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Op-Eds/Articles/Editorials

Blaming the people?
Source: News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
THE number of Covid-19 cases across the country are increasing rapidly, with social media posts and news reports reflecting how quickly hospitals are running out of space and how limited healthcare access is. Hospital staff is becoming overwhelmed as more and more medics fall ill and fatalities increase. Confirmed cases in Pakistan are around 130,000 and daily fatalities of nearly 100 are being reported. These figures are of confirmed cases and o.... view more

More swarms arriving
Source: News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
IN a contracting economy that faces an uncertain future amid the rapid spread of Covid-19 across the country, the agriculture sector has proved to be the only silver lining in the thick black recessionary clouds. The farm sector, which, according to the Economic Survey for 2019-2020, has grown by 2.67pc, compared to 0.85pc the previous financial year, could not stop the overall economy from moving into negative territory for the first time in 68 ..... view more

Lives not worth saving
Source: Zeba Sathar, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
ALARMINGLY, Covid-19 cases have crossed the 125,000 mark, with deaths over a couple of thousands, and R0 (the infection reproduction rate) racing to two. But this only matters to a handful of us in Pakistan. We are leaping towards the 200,000 Covid-19 infection mark predicted by the WHO executive director. Are those in charge numb or apathetic to the looming crisis, which we may not be able to handle and which may drown us altogether? Have we off..... view more

Parliament should step up
Source: Fahd Husain, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
THE Covid-19 situation is at a stage where it could easily spiral out of control. It is high time for the leadership to stop treating it as political football and recognise it for what it really is: a public health emergency. Easier said than done in an environment dripping with toxic polarisation. But there are ways to move beyond this polarisation — or at least curb it temporarily — in order to get a handle on this swiftly deteriora..... view more

Repatriation of Pakistani expats
Source: Arhma Siddiqa, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
It is hard to overstate the role of emigrants in Gulf countries, where millions of labourers, mainly from South Asia, contribute substantially to the development of their host countries, as well as to the families and communities which rely on them — the latter in the form of remittances. Pakistan’s manpower is an extremely valuable asset, especially given that over 60% of its population comprises young people. Inadequate employm..... view more
Social Justice and Covid-19
Source: Dr Ali M Mir, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
The number of Covid-19 cases is rising exponentially in Pakistan. At the same time, dealing with the pandemic is proving to be an immense challenge for the government. Large-scale disruptions due to varying degrees of lockdown, policy vacillations, and an economic downturn are all compounding the misery of the people. We now know that many precious lives will be lost as the pandemic continues to spread. This begs the question whose lives will be..... view more

C for Covid – and corruption
Global evidence suggests that corruption and bribery risks multiply during a crisis. Covid-19 is no exception. It has a powerful accomplice: corruption. There is emerging evidence across the globe that public servants and politicians are engaging in minor, moderate and grand corruption as emergency procurement processes are being put in place (or regular processes put aside) to expedite health response. Only in the month of May, Brazilian Feder..... view more

Hard times
One report after the other on the world economy is indicating that we are heading towards a serious economic crisis. The Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted the production, trade and services sectors globally. Many sectors of the global economy will take years to fully recover. The recovery from this deepest recession will be slow and painful. We need to prepare for hard times ahead. The World Bank in its latest forecast for the worl..... view more

Relief package for health workers
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-13
The government has taken a while to come up with a relief package for health workers, but it is finally looking after the frontline warriors in the war against the coronavirus. It was just wrong that a situation was created where doctors had to take to the streets to protest that they were without the basic protective equipment even as they handled patients with the deadly virus. In one particularly detestable incident inQuetta rightat the beginnin..... view more

Virus — Friend or Foe (Part-I)
Source: Dr Wajahat Bokhari, Daily Times, 2020-06-13
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 a..... view more

National welfare programmes and COVID-19 ‘a rock, a hard place, and a bureaucrat’
Source: Syed Nameer Ahmed, Daily Times, 2020-06-13
A lot of the concerns mentioned in the previous article generally comes down to standards of project management, part of which includes identifying multiple possible means to an end, and equally considering for worst case scenarios. Issues of mismanagement, low adoption of technology, and incidents of corruption were unexpected, as these were all previously handled and well managed by Dr Nishtar in many of the previous projects and roles she part..... view more
COVID-19 policy considerations and implications for Pakistan  
Recently an exponential increase in the spread of Coronavirus in Pakistan after the lockdown has been lifted has been a serious source of concern for many. The WHO has issued a letter suggesting to re-impose a strict, intermittent lockdown targeting localities with high coronavirus spread. The infection rate of Coronavirus positive cases in Pakistan, according to WHO is too high at around 24 percent as of this week. Thus, in the background of...... view more

Coronavirus an interim verdict  
While the pandemic has months to run, enough time has passed since its inception to render an interim judgement on its management in Pakistan and India. Despite giving the governments as much benefit of doubt as I possibly can, I am afraid I have to assign both a failing grade. The governments would no doubt contest this award so let me justify my verdict. As always, the proof of the pudding is in the eating so let us look at the actual situation...... view more

Privacy matters  
Source: News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14  
RECENT analysis of the government’s Covid-19 mobile application by an independent researcher has confirmed local digital rights experts’ concerns regarding Pakistan’s use of technology to monitor and tackle the spread of the virus. Calling it “the worst Covid-19 app [he] analysed,” French cybersecurity analyst Robert Baptiste pointed out significant flaws in the app — which was developed by the National IT Boar..... view more

Prioritising healthcare  
Source: News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14  
THERE are many lessons to be learnt from the pandemic, but perhaps none more urgent than the importance of investing in public health. While few could have predicted the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus, it has, in its wake, exposed the fragility of global healthcare structures and the dominant economic/ideological system. Such issues are rarely about individuals, but one cannot deny that the pandemic has revealed the quality of political le..... view more

Microfinance crisis  
Source: Farah Said | Rebecca Rouse, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14  
PAKISTAN’S microfinance sector faces a looming crisis unlike anything it has experienced before. The Covid-19 pandemic threatens the livelihoods of microenterprises, critical sources of income for poor households in low-income communities. It has also created unprecedented challenges for financial institutions that serve them. Pakistan’s microfinance sector serves 7.3 million low-income households that live close to the poverty line...... view more

When denial is strategy  
First, the concluding thought: when will Pakistan catch up with reality and what will it be like after that? Under the darkling sky of Covid-19, this is budget time. We have to wade through numbers that are beyond most people’s understanding. And this incomprehension extends to other spheres of our lives. What is easy to see is that we are lost and our rulers are unable to strike a clear path out of this wilderness. Take this coronavirus ..... view more
The critical ingredient that remains missing from Pakistan’s Covid response strategy
Source: Faheem Younus, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
We drive cars but don’t venture to fly a plane. Why? Because we are not trained pilots. That’s how it is. Managing our personal Covid realities is like driving a car; carrying a nation through a mercurial pandemic requires trained pilots. But when non-professionals try to fly planes, nations end up with confusion and chaos. That’s what may have happened with Covid-19 in Pakistan where June 5, 2020 marked the 100th day of the o.....view more

GOING ONLINE: LESSONS FROM THE CLASSROOM
Source: Komal Waqar, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
As Covid-19 started spreading across Pakistan university campuses were the first to close. What followed was a hasty transition to online, which was anything but smooth. Are online classes failing our students, many of whom do not even have access to stable internet connections? And how can higher education institutes better prepare for the forthcoming semester? Illustrations by Leea Contractor In a pre-Covid-19 world students ap.....view more

Sudden danger
A few months ago, late into 2019, no one would have imagined we may be standing today at an economic spot which according to the World Bank is looking bleaker than the Great Depression collapse which lasted from 1929 to 1933 and played a part in plummeting the world into war. The World Bank has said that the Covid-19 pandemic has created a 'swift and massive shock', causing the broadest collapse of the global economy since 1870. The B.....view more

And, how about our educational pandemic
Source: Prof Dr Kanwal Ameen, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
The COVID19 has severely exposed the significance given to the two vital public sectors in decades by our governments: Health and Education. The criminal negligence is taking its toll as billions are now being spent to upgrade the health sector, mostly related to managing COVID19 while other diseases are ignored. The government seems to have no option but to make huge cuts in funds for all sectors to deal with this health pandemic. This is leadin.....view more

Blood donation process at SKMCH&RC is safe
Source: Dr Asad Hayat, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
On the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, Dr. Asad Hayat Ahmad, Consultant pathologist at Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) told that in our country there are many common excuses for not giving blood, and also many misconceptions about eligibility requirements and side effects of blood
donation. All healthy men and women between 18 and 65 years of age can donate blood. Every adult human body contains 10 to.....view more

More talk about the lockdown
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
It doesn’t say much about the Punjab government’s sense of sovereignty that it had to seek the centre’s permission even though it was in favour of another lockdown to control the fast rising number of new coronavirus cases, at least in Lahore. It would not have felt the need to make such a recommendation if it didn’t really believe things were getting too hot to handle. And once again, in trademark fashion, the prime minis.....view more

COVID policy considerations and implications for Pakistan
Source: Umaima Imran, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
Recently, an exponential increase in the spread of coronavirus in Pakistan, after the lockdown was lifted, has been a serious source of concern for many. The WHO has issued a letter suggesting to re-impose a strict, intermittent lockdown; targeting localities with high coronavirus spread. The infection rate of coronavirus positive cases in Pakistan, according to the WHO, is too high at around 24 per cent as of this week. Thus, in the b.....view more

Eroding public trust
Source: Maheen Dhanani, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
The public is a blind victim towards the pervasiveness of poor-evidenced health information which contributes to evitable unfavourable circumstances, wasted public health infrastructure and resources and overlooked opportunities. Rapid evolution of the technological age has transformed communication with easily available platforms to share and request information. Google has slowly been integrating into our lives for the past 22 years and th.....view more

Package for medics
Source: Editorial, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
The frontline soldiers battling the coronavirus pandemic have had a torrid phase in their professional life. Putting their own lives in peril, the medics have been tending to Covid-19 patients with selflessness and comely patience. This job, of necessity, entails close contact with the patients down with the deadly virus. The result is that hundreds of doctors in the country have been infected with the lethal virus and dozens of healthcare worker.....view more

‘Swift and massive shock’
Source: Editorial, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
The coronavirus pandemic has indeed delivered a “swift and massive shock” to the global economy, as World Bank Group Vice President Ceyla Pazarbasioglu so rightly put it, and already caused the widest collapse since at least the recession of 1870. Till very recently, the present downturn was dubbed the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s, by all sorts of IFIs (International Financial Institutions) including the World Bank, w.....view more

Local Testing Kits
Source: Editorial, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
It took a little longer than expected but they are finally here. COVID-19 diagnostic testing kits locally developed by scientists at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) have been approved by the Drug Regulatory
Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). This is a significant step in our fight against the virus. Pakistan’s efforts towards combating the virus were previously quite costly, with the government allocating Rs70 billi.....view more

**Economy of Pakistan and the coronavirus**
Around the globe, countries are trying to manoeuvre through the coronavirus; monetary and fiscal policies are extensively being used to ensure the economic impact of the pandemic can be adequately dealt with. Pakistan is no different. The Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-2020 has revealed that for the first time in over 63 years, Pakistan's economy registered a record contraction of 0.4% during the past six months. The story only gets grimmer.....view more

**Package for healthcare workers**
Source: News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
THOUSANDS of healthcare workers in Pakistan are putting their lives on the line every day in the fight against the coronavirus. By end May, at least 1,900 had been infected. According to latest figures by the Pakistan Medical Association, 37 doctors and three paramedics have succumbed to the disease. In an acknowledgement of the dire risks they incur every day, the government on Friday announced a comprehensive support package for these medical p.....view more

**Combating COVID-19 by modifying individual and societal practices**
Coronavirus surely has dug its roots deep all around the globe, causing immense loss of lives and economy. It has been observed that majority of the governments have fallen short of their budgets in their attempts to produce corona funding. That aside, the general public across the globe has faced difficulties in trying to understand the nature of this disease. All of this created a mass hysteria in regards to this virus and budget fails in under.....view more

**Haj decision**
Source: News Desk, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
WITH the Islamic month of Shawwal drawing to a close, a key decision confronts the Muslim world: how to proceed with Haj, which is due to start at the end of July. While the Saudi government has not taken a decision yet on whether or not the pilgrimage will go ahead, some Muslim states have announced that they will not be sending hajis this year due to the coronavirus threat. Among these are Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. Of course, the challeng.....view more

**Sino-US ties at a crossroads**
Source: Maleeha Lodhi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
THE confrontation instigated by the United States with China continues to intensify. The pandemic has escalated tensions between them that were already at a record high before the Covid outbreak. This fraught situation has variously been described as a new Cold War, end of the post-1979 era, a geopolitical turning point and less seriously, a ‘scold war’. What does this mean for the world’s most consequential relationship? Is th.....view more
**Inequality and the pandemic**
Source: Umair Javed, [Dawn, Islamabad], 2020-06-15

In a piece published on Dawn.com last week, distinguished academics Tahir Andrabi, Jishnu Das, and Benjamin Daniels revealed the long-term health and educational impact on children who lived through the October 2005 earthquake in the north of the country. The results make for grim reading. As they report, "children close to the fault line who were in utero at the time of the earthquake are three centimetres shorter than those who lived far...[view more]

**Testing kit breakthrough**
Source: Editorial, [The Express Tribune, Islamabad], 2020-06-15

Congratulations are in order as the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved the first indigenously made testing kit, developed by local scientists in collaboration with international health organisations, for detecting the Covid-19 virus. The news is a glimmer of hope for authorities, health officials and citizens who have been under the pressure of an ailing economy and a crumbling health-care system. Through traditional a...[view more]

**Education in the time of coronavirus**
Source: Editorial, [Business Recorder, Islamabad], 2020-06-15

It is already abundantly clear that Covid-19 is going to change many things about the way we live, at least till a vaccine is developed, and a lot of our work, learning and enjoyment will be done in the online space. Businesses are already transforming because of the work-from-home necessity, the world of sports is getting used to holding events with very few or no spectators, and events like concerts and large election rallies will have to find...[view more]

**Changes to the world around us**
Source: Ali Haider Gilani, [The Nation, Islamabad], 2020-06-15

Six months ago, our world was unrecognisable from what it is today. Many people were convinced of the triumph of the capitalist world order, where the state was expected to do nothing more than provide an enabling environment for a free market, it was argued that healthcare be privatised and people only get what they can pay for. Skyscrapers reaching into the clouds were being built and wars were being planned. Today, everyone from the blue-colla...[view more]

**Our COVID-19 response strategy**
Source: Mohsin Raza Malik, [The Nation, Islamabad], 2020-06-15

While the number of COVID-19 cases in Pakistan has increased exponentially, the government is being severely criticised by the opposition parties for its failure to contain the spread of the virus in the country. As of June 14, there are as many as 132,405 confirmed coronavirus cases, and the death toll has risen to 2,551 in Pakistan. Thus, Pakistan has just become the fifteenth worst-hit country by coronavirus in the world. It is really alarming...[view more]

**The Looming Crisis In Balochistan**
Source: Editorial, [The Nation, Islamabad], 2020-06-15

According to one of Balochistan’s top health officials, the tally of corona patients may cross 100,000 within the next few months. At present, the number of recorded patients is 8000 plus, compared to the reported 8000 beds in hospitals and dispensaries of Balochistan. If the government does not take the concerns shown by the officials seriously, the situation could turn into a human tragedy. Despite the efforts of the provincial authority...[view more]
**Averting Shortage Of Medicines**
The government has finally taken notice of the shortage of medicines in the country, as desperate people raise hue and cry to save their loved ones. The shortage particularly concerns Tocilizumab (Actemra) and Remdesivir injections, which are used for management of COVID-19 patients showing particular symptoms. While previously authorised distributors claimed unavailability, the injections were in fact being sold on the black market for exorbitant.....[view more](#)

**National Welfare Programmes and COVID-19: On the racetrack wearing blinders**
The usage of physical cash centres for the government’s Ehsaas disbursements has been flagged by observers as an example of failure to properly make use of information and physical resources. What was needed was a clear elucidation of the usage of digital payment channels from the State Bank due to the close linkage of poverty alleviation with financial inclusion. With this in place, Dr Nishtar could have been better placed to make decision.....[view more](#)

**Covid-19: ‘The new normals’, some being very distressing**
ISLAMABAD: The COVID-19 has spawned more than a few “new normals”, which were unknown prior to the pandemic struck Pakistan as well as the world with vengeance. Some of the new normals are really excruciating for all and sundry. But there is no escaping from the fresh harsh realities amid growing uncertainty. A most disconcerting new normal is the non-participation of even close relatives in the funeral rites of their loved ones. Bef.....[view more](#)
# National News

## AJK

### 30 more test positive for coronavirus in AJK
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
MUZAFFARABAD - Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has reported 30 new coronavirus cases, taking the tally of infected persons to 604. Out of these, 342 active cases are under treatment at hospitals while one more died with the virus on Saturday, taking the death toll to 12. A report released here by the health department said that of 10,578 people who had been tested for COVID-19 so far in the region, the results of 10,534 were received; 604 were.... [view more](#)

### 43 new COVID-19 positive cases hospitalized in AJK
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
MIRPUR - In Azad Jammu Kashmir, 43 new positive cases of coronavirus emerged in various parts of the State, during last 24 hours in raising the total number of the positive cases to 647 on Sunday, it was officially said. The official statement released to the media here Sunday evening on the updated situation of pandemic in AJK by the State Health Services authorities confirmed the registration of 43 new cases in AJK – which include 30..... [view more](#)

## Balochistan

### Telemedicine project launched in Balochistan
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
QUETTA: Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani has said that the provincial government has launched a telemedicine initiative in Balochistan and undertaken the pilot project to ensure provision of quality healthcare facilities to people. “The telemedicine project has been launched in all Basic Health Units across Balochistan while in the coming budget many areas will be connected and covered through the Health Department's Pilot Project..... [view more](#)

### Balochistan reports 162 more corona cases, as tally reaches 8028
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
QUETTA - About 162 new coronavirus patients were tested positive in Balochistan, while the number of total confirmed patients surged to 8028 in the province on Saturday. According to media coordinator provincial Health Directorate Coronavirus Cell Balochistan Dr. Muhammad Wasim Baig, at least 83344 people were screened for the virus till June 13, out of which 162 more were reported positive. As many as 2795 affected patients have ..... [view more](#)

### Khuzdar gets PCR testing facility
Source: Abdul Wahid Shahwani, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
KHZUDAR: A PCR (polymerase chain reaction) machine has been installed at the laboratory of Khuzdar Teaching Hospital to provide Covid-19 testing facility to the people of Khuzdar and neighbouring districts, it was announced on Sunday. The PCR machine, which has been provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO), is a valuable addition to the Balochistan’s testing capacity that was earlier limited to the provincial capital and its suburbs..... [view more](#)
Propaganda against medical community condemned
Source: saleem shahid, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-15
QUETTA: The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), Balochistan chapter, has said that some groups, including political parties, are projecting false propaganda against the healthcare community. A spokesman for the PMA Balochistan said on Sunday that since the outbreak of coronavirus in Pakistan the doctors and paramedical staff were working on the front line against the pandemic, but some political parties had been making a baseless claim that memb.....view more

Support package for health workers announced
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
ISLAMABAD: With the number of coronavirus cases and deaths increasing day by day across the country, the government on Friday announced a comprehensive support package for frontline healthcare workers (HCWs). The country reported 5,689 Covid-19 cases and 86 deaths during the past 24 hours, taking the national tally of cases to 129,182 and fatalities to 2,495. A record number of 28,344 Covid-19 tests were conducted across the country in a single .....view more

Capital admin warns of action over false information about Covid-19
Source: Munawer Azeem | Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The capital administration on Friday issued warning to those involved in spreading false information about Covid-19. Addressing a press briefing, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Hamza Shafqaat said cases would be registered against those involved in such a practice. Action will be taken against those spreading disinformation about the coronavirus cases in any area or among the residents, home remedies and self-medication will.....view more

Drap approves locally-developed Covid-19 testing kits
Source: Jamal Shahid, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
ISLAMABAD: In a major breakthrough on Friday, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) approved indigenous diagnostic kits for the detection of Covid-19 that have been developed by scientists at the National University of Science and Technology (Nust). Drap approved the N-CovKit after scientists at Nust successfully completed its lab trial. In his tweet on June 12, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Chaudhry Fawad Hussain also .....view more

Pims runs out of space for Covid-19 patients
Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
ISLAMABAD: More isolation wards are required at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) as it is currently crowded with positive Covid-19 patients. Pims Joint Executive Director (JED) Dr Minhajus Siraj told Dawn that the hospital had reached its full capacity to deal with the Covid-19 cases. There are 75 beds reserved for the coronavirus patients at the three isolation wards, one at the Medical 2 and two at the private ward, he added......view more
PSDP cut as Covid-19 eats up resources
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
ISHAMABAD: With the deteriorating economic situation in the country in the backdrop of Covid-19 pandemic, the government has proposed its development programme at Rs650 billion, down 7.27% from the budget estimate of Rs701 billion for FY20. One major reason for the reduction is the Federal Board of Revenue’s (FBR) failure to meet the tax collection target. The allocation for development work by the federal government also raises ques... view more

LIVE: Pakistan conducts highest number of COVID-19 tests over 24-hour period as tally reaches 132,405
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
ISHAMABAD/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

NUST’s diagnostic kits for COVID-19 get nod from DRAP
ISHAMABAD : In a major breakthrough vis-à-vis indigenous development of diagnostic kits for the detection of COVID-19, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) has received approval from the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) over the successful lab trials of N-CovKit, a Coronavirus Testing Kit developed by NUST for the diagnosis of COVID-19. In his tweet on June 12, 2020, Federal Minister for Science and Technology... view more

3,858 health contracted coronavirus, 36 lost their lives: NEOC
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
ISHAMABAD: Approximately 3,858 health workers have contracted the coronavirus across the country of which 36 have lost their lives since it first broke out in Pakistan. According to the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), among the affected were 2,327 doctors, 476 nurses and 1,055 other medical staff. About 3,110 were on duty elsewhere whereas 748 of them were working in intensive care centres. According to the official data, 1,456 health... view more

Covid-19 pandemic; Comprehensive package for frontline health workers unveiled
Source: ALI HUSSAIN, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
ISHAMABAD: The federal government on Friday unveiled a comprehensive special package for the frontline health workers dealing with coronavirus patients, offering financial incentives, security, training and national recognition of their services, while fighting Covid-19 pandemic. Speaking at a news conference, Prime Minister’s Special Assistant on Health Services Dr Zafar Mirza said that the federal and provincial governments would be... view more

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 surge to 132,405 in Pakistan
Pakistan on Saturday has confirmed 88 deaths by novel coronavirus in one day as the number of positive cases has surged to 132,405. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 2,551. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), record 6,472 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic followed by Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Ba... view more
Relief Package For Doctors
After months of delay, the government has finally announced a relief package for doctors and other healthcare staff. With all medical professionals – from doctors and nurses to hospital administration and cleaning staff – putting their lives on the line on a daily basis to fight a virus that is only growing due to our general indifference, a relief package was sorely needed. With infections now increasing by over 5000 daily, heal..... view more

Former PM Yousuf Raza Gilani tests positive for coronavirus
Former prime minister and senior PPP leader Yousuf Raza Gilani tested positive for the coronavirus on Saturday, according to his son Kasim Gilani. In a tweet on Saturday, Kasim Gilani alleged that the Imran Khan-led government and National Accountability Bureau endangered the life of his father by summoning him in corruption reference. The NAB is investigation Gilani in the Toshakhana reference. It has filed a petition in an accountability ..... view more

PM Khan, CM Punjab discuss COVID-19 situation
Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister of Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar discussed coronavirus and locust situation in the province. According to details, Prime Minister Imran is in Lahore on a two-day-long visit. The prime minister is scheduled to chair an important meeting of corona cabinet committee in the Punjab province. The meeting will deliberate over increasing number of coronavirus cases. Prime Minister Imran Khan will also chair..... view more

Rs70b for COVID-19, other calamities
Source: Rahul Basharat, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
Islamabad - The government, on Friday, made the proposed allocation of Rs70 billion for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and other natural calamities program, however increased around only one billion rupees specifically for the development of the health sector at federal level. According to the proposed Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2020-21, the COVID-19 has been placed in the national development outlay separately from the health..... view more

Strict lockdown on hot spots: PM Imran Khan
LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Saturday said the lockdown would be further softened but the hot spots to face strict lockdown as the health protocols would be strictly enforced, as people’s indifference to the pandemic was jeopardising the lives of old and chronically ill people. In his televised address to the nation after chairing a meeting here to review the coronavirus situation in the Punjab province, the prime minister l..... view more

Govt takes notice of shortage of life-saving drugs
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
ISLAMABAD: As life-saving drugs black market is thriving with hundreds of novel coronavirus patients on ventilators and thousands of others facing breathing difficulties, the federal government on Saturday took notice of the unavailability and overpricing of the medicines being prescribed to Covid-19 patients. Special Assistant to the Prime
Minister on Health Dr Zafar Mirza announced that Tocilizumab [Actemra] and Remdesivir injections used for ......

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2.229m people to die in Pakistan if lockdown not imposed?
ISLAMABAD: The Imperial College London's algorithm creates the picture that Pakistan will reach the peak on August 10, 2020 on which day around 80,000 deaths will occur. The research is sponsored by the UK government which shows the projected deaths from coronavirus in case of lockdown or otherwise in different countries, except the US and the UK. The website says about Pakistan that if it imposes 32 percent lockdown from February 27 to July ......

Sector G-9 becomes epicentre of coronavirus
Islamabad : Sector G-9 and subsequent commercial hub of the congested sector 'Karachi Company' has become the epicentre of coronavirus pandemic after rising suspects of COVID-19 in the area. "The coronavirus is drawing out from G-9 as well as the commercial area, Karachi Company, and stretching in the entire city of Islamabad and affecting hundreds of people daily," the PIMS virus experts warned. The official data of ..... view more

NAP sought to address blood shortages during pandemic
Islamabad : The coronavirus pandemic has posed serious challenges to Pakistan’s nascent reformed blood transfusion system, said expert Prof Hasan Abbas Zaheer. "In view of the current COVID-19-induced health crisis, the government should immediately take stock of the blood security situation in the country and entrust the responsibility of ensuring adequate blood supplies to its Safe Blood Transfusion Programme (SBTP). And the SBTP sh..... view more

Social distancing in govt offices from tomorrow
Islamabad : The federal government has approved social distancing for employees of public sector organisations for a fortnight beginning tomorrow (Monday). The step is meant to stem the spread of novel coronavirus. A memorandum to this effect was issued by the interior ministry. According to it, the secretary and additional secretary (in charge) of all ministries and divisions and the heads of attached departments and organisations will come up ......

Tracing of confirmed patients’ contacts begins in Islamabad's G-9
Source: Munawer Azeem, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
ISLAMABAD: Healthcare staff on Saturday began tracing the contacts of previously reported patients living in G-9. Two sub-sectors of G-9, G-9/2 and G-9/3, and the sector’s markaz known as Karachi Company were sealed at midnight on Saturday because of the spread of the coronavirus among local residents. Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Hamza Shafqaat said a team of healthcare and capital administration officials have begun tracing the contacts.....view more

Govt urged to promote students to next semester on basis of GPA
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
ISLAMABAD: Students from different colleges and universities on Saturday demanded promotion to next semesters and grades on the basis of Grade Point Average (GPA) and urged the government to stop educational institutions from demanding fees for the next semester. Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, they said since educational institutions had been closed, demanding library, hostel, transport fees and other similar charges w.....view more

Blood Donor Day assumes significance amid pandemic
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
ISLAMABAD: The World Blood Donor Day is going to be observed today (Sunday) to raise awareness about significance of blood donations and to thank the blood donors for their gift of life. The day is celebrated globally every year on June 14. The day is also a reminder to the governments across the world that blood transfusion is the single most important life-saving intervention carried out every day in healthcare settings all over the world. It.....view more

Capital sees another spike in Covid-19 cases
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: With 463 patients diagnosed on Saturday, the capital has now had 7,163 cases of Covid-19 with 1,164 recoveries and 75 deaths. Capital administration officials said there were also three more deaths. The deceased were residents of G-7, G-6 and Rawat. Of the new cases, 37 were reported from Chak Shahzad, 29 from I-10, 25 from G-9, 23 from G-10, 22 from I-8, 20 each from G-8 and Alipur, 17 from G-6, 15 each from G-7, G-11, Bh.....view more

LIVE: Sindh reports over 2,000 cases as COVID-19 tally reaches 141,517
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
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

1,300 coronavirus hotspots sealed across country
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
he National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) was told on Saturday that smart lockdown had been enforced in 1,292 localities across the country during last 24 hours to prevent the further spread of Covid-19 pandemic. The NCOC was also apprise that a total of 308,600 people were affected due to imposition of smart lockdown in different
areas. In the federal capital, the smart lockdown was imposed in sectors G-9/2 and G-9/3 along with Karachi Co.....view more

Budget 2020-21 lacks any plan for industry promotion, jobs creation: PIAF
Source: INP, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF), raising its serious concerns over the federal budget 2020-21, termed it a conventional budget, as the government has not announced any initiative to promote business activities to retain jobs in the industry amidst worldwide corona pandemic. PIAF Chairman Mian Nauman Kabir, in a joint statement with Senior Vice Chairman Nasir Hameed and Vice Chairman Javed Siddiqi on Saturday expressing di.....view more

Mirza warns against overpricing of Covid drugs
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Health Dr Zafar Mirza took stern notice of the shortage and hike in the price of injections used by coronavirus patients, directing the authorities concerned to take strict action against the profiteers. Chairing a meeting on the issue on Saturday, Mirza warned of legal action against those who sold drugs at exorbitant prices, as the “government is making sure that Tocilizumab (Actemra) and Remedesivir i.....view more

Over 300,000 put under 1,291 smart lockdowns
Source: Razya Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was informed on Saturday that smart lockdowns had been enforced in 1,292 localities across the country during the last 24 hours to prevent the further spread of Covid-19. The forum, which serves as the nerve centre of the country’s unified efforts to contain the spread of novel coronavirus, heard that a total of 308,600 people now remain under the restrictions in various part.....view more

Rs 70bn in PSDP to combat Covid-19 impact
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-13
The government has allocated Rs 70 billion for a “special programme to mitigate Covid-19 impact” in the Public Sector Development Programme of FY2020-21. The programme will focus on education, sewerage, solid waste management, provision of clean drinking water and development of health facilities. a document detailing PSDP expenditures said. The programme will be executed in collaboration with the governments of provinces and federal .....view more

Nationwide coronavirus tally nears 130,000; 2,500 lives lost
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-13
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 129,222 on Friday, with 47,382 cases reported in Punjab, 49,256 in Sindh, 16,415 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 7,866 in Balochistan, 1,030 in Gilgit Baltistan, 6,699 in Islamabad and 574 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir so far. The virus has claimed at least 2,496 lives while around 40,247 coronavirus patients have recovered.Former National Assembly speaker and PML-N leader Ayaz Sadiq on Friday tested positiv.....view more
Budget 2020-21 to help fight pandemic, provide relief
ISLAMABAD - Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, on Saturday, hinted at bringing mini-budget in the months to come by saying that amendments could be made in certain areas if needed. He said that the government could make amendments, as we should open minded. The government would monitor the budget throughout the next fiscal year and there would be a policy response when needed. Addressing a post budget press.... view more

Corona-hit students seek relief in semester fee deposit
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
ISLAMABAD - Dozens of students from higher educational institutions on Saturday demanded concession in submitting the semester fee during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic situation. This was demanded by President United Students Front and President Anjuman Tulba Islam Moazzam Sahi, Central Secretary General ATI Muhammad Ikram Rizvi, Central joint Secretary Rashid Mughal and others during a press conference held at the National Press..... view more

Just in a month: Pakistan faced 242pc surge in deaths
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Sunday said in a tweet that total cumulative deaths due to COVID-19 on May 14 were 770 in Pakistan and 2,649 in India while deaths on June 14 are 2,632 in Pakistan and 9,485 in India so, increase in deaths last month are 242 percent in Pakistan and 258 percent in India. "There is much we are still learning about COVID spread and mortality," he said. The ..... view more

PIMS to be disinfected twice a day
Islamabad : The Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan (AKFP) has decided to carry out disinfection through spray of premises of Pakistan Institute of the Medical Sciences (PIMS) twice on daily basis. Talking to management of PIMS, the AKFP Islamabad President, Hamid Athar Malik said doctors and paramedical staff were front line soldiers in fight against COVID-19. Therefore, he said it was also necessary that hospital staff also remained safe from any i..... view more

‘Panahgahs' get 1,000 face masks
Islamabad: Prime Minister's Focal Person on 'Panahgahs' Naseem ur Rehman Sunday said the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) had provided 1,000 face masks to six shelter homes of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to help its dwellers in the fight against COVID-19. With the number of returning daily wage earners are increasing gradually, our prime focus is to ensure regular medical supplies for twin citie..... view more

Virus cases may cross million mark by July 31: Asad
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
ISLAMABAD:Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has said the tally of novel coronavirus cases across the country may double within next two weeks and can reach 1.2 million cases by the end of July. During the past 24 hours, the country reported 6,365 Covid-19 cases and 67 deaths, taking the national tally
of cases to 142,229 and fatalities to 2,663. The minister said by mid-June, the number of cases had reached ar..... view more

Covid-19: where does testing help?
Source: Fawzia Rasheed | El-Nasir Lalani | Gijs Walraven, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-15
CALLS for ‘testing’ are understandable. Many want to know their status and realise that ‘testing’ cannot only slow transmission but also help regain some normality if used to guide ‘reopening’. And yet, there is widespread confusion around what tests are available and their benefits. Just because one can get a test, it does not mean one should invariably go for it. This is an attempt to answer questions we ar..... view more

Relaxing lockdown, SOPs' violation led to increase in Covid-19 cases: Punjab health official
Source: Ikram Junaidi, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-15
ISLAMABAD: Violations of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the novel coronavirus before and during Eid holidays have changed the trend of cases in the federal capital. Due to the increasing cases, the total number of patients in the capital has surpassed the figure of 8,000 and two sub-sectors of G-9 have been sealed. Moreover, some more areas may be locked down in coming days as they also meet the requirements of declaring them hotspots.....view more

Increasing role of technology during pandemic stressed
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-15
ISLAMABAD: Participants of a training for healthcare personnel on Sunday emphasised increasing role of technology during the Covid-19 crisis and regarded telemedicine as the new normal for now and future. The training was organised by the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (Comsats), which joined hands with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and.....view more

LIVE: Pakistan to start commercial manufacturing of COVID-19 diagnostic kits as national tally hits 144,478
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-15
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

Covid-19 cases may hit 1.2m by July-end, warns Umar
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad , 2020-06-15
Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar on Sunday warned that the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the country could double by the end of the current month and were likely to hit a staggering figure of up to 1.2 million by the end of July if citizens continued to flout the standard operating procedures and guidelines to stem the spread of the disease. “We are halfway through June and the cases have reached around 150,000. S..... view more
Covid-19 cases may surge to 1.2 million next month
Source: Staff Report, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Sunday expressed fear that the coronavirus cases can surge to 1.2 million by the end of July if strict action was not taken against the violators of standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the government to prevent the spread of Covid-19. "By the middle of June, we have around 150,000 cases and if such situation prevails and no change is made then according to the.....

Four more MPAs test positive as nationwide tally soars to 142,000
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
The nationwide tally of Covid-19 patients jumped to 141,517 on Sunday, with 52,601 cases reported in Punjab, 53,805 in Sindh, 17,450 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 8,028 in Balochistan, 1,095 in Gilgit Baltistan, 7,934 in Islamabad and 604 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The virus has claimed at least 2,632 lives while around 51,735 coronavirus patients have recovered.indh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah reported 2,287 new cases, taking the provincial tally to 53,.....

Combating coronavirus: Twin cities’ ‘Panahgahs’ get face masks
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
Prime Minister’s Focal Person on ‘Panahgahs’ Naseem ur Rehman Sunday said the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) had provided 1,000 face masks to six shelter homes of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to help its dwellers in the fight against COVID-19. 'With the number of returning daily wage earners are increasing gradually, our prime focus is to ensure regular medical supplies for twin cities’.....

Coronavirus peak period can be curtailed through collective resolve: Fawad
Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
Federal Minister for Science and Technology Chaudhry Fawad Hussain has said that the COVID-19 pandemic is spreading at an exponential rate and its peak period can be curtailed through a collective resolve for following the standard operating procedures (SOPs). He said the enforcement of SOPs was a failed strategy in a heavy populated country like Pakistan where most of the people were poor and daily wagers. However, through collective resolve the p.....

Nationwide tally of confirmed COVID-19 cases surge to 144,478
Pakistan on Monday has confirmed 97 deaths by novel coronavirus in one day as the number of positive cases has surged to 144,478. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 2,729. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 5,248 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic followed by Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.....

Pakistan starts manufacturing COVID-19 kits: Fawad Chaudhry
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has developed indigenous COVID-19 diagnostic kits that have been approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) for commercial use and is likely to bring down the cost of coronavirus tests in the country, said Fawad Chaudhry, Federal Minister for Science and Technology. "We were mostly importing
COVID-19 test kits from China. Now our scientists have developed our own Polymerase Chain Reaction equipment.....view more

COVID-19 to hit global economies badly
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-06-15
ISLAMABAD - The deadly COVID-19 continues its catastrophic journey by hitting the global economies hard bringing about serious financial downturn and negatively impacting the projected gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of all the sound economies, including those of the developing countries like Pakistan. With continuous rise in the health and human toll, the economic damage to different sectors across the globe has come as a major sho.....view more

‘Virus spreading at exponential rate’
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad , 2020-06-15
ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Science and Technology Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Sunday said that the COVID-19 pandemic is spreading at an exponential rate and its peak period can be curtailed through a collective resolve for following the standard operating procedures (SOPs). He said the enforcement of SOPs was a failed strategy in a heavy populated country like Pakistan where most of the people were poor and daily wagers. However, through.....view more

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

USAID training on coronavirus prevention begins
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
PESHAWAR: US Consul General Sebron Toney inaugurated the first of a series of training sessions for doctors, nurses, paramedics, and support staff of the Lady Reading Hospital on ‘Infection Prevention and Control for Covid-19.’ The training is supported by the US government through the USAID-funded Integrated Health Services Strengthening and Service Delivery Activity. A statement issued here said that the number of KP healthcare wo.....view more

Bajaur bank closed as all staffers test positive for virus
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
KHAR: A National Bank branch in Inayat Kallay Bazaar here was closed after all of the staff members tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday. In a statement, branch manager Din Mohammad said the office had been closed for an indefinite period after the infections surfaced. He said the staff members had isolated themselves in their homes soon their tests for the Covid-19 were declared positive on Monday. He said the account holders and customers h.....view more

LRH chief removed over ‘poor’ management of virus patients
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad , 2020-06-13
PESHAWAR: Lady Reading Hospital medical director Dr Suleman Khan was removed by the board of governors of the province’s largest government health facility over failure to effectively manage the Covid-19 patients. The development comes as 10 more people died of coronavirus in the province increasing the tally of fatalities to 642. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 581 new Covid-19 cases, which took its tally of confirmed patients to 15,787. Meanwhile.....view more
Training launched for KP health staff on infection prevention, Covid-19 control
PESHAWAR: US Consul General Sebron Toney inaugurated the first of a series of day-long training sessions for doctors, nurses, paramedics, and support staff of the Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar on "Infection Prevention and Control for COVID-19." A press release says the training is supported by the US government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Integrated Health Services Strengthening and Serv..... view more

Covid-19 pandemic: Lady Reading Hospital MD Dr Suleman removed for poor performance
PESHAWAR: The Board of Governors, Lady Reading Hospital (LRH), on Friday removed the hospital's Medical Director Assistant Professor Dr Suleman Khan for his poor performance in handling the coronavirus pandemic. “The BoG and its chairman Dr Nausherwan Burki had given Dr Suleman Khan enough time to improve patient care, but he failed to deliver,” said an official of the hospital administration. Pleading anonymity, he said the LR..... view more

Speaker KPK assembly Mushtaq Ghani tests positive for coronavirus
The speaker of KPK assembly Mushtaq Ghani tested positive for coronavirus. Family sources have confirmed his positive corona test and told that he has quarantined him at home. The chief minister KPK Mehmood Khan said in one of his social media message that May Allah keep all of us safe from this virus. ..... view more

Five die of corona in Nowshera in 2 days
NOWSHERA: Five more patients of coronavirus lost battle for life during the past two days, taking the tally of fatalities to 29 in Nowshera district since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in the country Also, 14 more suspected patients of Covid-19 reported positive for the viral disease. According to the health department, 1746 suspected persons tested for coronavirus in which 1075 were reported negative. Similarly, 13 more patients were recov..... view more

Covid-19 cases see single-day record surge of 1,035
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded the single-day record surge of 1,035 coronavirus cases on Saturday with 19 more people losing life to Covid-19. Of the new fatalities, which took the province’s tally to 661, five were reported in Peshawar district, four in Nowshera, two each in Kohat and Orakzai and one each in Hangu, Battagram, Malakand, Lower Dir, Mardan and Mohmand. Accord to a health department report, Peshawar's cases tota..... view more

K-P bolsters hospital capacity amid virus spurt
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
PESHAWAR: With the province registering 628 fresh cases of novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in the past 24 hours, taking the provincial total to over 16,415 cases, the government has decided to enhance the capacity of hospitals to accommodate these patients apart from boosting the testing capacity. Briefing the media, Adviser to the Khyber-
Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister on Information Ajmal Wazir said that the government has set up a 20-bed I..... view more

COVID-19 patient passes away in Peshawar hospital
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
PESHAWAR - Asad Naveed, a COVID 19 positive patient who was getting treatment at Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) and celebrated his 71th birthday on hospital bed a few days earlier, has passed away on Saturday. According to relatives of Asad Naveed, he breathed his lost during early hours of Saturday and was laid to rest in his ancestral grave yard at 2:00 p.m in accordance with COVID-19 SOPs. Asad Naveed was a dweller of Peshawar city and ..... view more

KP govt to train private hospitals' staff on infection control
Source: Ashfaq Yusufzai, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission is launching training programme to ensure adherence to the social distancing and infection control measures, wearing face mask and hand sanitizing among the healthcare providers in private sector to prevent spread of Covid-19. “The initiative first of its kind in the country is meant to educate healthcare providers in private health facilities to observe standard operating procedures (SoP..... view more

Women varsity starts online classes today
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
PESHAWAR: Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University will start regular online classes on Monday (today) as per directives of Higher Education Commission. In the wake of uncertain situation due to Covid-19 lockdown, the universities have been directed by HEC to prepare themselves for transition to online classes and online interaction as quickly as possible and to complete course work of the current semesters, according to a statement. HEC has als..... view more

Three Covid-19 patients die in Swabi
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
SWABI: Three coronavirus patients died in the Bacha Khan Medical Complex Shahmansoor here on Sunday, deputy commissioner Shahid Mehmood said. He said Shamsul Irfan, 50, who was on oxygen in the intensive care unit, passed away. He was also suffering from various health complications, he added. Gul Amin, another Covid-19 patient, who also expired in Bacha Khan Hospital, was admitted to the isolation ward soon after his coronavirus test was decl..... view more

Pandemic continues to affect lawmakers, health workers
Source: Bureau Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
PESHAWAR: The Covid-19 pandemic continued to hit lawmakers and health professionals as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Speaker Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani, MPAs Sumaira Shams and Ayesha Bani and director of Hayatabad Medical Complex Dr Faisal Shehzad tested positive for coronavirus on Sunday. Dr Shahid Younas, chief of health sector reforms unit at health secretariat, has also tested positive for Covid-19. He has been actively involved in Covid-19 related a..... view more
Swat youth donate blood for thalassaemia patients
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
SWAT: The youth of Swat donated blood for thalassaemia-hit children to mark the World Blood Donor Day in Mingora here on Sunday. The blood donation camp was organised by Al-Fajar Foundation in collaboration with Life Savers Pakistan. The organisers said the day was marked on the birthday of Karl Landsteiner who had discovered the blood groups. "It was Karl Landsteiner who had discovered blood groups and before that blood transfusion was m... view more

People asked to follow SOPs, stay at home
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
LAKKI MARWAT: The district administration here has intensified efforts to ensure implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) by the traders and citizens to contain spread of Covid-19. Deputy commissioner Abdul Haseeb visited parts of Lakki and Naurang towns on Sunday to check observance of the relevant protocols and precautionary measures. He distributed masks among traders, drivers and youths and asked them to wear masks during ..... view more

Volunteers playing key role in making Chitralis aware about deadly virus
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
CHITRAL: Volunteers working under the local support organisations (LSOs) have been playing a key role in creating awareness among the people of Khot valley of Upper Chitral about coronavirus. The volunteers have been visiting the valley for last 13 days to disseminate knowledge about the deadly virus ensuring that they reached each person of the targeted village. The women members of the group have also approached their gender and children, sen..... view more

Punjab

460 vials of life-saving drug for serious Covid patients
Source: Asif Chaudhry, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
LAHORE: The Punjab government has allocated "much needed" 460 vials of Tucilizumab injection for use on 115 Covid-19 patients in intensive care units for the purpose of treatment as well as an "investigational study". The drug will be administered to the patients at the 15 teaching hospitals in Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. These districts have been marked in red zone for reporting the highest number of virus..... view more

Chohan doubts Shahbaz’s corona report
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyazul Hassan Chohan has expressed his doubt over Opposition Leader in National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif’s claim about being infected by coronavirus and demanded that his tests be conducted from private and public sector labs. He said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had also demanded Mr Sharif’s re-test to determine whether he had been tested coronavirus positive or not. Mr Sharif had ap..... view more
Positive coronavirus hardly stirs govt functionaries
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
BAHAWALNAGAR: Despite officials testing positive for the virus, the government has not disinfected the premises in the district. Dawn learned business is as usual at the district education office even after its budget and accounts officer tested positive for coronavirus on Friday. The officer has quarantined himself but the office has neither been sealed nor disinfected. Education Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Aslam Ijaz told Dawn the Health C.....view more

Covid-19 claims 11 lives in districts
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
BAHAWALPUR: Four more coronavirus patients died on Friday raising the number of deaths to 22 in the district. According to health officials, 33 positive cases emerged in a day raising the total number of positive cases to 718 in the district. Confirmed 53 cases have been admitted to Civil Hospital, where five are in serious condition. Three deaths in Sheikhupura Three more people died from Covid-19 in the local DHQ hospital on Frid.....view more

Govt to seal off virus hotspots in Punjab
Source: Rameez Khan, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
LAHORE: To barricade the rising tide of coronavirus cases in Punjab, the provincial administration has decided to seal off zones with 15 virus cases, a measure that earlier was adopted in some places of the country, in the initial days of the lockdown. In view of the exponential growth of cases in Punjab, provincial administration decided to strictly enforce the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for containing the spread of coronavirus d.....view more

COVID-19 claims 4 more lives
Rawalpindi: The disease caused by 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19 has claimed another four lives here in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in last 24 hours taking death toll from the region to 183 while as many as 543 new patients have been tested positive for the illness in the twin cities taking total number of confirmed patients so far reported from the region to 9,620 on Friday. Data collected by ‘The News’ on Fri.....view more

Punjab to strictly enforce SOPs
LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to strictly enforce the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for containing the spread of coronavirus and directions have been issued to all the divisional commissioners to ensure implementation of precautionary measures and take strict action, including fines in case of violations. The decision was taken at a meeting held here Thursday at the chief secretary’s camp office to review the situation of c.....view more

Steps being taken to save cops from Covid-19
LAHORE: Following the directions of Inspector General of Police, Punjab, steps are being taken for protection of police force and employees from coronavirus. Precautionary measures for police employees under comprehensive strategies are not only being ensured during duty in field formations in all districts but also in all branches and buildings of Central Police Office. Chlorine water was sprayed at CPO to disinfect building on Friday. AI.....view more
Steps being taken to save cops from Covid-19
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People asked to follow Covid-19 SOPs
LAHORE: Ulema and Mashaykh from all over country in Friday sermons appealed to the general public to turn to Allah Almighty for forgiveness in wake of rising cases of Covid-19 and ensure implementation of preventive and precautionary measures against the pandemic. Pakistan Ulema Council leaders, including Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Pir Naqeebur Rehman, Allama Syed Ziaullah Shah Bukhari and others while addressing Friday congregations a.....view more

Getz Pharma’s ‘Care for Heroes’ initiative covers Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan
LAHORE: Getz Pharma, concerned at the increasing Covid-19 cases and committed to its mission of providing quality healthcare for the community at large, initiated the national ‘Care for Heroes’ campaign to protect the frontline health workers. The Punjab disinfection drive was started from 30th April, 2020 to disinfect hospitals and doctors’ clinics in Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Multan and Rahim Yar Khan.....view more

Imran again opposes complete lockdown
Source: Mansoor Malik, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan has reiterated that a complete lockdown devastates the economy and pushes a large segment of the population below the poverty line, posing bigger challenges of hunger and survival — something India is facing right now. “So a complete lockdown is no option, but stringent measures, including selective lockdowns, will be adopted to stop the spread of coronavirus from hotspots,” said Mr Khan in an .....view more

8 more deaths, 517 new cases in a day from twin cities
Rawalpindi: As many as eight confirmed patients of coronavirus illness, COVID-19 have died of the disease in last 24 hours in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi while another 517 patients have been tested positive for the illness after which the total number of patients confirmed positive from the region has crossed the figure of 10,000. Data collected by ‘The News’ has revealed that Islamabad Capital Territory has emerged .....view more

Woman dies, eight others injured as fire erupts in Services emergency
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
LAHORE: A woman died while eight others, including doctors, paramedics and patients, suffered minor injuries when a fire erupted in the operation theatre of the multi-storey emergency ward building of the Services Hospital here on Saturday. As per hospital sources, the fire broke out first in the changing room and then spread to the part of operation theatre where two patients were undergoing surgeries. The emergency ward was full of patients, .....view more
Gilani tests positive for coronavirus
Source: Correspondent, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
MULTAN: Former prime minister Syed Yuusaf Raza Gilani tested positive for coronavirus, according to a tweet by his son Ali Haidar Gilani. He stated that Mr Gilani has quarantined himself. “My father had showed symptoms of severe cough yesterday. So he got tested. Results came back positive. Please pray for his speedy recovery,” he stated. In another tweet, he stated: “Thank you, the government and the National Accountability ......view more

Covid-19 cases exceed 50,087 in Punjab
The number of Covid-19 cases reached 50,087 in the province after registration of 2,705 new cases during the last 24 hours. Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department spokesperson said on Saturday noon the death toll due to coronavirus reached 938, after 48 more deaths in the province. As many as 17,560 patients have recovered in the province. The Health Department confirmed that 1,342 new cases of COVID-19 were registered in Lahore, 20 .....view more

48 more die in Punjab from Covid-19
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
LAHORE: The Covid-19 pandemic claimed 48 more lives in the last 24 hours in Punjab taking the death toll to 938. According to official figures released on Saturday, 18 of them died in Rawalpinidi, 11 in Lahore, four each in Multan and Rahim Yar Khan while other deaths were reported from Faisalabad, Sargodha, Sheikhpura and Sialkot. The total number of coronavirus deaths in Lahore has reached 314, Rawalpindi 200, Faisalabad 86 and Multan 83. M.....view more

‘Blood donation declines sharply during pandemic’
LAHORE: “There are many common excuses for not giving blood, and also many misconceptions about eligibility requirements and side effects of blood donation in Pakistan,” says Dr. Asad Hayat Ahmad, consultant pathologist at Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC), on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day. All healthy men and women between 18 and 65 years of age can donate blood. Every adult human bo.....view more

‘Tobacco piles up costs of Covid-19’
LAHORE: As the Covid-19 pandemic spreads, a global tobacco industry watchdog urged governments and civil society to hold tobacco companies accountable for the burden they have placed on people and health systems. According to a press release here on Saturday, the tobacco companies almost certainly have made the Covid-19 pandemic worse. Decades of relentlessly marketing and selling their toxic, addictive products have weakened the health of milli.....view more
Ex-PM Gilani, Shahid Afridi, two MPAs test positive for coronavirus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
Former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani tested positive for the coronavirus, his son Kasim Gilani revealed on Saturday. In a tweet, Kasim Gilani said that his father’s Covid-19 test had come back positive and that he blamed Prime Minister Imran Khan and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for his father’s infection. “Thank you, Imran Khan’s government and National Accountability Bureau! You have successfully put my father….. view more

Only coronavirus hot-spots to be sealed off: PM
Source: Muhammad Saleem, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan has opposed the proposal of re-imposing a strict lockdown in view of a surge in the Covid-19 cases, saying the country’s economy cannot afford the consequences of a strict lockdown. “Now we will impose a selective lockdown and seal off the virus hot-spots,” the premier said while addressing a news conference here on Saturday after chairing a high-level meeting which reviewed current situati….. view more

Covid-19 cases; Punjab crosses 50,000 mark
Source: Muhammad Saleem, Business Recorder, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
LAHORE: With 2,705 fresh cases detected across the province in the last 24 hours, Punjab has become the first province in the country where the number of the coronavirus cases has crossed the 50,000 mark. According to government’s Covid-19 portal, the total number of corona cases across the province has risen to 50,087 till the filing of this report on Saturday. After 48 more deaths due to coronavirus, the total number of fatalities in….. view more

Gillani tests positive for COVID-19
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
MULTAN - Former Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has tested positive for COVID-19 and has gone into self-isolation. In a tweet on Saturday, his son Syed Kasim Gillani confirmed that his father had contracted coronavirus. "Thank you Imran Khan's government and National Accountability Bureau! You have successfully put my father's life in danger. His COVID-19 result came positive." Sources in the former premier's f….. view more

WAPDA House to remain closed till June 21
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
Lahore - Lahore WAPDA House will remain closed with effect from June 13 to 21 in order to cope with the serious situation emerging due to increased number of COVID-19 cases. The crucial work and meetings would be performed on limited scale at the office premises at Sunny View WAPDA House, said a notification issued on Saturday. All officers and officials posted in WAPDA House would continue to perform office work from home and would remain availa….. view more

Punjab reports 2,705 cases in a day; highest since pandemic began
Source: Iqtidar Gilani, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
LAHORE - Punjab reported 2,705 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Saturday, the highest number of cases reported in a single day so far. With 18 more healthcare workers getting infection, the number of affected doctors, nurses and paramedics has reached 878. So far 50,087 COVID-19 patients have been reported from across the province. As many 48 more COVID-19 patients breathed their last in Punjab on Saturday, taking the death toll to 938..... view more
2 more die of COVID-19 in Pindi; Police Post Tareet, THQ Hospital and bank sealed
Source: Israr Ahmad, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
Rawalpindi - Two patients died in Rawalpindi on Saturday because of coronavirus, informed sources. According to details, Akmal Mirza, 60 years old, PML-N Rawalpindi Chapter Secretary Information died at Benazir Bhutto Hospital. He was facing breathing problem for last four days and tested positive of coronavirus. His funeral prayer was offered in a graveyard near Qasim Market. Former PML-N MNA Malik ShalilAwan termed his death a great loss to.....view more

Lecture on COVID-19 held at PSCA
Source: Staff Report, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
LAHORE - A lecture on ‘coronavirus and precautionary measures to counter it’ was conducted in Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) on Saturday. According to the spokesman for PSCA, Punjab Health Care Authority District Surveillance Officer Dr Omar Farooq gave the lecture to staff and police communication officers working in PPIC3 centre 24/7. District Surveillance Officer gave complete information.....view more

Twin cities record highest tally with 875 cases in a day
Rawalpindi : For the first time in this region of the country, over 870 patients have been tested positive for coronavirus illness, COVID-19 in a single day setting a new record for highest number of patients confirmed positive in a day since the outbreak hit the region while at least nine confirmed patients belonging to the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have lost their lives taking death toll to 200. Earlier, on June 7, as many as 787.....view more

Moot discusses opportunities, challenges for online learning
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
LAHORE: The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES) jointly organised a virtual Washington Accord workshop on ‘Sharing Best Practices and Policies for Online Teaching Learning and Assessment System and Virtual/Remote Accreditation Process’. All the stakeholders, policy makers, regulators, quality assurance agencies, accrediting and professional bodies and the academia were urged to timely respo.....view more

Punjab freezes recruitments to surmount economic challenge
Source: Mansoor Malik, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
LAHORE: The Punjab government has plans to freeze recruitment against all seats vacant for the last two years except in health and police departments besides rationalising the new recruitments in the upcoming budget for financial year 2020-21 to meet the challenges owing to the ravages of lockdown. Though the government was suggested to impose 10 per cent salary cut for three months for officers of BS-18 to BS-22, the proposal could not get thro.....view more

Punjab to facilitate small businesses despite uncertainty
Source: Nasir Jamal, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
LAHORE: Punjab plans to modestly increase its development spending, cut taxes and implement an economic stimulus to facilitate small businesses in its budget for the fiscal year 2020/2021 to mitigate the crippling impact of the
Covid-19 pandemic and create jobs in the province. Officials toldDawn on Sunday that the government plans to target public development investment of Rs337bn, up by nearly 9.5pc from the original estimates for the present y..... view more

2,514 more test positive, 31 die of Covid-19 in Punjab
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
LAHORE: The spread of coronavirus is continuing unabated in Punjab, particularly in Lahore, as 2,514 new cases surfaced in the province on Sunday, with more than half of these in the provincial capital. As per the figures compiled by Punjab primary and secondary healthcare department, 1,331 fresh cases of coronavirus were reported in Lahore alone by mid-day on Sunday. The number of total coronavirus-positive patients has surged to 52,601 across ..... view more

Bahawalpur 'ninth most dangerous' in terms of Covid spread
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
BAHAWALPUR: With coronavirus spreading rapidly across south Punjab, Bahawalpur district has been listed among the top 10 districts of Punjab with highest number of deaths and positive cases of Covid-19. This was stated by coronavirus focal person, Dr Zakir Hussain, here on Sunday. Talking to Dawn, Dr Hussain said the district was ranked ninth most dangerous in the province with 23 deaths and 848 cases of Covid-19 so far. In the last 24 hours, o..... view more

Sheikh Rashid recovering fast: nephew
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) President and Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, who tested positive for Covid-19 on June 8, is feeling well and recovering fast, said Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control Sheikh Rashid Shafique on Sunday. Talking to Dawn, the PTI MNA, who is nephew of the federal minister, said Sheikh Rashid was taken to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) for medical checkup on Saturday nig..... view more

Violators of precautions fined as more positive cases emerge in Rawalpindi
Source: Aamir Yasin, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
RAWALPINDI: More than 100 new cases of Covid-19 were reported in Rawalpindi district on Sunday and five patients died of the disease. The district administration also sealed 45 shops in the downtown area and fined owners Rs54,000 while 11 were issued warnings for violating standard operating procedures (SOP) to limit the spread of the coronavirus. All markets are supposed to be closed on weekends. Commissioner retired Capt Mohammad Mehmood told...... view more

Patients suffer due to govt-medics row
Source: Yousaf Abbasi, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
LAHORE: More than 20,000 suspected patients of Covid-19 are approaching Punjab government hospitals daily but their diagnosis and treatment is being affected due to a protracted row between the provincial authorities and the Grand Health Alliance over demands of the medical staff. Sources said the Grand Health Alliance has been criticising the government of Punjab and the Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department, but the unde..... view more
Covid-19; Punjab reports 2,514 fresh cases, 31 more deaths
Source: Muhammad Saleem, Centreline.com, 2020-06-15
LAHORE: With 31 more fatalities, as many as 2,514 new cases of the novel coronavirus were reported across the province in the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally to 52,601 cases. As per the government’s Covid-19 portal, after 31 more deaths, the death toll has reached to 969. The total number of recovered people in the province of Punjab has risen to 17,650 while the total number of recovered patients across the country is 5.....view more

10,000 beds made available for COVID-19 patients in Punjab: Dr Yasmin
Source: INP, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that around 10,000 beds have been made available for the treatment of Covid-19 patients in the province. Addressing a press conference, the minister said that 2,000 additional beds will also be acquired very soon. 197 public sector ventilators along with 104 from private sector have been arranged for coronavirus sufferers, she added. On the other hand, Pakistan has confirmed 81 deaths by novel coro.....view more

CM Fund for Corona Control June 15, 2020 Queen Mary College donates Rs7, 89,000
LAHORE: The Queen Mary College, Lahore, has donated a sum of Rs 7, 89,000 to the Punjab Chief Minister Fund for Corona Control. On behalf of the college, the donation was given to Punjab CM Usman Buzdar by Provincial Higher Education Minister Yasir Humayun during their meeting at the CM office here on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, Buzdar thanked the teachers and staff members of the college for donating the amount in the Fund. He sa.....view more

Coronavirus: Punjab govt to seal areas for two weeks in Lahore
Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has on Monday said that the provincial government has decided to seal the worst-hit areas by novel coronavirus in Lahore for two weeks. Addressing a press conference in Lahore, the health minister said that the most affected areas – including Cantt, Shad Bagh, Mozang, Nishtar Town, Allama Iqbal Town, Harbanspura, Gulberg, Walled City and parts of Shahdara – will be sealed by tomorrow night .....view more

Face masks, gloves, sanitizers distributed among wardens
Source: APP, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
RAWALPINDI - City Traffic Police (CTP) on Sunday distributed face masks, gloves and sanitizers among the wardens to ensure their safety against COVID-19. Chief Traffic Officer Syed Ali Akbar appreciated the role of wardens who were performing their duties on roads to maintain free flow of traffic despite the threat of coronavirus, said a news release issued here. He advised them to take pre-emptive measures to fight against the virus, sayin.....view more

SOPs’ effective implementation only cure to COVID-19: Basharat
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
LAHORE - Punjab Law and Social Welfare Minister Muhammad Basharat Raja has said that an effective implementation of the government specified standard operating procedures (SOPs) is the only cure to COVID-19 pandemic. Talking to the media on Sunday, he said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was the biggest advocate of the
poor man in such difficult times. He lamented that citizens did not abide by the rules for easing of lockdown before Eid. The view more

**CM warns people of stringent legal action for SOPs violations**
Source: Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-06-15
LAHORE - Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, a comprehensive strategy is being carried out to cope up with coronavirus. In a statement, the chief minister emphasized that the government had taken collective decisions with mutual consultations without any waste of time. Chief minister warned that stringent legal action would be taken against those found committing v view more

**10,000 beds made available for virus infected: Yasmin**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-06-15
LAHORE - Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that around 10,000 beds have been made available for the treatment of Covid-19 patients in the province. Addressing a press conference, the minister said that another 2,000 beds would also be acquired very soon. She said that as many as 197 public sector ventilators along with 104 from private sector had been arranged for the patients suffering from coronavirus. view more

**Targeted lockdown best way to contain virus: Fayyaz Chohan**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-06-15
LAHORE - Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan, on Sunday, has said that smart and targeted lockdown is best way to stop the spread of coronavirus. The information minister said that instead of criticising the efforts of the government, the time was to get united to fight the virus. While stressing on the need for people's cooperation to stop the spread of the virus he appealed to the public and especially the traders to view more

**Community education effective tool to combat COVID-19**
Source: Our Staff Reporter, *The Nation, Islamabad*, 2020-06-15
LAHORE - A scientific study by Punjab University has shown that medical preparedness and community education proved to be the most valued preventive tools in combating COVID-19 pandemic. According to a study "Role of media in health-related awareness campaigns on the perception towards 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): A pre-post study in the general population in Rawalpindi, Pakistan", awareness and knowledge about COVID-19 sym view more

**Comprehensive strategy being adopted to fight pandemic: Usman Buzdar**
LAHORE: Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said on Sunday that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, a comprehensive strategy was being adopted to cope with coronavirus epidemic. In a statement, he said the government had taken decisions with mutual consultations without any waste of time. He outlined that the nation would have to strictly follow the precautionary measures to impede the spread of coronavirus and vowed to tak view more
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<th><strong>Coronavirus awareness camp</strong></th>
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<td>LAHORE: As part of the Covid-19 control campaign, an awareness camp was held here at Taj Bagh Housing Scheme. The camp organiser Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf UC-147 Vice-President Arafat Nazir Chohan distributed face masks and sanitizers among the people of the area and sensitised them about following the government Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) to protect themselves and their dear ones from the Covid-19. People of the area appreciated the step.</td>
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<th><strong>Sindh</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Sindh govt demands commission to probe petrol crisis</strong></td>
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<td>Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-13</td>
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<td>KARACHI: The Sindh government on Friday announced that it would hold a virtual budget session of the provincial assembly through modern technology in line with the advice of health experts for social distancing to contain the spread of coronavirus. The Pakistan Peoples Party also demanded a commission to probe into the recent petrol crisis across the country and make its report public. In a statement, Sindh Information Minister Nasir Shah.</td>
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<th><strong>37 doctors, three paramedics died of Covid-19 in country: PMA</strong></th>
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<td>Source: Faiza Ilyas, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-13</td>
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<td>KARACHI: Expressing deep concern over the worsening Covid-19 situation in the country, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has released a list of 37 doctors and three paramedics who have died of coronavirus in the country so far. The association has urged the government to support the grieving families through the Shuhada package. According to the list, the nine doctors who died of Covid-19 in Sindh are Karachi-based gynaecologist Dr Zubaida.</td>
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<th><strong>Health ministry urges people to donate blood, save lives</strong></th>
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<td>Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-13</td>
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<td>KARACHI: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (NHSRC) on Friday urged people to donate blood and contribute to a more sustainable blood supply for the country in the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic that has led to a drop in voluntary blood donation across the world including Pakistan, putting at risk lives of thousands of patients in need of regular transfusions. The global pandemic has been a reminder that it i.</td>
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<th><strong>72 ICU and 428 HDU beds to be given to six city hospitals</strong></th>
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<td>Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-13</td>
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<td>KARACHI: Presiding over a meeting, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has decided to distribute 500 oxygenated beds — 72 intensive care units (ICU) and 428 high-dependency unit (HDU) — to six different government hospitals in Karachi. The meeting was attended by relevant government officials. The chief minister said every government hospital in different localities of the city should have ICU and HDU wards. Mr Shah also dire.</td>
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<th><strong>Hoarding leads to acute medicines shortage</strong></th>
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<td>KARACHI: With the outbreak of Covid-19, the pharmaceutical market is facing an acute dearth of several medicines because of people's undue hoarding behaviour, The Express Tribune has learned. Owing to the shortage, the supply</td>
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of antibiotics, vitamin supplements, and anti-allergy drugs used to treat sore throats has been suspended in the market. “Ever since the number of coronavirus patients surged in Sindh, people are flocking t..... view more

Six govt hospitals in city to get 500 ICU, HDU beds
The Sindh chief minister has decided to provide 500 beds -- 72 for ICUs and 428 for high dependency units (HDUs) -- at six government hospitals in the city in the coming weeks. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah made the decision on Friday as he chaired a meeting, which was attended by the provincial health minister, the chief, finance and health secretaries, Brigadier Sami of Corps 5, Dr Abdul Bari Khan of the Indus Hospital and others. T..... view more

Covid-19; Sindh records 2,428 new cases; 1,066 recovered: CM
KARACHI: As many as 2428 new positive cases of Covid-19 emerged against 11356 tested samples while 17 more patients lost their lives lifting the death toll to 793. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued from the CM House on Friday. He said overnight 11356 tests, highest in Pakistan, were conducted which detected 22 percent or 2428 positive results. So far, 227054 samples have been tested which ..... view more

Shahid Afridi tests positive for coronavirus
Former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi has tested positive for the coronavirus, the cricketer announced on Saturday. “I've been feeling unwell since Thursday; my body had been aching badly. I've been tested and unfortunately I'm COVID-19 positive. Need prayers for a speedy recovery, InshaAllah,” the 40-year-old tweeted. Shahid Afridi ✔@SAfridiOfficial..... view more

Sindh: 2,428 new cases, 17 more die
Source: Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad, 2020-06-13
KARACHI: As many as 2428 new cases of the coronavirus were reported in Sindh during the last 24 hours while 17 more patients lost their lives, increasing the death toll to 793. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued from the CM House on Friday. He said overnight 11356 tests, highest in Pakistan so far, were conducted which helped detect 22 percent positive results or 2,428 new cases. “..... view more

Pakistan sees another spike with over 6000 Covid-19 cases
KARACHI: Amid a record-breaking surge in the coronavirus pandemic, Pakistan on Saturday reported 6,472 new virus cases in the last 24 hours, the highest single-day tally ever, the Health Ministry said. With another single-day tally of over 6,000 – the second in the last two days – the country's total coronavirus cases have reached 132,399, of which nearly 50,000 were reported this month alone. Another 88 patients lost the..... view more

23 more fall prey to COVID-19 in Sindh
As many as 23 people, including seven female workers, have lost their lives due to COVID-19 in Sindh during the last 24 hours, while 2,262 new cases have also emerged in the province, said the Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on
Saturday. “We have lost 23 more lives due to COVID-19 in the province during the last 24 hours, and 19 people died in Karachi alone. A total of seven women were among them, and five died at various health facilit.....view more

Govt reminds business community to strictly implement SOPs
The Sindh government, concerned over the rising cases of COVID-19, has issued a letter to the business community for strict implementation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the government. The correspondence says that a meeting to review the implementation of the SOPs issued by the home department on April 14 was held on June 10 under the chairmanship of the chief secretary, who showed concern that the SOPs were not being impl.....view more

Situation aggravates as OPDs at govt hospitals stay shut for a third day in Sindh
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
SHIKARPUR: Doctors, paramedics and nurses continued their boycott of work at outpatient departments (OPDs) in several government hospitals across the province on Saturday to force the authorities to accept their demands. They had begun the agitation under Grand Health Alliance — a joint platform of doctors, paramedics and nurses — with two-hour daily boycott of OPDs from June 8 to 10 and then extended it to full day protest from June.....view more

Another 23 Covid-19 patients died, 2,262 new cases emerged in 24 hours, says Murad
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Saturday that 10,081 samples tested during the last 24 hours produced 2,262 new Covid-19 positive cases raising the tally to 51,518. Twenty-three more virus patients lost their lives overnight taking the death toll in Sindh to 816, he said. In a statement issued here from CM House, he said that 10,081 tests were conducted which produced 2,262 cases constituting 22.5 per cent result. “So f.....view more

Man, two women die from coronavirus infection in Hyderabad
Source: Dawn Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
HYDERABAD: Three Covid-19 patients died in the city on Saturday, raising tally of deaths from coronavirus infection in the district to 44 since the outbreak of the pandemic. The deceased included a 49-year-old man, an officer in forest department, who died at the Liaquat University Hospital’s high dependency unit (HDU) after remaining under treatment for three days. He was admitted to the hospital on June 10 and his body was shifted to Lar.....view more

Karachi’s death rate shoots up
Source: Naeem Khanzada, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
KARACHI: Following the coronavirus outbreak, the death rate in Karachi has escalated drastically, with at least 150 deaths being reported daily. As many as 2,250 deaths were reported in May and, as per the data released by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), 1,411 bodies were buried in graveyards run by the KMC during the first 10 days of June – seemingly a drastic rise from May. Corroborating this information, a senior KMC o.....view more
Collective efforts needed to slow pandemic: CM Murad
Source: Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-14
KARACHI: As the province’s Covid-19 tally crossed 50,000 cases, with 2,262 new cases emerging in the last 24 hours, Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah insisted on Saturday that collective efforts were needed to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Revealing that the new cases emerged after 10,081 tests were conducted, Shah stated that the total number of cases in Sindh had reached 51,518. He added that so far 287,135 tests had been conducted.

15 more dead as another 2,287 test positive for COVID-19 in Sindh
Fifteen more people have died due to COVID-19 and another 2,287 cases have been reported during the past 24 hours in Sindh, with the death toll due to the viral disease in the province reaching 831. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said in his daily situation report on the health emergency on Sunday that 11,197 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, resulting in 2,287 people, or 20.4 per cent of those who were screened, being diagnosed positive.

Responsible reopening of educational institutions a Herculean task
The Sindh School Education & Literacy Department had postponed its steering committee’s meeting scheduled for June 10 because some of the top officials and members of the body had been diagnosed with COVID-19. That same day, the Private Schools Action Committee (PSAC) had held a protest in front of the Karachi Press Club demanding that educational institutions be reopened. Owing to the prevalent situation, both the parties seem perplexed.

Doctors voluntarily help scores of COVID-19 patients on phone daily
Dr Javed Khan, a leading chest physician in Karachi, is receiving 40 to 50 calls daily these days from people who seek medical advice for themselves or their loved ones after testing positive for COVID-19 or having its symptoms, as they don’t know whom to contact in case of contracting the disease because there is no public helpline in Sindh to guide them properly. Another leading chest physician, Prof Dr Sohail Akhtar is also receiving around 30 to 40 calls daily.

Elderly persons, MPA’s family in Sindh of 18 survive Covid-19 keeping spirits high
Source: Imran Ayub, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
KARACHI: Meet Mr and Mrs Arshad Bhatti. Amid growing number of coronavirus cases, the myths and speculations surrounding the global pandemic and the depression fast grips society, the couple in their 60s has something really encouraging to share. Mr Bhatti tested positive for Covid-19 just two days before Ramazan. On doctor’s advice, his immediate contact — his wife Nasrin Bibi — was also tested and found suffering from the virus.

Urdu varsity to begin online classes today
Source: Staff Report, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
KARACHI: The Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology will start online teaching on its three campuses on June 15. This decision was taken in the 26th session of its academic council held on Friday. The session chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Arif Zubair also decided the duration of each online class and the procedure required to conduct it. It allowed students to freeze the online semester for which they were asked to contact d...
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<th>News Title</th>
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<td>PPP leader Shehla Raza tests positive for coronavirus</td>
<td>Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>PPP leader Syeda Shehla Raza said on Monday she has tested positive for the coronavirus, requesting people to pray for her recovery. In a Twitter post, the PPP minister shared a photo of her test result, adding that she is awaiting the results of her family members. On Saturday, PPP leader and former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gillani also tested positive for the virus. His son, Kasim Gilani alleged that the Imran Khan-led government and N..... view more</td>
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<td>Private hospitals have become profit-hungry cartel: PDP</td>
<td>Web Desk, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>Karachi - Private hospitals have become a profit-hungry cartel and the government instead of giving aid and grants to this healthcare mafia from the taxpayers’ money should improve the capacity and condition of the neglected government hospitals in the larger interest of public, said Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor. In a statement here Sunday, he said the coronavirus had fully unveiled the poor and shabby healthcare sys..... view more</td>
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<td>274 inmates recover from coronavirus</td>
<td>Our Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>KARACHI - A large number of prisoners infected with coronavirus has recovered at Karachi Central Jail. Senior Superintendent of the Karachi Central Jail, Hassan Sahito, confirmed that 894 prisoners and 11 staffs of the Karachi Central Jail were infected with the coronavirus. He added that 274 inmates have recovered from the virus so far. The police officer detailed that 120 prisoners were declared critical out of which 90 inmates recovered..... view more</td>
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<td>284 new COVID-19 cases detected in Sindh Police</td>
<td>Staff Reporter, The Nation, Islamabad</td>
<td>KARACHI - Around 778 personnel and officers of Sindh Police have been infected with coronavirus so far while 284 new cases reported in last two days, spokesman to Sindh Police said on Sunday. He said eight officials lost their battle against COVID-19, all belonged to Karachi Range of Sindh Police. Currently 576 officers and personnel are under treatment while 194 have returned to their homes after recovering from the disease. ..... view more</td>
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## Countries News

### Brazil records second-highest virus death toll
Source: AFP, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-14

BEIJING: As European nations moved to further lift their lockdowns on Saturday, the coronavirus pandemic was surging elsewhere, particularly in Latin America, with Brazil claiming the unenviable position of having the second-highest death toll behind the United States. The respiratory disease was first detected in China late last year, believed to have jumped from an animal to humans at a market that sold wildlife. Worldwide, the pandemic has k.....[view more](#)

### Covid-19 pushing millions of South Asians into poverty
Source: Anwar Iqbal, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-14

WASHINGTON: Of the 176 million people expected to be pushed into poverty by the coronavirus crisis, two-thirds are in South Asia, warned a World Bank report released this week. Officially, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh had the third, seventh- and tenth-most new cases in the world this week. But experts warned that the real situation could be worse as testing rates in the region were still extremely low. Reports in the US media suggested India.....[view more](#)

### Beijing areas locked down due to new virus cluster
Source: AFP, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-14

BEIJING: Dozens of people tested positive for the coronavirus in Beijing as parts of the city were locked down on Saturday after the emergence of a new cluster linked to a wholesale food market. People were ordered to stay home at 11 residential estates in south Beijing’s Fengtai district and the nearby Xinfadi market was closed as authorities raced to contain the outbreak that has fuelled fears of resurgence in local transmission. Most o.....[view more](#)

### EU agrees purchase of 300m coronavirus vaccine doses
Source: AFP, *Dawn, Islamabad*, 2020-06-14

BERLIN: Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands have signed an agreement with pharmaceutical group AstraZeneca to guarantee the supply to the EU of 300 million doses of a possible coronavirus vaccine, the German government announced on Saturday. The four countries have signed an agreement with the group, formed in 1999 from the merger of the Swedish company Astra and British company Zeneca, which provides for the supply of a vaccine to all EU.....[view more](#)

### Virus deepens Argentina’s economic crisis as poverty soars
Source: Agencies, *Daily Times*, 2020-06-14

As they wait out quarantine in a cramped, windowless room, Natividad Benítez brings her six children all of their meals from the soup kitchen where she earns $133 a month, barely enough to cover her rent and a few extra monthly costs. Since the new coronavirus came to Argentina, the priest who employs her, the Rev. Juan Isasmendi, has gone from serving 350 meals a day to 7,000, feeding residents of a poor Buenos Aires neighborhood where econo.....[view more](#)
Virus mine closures stir unease in Poland’s rust belt
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
A spike in reported coronavirus cases in Poland’s coal mines has put the country on edge but residents worried about jobs are down playing the health crisis. The issue is particularly sensitive ahead of a hard-fought presidential election on June 28 in Poland, where miners are still a powerful voting bloc. Dominik Kolorz, head of the Solidarity trade union for the Silesian coal basin, told AFP he was concerned the increase in virus cases ......

Bolsonaro tells Brazilians to film hospitals
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
Critics slammed Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro Friday after he called on supporters to film videos inside their local hospitals to prove they have not been overwhelmed by the coronavirus pandemic. The far-right leader urged his backers Thursday to “find a way to get inside and film” to see whether intensive care units are in fact struggling, as state and local health authorities have reported in areas hit hard by COVID-19. Lo....

Long days for Mali hospital coping with violence and virus
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
After a busy day juggling paperwork and meetings, Brehima Traore, deputy director of a hospital in war-torn Mali, may have hoped for some rest. Then his phone rang: he was needed in the operating room. Traore is one of the doctors who keeps the hospital in Mopti — at the forefront of a jihadist insurgency in the West African state for years, and now in the fight against coronavirus — running smoothly. The hospital has received patients ......

Pandemic leads to a bicycle boom and shortage
Source: Ap, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
PORTLAND: Fitness junkies locked out of gyms, commuters fearful of public transit, and families going stir crazy inside their homes during the coronavirus pandemic have created a boom in bicycle sales unseen in decades. In the United States, bicycle aisles at mass merchandisers like Walmart and Target have been swept clean, and independent shops are doing a brisk business and are selling out of affordable family bikes. Bicycle sales over the pa.....

Berliners form socially-distanced human chain against racism
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
BERLIN: Thousands demonstrated in Berlin against racism and for broader fairness, including sharing the coronavirus burden, as they stretched a human chain through the German capital on Sunday while keeping safe distances. Hundreds also turned out in other cities like Leipzig and Hamburg, although some faced rainstorms in the tail-end of a weekend of harsh weather across Germany. A spokesman for progressive movement Unteilbar (Indivisible) said.....

Sri Lanka holds mock election to test virus measures
Source: AFP, Dawn, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
COLOMBO: Sri Lanka staged a mock election on Sunday to test measures aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus during a parliamentary vote in August. The poll was due to be held on April 25 but was put off and then postponed indefinitely due to the epidemic, which official figures show has infected nearly 2,000 people and killed 11. The election commission said the vote would be held on August 5. The island nation of 21 million people .....
Covid-19 and importance of data timeliness
Source: Tehreem Husain, The Express Tribune, Islamabad, 2020-06-15
NORTHAMPTON: As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to cause havoc across different parts of the world, we all have been keenly following the data that is updated on a daily basis, key statistics gathered around the world, the number of confirmed cases, deaths and recoveries. This open data has been immensely useful for researchers who have come up with policy relevant evidence of the effect of various measures for abating the disastrous impact.....view more

Delhi coronavirus fears mount as hospital beds run out
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
Ashwani Jain succumbed to the coronavirus in an ambulance as his family pleaded with several hospitals to take him in, the latest victim of the pandemic sweeping through the Indian capital and exposing a deadly shortage of hospital beds. “They don’t care whether we live or die,” said his 20-year-old daughter Kashish, whose uncle, Abhishek, sat with Ashwani in the back of the vehicle on its desperate journey across Delhi. “It.....view more

Australia’s largest states further ease coronavirus curbs
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
Australia’s two largest states will further ease public coronavirus restrictions at libraries, community centres and nightclubs, officials said on Sunday, despite recording increases in new infections. New South Wales (NSW), the most populous state, said that from July 1, a 50 person limit on indoor venues such as restaurants and churches would be scrapped, so long as the venues observed a one person per four square metre rule. Nightclubs and.....view more

Thai entrepreneur connects Michelin bistros to those in need
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
Natalie Bin Narkprasart’s business was in Paris. But she was locked down by COVID-19 restrictions and stuck in Thailand. Her heart was in Thailand, too — and it ached for her compatriots who were suffering in the pandemic. She thought of her own grandmother. “She’s 94 years old, and then I really worried about her during COVID, like how is she going to cope and do things, so I just thought about all the people who are struggling.....view more

Virus crisis puts Nigeria corrupt fuel subsidy system in spotlight
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
Plunging oil prices and collapsing state revenues have seen Nigerian authorities vow an end to a controversial fuel subsidy scheme long criticised as a graft-ridden drain on public finances. But there are major doubts that Africa’s most populous country is finally ready to wean itself off a system that has helped some in high places syphon billions from government coffers. The fuel subsidy scheme has been described as a sprawling web of patron.....view more

Canada’s oil patch cuts back climate efforts under pandemic
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
Canadian oil sands companies have shelved nearly C$2 billion in green initiatives in a cost-cutting drive to weather the coronavirus pandemic, a reversal in some of their commitments to reduce emissions and clean up their dirty-oil
image.International oil firms left Canada in droves in recent years due to the high costs to turn a profit in the sector. Some investors and banks, meanwhile, halted financing in part to pressure the world's four.....view more

**China's foreigner ban leaves global businesses in limbo**  
*Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15*  
China’s coronavirus travel ban is wreaking havoc among foreign companies and international schools, with many fearing for their future as executives, teachers and students are left stranded in their home countries. A ban on most foreigners entering the country was implemented in March as the outbreak gathered pace overseas — leaving families separated and firms struggling without key employees. Even those with valid residence or work per.....view more

**Georgia nursing staff back with family after virus lockdown**  
*Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15*  
Nadia Williams shrieked with surprise and emotion Saturday as she embraced her mother for the first time since agreeing nearly three months ago to live at the elder-care facility where she works. Park Springs just outside Atlanta took the unusual approach of having roughly 70 employees shelter in place on campus to protect its residents from the coronavirus. It lifted that restriction over the weekend, and Williams and other employees headed home .....view more

**Saudi Arabia calls for compliance as coronavirus cases rise**  
*Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15*  
Saudi Arabia called on people to comply with health measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus on Sunday, as its daily tally of cases rose above 4,000 for the first time. The Saudi Arabian health ministry reported 4,233 new coronavirus cases to bring the total to 127,541, with 972 deaths, the highest among the six Gulf Arab states. Saudi Arabia, which has a population of some 30 million, allowed employees to return to offices, commercial c.....view more

**Uncertainty as Spain puts virus death toll ‘on hold’**  
*Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15*  
For days now, Spain’s daily coronavirus death toll has been on hold, generating widespread uncertainty about the real state of the epidemic that has claimed more than 27,000 lives. The health ministry’s emergencies coordinator Fernando Simon, who for months has given a daily briefing on the pandemic's evolution, acknowledged the “astonishment” and “confusion” generated by the figures. On May 25, the ministr.....view more

**Russia's low virus death toll still raises questions in West**  
*Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-15*  
When Leonid Shlykov’s father, Sergei, died in a Moscow hospital last month after 11 days on a ventilator, the death certificate listed the coronavirus as an underlying condition but not the actual cause of death. “Yes, he was suffering from impaired kidney function and diabetes, but if it hadn’t been for COVID-19, he would’ve been alive,” the son wrote on Facebook. “If we had known the real number of infections .....view more

**Global economies take a hit from Covid-19 pandemic**  
*Source: News Desk, Daily Times, 2020-06-15*  
The deadly Covid-19 continues its catastrophic journey by hitting the global economies hard bringing about serious financial downturn and negatively impacting the projected gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of all the sound
economies, including those of the developing countries like Pakistan. With continuous rise in the health and human toll, the economic damage to different sectors across the globe has come as a major shock for all the cou... view more

Donors News

Coronavirus hitting the Americas hardest says World Health Organization
Source: Agencies, Daily Times, 2020-06-14
The Americas are bearing the brunt of the global coronavirus pandemic at present, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday, with North and South America currently having four of the 10 worst hit countries in the world. The disease was "highly active" in Central and South America, the WHO's top emergency expert Mike Ryan said, highlighting problems in Brazil and Mexico. The current situation in Brazil, now one of the glob... view more
SDPI Engagements

Researchers Articles

Priorities and Missing Targets
Source: Syed Shujaat Ahmed, Daily Times, 2020-06-13
For any political party to come into power, economy is the key area where majority of the focus lies. Political party comes up with its own economic team to manages the system and bring most of the welfare concepts in line with the policy framework. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led government while coming into the power brought in its own team of economic managers to plan growth and development in the country. It has been observed that investm..... view more

FBR and the informal economy
At the peak of this year’s budget preparation, the Federal Board of Revenue has tried hard to mine the data available and go after the so-called informal segments of the economy also known as undocumented or cash-based activities. Whatever definition of the informal economy we use, this will perhaps be an unusual year in that despite a decent identification of such sectors and activities, the FBR may not be able to go after them. The overa.....view more

Budget 2020 and CPEC
Source: Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Daily Times, 2020-06-15
The economic survey and budget documents are presenting a dismal picture of economy. The economy has contracted. Major production sectors, except agriculture is showing negative growth. Government could not achieve any major target of major indicators of economy. It was expected in the backdrop of COVID-19. As we know, the world economy is contracting, and people are losing jobs. The inflation has just started to rise, and people are with few res.....view more

Webinars News

Better business regulatory environment sought for SMEs
Islamabad : The business regulatory environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) needs to be improved through appropriate measures to enable them to cope with the unprecedented challenges posed by coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The notion was shared by stakeholders during an online dialogue organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here. The participants said measures were required beyond the short-term re.....view more