

ISLAMABAD (DNA) – The business regulatory environment for small & medium enterprises (SMEs) needs to be improved through appropriate measures to enable them to cope with the unprecedented challengers posed by Covid19. This agreed notion was shared by the stakeholders during online public-private dialogue ‘Better business regulatory environment for SME sector in Pakistan’ organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute.....[view more]

**Virus may have reversed education gains**

Source: DNA, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-11

ISLAMABAD: The novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic may have pushed the gains made in the education sector of the country, though educationists were optimistic that an unintended, extended break and switch to e-learning may have provided them with an opportunity to improve the sector. This was stated on Wednesday by speakers during an online dialogue on ‘Covid-19 pandemic and health and education challenges to public and private educ.....[view more]
### SDPI Press Release

**Educationists term Covid19 an opportunity to embrace/strengthen e-learning**  
Source: SDPI, SDPI Advocacy, 2020-06-09  
ISLAMABAD: (June 09, 2020) – Covid19 has posed serious challenges for education and health sectors across the world. However, the pandemic has only accelerated the process of e-learning which has already been inevitable. Pakistan, like other countries of the world has to embrace the much needed change. The educationists and research analysts said this during the online dialogue ‘COVID 19 Pandemic and Health and Education Challenges to ... view more

**Stakeholders term special measures to help SMEs imperative in After-Covid19 scenario**  
Source: SDPI, SDPI Advocacy, 2020-06-11  
Islamabad: (Thursday, June 11, 2020): The business regulatory environment for small & medium enterprises (SMEs) needs to be improved through appropriate measures to enable them to cope with the unprecedented challenges posed by Covid19. This agreed notion was shared by the stakeholders during online public-private dialogue ‘Better business regulatory environment for SME sector in Pakistan’ organized by the Sustainable Developmen..... view more

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