



PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter E-Book

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Foreword

Since its inception in 1957, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has been leading development policy research and debate in the country. Liberalization, protection, socioeconomic data collection and analysis, agriculture, and tax and policy are among areas that PIDE has either innovated or contributed.

Quite responsibly, the PIDE went on a war footing to understand the impact of the outbreak, when COVID-19 pandemic hit us. We daily prepared research-based Bulletins, Blogs and Newsletters and updated a Dashboard for informing audiences at every level with analysis, ideas, news and statistics.

We also created an online forum that met daily, bringing in a broad set of experts, business community and members of the civil society to understand the Corona crisis and develop an action plan in the light of the evolving situation.

Many among us have been making video interviews on the Corona situation for digging up more useful information on what we at PIDE are referring to as the Corona War. The videos can be viewed at the PIDE's YouTube channel.

I am proud of the PIDE researchers who rose to the task and conducted research daily to keep us abreast on the many dimensions of the crisis. This eBook collects the newsletters we prepared during the first 6 weeks of the crisis. It gives a day by day breakdown of the events during the COVID-19 outbreak as it was happening. It will be very useful for those researchers looking for an in-depth study of how policy, society, and thought evolved with the spread of the pandemic.

My thanks to Dr. Durre Nayab for diligently ensuring that the quality of the Bulletins and Blogs remained high. Our associate Aqeel Chaudhry developed a widely used Dashboard, that is giving us updated information twice a day.

My heartfelt appreciation to the team that kept this steady stream of research going for six weeks to produce a daily PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter. The team included Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Kalhor, Dr. Saud Ahmed Khan, Dr. Hassan Rasool, Dr. Amena Urooj, Dr. Ashan Ul Haq Satti, Mr. Fahd Zulfiqar, Ms. Fizzah Khalid Butt and Mr. Siddiq Qureshi.

We certainly hope that you, our audience, found what we did useful. Any suggestions and/or criticisms you have are more than welcome.

And please remain engaged with PIDE—*your think tank!*

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque
Vice Chancellor, PIDE

CONTENTS

1.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 1	1
2.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 2	5
3.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 3	8
4.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 4	14
5.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 5	21
6.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 6	27
7.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 7	34
8.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 8	41
9.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 9	50
10.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 10	59
11.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 11	69
12.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 12	78
13.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 13	88
14.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 14	101
15.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 15	113
16.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 16	123
17.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 17	134
18.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 18	146
19.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 19	161
20.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 20	174
21.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 21	188
22.	PIDE COVID-19 Newsletter – 22	201



PIDE COVID-19 NEWSLETTER

March 21, 2020

No. 1

Global News

- Germany's strict no-debt (black zero) policy is at stake due to COVID-19 outbreak.
- Germany has high infection rates but few deaths. There are 17742 cases with the highest number of new cases i.e. 2422 on 20th March. Merkel expects that up to 70% of Germans might become infected with COVID-19.
- French police handed out over 4,000 fines on the first day of a nationwide lockdown.
- The European Central Bank launched a €750 billion (\$820 billion) emergency bond purchase scheme. The Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme should push down borrowing costs and help counter the economic slowdown in the bloc caused by the virus.

Global Response

- China will provide the EU with 2 million surgical masks, 200,000 more specialized N95 respirator masks and 50,000 testing kits, said the head of the EU Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.
- India sets up task force to tackle economic impact from coronavirus. The task force will take continuous feedback and suggestions from the industry stakeholders. Aviation and hospitality industry have been hit the hardest by coronavirus. It is estimated that India's travel and hospitality industry is expected to take a revenue hit of around INR 8500 Cr due to the suspension of travel plans in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

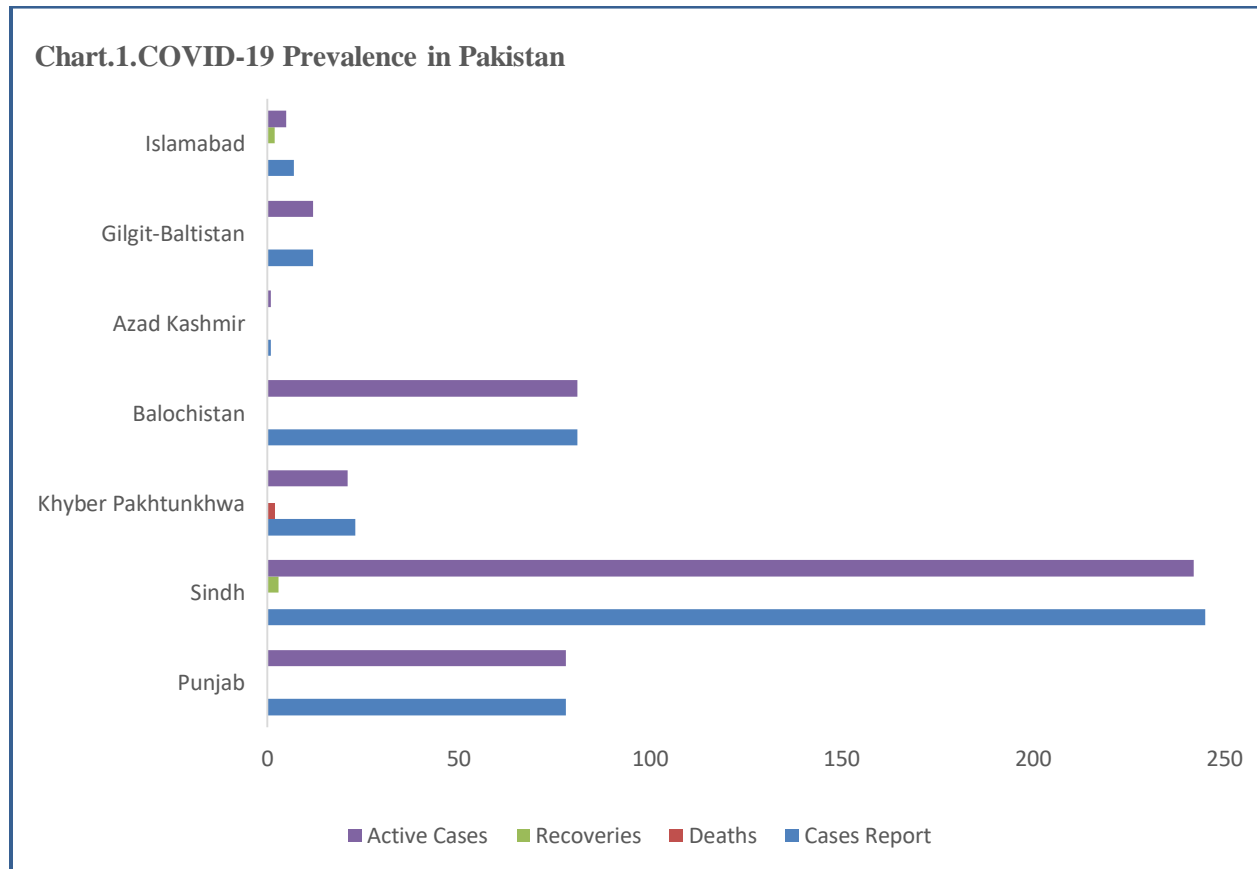
Local News

- Friday's death of a 77-year old man brings the total number of deaths in Pakistan to three. The country has 447 COVID-19 infected patients with 11 new cases reported on 20th March, 2020.
- PKR 1.3 trillion damage is expected due to COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan.

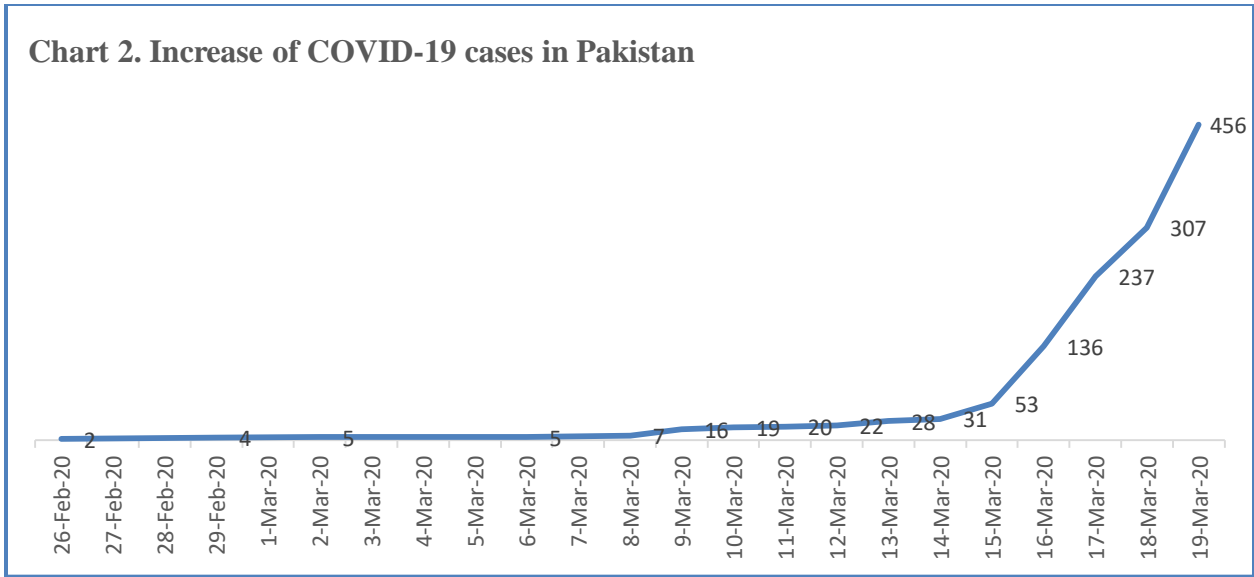
Local Response

- The citizens of Karachi are advised to self-isolate and stay home for coming three days.
- PM to personally look after the developments on COVID-19 on daily basis.

The segregated prevalence of COVID-19 in Pakistan is presented in chart 1. About 55% of cases in Sindh and only one case has been reported in AJK. Three deaths, two in KP and one in Sindh have been stated so far. Five recovered cases have also been reported. According to medical experts, every Virus has bell shape life cycle, if confined the infection rate decreases to zero; COVID-19 is not an exception. Almost all the infected have travelling history, local spread of infection is minimal till now, timely social distancing strategy seems paying off.



First case was reported on 27th February 2020, the figure remained single digit for about 10 days and reported initially within few areas then start increasing rapidly. The count increases exponentially after mid-March 2020. Chart.2 presents the cumulative cases of infected persons.



Highest cases (134) reported on 16th March 2020, two deaths were reported on 18th March 2020 in KP and one death is reported on 20th March 2020 in Sindh. (See Chart 3).

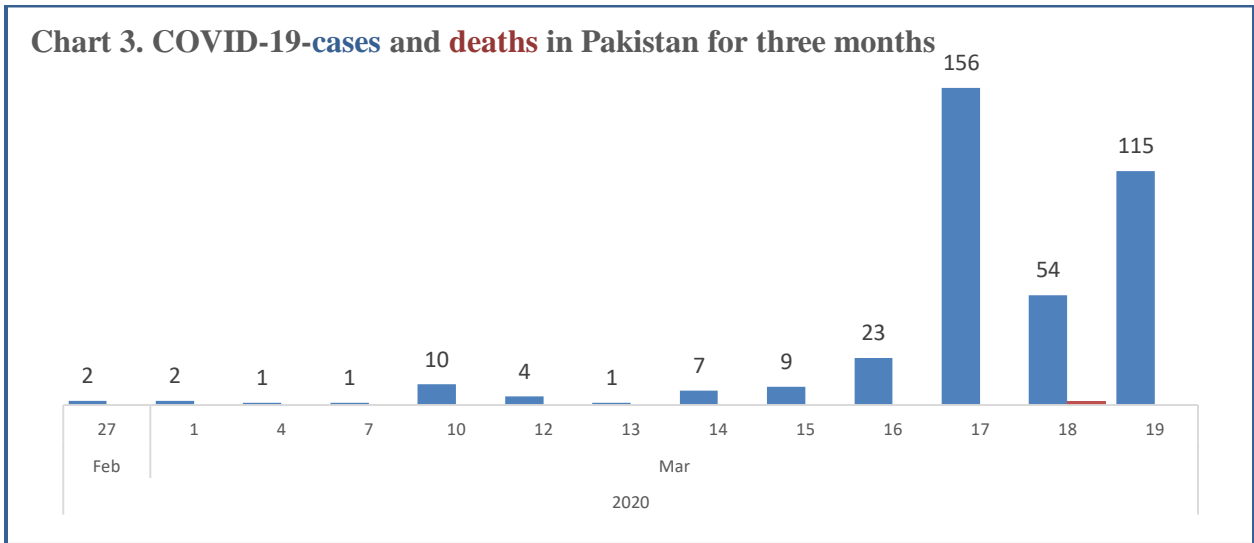
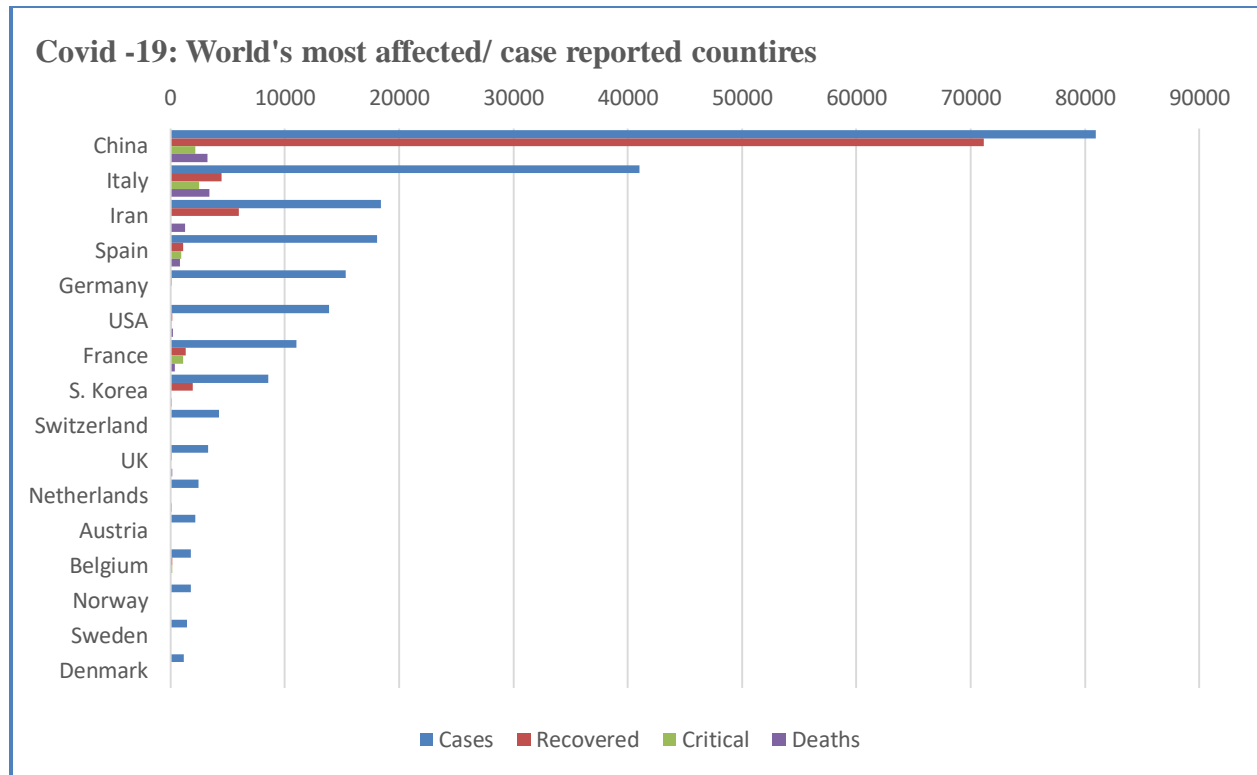


Chart.4 presents the top ten up to date COVID-19 spread in the whole world. So far a total of 177 countries have confirmed cases of COVID-19 with China having maximum number of cases i.e 80967 with 2136 number of deaths. However, Italy has reported most number of deaths i.e. 2498 with a total 41035 registered affected cases.



Expert's Advice:

The State Bank of Pakistan needs to figure out the possibility of an advice to the banks for forgiving late payments and suspending penalties.

Expert's Opinion: Future in the Making

Eichengreen, who specializes in economic history and is the author of more than a dozen books, including a highly regarded 'History of the Great Depression', said that he is working on the assumption that consumer spending will fall about thirty percent in the second quarter of 2020 which would be unprecedented.



Global News

- COVID-19 case count jumps to more than 277,000 with more than 11000 deaths.
- No new coronavirus cases in Wuhan for third straight day.
- Medical device manufacturing is highly regulated, depends on proprietary global supply chains, and requires significant expertise to ramp up and run.
- The US State Department announced to provide one million dollars to Pakistan to help fight coronavirus.
- According to the World Food Program about 300 million children who depend on school meals are missing out due to closures triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.
- 75 million Americans under virtual lockdown as restrictions tighten.
- Starbucks will close its cafes in the United States in response to the coronavirus crisis, though it will remain open for delivery and drive- through customers.

Global Response

- Jordan blows sirens for start of nationwide curfew for indefinite period. It has 85 reported cases; the decision came after identification of 16 new cases yesterday.
- US President Donald Trump said that he would invoke the Defense Production Act of 1950 to boost manufacturing of critical medical supplies. That act, passed during the Korean War, grants the president broad powers to direct businesses to produce specific goods that are critical to the national defense.
- California police to use drones to patrol coronavirus lockdown.

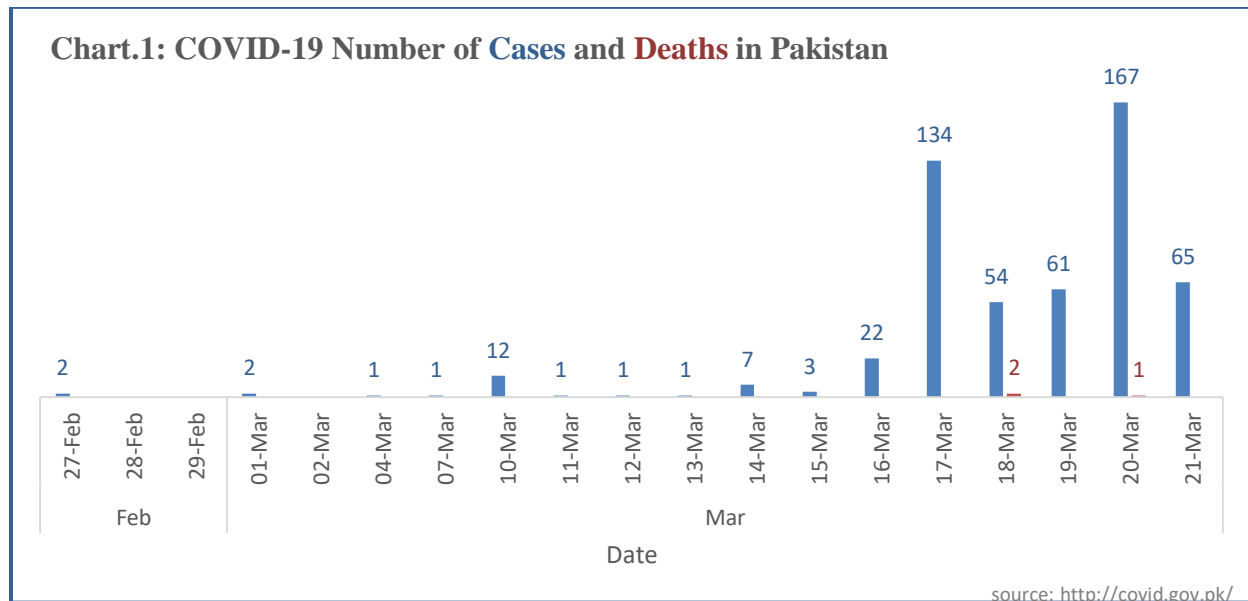
Local News

- 10 doctors in Abbasi Shaheed Hospital in Karachi told to self- isolate.
- All international flights to Pakistan suspended for 2 weeks.
- Railways minister says 34 trains to stop running until 15th of Ramazan.
- AJK suspends inter-provincial transport for 3 days.
- Cambridge Assessment International Education has cancelled all O- and A-Level exams in Pakistan.

Local Response

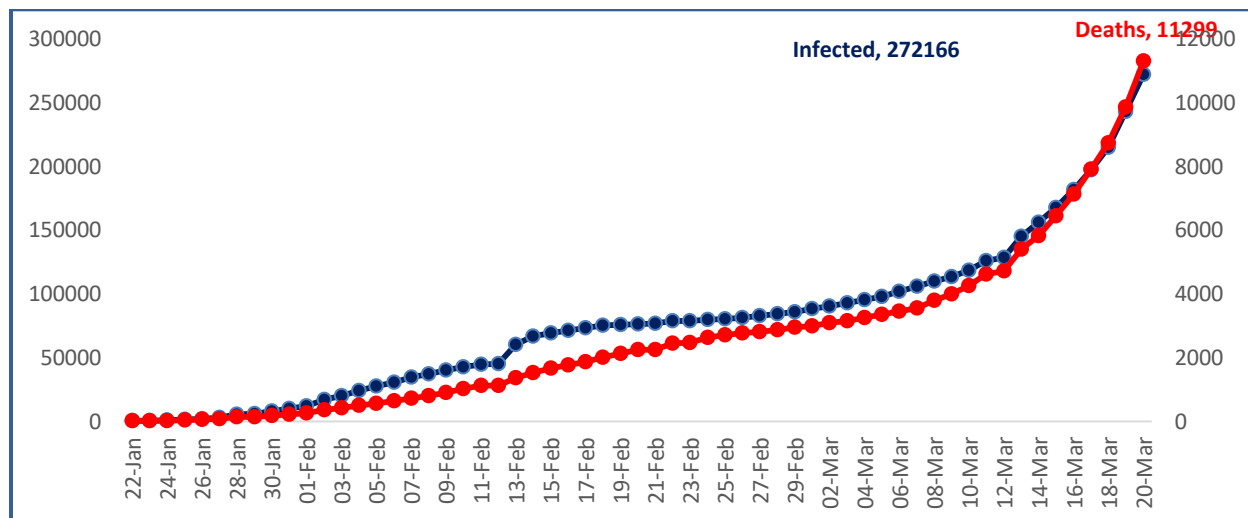
- PM Imran Khan says that government will announce economic package on March 24, 2020.
- CM Balochistan says facilities in Taftan being improved.
- Army Chief directs forces to expedite assistance of civilian administration.
- SBP takes measures to support exporters affected by loss of demand due to COVID-19.
- Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare (PPSH) Secretary says that 127,000 face masks being produced in Punjab everyday.
- Karachi Expo Centre has been turned into a field hospital.
- 240-bed quarantine centre established in Jhelum.

The daily spread of COVID-19 in Pakistan shows two peaks when number of infected reported in three digits one on March 17, 2020 and other on March 20, 2020. The highest 167 cases are reported on March 20, 2020, and on March 21, 2020 only 65 cases are registered which are less than half of the previous day. So far, the total number of cases registered is 534. The total number of deaths remained three; two on March 18, 2020 in KP and one on March 20, 2020 in Sindh (see Chart.1).



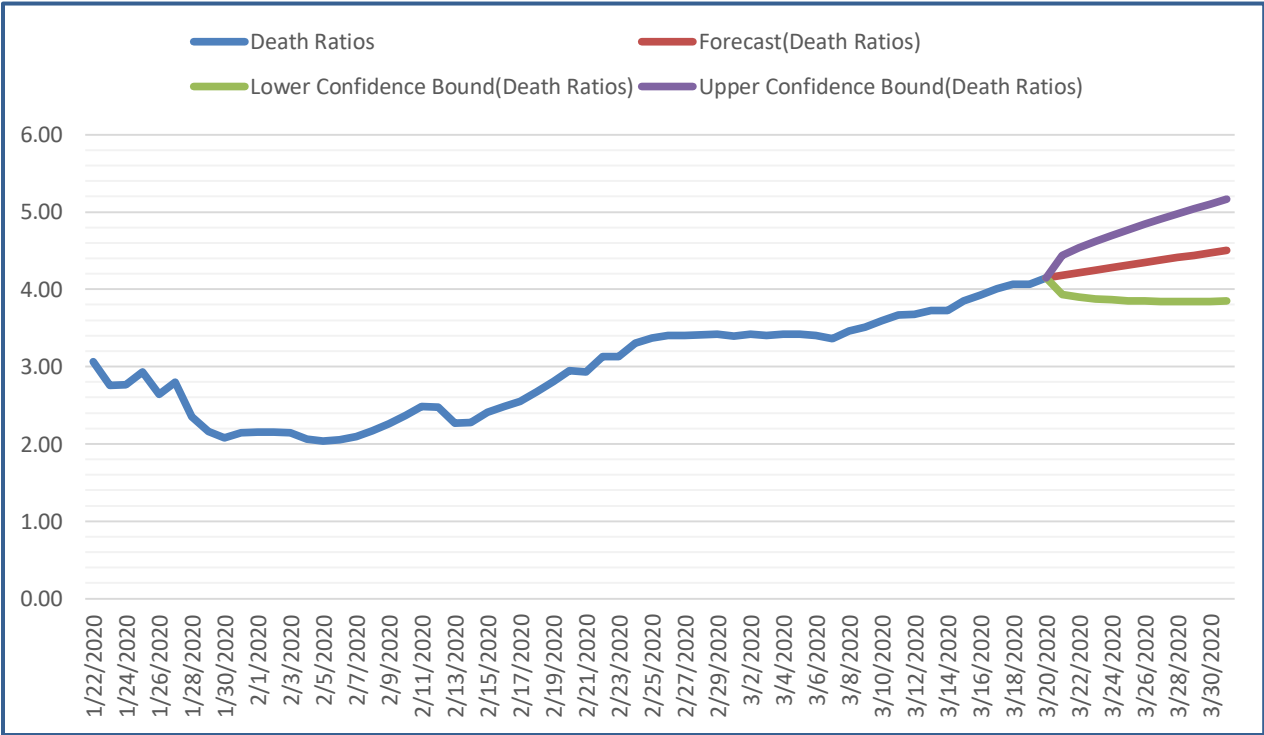
Comparison between two reveals that at the ends, the rate of coronavirus infected cases and death rate almost coincide except for the last few days when the death rate grows higher than the rate of infected cases, possibly due to higher death rate in Italy. In the middle, death rate remained lower than the infected rate, this is the period when COVID-19 prevailed mostly in China (see Chart.2).

Chart.2: Number of Infected Cases and Deaths



Simulated forecast predicts that the death ratio (number of deaths divided by number of infected) is increasing over the time. The current death ratio is 4.15% and it is predicted that at the end of this month, this ratio may increase by 4.52% with 95% confidence interval of (3.85%, 5.16%), (see Chart.3 for details).

Chart.3: Death Ratio of Coronavirus Infected Patients



Environmental Impacts:

Due to the impact of coronavirus outbreak on travel and industry, many regions experienced a drop in air pollution. Since last three months, the European Space Agency observed a marked decline in nitrous oxide emissions from cars, power plants and factories in the Po Valley region in Northern Italy, coinciding with lockdowns in the region. The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air reported that methods to contain the spread of coronavirus, such as quarantines and travel bans resulted in a 25% reduction of carbon emission in China. In the first month of lockdowns, China produced approximately 200 million fewer metric tons of carbon dioxide than the same period in 2019, due to the reduction in air traffic, oil refining and coal consumption.

Despite a temporary decline in global carbon emissions, the International Energy Agency warned that the economic turmoil caused by the coronavirus outbreak may prevent or delay companies from investing in green energy.

Expert's Advice:

PTV needs to start broadcasting primary school classes for different grades. Top five private TV channels be sponsored and allocated one class each to engage kids at home

Expert's Opinion:

“Unsurprisingly, sectors and product groups recover at different speeds, thus requiring distinct approaches. Stock prices fell across all sectors in the first two weeks that China's epidemic accelerated, but leading sectors, such as software and services, and healthcare equipment and services, recovered within a few days and have since increased by an average of 12%. The bulk of sectors recovered more slowly but reached prior levels within a few weeks. And the hardest-hit sectors such as transportation, retail and energy, representing 28% of market capitalization for China's largest stocks are still down by at least 5% and showing only minimal signs of recovery” (HBR Report).

Strategic Choices to overcome COVID-19:

Complete Lock Down, Invent the Vaccine, or Wait for the herd immunity i.e. once enough people get COVID-19, it will stop spreading on its own

Global News

- According to a WHO expert, lockdowns alone will not defeat the outbreak.
- UK government will not dismiss Italy-style lockdown.
- The number of global coronavirus cases surged past 300,000 on Sunday, with more than 13,000 deaths worldwide, according to John Hopkins University, which reported that China, Italy and the US had the most people diagnosed with the respiratory illness.
- India imposes a nationwide curfew.
- In Spain, the death toll rises by almost 400 as Germany and Iran see cases jump.
- A Washington State hospital says it could run out of ventilators by early April 2020.

Global Response

- Organizers of the Summer Olympics in Tokyo-seemingly unwilling to meddle just yet with years of planning and billions of dollars in anticipated revenue- insist the Games can begin in late July as scheduled.
- Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain had stern advice for the nation as it celebrated Mother's Day: Don't visit your mother.
- Hawaii orders a 14-day quarantine for all arrivals.
- The White House has signaled that American companies are increasing efforts to restock hospitals with crucial supplies during the pandemic, but it has stopped short of more assertive steps that some state and local leaders have been demanding.
- Australia closes pubs and cinemas but schools stay open.
- Chinese foundations to donate medical supplies to Pakistan, other Asian countries.



Avoid Handshaking To Prevent Spread of Coronavirus

Local News

- Pakistan cannot afford to impose a total lockdown, says PM Imran Khan.
- PM Imran Khan says that panic is more of a danger than the coronavirus.
- Punjab seeks army help to fight virus outbreak.
- Coronavirus cure: Anti-malarial drug vanishes from medical stores.
- Gas companies concern that tariff reduction would lead to the bankruptcy of gas companies.
- About 2,000 more people expected in Balochistan from Iran soon.

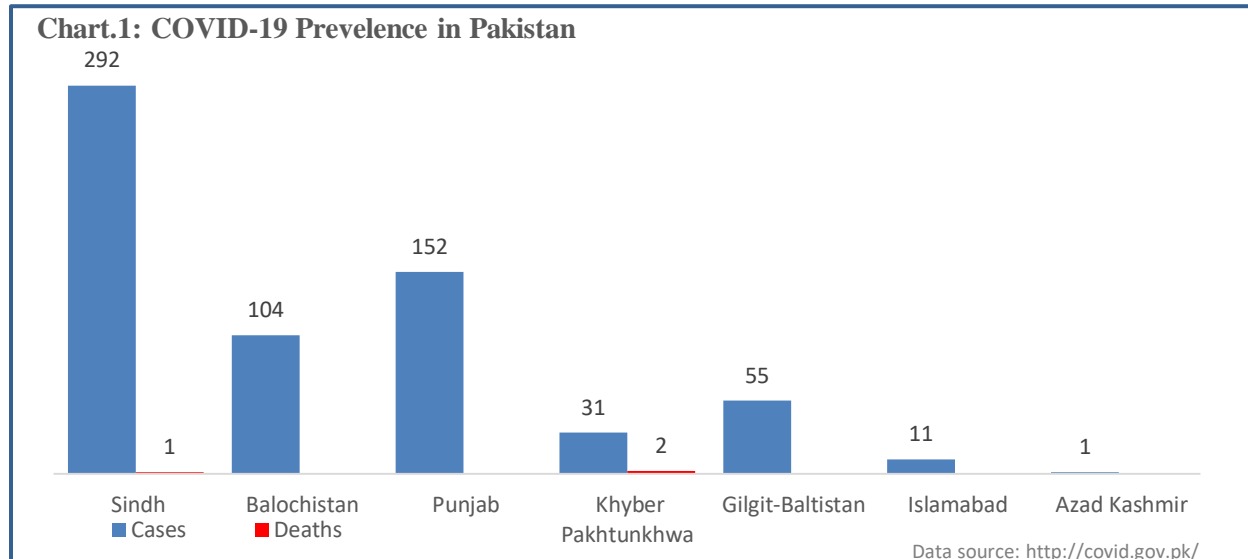
Local Response

- CM Sindh announces province-wide lockdown to combat coronavirus.
- KP orders closure of restaurants, suspends inter-city transport services.
- PEMRA asks channels not to hold morning shows inviting audience live.
- Sindh government on Sunday announced to impose lockdown in the province from tonight.
- Karachi Electric assures of uninterrupted supply to hospitals.
- KP CM Mahmood Khan approves 1,299 doctors' appointment on emergency basis.

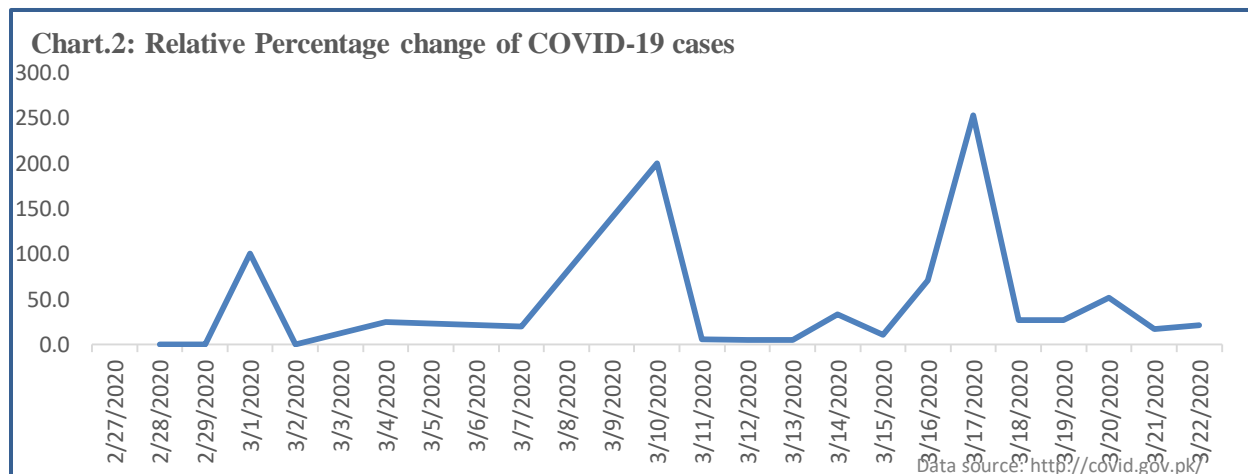


The frequency of COVID-19 in the provinces of Pakistan is increasing and it is still highest in Sindh, while in AJK only one case is reported so far. Total five persons are recovered and three deaths are registered. Since the recovery time is about two to three weeks, it is expected that number of recovered cases may increase in couple of weeks.

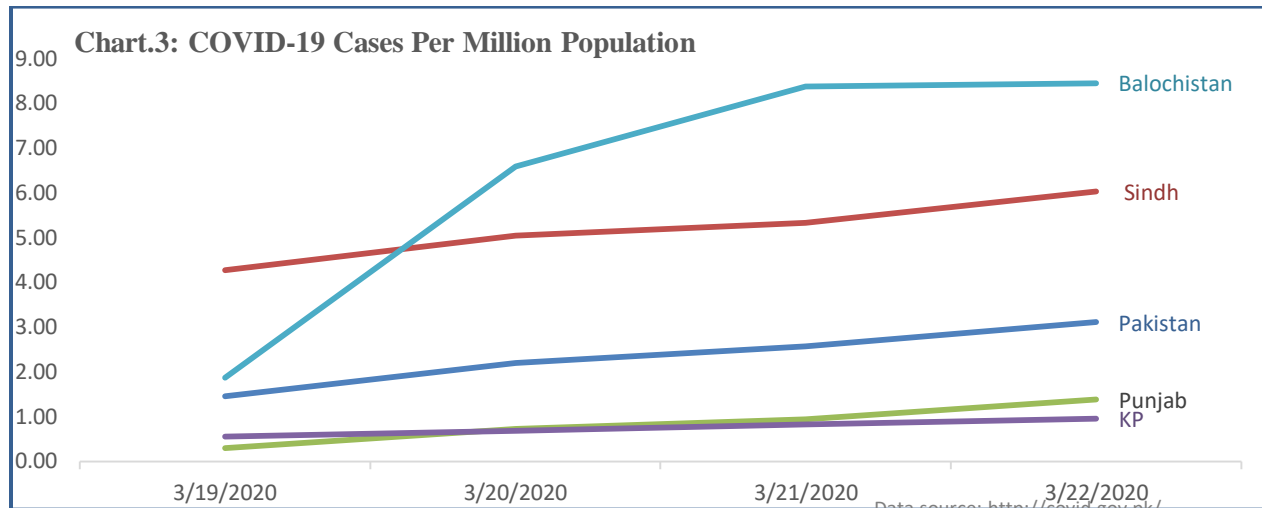
During last 24 hours, 185 new cases confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 646. The National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad, provides the risk assessment of the disease as having HIGH in Pakistan, see Chart.1.



Though the number of COVID-19 infected cases is increasing all over Pakistan, but surprisingly the rate of change is not monotonically increasing. This is because it depends on the number of infected persons' arrival from abroad, only a little is known about localized transmission of the disease, see Chart.2.



Sindh has the highest number of infected cases, but when we look at data in per million of population it is observed that Balochistan is the most vulnerable. Balochistan being the front-line area receiving pilgrims from Iran suffered the most. In KP per million cases are less than one. Since the medical facilities in Punjab and Sindh are much better, it is expected that patients may shift from KP and Balochistan to Punjab and Sindh.



Citizen Science

Interactive computing games have also been used to help with “designing and identifying proteins that may be able to bind and neutralize the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein that it uses to invade host cells. The scientists hope that players’ creations will yield insights that will allow them to create an effective antiviral therapy for COVID-19.” Foldit is an online video game that challenges players to fold various proteins into shapes where they are stable: “Players who can work alone or in teams are using the game’s puzzle system to develop new protein structures that can be tested by biochemists in the lab for use in antiviral drugs.” Folding@home developed by the Stanford University is asking people for donating their CPU time for computational drug design and other types of molecular dynamics involving COVID-19.

Experts’ View:

Public gatherings, including congregational prayer, must be banned, as they are the world over. Quarantine and isolation will have to be enforced; no one is listening to suggestions, least of all the government itself. Continuing to act like feckless, passive spectators will send us down Iran’s path; rigorous, early testing will send us down Korea’s. **(Salaar Khan, The News)**

The SBP must save Pakistan’s corporate citizens and Pakistani families from corona-induced economic disaster. The SBP must do two things: bailout affected industries and boost household demand (some of these measures – guaranteeing business loans, for instance – do not require any upfront funding). We must not expect other countries to help us out because they all have their own problems to deal with. **(Dr. Farrukh Saleem, The News).**

Experts' Opinion:

Behavioral science recognizes that trust in our leaders is the antidote to anxiety and potential social breakdown. A perception that the government response strategies are not effective in looking after the public may lead to an increase in tensions. **(Mark Easton, BBC News).**

The world of work is being profoundly affected by the global virus pandemic. In addition to the threat to public health, the economic and social disruption threatens the long-term livelihoods and wellbeing of millions. Workers' organizations can play an important role in participating in decision making and policies responses to the crisis on COVID-19. They can contribute to the prevention and protection of workers by giving reliable information. **(ILO)**

Social scientists have recorded evidence that natural disasters develop empathy among humans. But pandemics affect the normal bonds of human affection and social distancing becomes a virtue. **(Muhammad Amir Rana, DAWN).**

Main goal for governments should be to limit the spread of the virus in a way that provides confidence that economic shock will be temporary **(Martin Muehleisen, IMF).**

COVID-19 READS

1. Slowdown or Shutdown Pakistan's Dilemma
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-2.pdf>
2. COVID-19 in Pakistan: Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin.pdf>
3. Panic buying, Lockdowns may Drive World Food Inflation
<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001365177/panic-buying-lockdowns-may-drive-world-food-inflation-fao-analysts>
4. Chloroquine for COVID-19: Cutting Through the Hype
<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/is-hype-over-chloroquine-as-a-potential-covid-19-therapy-justified--67301>
5. Coronavirus: The Hammer and the Dance
<https://medium.com/@tomaspueyo/coronavirus-the-hammer-and-the-dance-be9337092b56>
6. This is What We Can Learn from the Way Kerala is Handling its Coronavirus Calamity
https://www.vice.com/en_in/article/pkewx8/lessons-from-kerala-handling-coronavirus
7. Social Distancing 101 for COVID-19 Coronavirus: Here are the Dos and Don'ts
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2020/03/21/social-distancing-101-for-covid-19-coronavirus-here-are-the-dos-and-donts/#1448b19c2dd6>
8. Coronavirus: In Dense Bangladesh, Social Distancing a Tough Task
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/coronavirus-dense-bangladesh-social-distancing-tough-task-200320103733470.html>
9. Coronavirus: Perfect Storm of Virus Peril in Asia's Sprawling Slums
<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/coronavirus-perfect-storm-of-virus-peril-in-asias-sprawling-slums>
10. Money Can Buy Some Protection from Coronavirus. But the Poor Can't Afford It, Leaving them More Vulnerable
<https://www.inquirer.com/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-philadelphia-poverty-food-homeless-food-stamps-20200314.html>



Global News

- Emirates Airline is suspending all passenger flights from March 25 for a renewable period of two weeks as the UAE halts all inbound, outbound and transit passenger flights.
- China had 39 new confirmed cases on Sunday, the National Health Commission said, down from 46 a day earlier.
- New Zealand prepares for lockdown; Hong Kong to ban tourists.
- European markets tumble as the coronavirus continues to take its toll; Stoxx 600 down 4.5%.
- World leaders plead with public to stay home; debate rages in U.S. over \$1.8 Trillion relief package.
- Iran death toll climbs to 1,812 with 127 new deaths.
- New York City region is now the epicenter of outbreak in America.
- Banknotes carry no particular coronavirus risk: German disease expert.

Global Response

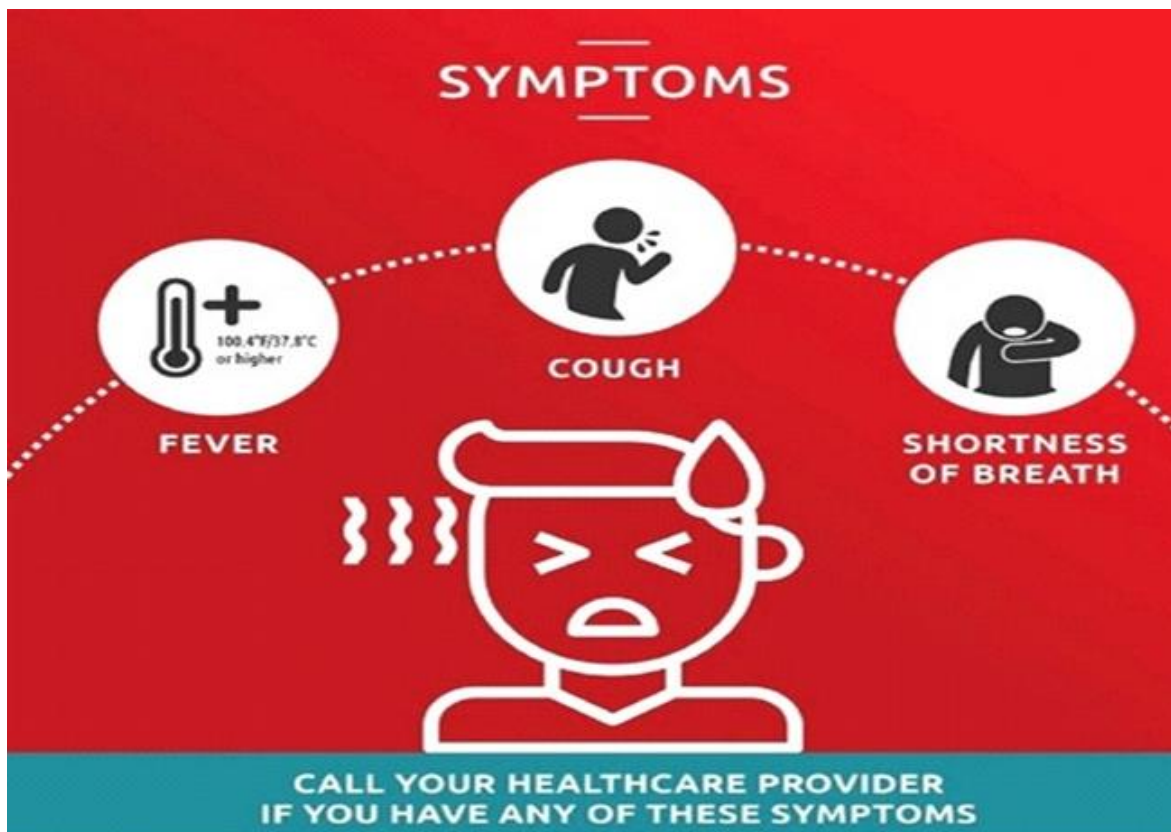
- China aims to be a stabilizing force as global financial markets gyrate.
- Trump activates National Guard in California, New York and Washington State.
- Bad blood between the U.S. and China complicates efforts to get medical equipment where it is needed.
- Throughout Spain, hospitals and exhibition centers are being converted into field hospitals. The aid organization Doctors Without Borders has set up a 100-bed unit on a university campus in Madrid.
- Shell cuts 2020 spending by \$5 billion, suspends share buyback.
- Australia and Canada will not send teams to Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound closed over coronavirus fears.
- Saudi Arabia imposes nationwide curfew amid coronavirus pandemic.
- China embarks on clinical trial for corona vaccine.
- Bill Gates, the world's second-richest person, has committed \$100 million through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to aid global research and treatment of the coronavirus. Jack Ma, Alibaba founder and the second-richest person in China has pledged \$14 million from his foundation to help develop a coronavirus vaccine.

Local News

- Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has announced a 14-day partial lockdown in the province as part of an effort to contain the novel coronavirus.
- Gilgit-Baltistan's 'hero' doctor who spearheaded fight against COVID-19 dies.
- Pakistanis stranded at Qatar airport to arrive tonight.
- Karachi passengers flock to Cantt Station on the first day of lockdown.

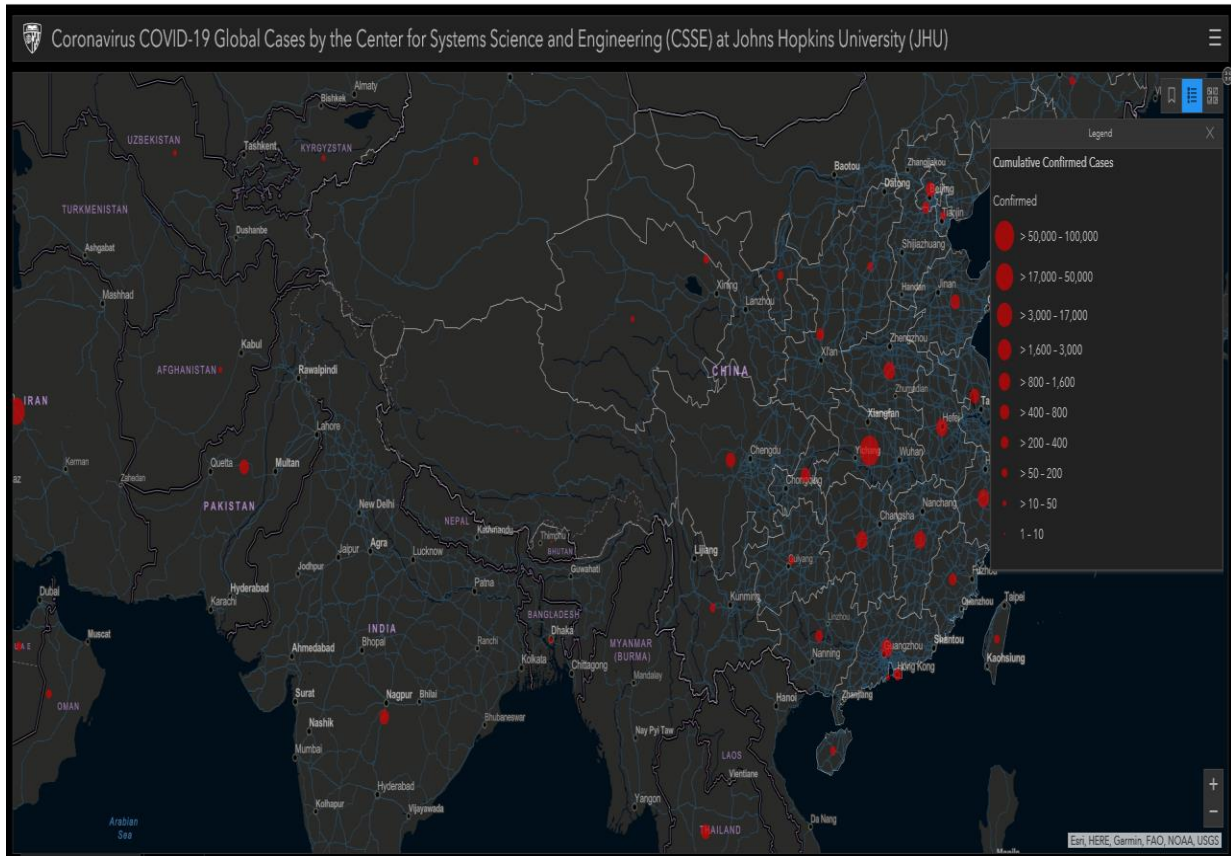
Local Response

- PM Imran Khan approves summary granting provinces powers to seek army's help.
- Sindh government moves to curtail expenses, decides to disburse pensions early.
- Mobile phone operators told to replace ringback tone with awareness messages.
- K-Electric says will not waive off bills, 'providing uninterrupted power supply.
- Moed Yusuf tells overseas Pakistanis not to return amid coronavirus pandemic.

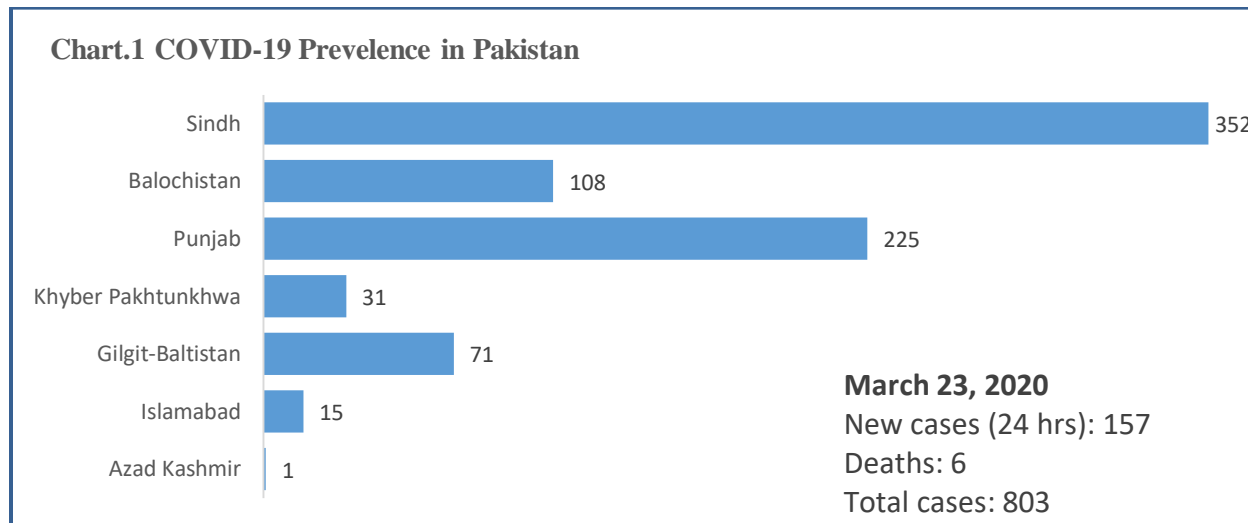


COVID-19 Global Spread

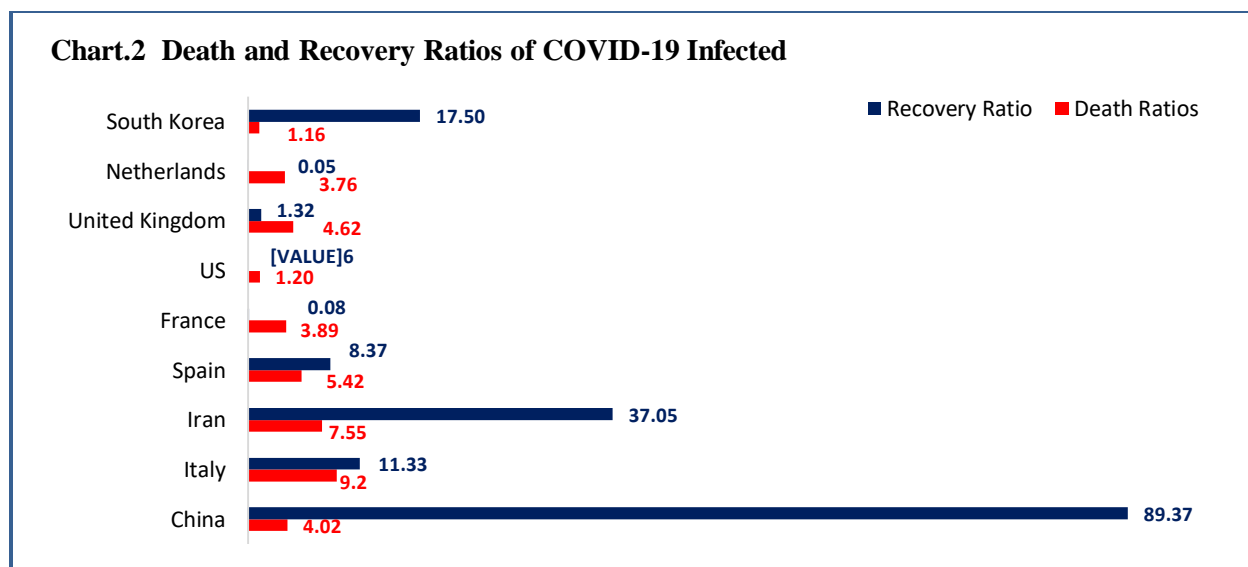
The spread of Coronavirus has been declared pandemic by the World Health Organization, having 349,211 confirmed cases in more than 180 countries so far. Initiating from China, the epicenter of the disease is Europe now, with the largest number of confirmed cases in Italy. The number of people confirmed to have died as a result of the virus as it has now surpassed 15,308. Italy is facing the highest number of death toll yet.



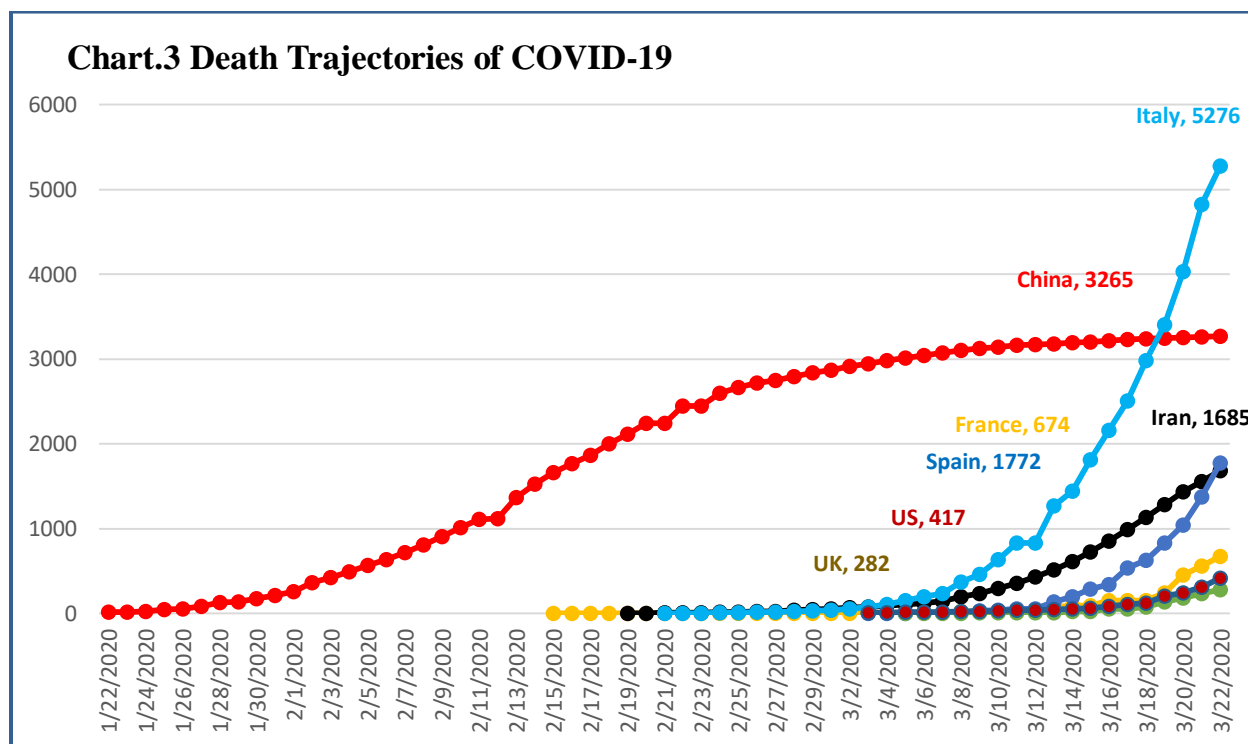
On March 23, 2020, during the last 24 hours, 157 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 803. Two new deaths, 1 in KP and 1 in Balochistan makes total death toll to 6, see Chart.1.



Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 the death ratio (death to infected ratio) and recovery ratio (recovered to infected ratio) are continuously changing over time. Country to country varying ratios not only depend on government interventions but also on some confounding factors. In the current scenario death ratio in Italy is highest with 9.2%, followed by Iran, Spain and the UK with 7.55%, 5.42% and 4.62% respectively. The recovery ratio is also varying country to country, currently it is highest in China followed by Iran and South Korea. One possible reasons of high death ratio in Italy is that 28.6% of total population in Italy is above 70 years, the most vulnerable age group (more than 90% of deaths belong to this age group), see Chart.2.



A sigmoid shape Death Trajectory of China confirms the bell shape cycle of COVID-19, it indicates that if confined the spread of COVID-19 will converge to zero. This can be achieved with the strategy of social distancing (volunteer or forced). The number of deaths in Italy started increasing exponentially in fourth week after outbreak of COVID-19 in this region. Provided the China like interventions by Italian government we can expect a decrease in number of deaths in Italy during next couple of weeks, see chart.3.



Coronavirus Scenarios

Respiratory disease is rapidly spreading due to novel coronavirus. Disappointing scenes are surfacing in Italy, where the rise of COVID-19 has overwhelmed the medical system and doctors have reported a shortage of staff and equipment. More than 5,400 people have died there, surpassing China in total deaths. Federal and provincial governments are urging people to take measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 respiratory virus that causes the disease. In case if anyone catches Coronavirus, there are three scenarios:

Best Case Scenario

Even without proven treatment, the coronavirus can be less deadly than feared. In South Korea and China, about 0.8 percent of the victims died, and the cruise ship's rate was 0.6 percent. More than 78% patients recover without hospitalization and simple flu symptoms medication.

Most Likely Scenario

The best information we have about the speed of health recovery comes from the World Health Organization's study examining more than 55,000 cases in China. They found that, on average, the mild disease, from the onset of symptoms to recovery, was two weeks. This timeframe was also endorsed in a published report about the first US case clinical course of the US state of Coronavirus. The man was healed in just two weeks. Information from Chinese data also shows that rehabilitation of the more seriously ill patients took up to three to six weeks.

Worst Case Scenario

Because of the worst cases of COVID-19, a person loses his or her ability to breathe; a ventilator is the only option to save lives. But there are less than 2000 ventilators in Pakistan, and hundreds of patients who are struggling to breathe may need such care. Other machines can provide oxygen to help people with mild or moderate forms of the disease, but the most critically ill patients need powerful airway pressure that only ventilators can provide.

Experts' View:

However, the Covid-19 will have a significant impact on the growth rate this year. This is based on the assumption that about 50pc of the development spending is usually spent in the last quarter of a fiscal year and such expenditures are already losing focus both at the federal and provincial level as normal construction and related activities come to a halt. **(Khaleeq Kiani, DAWN)**

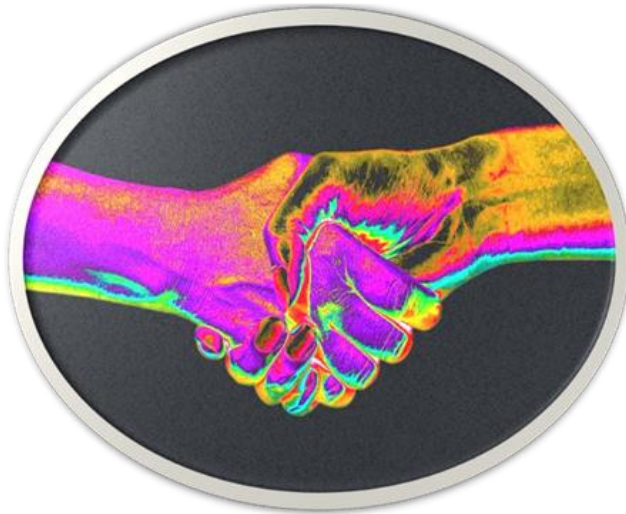
The impact is expected to be more severe in densely populated urban areas (clustered shanty townships) compared to rural areas where the population is more dispersed and its dependence on the market for the provision of essentials is comparatively limited. Though often devoid of amenities (running tap water, gas, electricity and sewage system), many rural households are self-sustaining. No government, even in the richest of the countries, can handle a crisis of this scale by itself. In Pakistan where the capacity and resources of the government are limited, it would be apt to pool public and private resources to deal with the crisis. **(Afshan Subohi, DAWN)**

Experts' Opinion:

The COVID pandemic reveals cities' vulnerability to health outbreaks, disruptions to supply chains, and economic decline. **(UNDP)**

Our approach to tackling coronavirus is to be as clear and transparent as possible – because all that matters is getting this response right. **(Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health & Social Care and MP for West Suffolk)**

The world will take years to recover from the coronavirus pandemic. The economic shock is already bigger than the financial crisis and it is "wishful thinking" to believe that countries would bounce back quickly. **(Angel Gurría, OECD)**



Avoid Hand Shaking- Source: Getty Images

COVID-19 READS

1. Pakistan's Struggle with COVID-19 Quarantines
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-3.pdf>
2. Is the Coronavirus Shaping the Future of How We Work?
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/opinion/coronavirus-california.html>
3. 'My Fear, I have to Put it Away.' Coronavirus Job Opportunities Put Workers on the Front Lines of the Epidemic
<https://time.com/5807686/coronavirus-jobs/>
4. Thank God the Doctor is In
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/21/opinion/sunday/fauci-coronavirus-trump.html>
5. Why do People Really Wear Face Masks during an Epidemic?
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/13/opinion/coronavirus-face-mask-effective.html>
6. Brown Medical Anthropologist Weighs in in Coronavirus in China
<https://www.brown.edu/news/2020-01-24/coronavirus>
7. Let's Talk: Social Anthropologist Frederic Keck on the Coronavirus
<https://axaxl.com/fast-fast-forward/articles/social-anthropologist-frederic-keck-on-the-coronavirus>
8. The Coronavirus: Sociology of a Pandemic
<https://m.gulf-times.com/story/658925/The-coronavirus-Sociology-of-a-pandemic>
9. 'All Giving is Very Necessary.' Way to Give to Charity During the Coronavirus Crisis
<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/19/818518736/exploring-the-best-ways-to-give-to-charity-during-the-coronavirus-crisis>
10. How Does the Coronavirus Compare to Other Economic Shocks?
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfc>



PIDE COVID-19 NEWSLETTER

March 25, 2020

No. 5

Global News

- Prime Minister Boris Johnson placed Britain under a nationwide lockdown, drastically restricting movement in a bid to curb the coronavirus.
- Senate Democrats have again blocked action on a \$1.8 trillion economic stabilization package as talks continue with the Trump administration.
- Stocks on Wall Street dropped again as Washington remained deadlocked over a stimulus package to shore up the economy.
- Coronavirus cases in the US surge past 35,200, records 471 deaths from coronavirus as infections exceed 336,000 globally.
- How far will Europe go? Central bankers and EU leaders push for 'corona bonds'.
- Investor David Tepper says the US needs to do 'whatever it takes' to mass produce ventilators now.
- Stocks have 'at least 10% to 15%' further to fall: Scaramucci.
- South Korea reports lowest number of new cases in four weeks.
- East Africa faces dual shock from coronavirus and locust swarms.

Global Response

- Governments around the world are increasingly using location data to manage the coronavirus.
- Trump says coronavirus cure cannot be worse than the problem itself. US President said that at the end of the 15 day period, we will make a decision as to which way we want to go!
- Germany to unveil major stimulus as virus death toll rises throughout Europe. Germany is planning to increase borrowing by as much as 150 billion Euros (\$160 billion) this year as well as to pass a 156 billion Euros (\$167 billion) supplementary budget.
- Facebook joins YouTube and Netflix in reducing video quality in Europe amid virus pandemic.

Local News

- PM Imran Khan allocates Rs200bn relief package for daily-wagers amid coronavirus outbreak.
- Panic poses more threat than coronavirus, says PM Imran Khan
- PM Imran Khan opposes curfew, says it will have negative impact
- Pakistani doctors decry lack of supplies as lockdown looms. Doctors raise alert over personal protection equipment shortage as Taftan quarantine camp remains at centre of spread.
- Pakistan needs 10,000 ventilators, but only China can sell, says NDMA chairman.

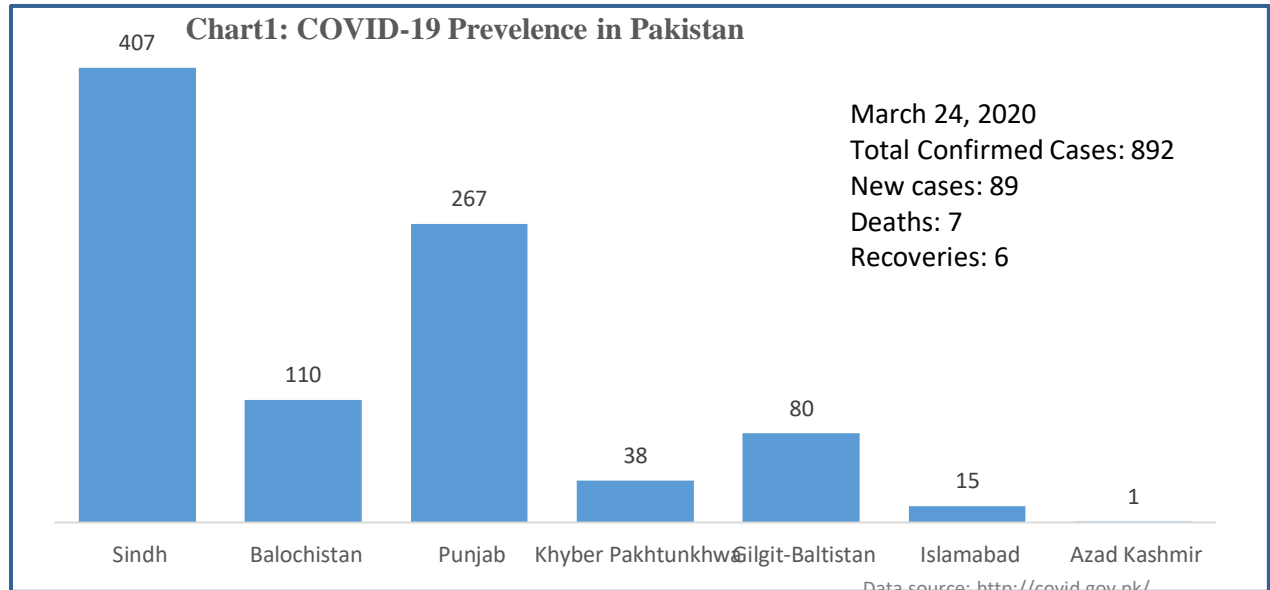
Local Response

- Sindh chief minister forms 4-member body to evolve mechanism for distribution of rations.
- Coronavirus crisis: Government calls in Pakistan Army troops.
- Pakistan pilots to donate 3-day salary to COVID-19 fund.
- Khusro Bakhtiar tells people to avoid panic buying, says Pakistan has ample stock.
- Coronavirus: Three-week lockdown imposed in Azad Kashmir.
- Pakistani engineers develop anti-bacterial wipes to help protect from coronavirus.
- Pakistani volunteers' 3D-print ventilators, join war against COVID-19.

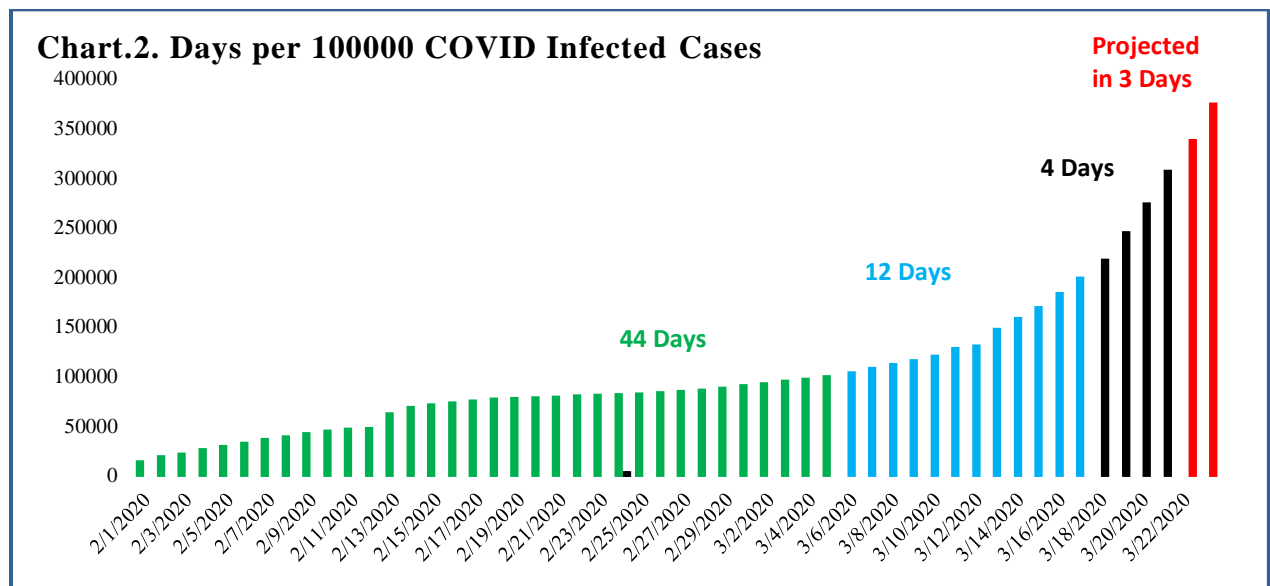


Source: DAWN/AFP. Labourers walk on a deserted street during a lockdown in Karachi.

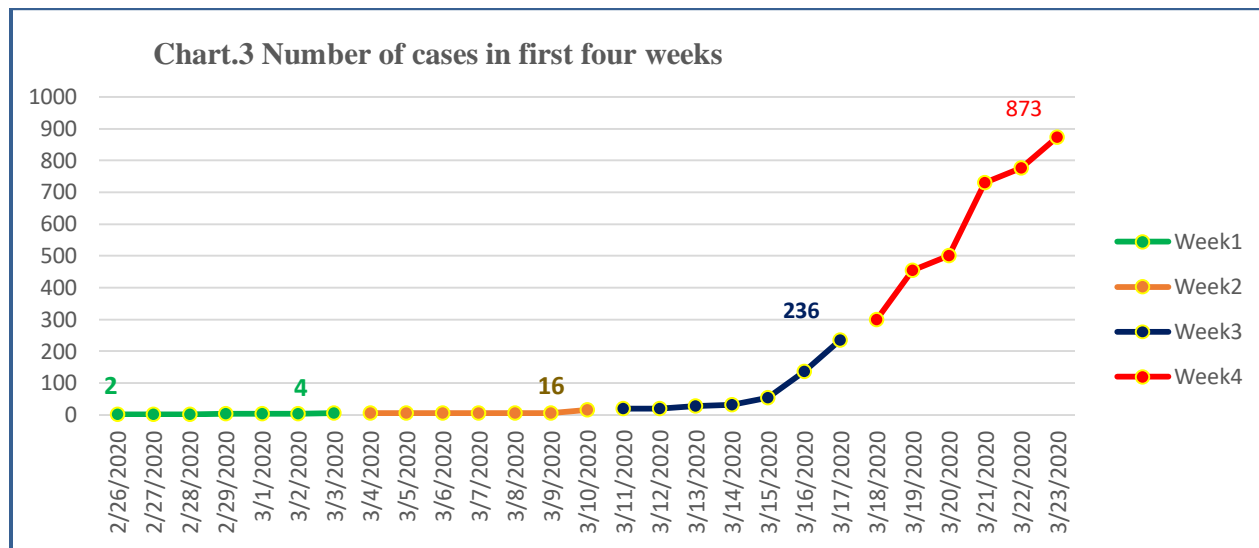
As on March 24, 2020, during last 24 hours, 89 new cases confirmed by different laboratories, brings the national tally to 892. Number of new cases are about half of the previously new added cases, see Chart.1.



Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the Chinese province of Hubei, the virus increased rapidly worldwide, because people were not aware or didn't take it seriously. First one hundred thousand cases were reported in initial 44 days. Since it was late, the following hundred thousand were infected in next 12 days. The situation got worst when in last 2 days 74 thousand cases registered see Chart.2.



The first case in Pakistan was reported after about 2 months of COVID-19 outbreak. During this time local and foreign media played active role to create general awareness in masses. Federal and Provincial governments also reacted promptly and adequately within their resources to lessen the foreseen impact through general public awareness. The strategy paid off and the COVID-19 intensity in Pakistan remained much lower than many other countries. In Pakistan 4 cases were reported at the end of first week, increased to 16 at the end of second week. A total of 236 cases registered at the end of 3rd week and 892 at the end of 4th week, see Chart.3.



Coping with depression

Research has shown that cases of depression, stress and anxiety increase whenever there are situations like the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. Effects on people’s physical and psychological health become common as the conditions force people to socially isolate themselves from others. The fear of the unknown future causes stress, anxiety and depression. Stress is an ordinary psychological response of our body during an abnormal scenario. People get anxious when a real-threat is posed in front of them and they do not have the means to tackle and fully comprehend it. Usually when a person faces the above two challenges, he gets depressed and discouraged. A depressed person can project his emotions through crying, sleeplessness, loss of appetite, getting irritated by little things, and isolating themselves further, among a few other. Therefore, to make sure that the current events do not take a toll on your mental health, one should take part in healthy activities like reading, spending time with family, listening to music, etc. It is also really important that you stay up-to-date with the most accurate information about the pandemic and not let the rumor mills get to you. If the current news on the pandemic gets too overwhelming for you, then it's better to avoid tuning in every hour for the sake of your mental health. So, Step away from media if you start feeling overwhelmed. Remember that as long as you think healthy you stay healthy! **(Written by Ramsha Masood Ahmed, Student at the Department of Development Studies, PIDE)**

Experts' View:

We should also stop churning out conspiracy theories over such infections. Giving a racial outlook to an outbreak is very negative. Such an attitude will only create fissures among the international community that needs a united front to deal with a catastrophe that is affecting millions of people across the country and pushing the world towards economic anarchy. (Abdul Sattar, The News International)

The first thing to recognize is that for all practical purposes, the ongoing adjustment program negotiated with the Fund recently would be difficult to hold together. It needs to be reviewed quickly, and revised or put on hold temporarily. This could be for a period of up to six months initially, estimated to correspond with the Coronavirus cycle. For this, we would need to seek a waiver from the IMF in certain specific areas such as revenue, expenditure and subsidies. (Rumman Faruqi, Pakistan Today)

As economy grinds to a halt, businesses need a stimulus package but they should prepare to give back. It is a grim reality that even under a best-case scenario the economic repercussions of this crisis will be devastating. With millions of people locked inside their homes the economy will grind to a halt and businesses, particularly small and medium-sized ones, are facing an existential crisis. (Uzair Younus, Dawn News)

Experts' Opinion:

Experts warn that an international health and economic crisis calls for more cooperation, not confrontation, between Washington and Beijing. (Michael Crowley, Edward Wong and Lara Jakes, NY Times)

Health workers at the frontlines to contain the COVID-19 pandemic need to be protected from dangerous medical waste. (**Asian Development Bank**)

Today I want to make a call to action to the G20. I urge all official bilateral creditors of the poorest countries to act with immediate effect... allowing the countries to concentrate their resources on fighting the pandemic. (**David Malpass, President, World Bank Group**)



Source: DAWN/AFP. A vendor carrying masks for sale on the deserted street of Lahore during lockdown.

COVID-19 READS

1. Sectoral Analysis of the Vulnerably Employed, COVID-19 and the Pakistan's Labor Market
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-4.pdf>
2. Covid-19's Economic Pain is Universal. But Relief? Depends on Where You Live
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/23/world/europe/coronavirus-economic-relief-wages.html>
3. Tackling Coronavirus Anxiety With Dating Apps, Recipes and Old Videos
<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2020/coronavirus-covid-19-03-18>
4. How the Covid-19 Recession Could Become a Depression
<https://www.vox.com/2020/3/23/21188900/coronavirus-stock-market-recession-depression-trump-jobs-unemployment>
5. COVID-19: The World needs to Prepare for an Economic Depression
<https://thewire.in/economy/covid-19-world-economic-depression>
6. 'Clear as Mud': Schools Ask for Online Learning Help as Coronavirus Policy Confusion Persists
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/mar/24/clear-as-mud-schools-ask-for-online-learning-help-as-coronavirus-policy-confusion-persists>
7. To Get Through Coronavirus Lockdown, We Need Basic Income
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/coronavirus-lockdown-basic-income-200321130521139.html>
8. Coronavirus Will Hurt Us All. But It Will Be Worst For Those Who Have the Least
<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-03-21/coronavirus-income-inequality>
9. Lost Sense of Smell May Be Peculiar Clue to Coronavirus Infection
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/22/health/coronavirus-symptoms-smell-taste.html>
10. 3 Ways the Coronavirus Pandemic is Changing Society and Human Interaction as We know it, According to a Psychologist
<https://theconversation.com/3-ways-the-coronavirus-pandemic-is-changing-who-we-are-133876>



If you can read and
understand..
please stay @ home

Global News

- Dow soars over 11% in strongest one-day performance since 1933.
- China's premier warns local officials not to hide new coronavirus infections.
- Stocks rallied on the hope that Washington was close to producing a stimulus bill. Shares soared for airlines and other companies expected to benefit.
- President Trump said he wanted the US opened up and “raring to go by Easter” on April 12, defying the warnings of most health experts.
- New York's case count is doubling every three days, the governor Andrew M. Cuomo says.
- Turkey reports 7 new deaths as country's tally of infections crosses 1500.
- UK reports biggest rise yet in coronavirus deaths as toll rises to 422.
- Airlines beg for rescue as coronavirus hit soars to \$250 billion.

Global Response

- Fashion industry answers the call for masks and personal protective equipment to fight COVID-19.
- US announces \$2 trillion aid package.
- The Tokyo Olympics will be delayed until 2021.
- India's Prime Minister decreed a 21-day lockdown for the country of 1.3 billion.
- Coronavirus patients in Italy face prison if they break quarantine.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping to attend G20 virtual summit on COVID-19.

- Chinese face mask makers to meet global demand as COVID-19 spreads overseas. The World Health Organization earlier this month called for a 40-percent-increase in manufacturing for countries all over the globe as it estimates that the world needs 89 million medical masks each month for medical workers fighting on the frontlines.
- Companies reshape business models to cope with coronavirus aftermath.

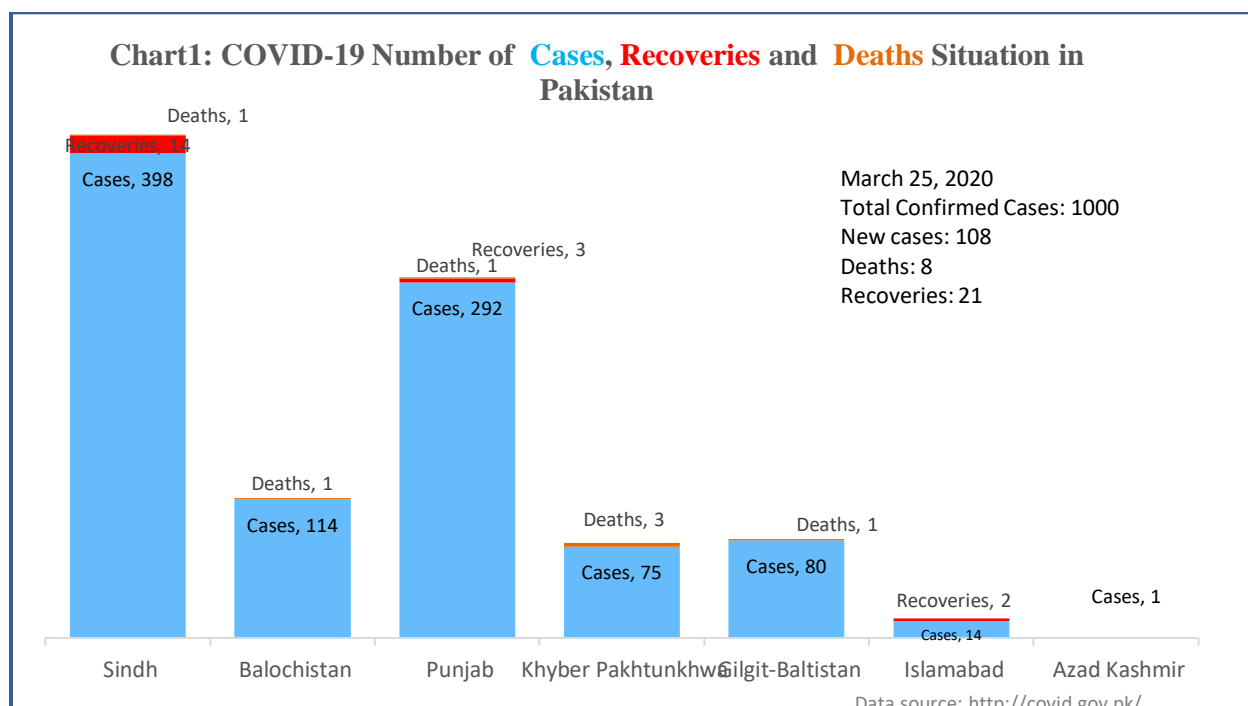
Local News

- Biggest challenge during lockdown will be to help daily-wage workers, says PM Imran Khan.
- Lockdown should not hinder transport, says PM Imran Khan.
- 10 more patients recover in Sindh; total tally of recovered in province rises to 14.
- 640 recovered in Quarantine center Sukkur.
- Covid-19 testing halted in SUIIT due to unavailability of testing kits.
- Schools in KP to remain closed till April 5 as coronavirus cases in Pakistan cross 900 mark.
- Stay indoors, cooperate with govt. Pakistan Ulema Council to masses.
- PSX crashes nearly 7% as pandemic batters sentiment.

Local Response

- PM Imran Khan unveils Rs.1.2 trillion relief package, also, the fuels fall by Rs.15 a liter.
- Coronavirus: Govt. to provide Rs. 12,000 to 10 million affectees under Ehsaas programme.
- Government asked to declare force majeure in LNG deal.
- SBP to ensure provision of 'disinfected cash', availability of ATMs amid virus crisis.
- SECP relaxes regulatory deadlines.
- Karachi's rich unstringing their purses for those hit by COVID-19 lockdown.

As on March 25, 2020, during last 24 hours, 108 new cases confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 1000. So far 21 recoveries are also reported, see Chart.1.

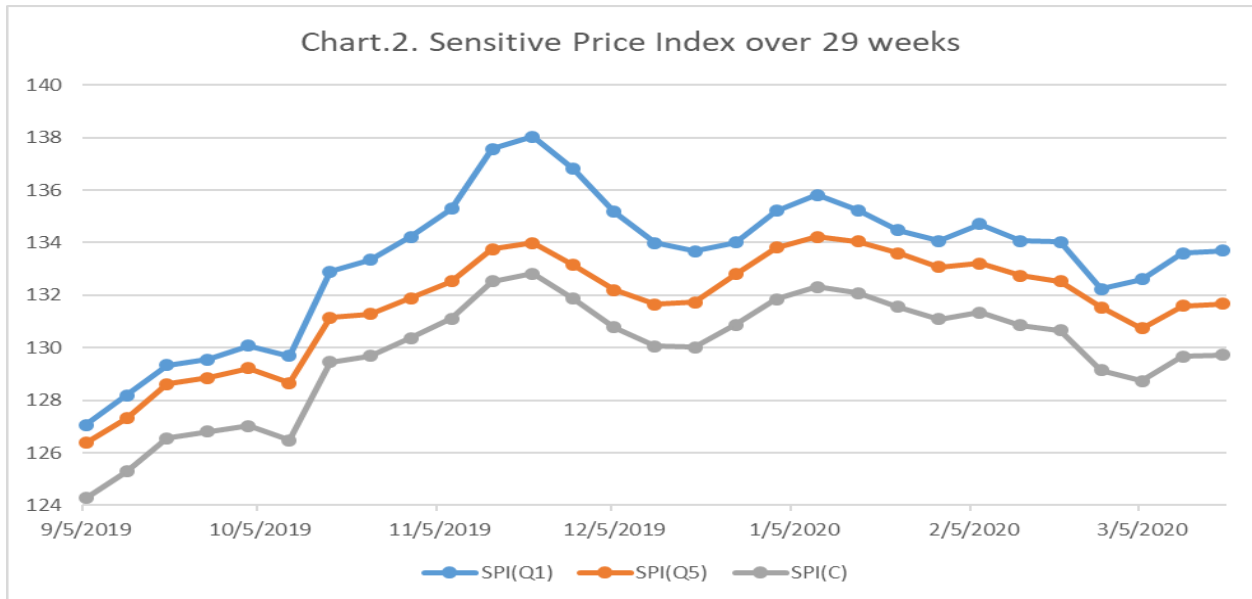


Mission Grocery, Myth or Reality: Panic shopping is a typical phenomenon in crises situations. Usually there is a time lag between Cause and Effect, but Panic Shopping creates such an uncertainty that its affects are prompt and intense and may cause acute socio-economic effect on the society. Amid COVID-19 outbreak a common perception is that masses are rushing to grocery stores causing shortage and resulting in higher prices due to demand pull mechanism.

Appropriate statistics that can give a better insight is Sensitive Price Index (SPI). SPI provides the weekly weighted average percentage change in the prices of 51 selected essential items of daily use. SPI also indicates whether the commodity is available in market or not. Prices and report is released on every Friday by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The SPI is reported for five income groups, from least income group (Quintile-1) to the highest one (Quintile-5) and a Combine SPI (SPI-C). The SPI basket contains prices of wheat flour, rice, sugar, oil, ghee, beef, mutton, chicken, milk, egg, curd and other items. Data from first week of Sept 2019 to 3rd Week of March 2020 (total 29 weeks) before and after the COVID-19 outbreak is analyzed. It is significantly observed that prices don't inflate during the period, indicating a possible absence of demand pull mechanism.

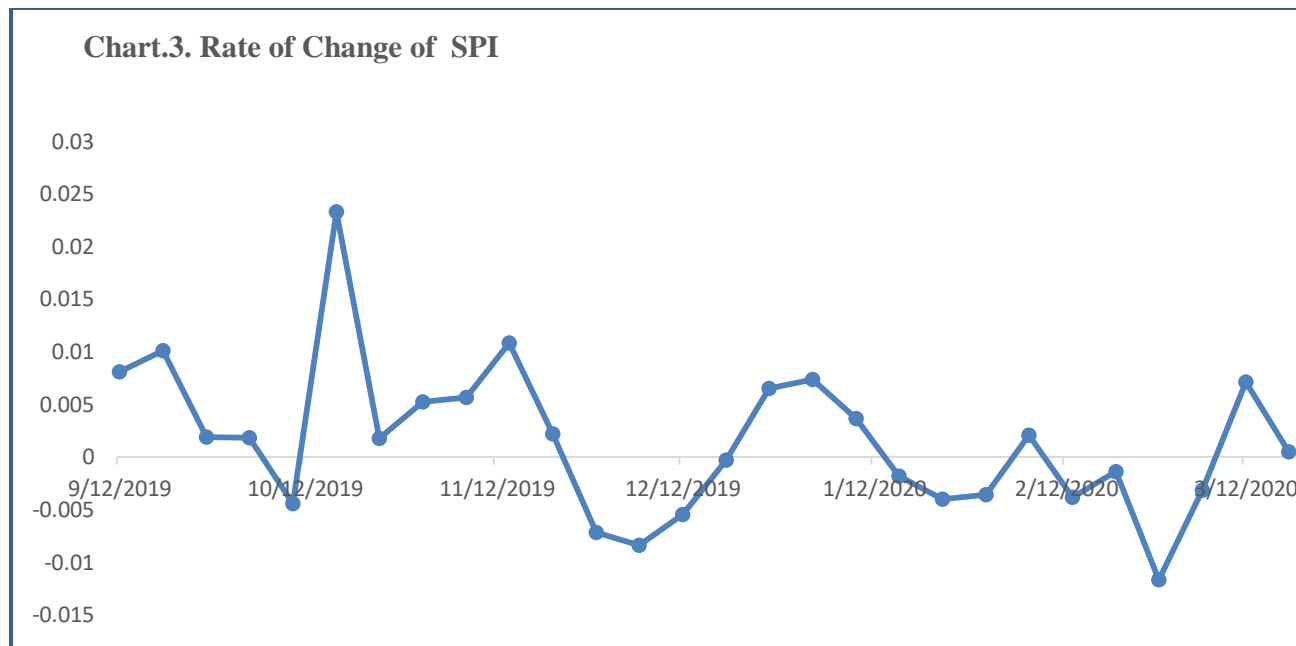
People use their savings for Panic Shopping, Pakistan is amongst lowest as far as Private Savings are concerned. Fairly we can assume that upper income group has higher savings than the lowest one, it is expected that upper income group may create high demand for grocery. But over the

period it can be seen that SPI for highest income (SPI-Q5) remained lower than the SPI for lowest income group (SPI-Q1). It can also be seen that all three indices remain stable after the COVID-19 outbreak indicating absence of PANIC SHOPPING, see Chart.2.



One of the possible reasons of no Panic Shopping is timely awareness of masses created by local media and Government Authorities. Also as a matter of fact there is no shortage of staple food in the country, new harvest of Wheat has already reached in markets of many districts of Sindh and ready to reap in other parts of the country. There will also be no shortage of sugar in the country as claimed by government authorities.

To get idea of behavior of typical customer, a quick survey is conducted by students of PhD Econometrics in different districts of Pakistan. According to this non-random survey there is a pattern of grocery shopping, it starts at the end of each month and lasts within few days; then it starts again after 2nd week of the month and prevail few days. The phenomenon can be observed by looking at series of Rate of Change of SPI index, in second week of March 2020 a positive rate can be observed indicating normal behavior, confirming NO PANIC SHOPPING, see Chart.3.



Experts' View:

We must realize that a lockdown is necessary but not enough. During the lockdown period, the government must intensify its disease surveillance efforts and focus on case finding and contact tracing and management. Testing capacity has to be ramped up and emergency response mechanisms have to be strengthened, with new temporary quarantine facilities and community health facilities established. **(Hasaan Khawar, Express Tribune)**

To be effective, outbreak responses must be merciful and humane, too. People must have food, supplies, safe shelter, of course, but also help with home-bound children as well as paid sick leave. Social support includes safe and rapid transportation to hospitals for the critically ill, since COVID-19 can be a disease with a stormy and unpredictable course. Strong social support, including the assurance that one's loved ones will have access to quality care if they do fall ill, is the secret sauce of effective outbreak control. We learned during the West African Ebola outbreak that social distancing is almost impossible in settings of food insecurity or crowded slums and little in the way of help with caregiving and safe burials. **(Paul Farmer, The Boston Globe)**

Experts' Opinion:

This is, perhaps, the worst crisis that the country has faced. While measures like lockdowns are indeed essential to contain the infection, they come at a huge economic cost. The suspension of almost all economic activities and the transport system will have serious economic consequence.

It will affect not only the poorer sections of the population, but also the middle classes, putting greater strain on an already troubled financial situation. The resultant unemployment and displacement could have serious social implications. Indeed, the federal government has announced a financial support package to minimize the impact of the pandemic and the lockdown, but we must be prepared for more hardship. That makes it imperative for the prime minister to create a national consensus. It is the handling of a crisis that makes or breaks a leader. **(Zahid Hussain, DAWN)**

To be able to defeat the virus, the world will need to find ways to suppress it. But till that happens, affected parts of the population need to be identified, treated and separated from the unaffected parts. Identification and separation is key to acquiring control over the spread of the disease and establishing effective means to monitor those exposed, as a precondition to lifting the lockdown and slowly bringing life back to near normalcy while continuing the practice of social distancing so as not to accelerate the spread of the virus post lifting of lockdown. **(Babar Sattar, THE NEWS)**

Coronavirus-affected businesses are advised to use salary adjustment, shift rotations, reduction of working hours and other ways to stabilize the workforce, based on consultations with their employees. (The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, China)



Wear a mask to protect yourself against Corona

COVID-19 READS

1. Managing the COVID-19 Crisis: An Organizational Plan
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-5.pdf>
2. NHS Official Told Muslim Households are Particularly Vulnerable to Coronavirus – It's Important to Understand Why
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/coronavirus-muslim-mosque-closure-prayer-nhs-a9411936.html>
3. China is Trying to Revive its Economy Without Risking More Lives. The World is Watching.
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/03/24/economy/china-economy-coronavirus/index.html>
4. What to Buy for Corona Preparation, According to Experts
<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/a31261097/what-to-stock-up-on-for-coronavirus/>
5. Can you Catch COVID-19 from Food?
<https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-food-risk.html>
6. The Mask
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/style/face-mask-coronavirus.html>
7. Poverty is the Virus that Puts us at COVID-19 Risk
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/03/23/coronavirus-spread-poverty-covid-19-stimulus-column/2899411001/>
8. What Happens to People's Lungs When They Get Coronavirus?
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/24/coronavirus-what-happens-to-peoples-lungs-if-they-get-covid-19>
9. You've Got Mail. Will You Get the Coronavirus?
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/24/health/coronavirus-mail-packages.html>
10. Coronavirus in N.Y.: 'Astronomical' Surge Leads to Quarantine Warning
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/24/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york-apex-andrew-cuomo.html>

PIDE COVID-19 NEWSLETTER

March 27, 2020

No. 7



Source: *Asad Hashim/Al Jazeera.* Islamabad's normally bustling G-9 markaz market lies empty on Wednesday.

Global News

- Spain overtakes China in total death toll.
- The German parliament has approved a coronavirus aid package that is expected to see Germany take on new debt for the first time since 2013.
- Putin announces delay to constitutional amendment vote, As of March 25, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Russia stands at 658, with no fatalities.
- Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has accused the media of "fear-mongering" in a speech that downplayed the threat of coronavirus to the country.
- Facebook group calls soar 1,000% during Italy's lockdown.

Global Response

- The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged creditors to provide debt relief to world's poorest countries. The officials called for debt payments to be suspended for nations in the International Development Association (IDA).
- China and Germany to advance cooperation in COVID-19 vaccine development.
- Nike turns to digital sales during China shutdown.
- Saudi Arabia tightens curfew, suspends travel between some cities.
- China's Hubei lifts restrictions as no new local cases reported.

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) now allows treatment of life-threatening COVID-19 cases using blood from patients who have recovered.

Local News

- Educational institutions to remain closed until May 31.
- 'Azaan' trends on Twitter after call to prayer echoes across country through the night.
- Dollar rises to Rs166 in interbank market.
- 88-year-old anonymous donor gives Sindh government a million rupees to beat Covid-19.
- Village in Mardan under lockdown; no entry or exit allowed.
- Islamabad admin seals Shahzad Town, Rimsha Colony.

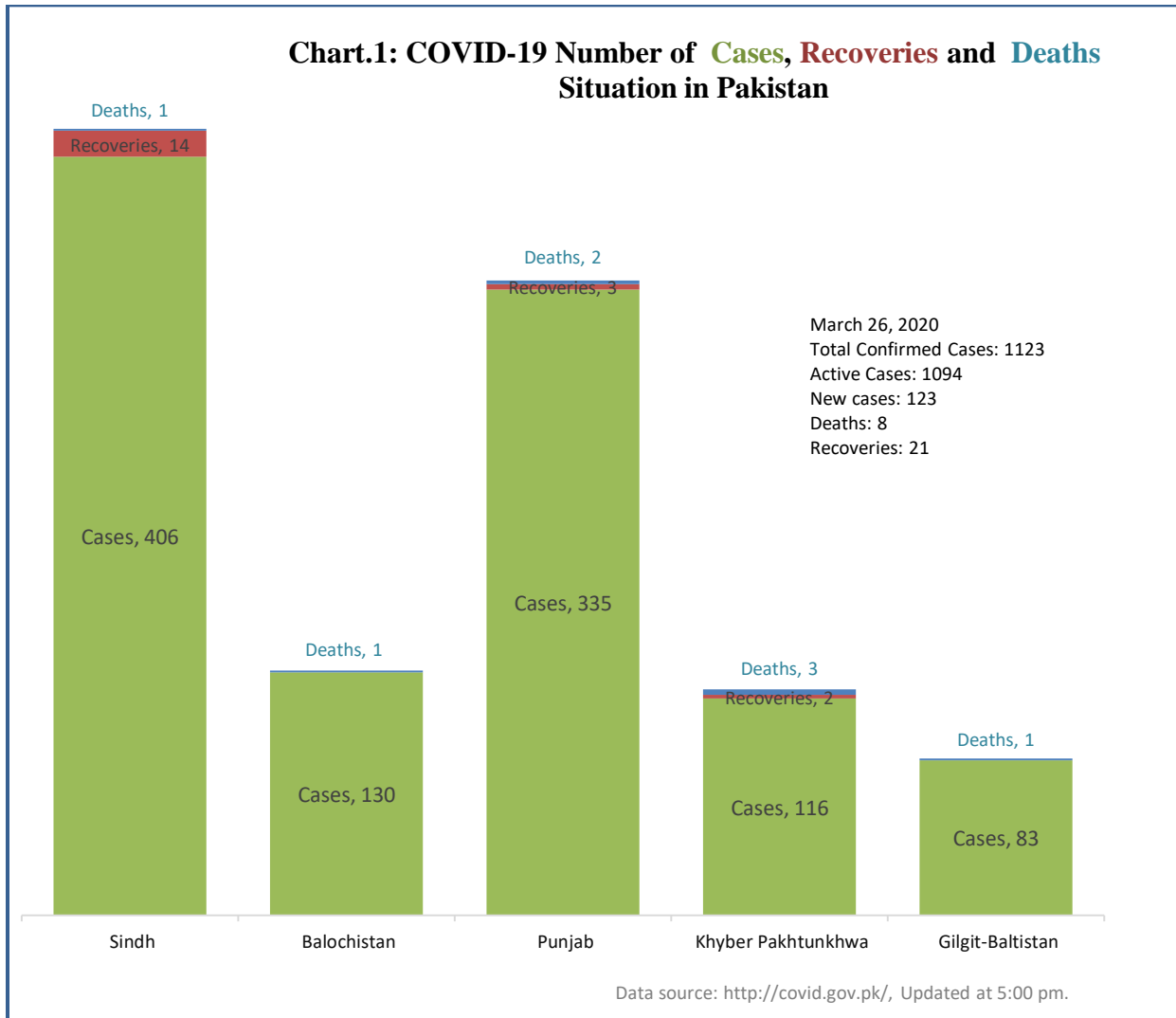
Local Response

- GB people will never be left alone, says General Qamar Javed Bajwa.
- President Alvi urges scholars to ban congregational prayers after Jamia Al Azhar issues fatwa.
- Ulema say they will comply with instructions given by the government.
- Sindh CM releases Rs580m to provide food, other supplies among daily wage workers.
- Senators to donate one month's salary to emergency fund.
- Pakistan to obtain \$3.65 billion (Rs587 billion) loans to ward off negative impacts of COVID-19 virus on the country's economy.
- Usman Buzdar announces risk allowance for medics, paramedics.
- Rs7.8bn approved for NDMA to contain pandemic.
- Federal govt. directs taxi drivers, passengers in Islamabad to wear masks.



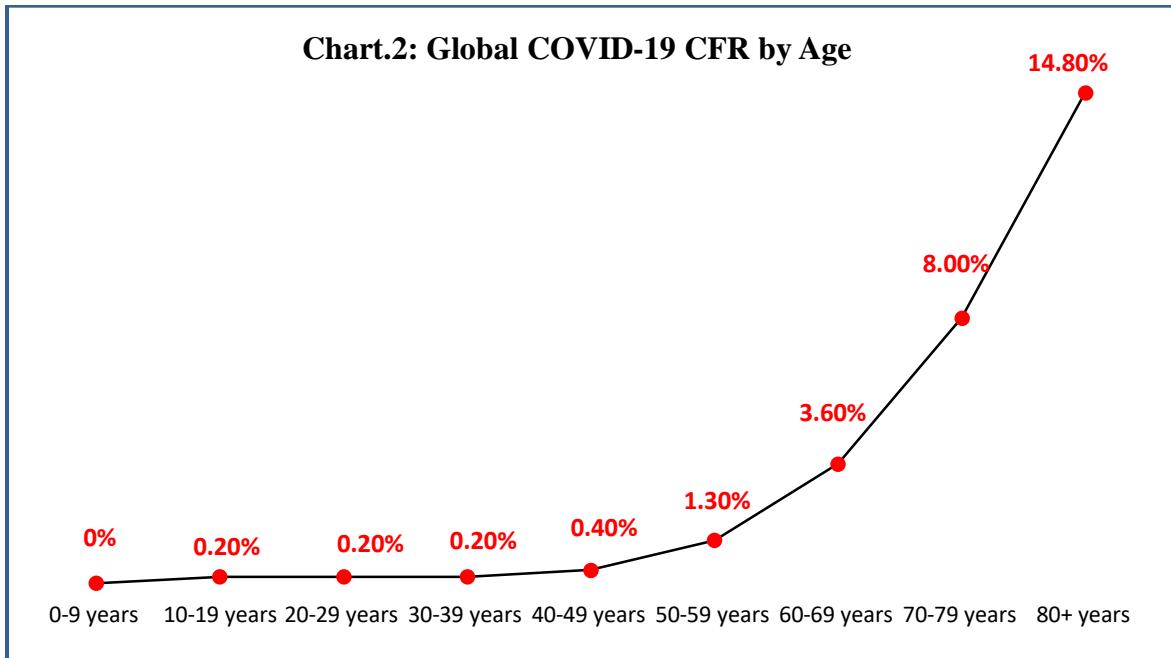
Source: *Asad Hashim/Al Jazeera*. Islamabad's normally busy Blue Area market lies abandoned on Wednesday, as authorities mandated that only stores selling essential food and medicines could remain open.

As on March 26, 2020, during last 24 hours, 123 new cases confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 1123. No death is reported in last 24 hours, see Chart.1.

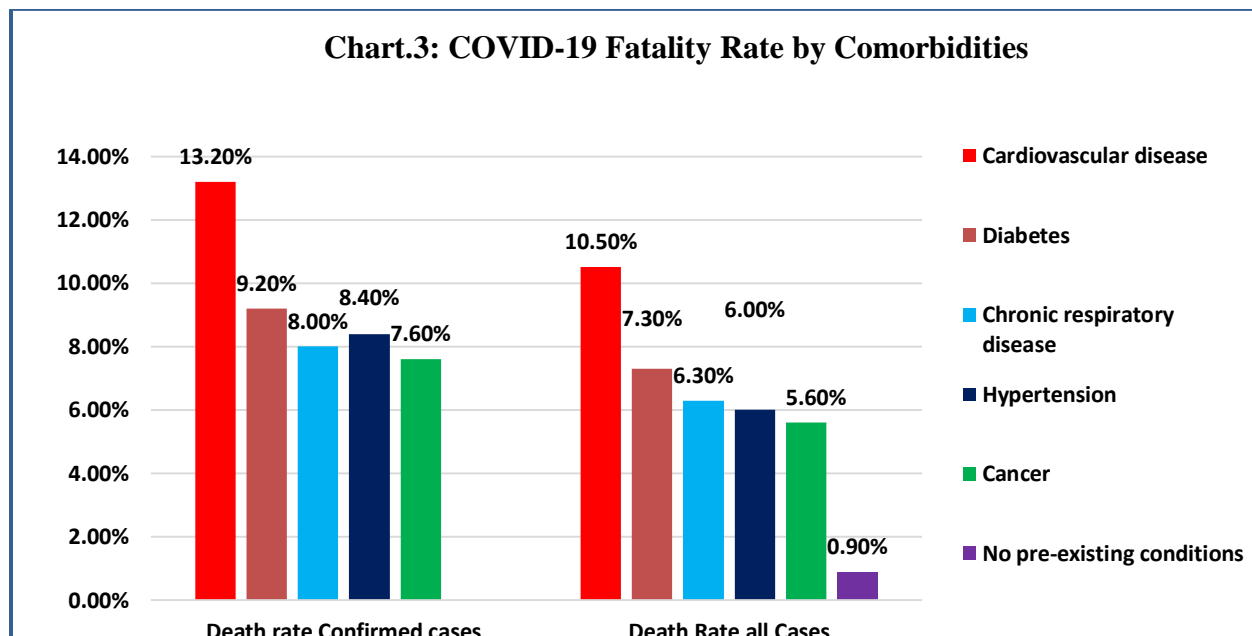


Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is ratio of Number of deaths from certain disease to Number of people diagnosed with this disease; generally the CFR is higher in old age than younger age. The analysis of Global CFR of COVID-19 shows that it is 14.80% in age group 80 and above and is about zero in below 10 years of age. The COVID-19 CFR is in fraction below age 50 and it increases sharply in age 50 and above, see Chart.2. A substantial portion of population is less than 50 years of age in Pakistan, of which majority is under 30 years of age. Its fair

enough to believe that sizable segment of population is comparatively less vulnerable in Pakistan.



It is observed that existing medical condition is vital for determining the CFR of COVID-19. Out of total deaths by COVID-19, 13.2% were cardiovascular patients, 9.20% were diabetes, 8% had chronic respiratory disease, 8.40% had hypertension and 7.60% were cancer patients. If we look into disease by disease it is observed that death rate by Comorbidities¹ is higher than without it, see chart.3.



¹It refers to the presence of more than one disorder in the same person.

The World Health Organization launches WHO Health Alert on WhatsApp

As the coronavirus outbreak spreads, people around the world are turning to the World Health Organization for official, reliable health information and advice.

On March 23, the WHO launched Health Alert on WhatsApp at +41798931892. The new service, free to use, is designed to answer public questions about the Coronavirus and provide 24 hours a day with quick, reliable and official information worldwide. It will also serve government decision makers by providing current numbers and status reports.

Start by clicking WHO Health Alert, and then just type the word "Hi" in the Whatsapp message to get started. The service responds to a series of prompts and will be updated daily with the latest information. WHO Health Alert will provide information on issues such as infection, travel advice, and removal of corona virus secrets.



Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO said: “Digital technology gives us an unprecedented opportunity for vital health information to go viral and spread faster than the pandemic, helping us save lives and protect the vulnerable. We are proud to have partners like Facebook and WhatsApp that are supporting us in reaching billions of people with important health information.”

Three simple steps to open WHO WhatsApp Alert with already download WhatsApp application.

1. Open <https://www.whatsapp.com/coronavirus/who> on mobile through internet browser.
2. Click Start by clicking [WHO Health Alert](#)
3. Simply text the word ‘Hi’ in a WhatsApp message to get started.

The service responds to a series of prompts and will be updated daily with the latest information. (Courtesy: Dr. Nadeem Ahmed Khan)

Experts' View

The calculation of time versus depth for the drop in GDP is not easy, down the road, if some more non-essential sectors close but you end up with a shorter period of disruption, you may not lose that much over the year. **(Gilles Moec, AXA chief economist)**

The need for social distancing should not absolve us from our social responsibilities. Rich individuals and philanthropic organizations should come forward in these troubled times to provide relief to those who will require it during a lockdown. This relief, however, should be channeled through a single government agency to ensure its targeted disbursement. Young people should be (online) trained immediately to work as volunteers to both enforce the lockdown and distribute rations and supplies. The crisis facing Pakistan is unprecedented but we are lucky that we are not the first country to have been hit by Covid-19. We can sail to safety only if we do not repeat the mistakes made by those hit before us. **(Abid Qaiyum Suleri, The News)**

One redeeming feature of the national trial is the training citizens are receiving, apart from proper attention to personal cleanliness and hygiene, in online banking and shopping. Further, a realisation is growing that had the state paid due attention to compulsory health insurance and extension of social security to the widest possible section of the population, the fight against the epidemic could have been somewhat easier. The provision of these two facilities must be top priorities on the national agenda once the fight against the pandemic has been won. **(I.A. Rehman, DAWN)**

Experts' Opinion

While a section of monetary experts thinks it is demand-pull inflation, a few other economists are of the view that it is cost-push inflation actually that has made the prices of daily-use items surge, arguing that high interest rates might not arrest the price hike. **(Sabir Shah, The News)**

The calculation of time versus depth for the drop in GDP is not easy, down the road, if some more non-essential sectors close but you end up with a shorter period of disruption, you may not lose that much over the year. **(Gilles Moec, AXA Chief Economist)**

This is one of the most serious diseases you will face in your lifetime, and recognize that and respect it. It is dangerous to you as an individual. It is dangerous to your parents, to your grandparents and the elderly in particular and it is dangerous to your society in general. You are not an island in this, you are part of a broader community, and you are part of transmission chains. If you get infected you are making this much more complicated and you are putting people in danger, not just yourself. **(Dr. Bruce Aylward, senior adviser to the Director-General of the WHO)**

1. A Template to Monitor the Impact of COVID-19 on Pakistan's Economy
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-6.pdf>
2. Coronavirus pandemic has delivered the fastest, deepest economic shock in history
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/mar/25/coronavirus-pandemic-has-delivered-the-fastest-deepest-economic-shock-in-history>
3. India's Poor Testing Rate May have Masked Coronavirus Cases
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/india-poor-testing-rate-masked-coronavirus-cases-200318040314568.html>
4. An Expert on Physical Distancing – and What to Do if Friends and Family aren't Onboard
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/23/how-to-social-distance-tips-convince-friends-family>
5. Coronavirus in Japan: Why is the Infection Rate Relatively Low?
<https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-in-japan-why-is-the-infection-rate-relatively-low-133648>
6. 'We Feel Like All of Us Are Gonna Get Corona.' Anticipating COVID-19 Outbreaks, Rikers Island Offers Warning for U.S. Jails, Prisons
<https://time.com/5808020/rikers-island-coronavirus/>
7. 'We'll Die Like Cattle': Kashmiris Fear Coronavirus Outbreak
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/die-cattle-kashmiris-fear-coronavirus-outbreak-200322151405218.html>
8. Quarantine: How to Prepare for Possible Coronavirus Infection
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/03/25/health/how-to-prepare-for-coronavirus-quarantine-wellness/index.html>
9. No, the New Coronavirus Wasn't Created in a Lab, Scientists Say
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/coronavirus-wasnt-created-in-lab-no-signs-genetic-engineering-1.5508735>
10. How Loneliness from Coronavirus Isolation Takes its Own Toll
<https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/how-loneliness-from-coronavirus-isolation-takes-its-own-toll>
11. Under lockdown
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1543505/under-lockdown>
12. Though in limbo, Pak corona numbers are better than developed economies
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/634561-though-in-limbo-pak-corona-numbers-are-better-than-developed-economies>

The coronavirus is leaving empty spaces everywhere



A cleric prays in an empty mosque in Baghdad, Iraq, on March 20. *Khalid al-Mousily/Reuters*

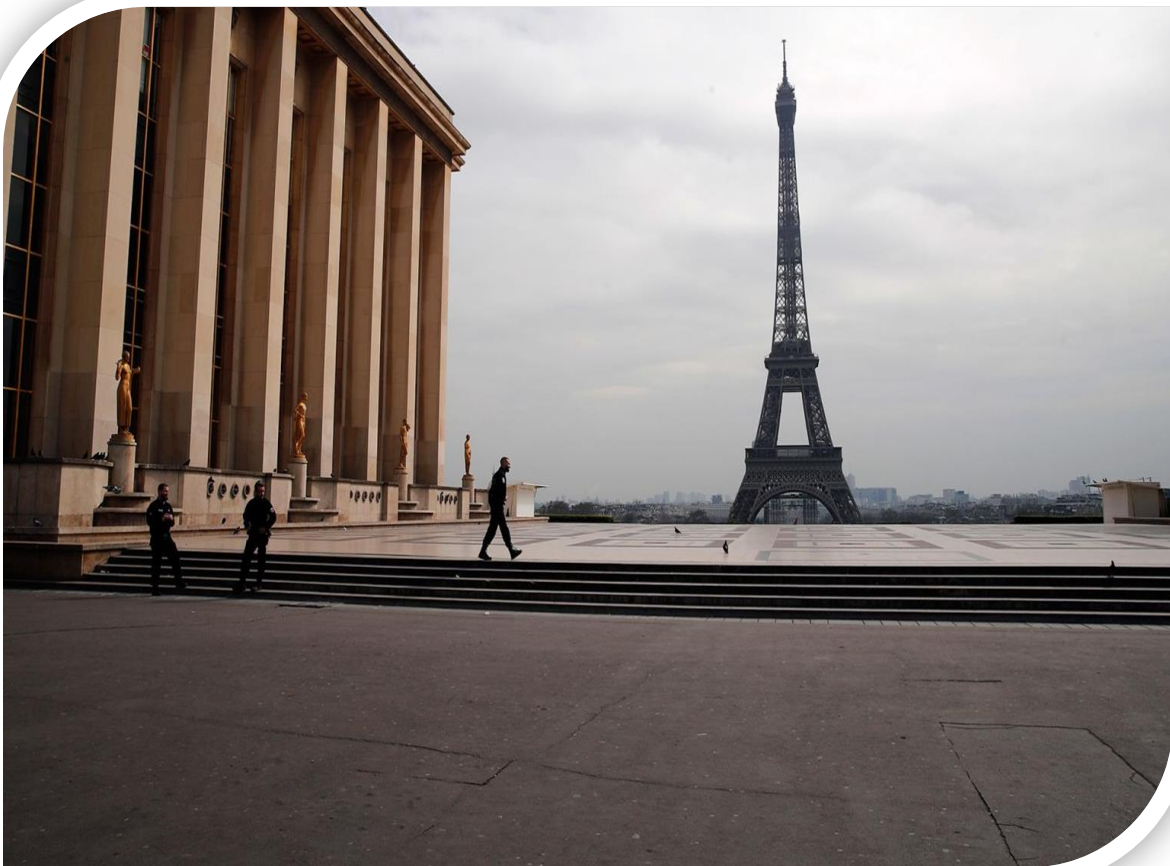
Global News

- The U.S. now has the world's most reported coronavirus cases with 81,321, according to Times data. Over 1,000 deaths have been linked to the virus.
- U.S. weekly jobless claims soar past 3 million amid COVID-19.
- Australia's central bank to buy semi-govt bonds as state revenues hit.
- China to suspend foreigners' entry due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Up to 30% of coronavirus cases asymptomatic.
- Boeing shuts down Washington state factories due to coronavirus threat.

Global Response

- The S&P 500 had its best three-day run since 1933, buoyed by a huge stimulus plan, as investors looked past record unemployment claims.
- Xi replies to WHO chief's letter, stresses joint efforts on COVID-19.
- G20 leaders agree on injecting \$5 trillion into global economy.
- Wuhan automobile plants re-open as epidemic fades.
- Ford joins GE, 3M in speeding up ventilator, respirator production.
- Medical workers forced to get creative as face mask shortages in 'developed' West complicate battle with Covid-19.
- US puts new sanctions on Iran, despite calls for relief amid massive coronavirus outbreak.

The coronavirus is leaving empty spaces everywhere



Police officers patrol the empty Trocadero plaza next to the Eiffel Tower in Paris. *Francois Mori/AP*

Local News

- Two more vicinities sealed in Islamabad after coronavirus victims unearthed.
- Sindh government limits congregational prayers to five persons till April 5.
- Chinese medical experts to help Pakistan in fight against coronavirus.
- Saudi Arabia tells Pakistan to not prepare Hajj agreement amid coronavirus outbreak.

Local Response

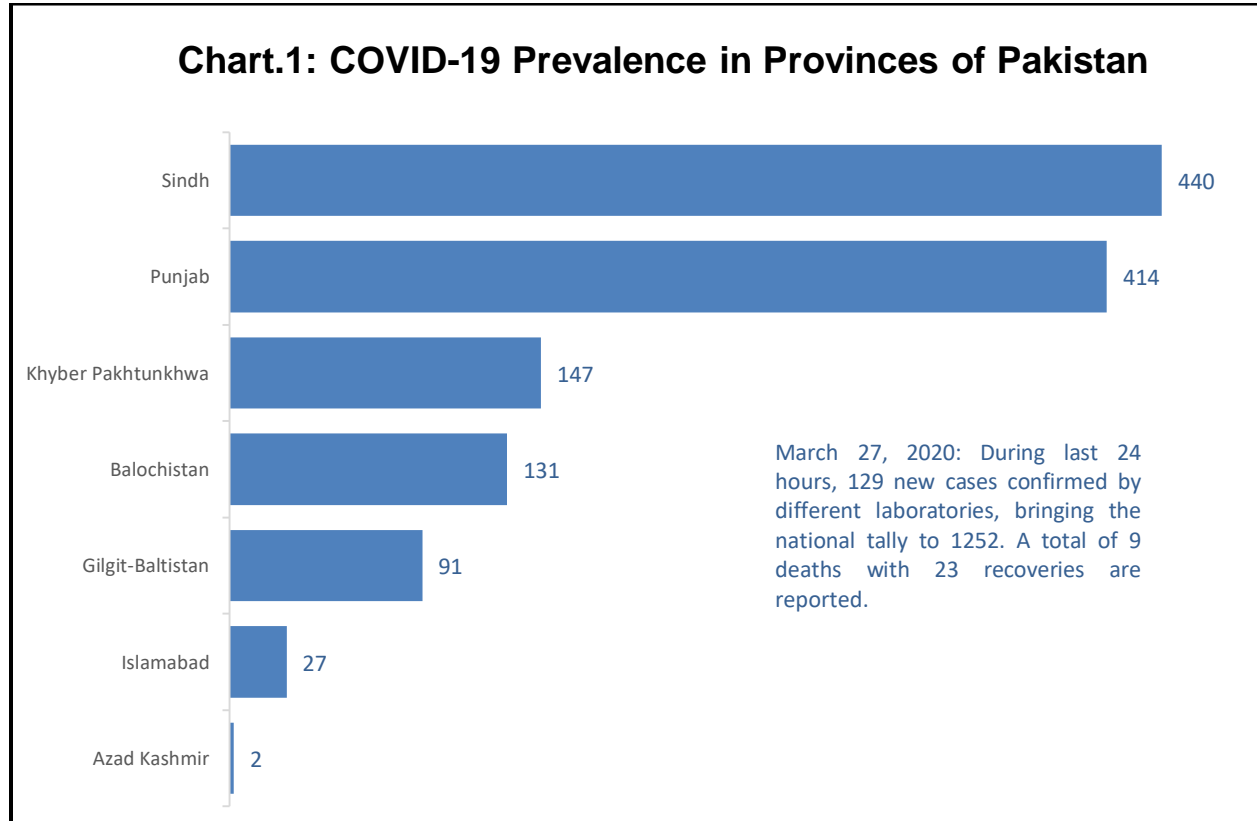
- Congregational prayers in mosques limited to five persons.
- Government will not let businesses go bankrupt: Abdul Razzak Dawood.
- SBP announces comprehensive relief package for households, businesses.

The coronavirus is leaving empty spaces everywhere

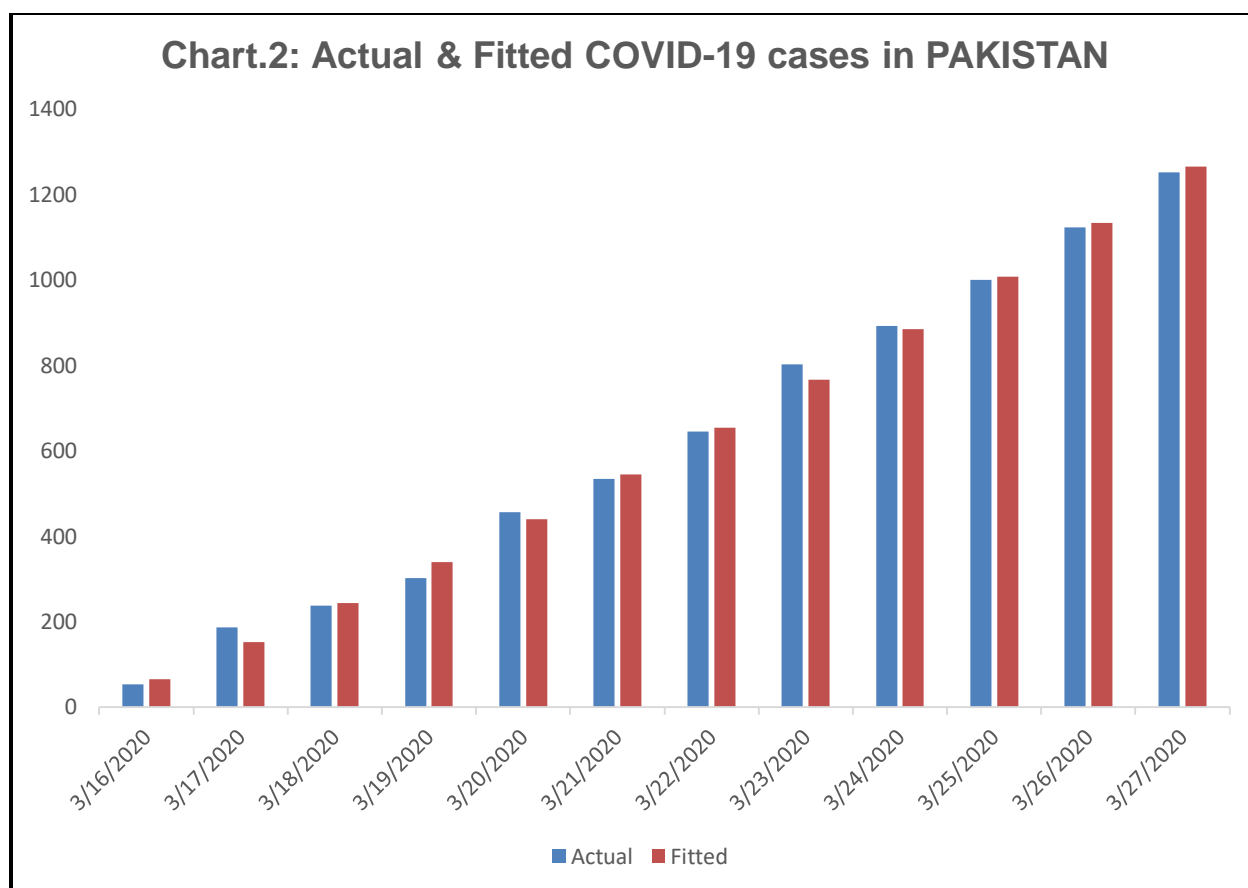


Pigeons crowd around a bench in Krakow, Poland, on March 25. *Artur Widak//NurPhoto/Getty Images*

The segregated count of COVID-19 cases are presented in self-explanatory Chart.1. A recovery from Punjab is reported today.



To respond COVID-19 pandemic, a careful track of prevailing data of infected cases and its sensible prediction is vital for necessary arrangements. In Pakistan, the figure of infected cases, remained in single digit during first 10 days. The count increases manifold after mid-March 2020. Data set of infected cases after mid-March 2020 to 26th March 2020 is used to predict an estimated number of infected cases. Dynamic Econometric routine is employed to get the predicted values. To check the reliability of technique utilized, Actual and Fitted values are presented in Chart.2 and Table below it. Closely Fitted values validate the reliability of predicting technique.

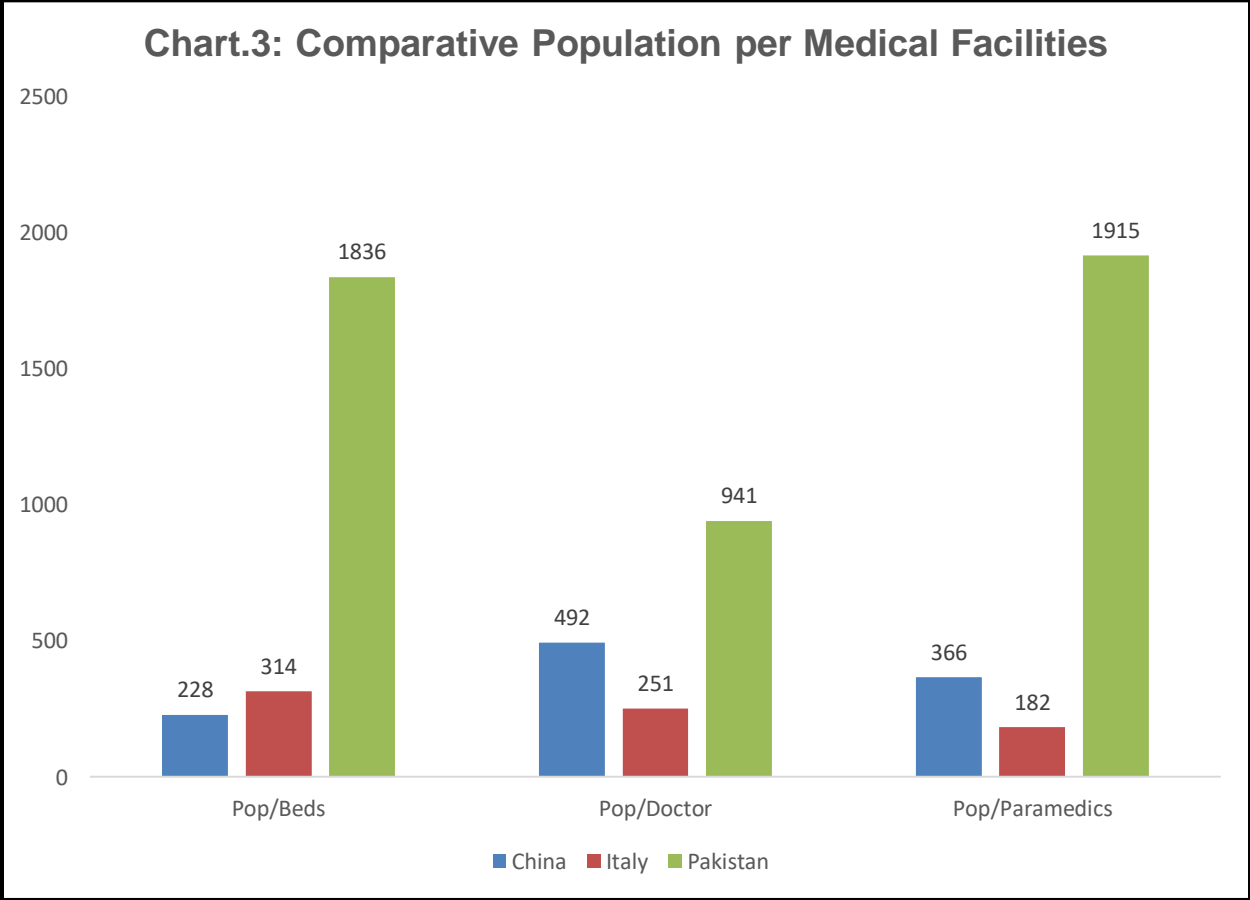


Actual	53	187	238	302	457	534	646	803	892	1000	1123	1252
Fitted	66	153	244	340	440	545	654	767	885	1007	1134	1266
Dates	3/16/20	3/17/20	3/18/20	3/19/20	3/20/20	3/21/20	3/22/20	3/23/20	3/24/20	3/25/20	3/26/20	3/27/20

Fitting a dynamic series against time is like shooting a still photograph of a moving object. No matter how good it is, interpretation of this ‘photograph’ can’t explain the next move of that object. To be justified and precise, only five days’ prediction is estimated using Econometric technique. These predicted values may help analyzing available capacity of health facilities, at Pakistan as a whole, such as basic infrastructure and number of Doctors/para Medics. According to prediction, by the end of month the total number of cases may rise to 1835, which is just a fraction of cases in China and Italy during one month after first case is reported.

In Pakistan, there are 14,351 Health related Facilities with 132,227 beds in total, this count doesn’t include Military Hospitals and other private health units. Out of these Health facilities there are 1,279

big hospitals with 113,150 beds. It seems a good number but incomparable with highest COVID-19 hit countries China and Italy. In Population per health facilities, Pakistan is way below than China and Italy, see Chart.3. As far as the big hospitals are concerned, there is only one Doctor for 941 people, one paramedic for 1,915 people and one bed for 1,836 persons. This comparison is with respect to the big Hospitals' facilities only, if we consider all 14,351 Health Facility Units the numbers are improved, even better than Italy and China. Fortunately the number of cases reported and predicted in Pakistan are way below than China and Italy during first month of COVID-19 outbreak, there is a lesson to learn from high hit countries, this is the right time to get prepared and aligned available resources. Utilizing all available resources through good management, Pakistan stands strong against COVID-19 hit.



Importance of social protection in coronavirus pandemic

Social protection programmes have often witnessed improvement and advancements after global disasters. Pakistan is observing a dangerous surge in the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic; the subsequent lockdown in major parts of the country has highlighted the need for extensive advancements in the social protection services more than ever. With the programmes like the Bait-ul-Mal and BISP, the majority of the poverty-stricken population of the country still has no viable social security present specifically for large scale disasters. The unique effect of COVID-19 has shut down social and economic processes and has directly affected wage workers. Similarly, the lack of proper social protection leaves the majority of the country's population without access to food, housing and healthcare thereby creating a high-risk environment for contracting the disease, spreading it and further burdening the economy and healthcare system. A proper framework of providing situational relief to the vulnerable factions of the economy is now evident. The current situation of social security in the country is one of the multiple reasons why a preferred lockdown of the country has been deemed impractical as it endangers more than the 50% population of the country with adverse economic effects. Pakistan needs to employ a thorough social protection scheme which can provide relief such as cash, utilities, rent/tax exemptions and healthcare in a systematic way to reduce the socio-economic inequality in addition to curbing the effects of large scale disasters like the current coronavirus pandemic. Disaster or no disaster, the social protection of the vulnerable is the responsibility of the government, specifically in a developing nation where the vulnerable exceed the socio-economically immune population. **(written by Shah Bakht Fatima, an alumna of the Department of Development Studies, PIDE)**

Experts' View

While short-term quarantine is essential to stop epidemics, long-term isolationism will lead to economic collapse without offering any real protection against infectious diseases. Just the opposite. The real antidote to epidemic is not segregation, but rather cooperation. **(Yuval Noah Harari, Historian & Philosopher)**

Shop when you need to (keeping six feet from other customers) and load items into your cart or basket. Keep your hands away from your face while shopping, and wash them as soon as you're home. Put away your groceries, and then wash your hands again. If you wait even a few hours before using anything you just purchased, most of the virus that was on any package will be significantly reduced. If you need to use something immediately, and want to take extra precautions, wipe the package down with a disinfectant. Last, wash all fruits and vegetables as you normally would. **(Joseph G. Allen, Washington Post)**

Experts' Opinion

Apart from social distancing and hand-washing, the experts concluded that face masks could play an important role in slowing down the spread of the virus, pointing out the low infection rates in Japan. **(Martin Fritz, DW)**

The dominant consensus among leading economists is that there is no quick recovery. They agree that 'V' shape recovery—a sharp drop in economic activity followed swiftly by a rebound in growth – is highly unlikely. **(Abid Hasan, The News)**

In his public—responses to combat the coronavirus outbreak, the Prime Minister's primary concern was the condition of those below the poverty line. In the absence of an official estimate, one can only say that the number is hugely large. Social distancing and the lockdown have added daily and casual wage earners in urban areas, rural workers and fisher folks to this figure. With the falling domestic and export demand, layoffs in the formal sector have already begun. It is these people, stupid, not the economy that deserves urgent attention! Yet the Rs1.3 trillion package plus the State Bank's intransigence on interest rate cater predominantly to the requirements of the neoliberal economy and its elite clients. The stock exchange, left out in the original privilege dole, was accommodated the next day by abolishing capital value tax (CVT). It's like Trump opening up the economy by the coming Easter, despite the World Health Organization (WHO) warning about the next epicenter. **(Pervaiz Tahir, The Express Tribune)**

COVID-19 READS

- 1. Jummah prayers in Pakistan: An Islamic approach to community welfare during the covid-19 pandemic**
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-Covid-Blog-6.pdf>
- 2. PIDE Covid-19 Bulletin**
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-7.pdf>
- 3. Pakistan daily wagers struggle to survive in coronavirus lockdown**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/pakistan-daily-wagers-struggle-survive-coronavirus-lockdown-200325115143152.html>
- 4. Fear of Covid-19 is a mental contagion – and that’s something we can fight**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/26/fear-of-covid-19-is-a-mental-contagion-ben-okri>
- 5. Can we trust the Oxford study on Covid-19 infections?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/26/virus-infection-data-coronavirus-modelling>
- 6. Sanitary workers risk their lives despite spread of coronavirus**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/sanitary-workers-risk-lives-spread-coronavirus-200325051916407.html>
- 7. World’s costliest offices are poised to enter tenants’ market as Hong Kong businesses reel from coronavirus, protest movement**
<https://www.scmp.com/property/hong-kong-china/article/3077163/worlds-costliest-offices-are-poised-enter-tenants-market>
- 8. Coronavirus: What are social distancing and self-isolation?**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51506729>
- 9. Don’t panic about shopping, getting delivery or accepting packages**
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/03/26/dont-panic-about-shopping-getting-delivery-or-accepting-packages/>
- 10. Facing Two Pandemics: Coronavirus and Global Capital**
<https://www.pressenza.com/2020/03/facing-two-pandemics-coronavirus-and-global-capital/>
- 11. How long does coronavirus live on different surfaces?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/25/how-long-coronavirus-lasts-on-surfaces-packages-groceries>
- 12. Protect the people first**
<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2184896/6-protect-people-first/>

WHO Situation Report-67
 (Data as reported by national
 authorities at 10:00 CET
 27 March 2020)

SITUATION IN NUMBERS
 total (new) cases in last
 24 hours

Globally

509 164 confirmed (46 484)

23 335 deaths (2501)

Western Pacific Region

100 018 confirmed (960)

3567 deaths (27)

European Region

286 697 confirmed (36 414)

16 105 deaths (2155)

South-East Asia Region

2932 confirmed (396)

105 deaths (26)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

35 249 confirmed (2807)

2336 deaths (174)

Region of the Americas

81 137 confirmed (5425)

1176 deaths (111)

African Region

2419 confirmed (482)

39 deaths (8)

A



policeman entreats an elderly man to not try to enter mosque in Gari Khata area of Hyderabad. Photo by Umair Ali/DAWN.

Global News

- U.S. cases surpass 100,000 as Trump signs \$2 trillion aid package into law.
- Frightened by coronavirus, Many of U.K.'s poles are heading home.
- Dubai braces for financial hit as coronavirus batters vital tourism.
- Zoom's massive 'overnight success' actually took nine years.
- India's central bank slashes policy rates by 75 bps to counter COVID-19 slowdown.
- New York may fine people in parks and houses of worship to stem the outbreak.

Global Response

- Virus test results in minutes? Scientists question accuracy.
- India's coronavirus heroes come under attack; doctors, nurses, delivery drivers and other frontline workers have been attacked and in some cases evicted from their homes by panicked residents.
- Hong Kong and Singapore impose new restrictions as case numbers climb.
- China seeks opening of border with Pakistan for medical supplies.
- ECB orders banks to freeze dividends and share buybacks.
- Investors ditch emerging market bond funds in flight to safety.
- Pakistani cab drivers in Spain provide free services to medical staff amid coronavirus panic.

Local News

- Pakistan records biggest single-day jump in COVID-19 cases as Punjab tops Sindh's tally.
- IMF appreciates PM Imran's swift relief package, says working on emergency fund request.
- PTI denies channel's claim of PM Imran testing positive for coronavirus.
- Economic fallout of COVID-19 in Pakistan: People under poverty line may double to 125 million.
- '10pc of COVID-19 cases in Sindh are locally transmitted': CM Shah sounds alarm.
- Corona cases across Pakistan rise to more than 1,300.
- Recovery rate of patients to improve soon, hopes Zafar Mirza.
- Registration for 'Corona Relief Tigers' force to start from March 31, 2020.

Local Response

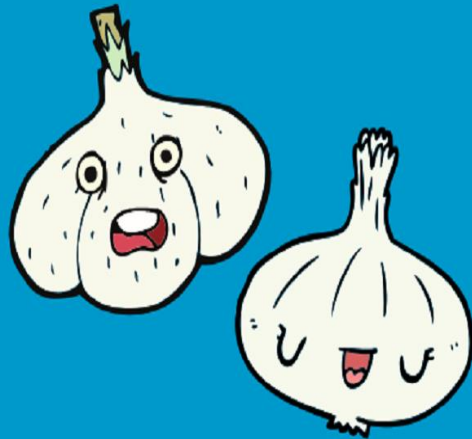
- PIA stopped from operating special flights for UK, Canada.
- Youth force 'Corona Relief Tigers' to help mitigate spread of virus in Pakistan: PM Imran.
- Areas which report virus cases to be sealed off.
- AJK PM announces Nishan-e-Kashmir for GB doctor who died of coronavirus.
- Coronavirus outbreak: Chinese medical team, relief arrives in Pakistan.
- Punjab government to release 20,000 prisoners owing to coronavirus pandemic.
- Govt. allocates Rs 23bln energy subsidy for exporters.
- 231 schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa turned into quarantine centers.

World Health Organization

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

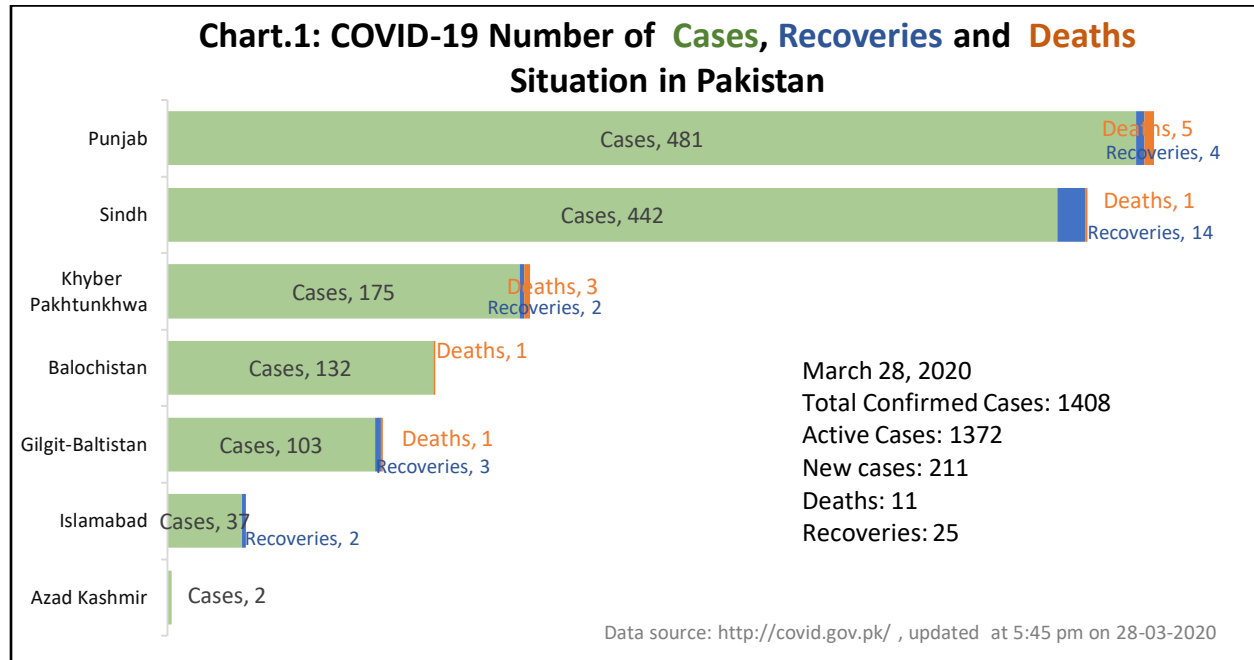
Garlic is a healthy food that may have some antimicrobial properties. However, there is no evidence from the current outbreak that eating garlic has protected people from the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Can eating garlic help prevent infection with the new coronavirus?

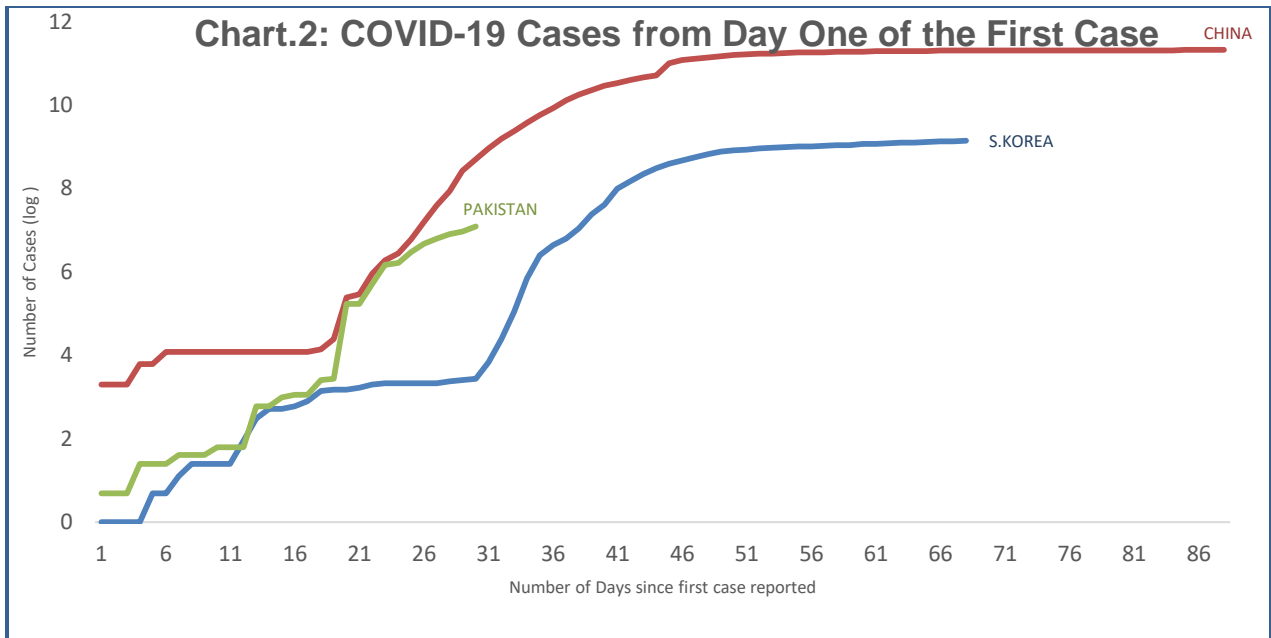


#2019nCoV

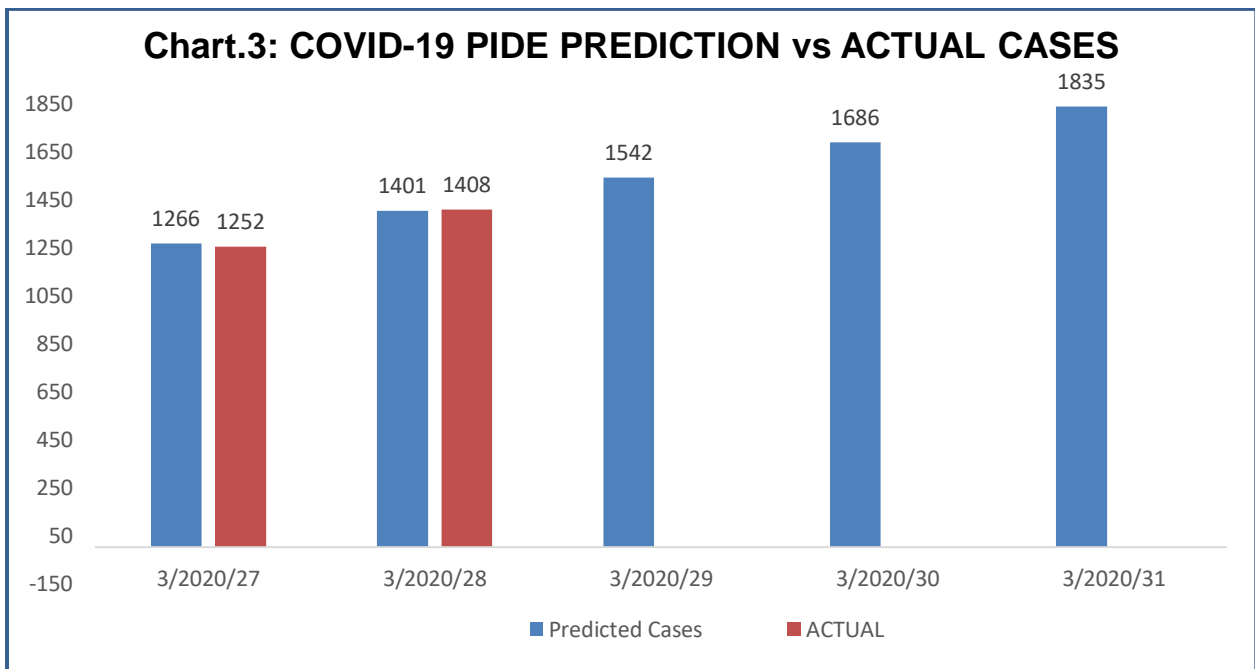
As of 28th March 2020, during last 24 hours, 211 new cases confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 1,408. So far total deaths due to COVID-19 are 11 across country while 25 recoveries are reported, see Chart.1.



A careful analysis of the distribution of COVID-19 infected cases provides useful information helpful for preparation and course correction during the pandemic period. Since the outbreak only China and South Korea's distribution attained point of inflection that is the turning point where curve started becoming flat. To make comparison logical and easy, log transform of COVID-19 cases has been taken for Pakistan, China and South Korea. It can be seen easily that China and South Korea attained point of inflection after fifty days from first case reported, see Chart.3. China achieved this point with strong government interventions, country-wide lock down was imposed on 24th day from first case reported; South Korea efficiently utilized information technology to trace and confine the suspected individuals. In Pakistan, provincial lock down is already imposed within 25 days of first case reported; media and government agencies are educating general public. Pakistan has good IT skills; with its efficient use and general awareness, Pakistan can control the spread within time.



In Pakistan, during the first month since first case was reported, number of cases are less than China. A careful prediction of number of cases indicates increasing trend, see Chart.3. With general public awareness the spread can be controlled within next few weeks. In the presence of strong social bond and inherent best societal traditions, Pakistan is expected to achieve point of inflection much earlier than China and South Korea.



Graduating in COVID-19 Pandemic

In Pakistan, every person from any field of life feels suffocated due to coronavirus crisis. But, those who feel most devastated are students; who will graduate in the pandemic as it is the most important turn in their lives to experience the real world. These are unfortunate and challenging times for the newly graduating students as well as for the government as the forensic report of the economy is already bad while the future is gloomy due to uncertainty about the cure to the virus. This uncertainty will kill the economy in different ways as businesses will shut down, investment in the economy will shrink including FDI due to which production plants may shut down and the whole work force laid-off, inflation will rise further, in short economic chaos will prevail in the country. The fore mentioned prodigies are not speculations, it is happening already in the country like USA where the jobless claim is 3.2 million¹ while economists are projecting 4.4 million. Such chaotic economic conditions will have grieving impact on the psyche of the new graduates.

In early 2019, the Federal Minister for Education quoted the rate of newly graduates entry into the job market as 2.5 million,² an unprecedented number to be absorbed in the expected chaotic economy. Another untraced problem looming around is regarding competitive exams like CSS which takes place every year in February. The future is uncertain as scientists believe vaccine will be ready within 18 month³ time but not sure about any deadline yet, so if the exam is cancelled then how the government will compensate for those who have invested a year or more in preparation of the exam and will be overage this year as the required age for eligibility is 30 years or below.

In retrospect, the government needs to devise plans to absorb the new graduates into the economy in these uncertain situations. The thing to remember here is that, in an effort to do more let's not miss to do enough to keep everyone as well as the economy alive. **(Written by Muhammad Irshad Khan, a student of Department of Economics and Econometrics, PIDE)**

¹ United States Department of Labor Statistics, Bloomberg Businessweek, 26/03/2020.

² Jehangir World Times, What's wrong with Pakistan's Economy, September 2019.

³ The Guardian, Corona vaccine: when will it be ready, 27/03/2020.

Experts' View

Businesses, schools, colleges and sports arenas have closed around the world. Millions of people are confined to their homes to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Millions of people will temporarily stop earning an income and countless businesses around the world may collapse. The medical infrastructures of many countries around the world are preparing for an influx of people who will require intensive care in hospitals, placing a huge burden on the medical system, equipment, drugs, doctors, nurses and other medical professionals. To ensure we get back on track, and stay on the track as much as possible, there is now an urgent need for innovation. Technology can help us overcome many of the problems resulting from the crisis. **(Jon Medved & Jason D Greenblatt, Al Jazeera)**

Before considering changes to social distancing measures, we should use all our energy to get to the strongest possible position for COVID-19 response. We are not ready. We need rapid diagnostics in place. We need extraordinary quantities of personal protective equipment. We need more ventilators, and we need capacity to provide medical care to many more than we can now. We shouldn't be considering the relaxing of strong social distancing measures until we have drastically slowed the rate of spread, dealt with our dire shortages of supplies and diagnostic capacity and prepared our health care system to deal with surges in patients. **(Dr. Tom Inglesby, USA Today)**

Many countries will need debt relief. This is the only way they can concentrate any new resources on fighting the pandemic and its economic and social consequences. **(David Malpass, IMF)**

Experts' Opinion

The country's existing healthcare system will likely face a double burden, coping with Covid-19 as well as catering for acute events such as injuries from road accidents and ongoing care for the chronically ill. Many of Pakistan's doctors trained through public-sector funding are not in active service. Nurses, paramedics and laboratory technicians who form the backbone of intensive care and diagnostic services in hospitals are in even shorter supply. Mobilizing health workers, training and providing them with protective gear, along with priority testing for workers who show symptoms, are critical action points. It is important to continue to fill in for health workers who fall sick and have to isolate themselves. **(Shehla Zaidi, DAWN)**

The country would witness an increase in recovery rate in the coming days owing to its young population who have a stronger immune system. **(Dr. Zafar Mirza)**

To take the fight to coronavirus, Vietnam instituted rigorous quarantine policies, and carried out complete tracing of all people who came in contact with the virus. These measures were implemented much earlier in the course of the epidemic than in China, where lockdowns of entire cities were used as a last resort to keep the virus from spreading further. **(Rodion Ebbighausen, DW)**



Social distancing in practice across Pakistan. *Getty Images.*

PIDE pays tribute to the medics



COVID-19 READS

1. **Time to Get the Pharmaceutical Industry Policies Right**
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-8.pdf>
2. **Pakistani Doctors Decry Lack of Supplies as Lockdown Looms**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/pakistani-doctors-decry-lack-supplies-lockdown-debate-rages-200323110940130.html>
3. **The Coronavirus Could Devastate Poor Countries**
<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2020/03/26/the-coronavirus-could-devastate-poor-countries>
4. **Africa's COVID-19 Lockdown- a Death Trap of Another Kind for the Poor**
<https://www.dw.com/en/opinion-africas-covid-19-lockdown-a-death-trap-of-another-kind-for-the-poor/a-52914934>
5. **Back Poor Countries Fighting COVID-19 with Trillions or Face Disaster, G20 Told**
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/mar/27/back-poor-countries-fighting-covid-19-with-trillions-or-face-disaster-g20-told>
6. **Here's How Hospitals are Keeping Up Emergency Services During COVID-19**
<https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/27/21197397/coronavirus-covid-19-hospitals-emergency-services-heart-attack>
7. **Rebel-held Syria Braces for Coronavirus 'tsunami' – without Soap, Running Water or the Prospect of Social Distancing**
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/03/26/middleeast/syria-idlib-coronavirus-intl/index.html>
8. **Google Just Confirmed Major Chrome Update Following Powerful COVID-10 Security Move**
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kateoflahertyuk/2020/03/26/google-just-confirmed-major-chrome-update-following-powerful-covid-19-security-move/>
9. **A Gender Lens for COVID-19**
<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/covid19-response-requires-a-gender-lens-by-susan-papp-and-marcy-hersh-2020-03>
10. **My Whole Household has COVID-19**
<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2020/03/my-whole-household-has-covid-19/608902/>
11. **How Women Entrepreneurs are Navigating the Effects of COVID-19**
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brittanychambers/2020/03/26/how-women-entrepreneurs-are-navigating-the-effects-of-covid-19/#2225bd68246d>
12. **Mount Sinai to Begin the Transfer of COVID-19 Anti-bodies into Critically Ill Patients**
<https://inside.mountsinai.org/blog/mount-sinai-to-begin-the-transfer-of-covid-19-antibodies-into-critically-ill-patients/>

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in last
24 hours

*Data as reported by
national authorities at
10:00 CET 28 March 2020*

Globally

571 678 confirmed (62 514)

26 494 deaths (3159)

Western Pacific Region

101 462 confirmed (1444)

3592 deaths (25)

European Region

324 343 confirmed (37 646)

18 740 deaths (2635)

South-East Asia Region

3085 confirmed (153)

114 deaths (09)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

38 931 confirmed (3682)

2508 deaths (172)

Region of the Americas

100 314 confirmed (19 177)

1485 deaths (309)

African Region

2831 confirmed (412)

48 deaths (09)



A daily wage worker is reading a newspaper. *REUTERS*

Global News

- India advises states to curtail mass migration amid lockdown.
- China warns imported cases raise risk of new wave of Covid-19 infections.
- Germany registers fewer than 4,000 new Covid-19 cases in apparent fall from previous days.
- Covid-19 spread enters 'new stage' as number of cases exceeds 1,000 in Moscow, mayor says.
- China resumes domestic passenger flights in Hubei after easing quarantine restrictions against Covid-19.
- Higher temperatures affect survival of new coronavirus, pathologist says.
- Italy coronavirus death toll surges past 10,000; lockdown extension likely.

Global Response

- Hong Kong asked domestic workers to stay in to stop the spread of coronavirus. But many got infected at home by their employers.
- As virus threatens, U.S. embraces big government, for now.
- Trump drops idea of New York lockdown as U.S. death count crosses 2,000.
- Bill Gates: Returning to normal life in April is not realistic.
- China's \$13tn bond market shines amid volatile treasuries.

Local News

- Amid coronavirus, 2,000 passengers from Saudi Arabia remain untraceable in KP.
- Pakistan, IMF discussing additional \$1.4bn as coronavirus likely to dent economy: Hafeez Shaikh.
- Single Covid-19 patient infects 27 others in Gujrat.
- Essential sectors' operations to keep economic wheel moving.
- Fleeing corona suspect caught, quarantined in Punjab.



Pakistan daily wagers struggle to survive in coronavirus lockdown. *Asad Hashim/Al Jazeera*

Local Response

- Sindh govt. readies to provide food to daily wagers with support from welfare organisations.
- Govt. to provide ration to labourers at their doorstep: MD utility stores.
- Chinese health experts arrive in Pakistan.
- Army making sure of enforcement measures to curb spread of coronavirus: ISPR.
- SBP slashes cheque clearance time in wake of coronavirus outbreak.
- Govt. to outline safety guidelines for workers of needed industries.

World Health Organization

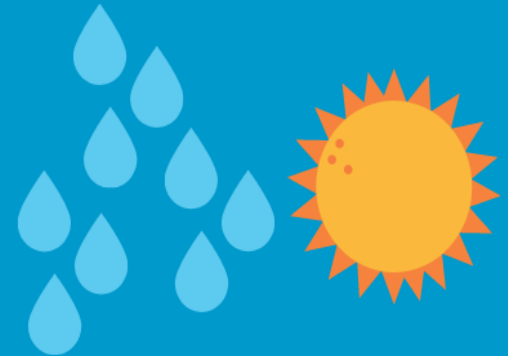
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public Myth busters

From the evidence so far, the new coronavirus can be transmitted in ALL AREAS, including areas with hot and humid weather.

Regardless of climate, adopt protective measures if you live in, or travel to an area reporting COVID-19.

The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by frequently cleaning your hands. Eliminate viruses that may be on your hands and avoid infection that could occur by then touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

FACT:
The new coronavirus can be transmitted in areas with hot and humid climates

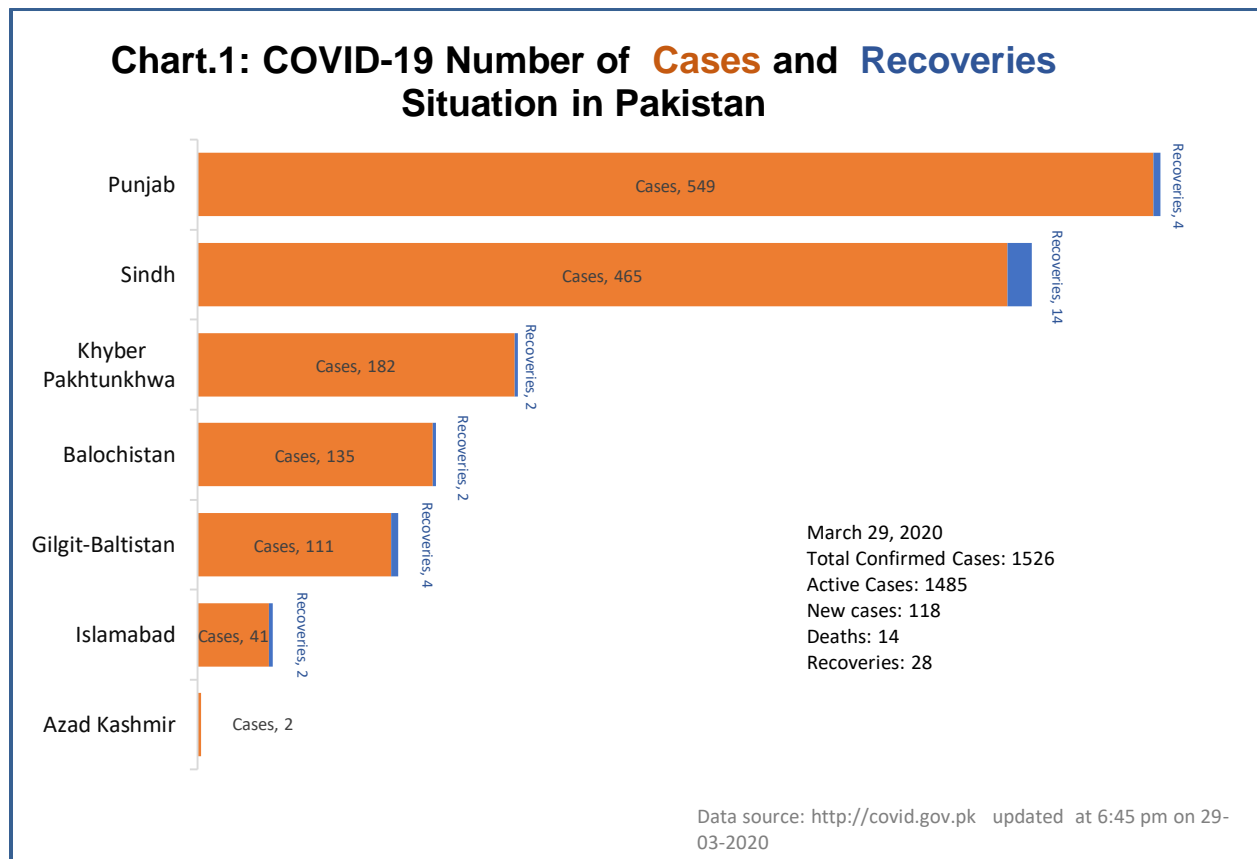


World Health
Organization

#Coronavirus #COVID19

9 March 2020

According to the official sources (NIH⁴ daily report), during last 24 hours, 118 new cases confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 1,526. One death is reported in KP and one death is reported in Sindh in last 24 hours. Total deaths due to COVID-19 are 13 across country while 28 recoveries are reported. Current impact of the disease in Pakistan is declared as **High** by NIH, Pakistan. see Chart.1.

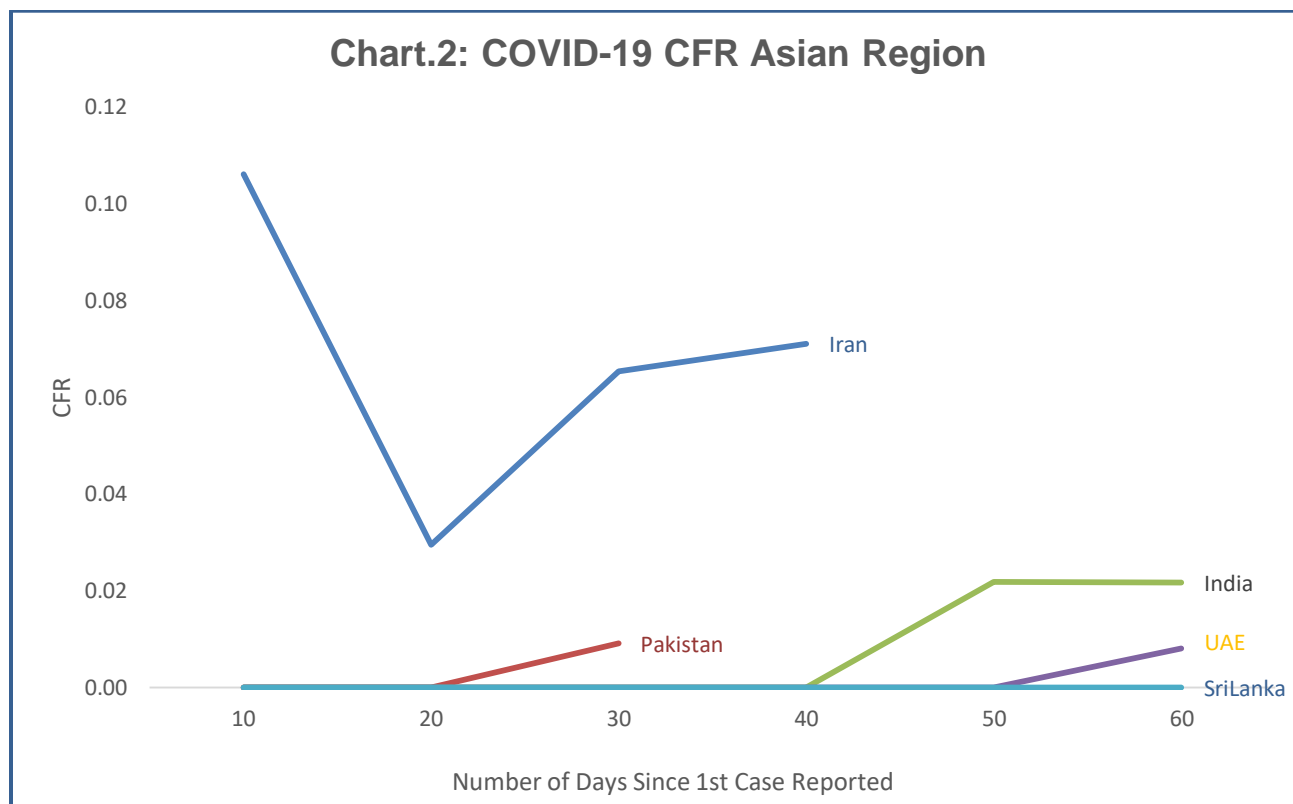


Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is ratio of Number of deaths from certain disease to Number of people diagnosed with this disease. According to medical scientists the human immunity increases gradually against any pandemic and as a result CFR decreases. Scientists further state that level of immunity may vary region to region and community to community subject to climate conditions and societal behavior. COVID-19 CFR can be utilized to compare the severity of a disease in different regions/countries,

⁴ National Institute of Health, Pakistan.

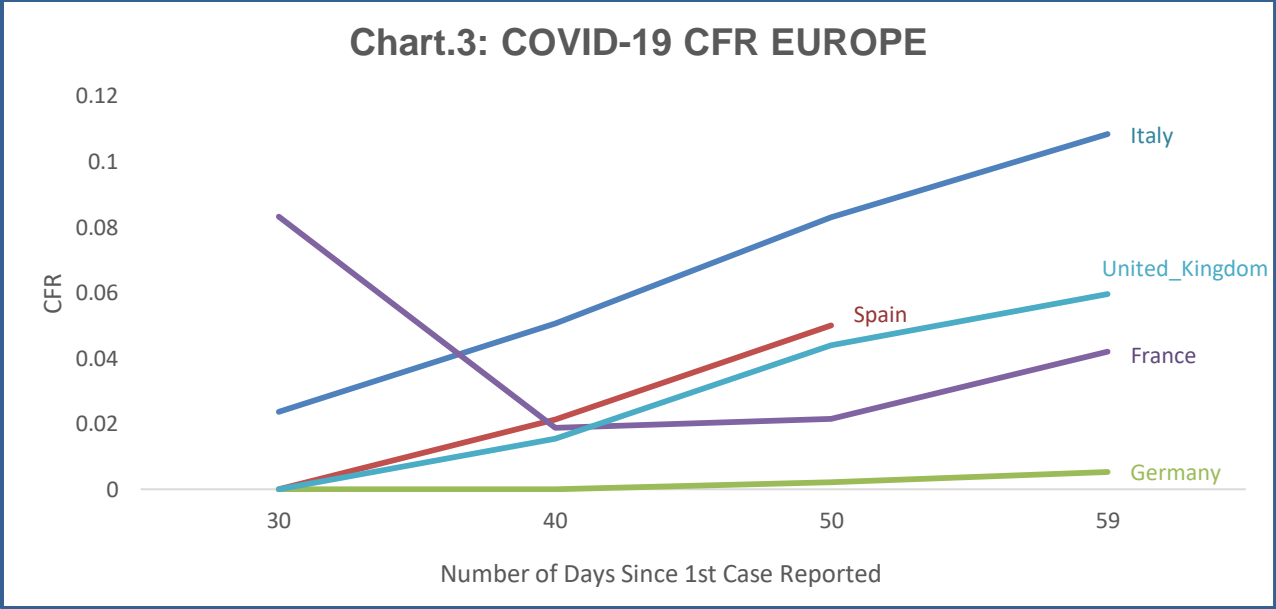
provided other factors remained same. A time pattern of COVID-19 CFR starting since first reported case of distinct regions/countries confirms this phenomenon, see Chart.2, 3 and 4.⁵

In selected Asian countries no deaths were reported in first 20 days since the first case reported, except for Iran, a high hit country. In Sri-Lanka no death reported after two months of COVID-19 outbreak, in UAE no death reported in early fifty days. Except for Iran, the COVID-19 CFR remained very low in the region, see Chart.2. Point to ponder is that Pakistan, India and Sri-Lanka are the high hit countries by DENGUE in last few seasons.

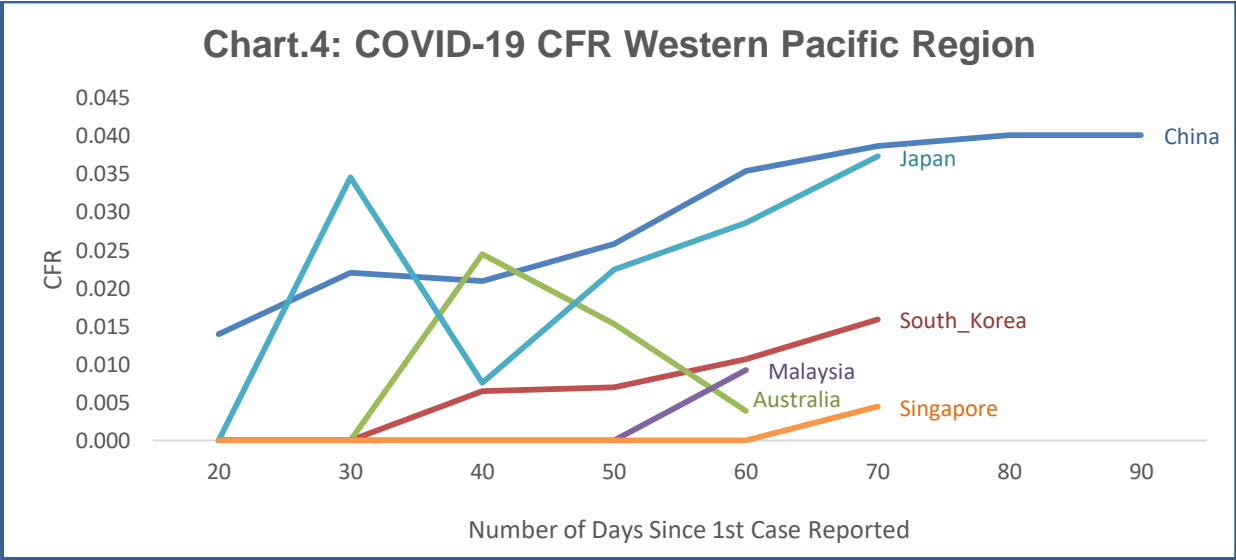


In selected European countries, death toll starts after twenty days since first case reported. Over all CFR in Europe is much higher than selected Asian countries. Germany is exceptional where CFR is even less than Pakistan, India and UAE, in Germany the first death was reported after forty since first case was reported.

⁵Data Source <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/download-todays-data-geographic-distribution-covid-19-cases-worldwide>



Just like Asia and Europe first death reported after twenty days since first case reported. In Malaysia and Singapore first death was reported after fifty and sixty days (respectively) since the first case reported. In Australia the CFR drops nose down after forty days since first case reported.



It is observed in CFR analysis of distinct countries, Pakistan started with comparatively very low CFR and it is hoped that Pakistan will recover from COVID-19 frequently. It is also observed that countries with average high temperatures have lower CFR. It might be a simple association rather causation, but converse is not true.

PM Launches “City Islamabad App” amid COVID-19 outbreak

Prime Minister Imran Khan on March 25 launched a revolutionary App for the Federal Capital. The App titled “City Islamabad” is the first multipurpose Application of its kind launched for the Capital. The PM has ensured that after its successful implementation, it will be replicated in the rest of the country.

If executed properly, this application could bring many of the major facilities to the doorstep for the people of Pakistan. With the help of this App the people residing in the city can avoid standing in long queues to get their basic services. This is surely going to become useful while the country is going through social isolation during the spread of the COVID-19. The users will not have to personally visit the offices to get a hold of the simple amenities.

The App has a user-friendly interface and provides a total of 43 services under the headings of ICT Services, e-Police, Excise and Taxation, CDA/MCI, Notifications, City Guide, Featured Services and Utility Bills.

The citizens can verify or check authenticities of documents like Domicile, Arms License, Vehicle Registration etc. The App also provides a guide on all the main hospitals, hotels, Metro Stops, emergency contacts etc. This can surely help the residents of Islamabad and all the tourists who visit the Federal Capital often. If the small initial glitches that the users are facing related to speed and other technicalities are tackled by the IT team properly, then this App can be a success and will also keep the road traffic to a bare minimum during this crucial time.

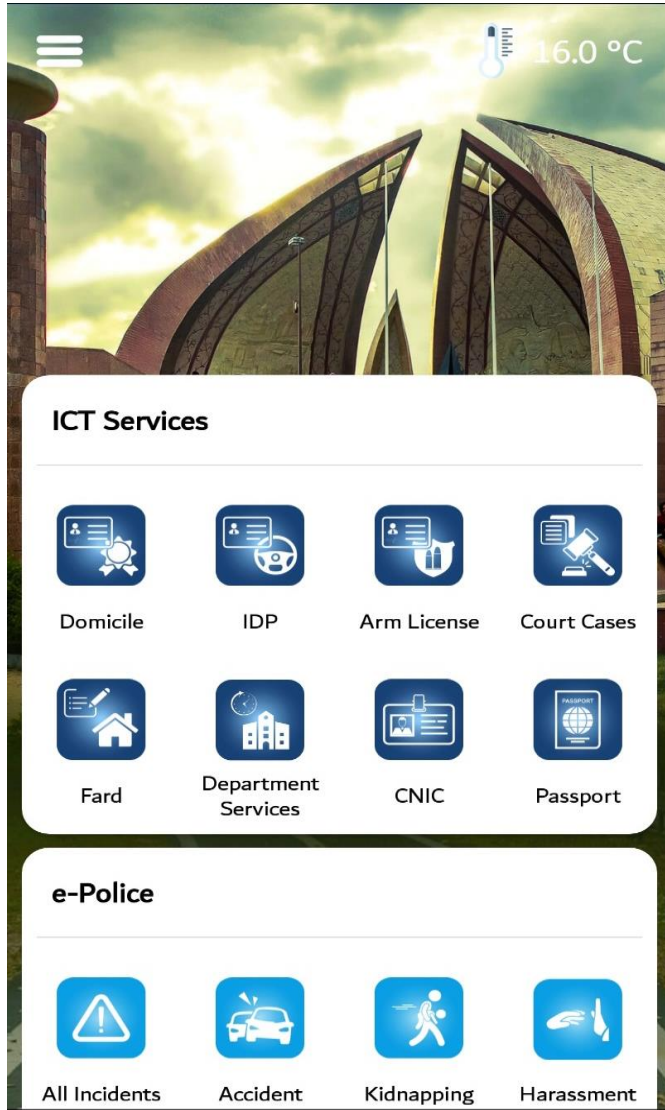
Capital Development Authority (CDA) is going to be responsible for providing these services in collaboration with the National Information Technology Board (NITB) and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). The App is available for Android users on Google Play and will soon



CITY
ISLAMABAD



be available for iOS Users. (Written by Ramsha Masood Ahmed, a Student of Department of Development Studies, PIDE)



Experts' View

We have to evaluate the economic cost of this pandemic from the vulnerable group's perspective and propose policy options to minimize its impact. (**Nasir Iqbal, The News**)

What is certain, though, is that almost everything, everywhere, will change. We are living in a moment that will reverberate in the annals of world history. It will continue to be resurrected in novels, poetry, memoirs and cinematic productions. Far into the future, grandparents will tell its stories to their grandchildren with a memory that will surely play its tricks. This crisis will also provide a new dimension to conspiracy theories, mixing facts with fantasy. (**Ghazi Salahudin, The News**)

In the current neoliberal global economy - which is a strange mix of economic nationalism, the dominance of the stock market and transnational corporations, and oft-disavowed economic interdependence - any large-scale restriction that hinders the movement of capital, labour, and commodities is seen as "counter-growth" and hence undesirable by governments and corporations. And each country, now struggling to respond to the pandemic, is being forced to reckon with the increasing spread of the virus, the health of its most vulnerable citizens, and its global reputation as a "developed" capitalist economy. (**Ani Maitra, Al Jazeera**)

Experts' Opinion

Given the nature of the disease and the state of healthcare in the country, Pakistan's sole option is to early-detect, quickly-test, and robustly-isolate all positive cases. (**Rashid Mahmood Langrial, DAWN**)

Videos of Italians in lockdown singing from their balconies to keep their spirits up have been admirable. Could some of that gusto spread and morph into a Europe-wide flurry of videos chanting our empathy and willingness to show solidarity with one another? Wherever we may live and whatever language we may speak, sending that kind of message across our "Corona-centre" continent would hold special meaning, surely not just for ourselves now, but for others also, and perhaps for the future as well. (**Natalie Nougayrède, The Guardian**)

The realities of this crisis have punctured the divisive myth of strivers and shirkers. If it returns, it will cause even more damage. (**John Harris, The Guardian**)

There is no disagreement over 'social distancing'; that is perhaps the only way we can contain the epidemic. But governments, especially in divided societies, should pay extra attention to ensure that this does not translate into a 'social boycott' of marginalized communities. (**Sajjad Hussain Changezi, Dawn**)

COVID-19 READS

1. PIDE Covid-19 Bulletin
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-9.pdf>
2. PIDE Covid-19 Blog
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-Covid-Blog-7.pdf>
3. Caring for the poor
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/636133-caring-for-the-poor>
4. Coronavirus: A visual guide to the economic impact
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51706225>
5. Johns Hopkins offers free online course about COVID-19 and epidemiology
<https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/03/27/coursera-covid-19-epidemiology-class/>
6. WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO DEVELOP A VACCINE FOR COVID-19?
<https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/03/26/covid-19-vaccine-development-ruth-karron/>
7. The CoronaVirus Economy
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1544172>
8. Lockdown, what lockdown? Sweden's unusual response to coronavirus
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52076293>
9. Virus puts responsible capitalism to the test
<https://www.ft.com/content/a47c734a-702e-11ea-89df-41bea055720b>
10. Managing mental health challenges faced by healthcare workers during covid-19 pandemic
<https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1211>
11. Coronavirus: Which countries have successfully 'flattened the curve'?
<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-which-countries-have-successfully-flattened-the-curve-11963177>
12. Crowdsourcing desperately needed medical supplies in coronavirus fight
https://abcnews.go.com/Health/crowdsourcing-desperately-needed-medical-supplies-coronavirus-fight/story?id=69821955&cid=clicksource_69335433_2_hero_headlines_headlines_hed

**WHO CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)
SITUATION REPORT-69**
(Data as reported by national
authorities AT 10:00 CET 29
March 2020)
SITUATION IN NUMBERS
total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

634 835 confirmed (63 159)

29 957 deaths (3464)

Western Pacific Region

102 803 confirmed (1343)

3626 deaths (34)

European Region

361 031 confirmed (36 688)

21 493 deaths (2753)

South-East Asia Region

3709 confirmed (624)

139 deaths (25)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

42 777 confirmed (3846)

2668 deaths (160)

Region of the Americas

120 798 confirmed (20 484)

1973 deaths (488)

African Region

3005 confirmed (174)

51 deaths (04)



A vendor selling facemasks waits for customers during a government-imposed nationwide lockdown as a preventive measure against the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus, in Islamabad. DAWN/AFP

Global News

- Global coronavirus cases exceed 684,000: Johns Hopkins University.
- US virus deaths could reach 200,000, top medical expert warns as medical supplies run short
- Singapore reports 42 new coronavirus cases, taking tally to 844.
- From facial-recognition to phone tracking, Russia is using the coronavirus pandemic to test authoritarian tech.
- UK should be prepared for significant period of coronavirus lockdown.
- Trump says social distancing guidelines will stay through April.

Global Response

- Pakistan calls for lifting lockdown in occupied Kashmir following reports of virus cases.
- German minister commits suicide after 'virus crisis worries'.
- NGO in Costa Rica turns van into handwashing station.
- President Xi Jinping inspects work resumption in Zhejiang.
- Spain tightens its lockdown after new one-day death-toll high of 838.
- China's circulation enterprises steadily resumes operation, retail prices fall.
- Boxer Amir Khan to donate Rs40m to Pakistan for coronavirus relief.
- Nigeria's fashion designers take on coronavirus with glitter and rhinestones.
- China's Xi seen in public for first time during outbreak without face mask.

Local News

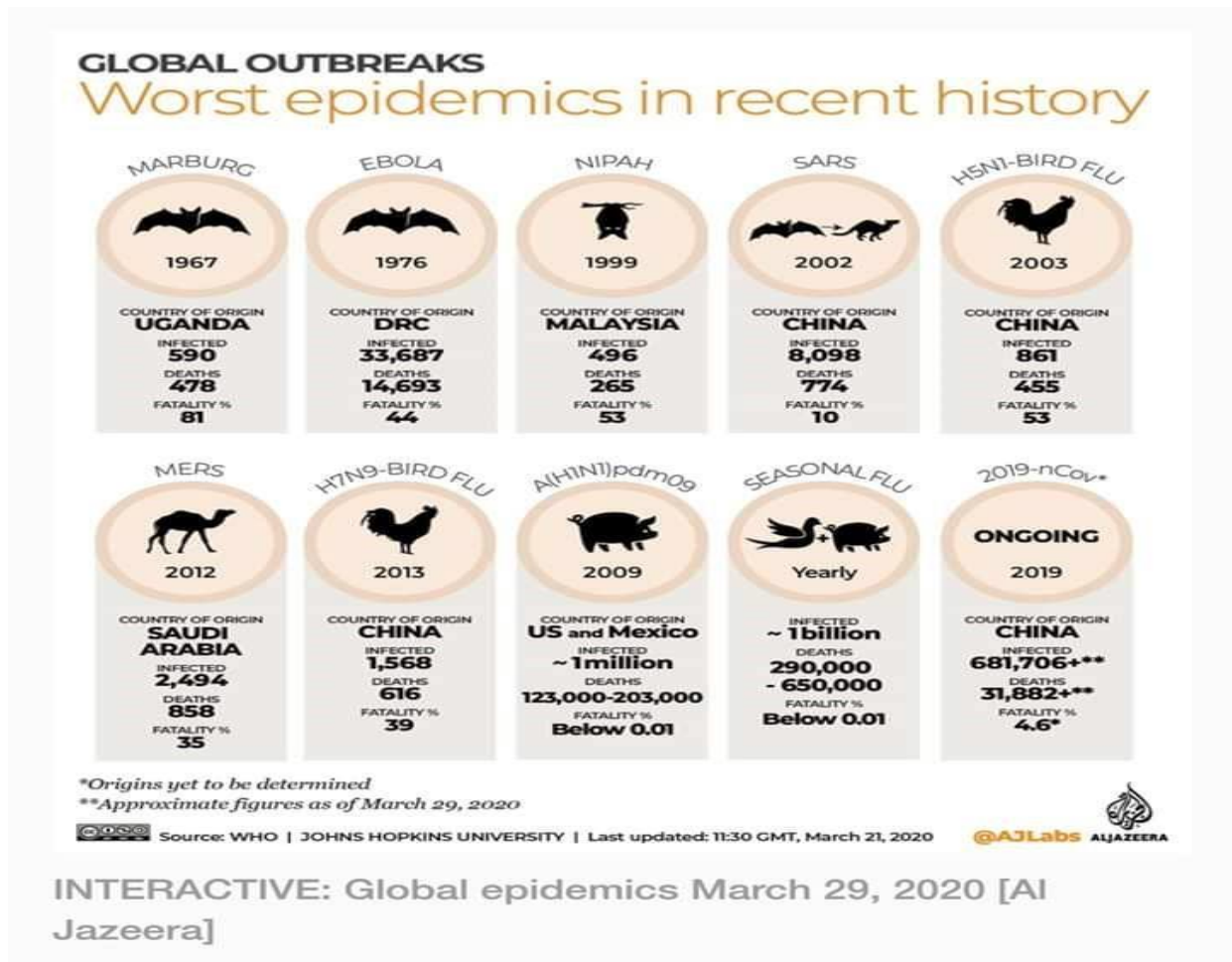
- 27 members staying at Raiwind Tableeghi Markaz test positive.
- KP government takes back inquiry against doctor who wore plastic bag over head.
- Testing to increase when kits arrive, says Balochistan CM.
- Lockdown to continue for another week or more, says CM Jam Kamal.
- All people dying from respiratory diseases are not Covid-19 positive, clarifies Faisal Edhi.
- NDMA asked to provide PPE to media personnel who report from quarantine, emergency centres.
- Chinese strain of coronavirus has more potent chromosomes than Pakistani one: Dr Atta.



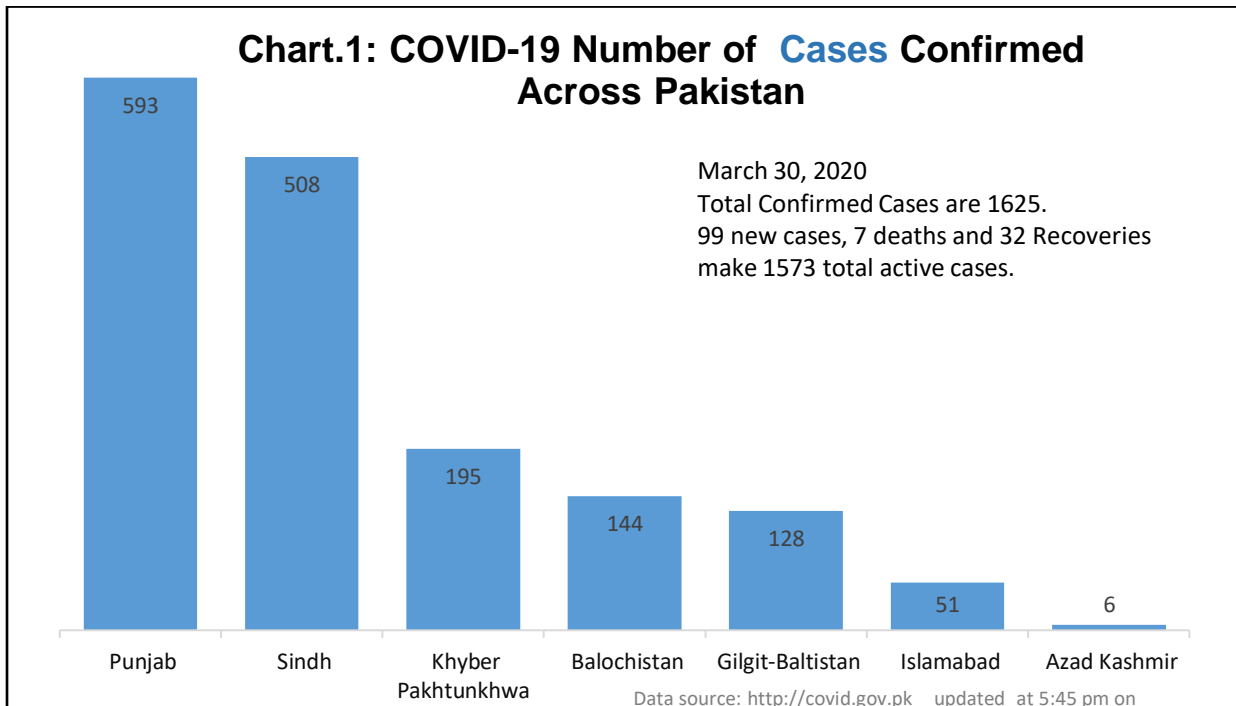
An elderly man plays cricket on a road in Islamabad. *DAWN/AFP*

Local Response

- Punjab govt. relief package not for BISP beneficiaries: Awan
- KP govt. quarantines 3 close contacts of man killed by coronavirus in Abbottabad.
- The indigenously designed diagnostic kit would cost a fraction of internationally purchased kits.
- Imtiaz Store in Korangi sealed after commissioner reviews measures taken by stores in Karachi.
- Doctors and paramedics in Punjab to be given one month's extra salary as bonus.
- Petrol pumps to remain open from 8am-5pm in Sindh
- Fake news on coronavirus: Punjab stops un-authorized officials from talking to press.



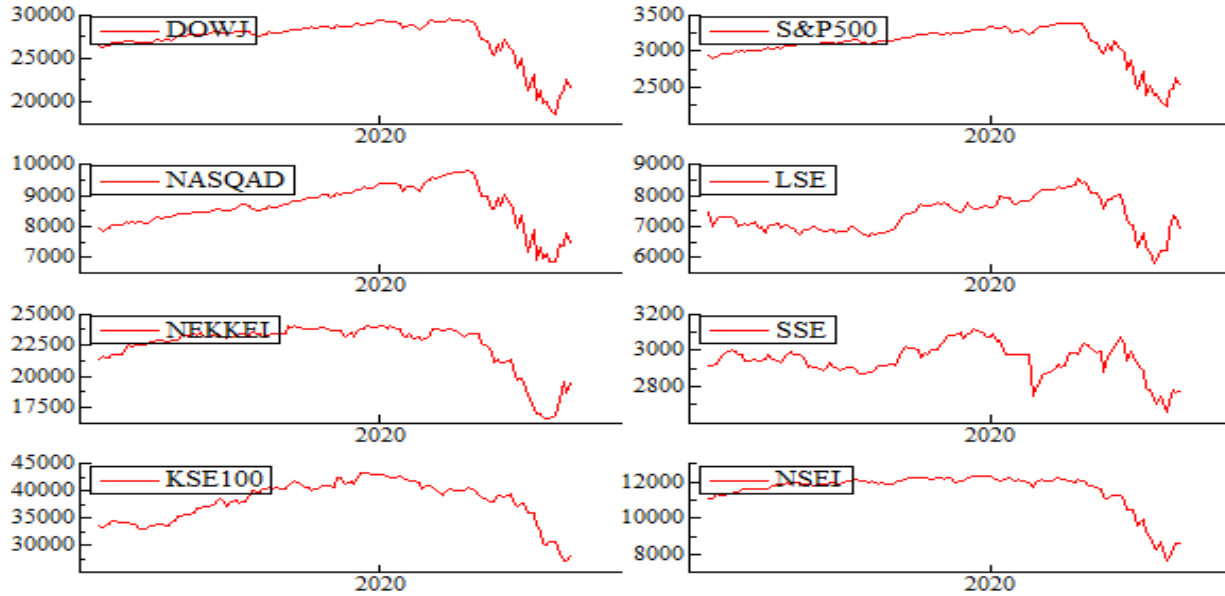
According to the official sources (NIH⁶ daily report), during last 24 hours, 99 new cases are confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 1,625. One death is reported in KP, one death is reported in Punjab and three deaths are reported in Sindh in last 24 hours. Total deaths due to COVID-19 are 18 across country while 32 recoveries are reported. Current impact of the disease in Pakistan is declared as **High** by NIH, Pakistan. see Chart.1.



This is your wakeup call (Phil Collins): Since the COVID-19 outbreak economists are predicting recession followed by pandemic; because the world is on the verge of complete lockdown businesses have shrunk down and demands have become specific period. Though speculative stock markets are generally assumed to be indicator of economy, a gauge to measure boom in the economy. It is observed that world leading markets DOW JONES(USA), S&P500(USA), NASDAQ(USA), LSE(UK), NEKKEI (JAPAN), SSE(CHINA), NSEI(INDIA) and KSE100(PAKISTAN) nosedived after the COVID-19 hit, see Chart.2 (Daily data span 8th Oct 2019 to 27th March 2020).

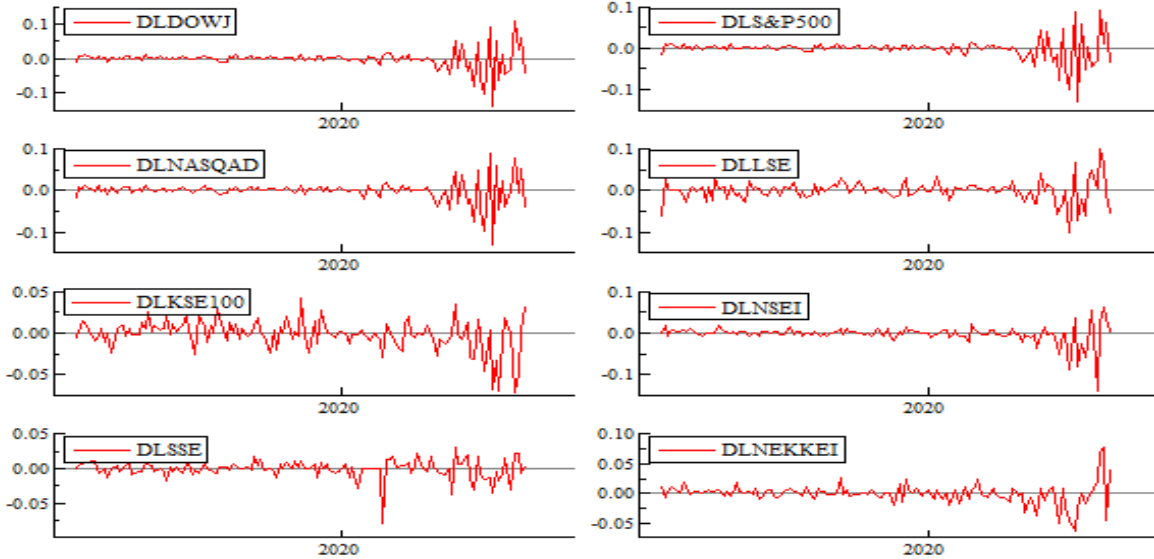
⁶ National Institute of Health, Pakistan.

Chart.2. Distinct STOCK Markets

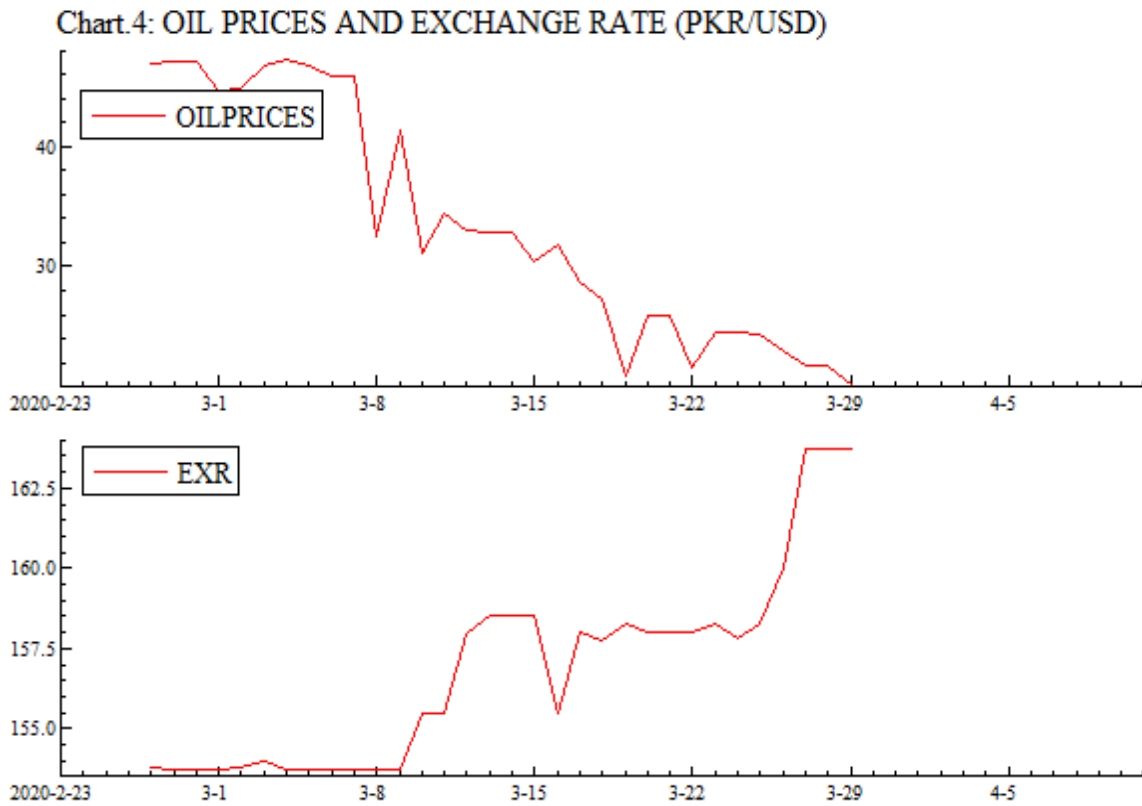


The returns seem highly volatile after the COVID-19 hit, especially more volatile during the month of March 2020, see Chart.3. These are not good signs, stock markets are sensitive to the prevailing information. A bad news causes more volatility than the good news of same magnitude. The way COVID-19 hit the world, there is a probable chance of recession.

Chart.3: Returns on Stock Prices



PSX (Pakistan Stock Exchange) is one of the best performing stock markets in the region, it attracts FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investment). It remained attractive to foreign investments during the so called war-on-terror. Many times in past it has shown capacity to retrieve and recover the loss, it sustained the worst ever recession of 2009. There is good chance that market will survive the COVID-19 hit. A substantial portion of Pakistan imports comprises petroleum products which are essential for growth and development period. Recently the oil prices (USD/barrel) are at its minimum and show further downward trend, see Chart.4 (Daily data span 27th Feb 2020 to 29th March 2020). It can help Pakistan recover/survive possible recession amid COVID-19 outbreak. But during the period of pandemic the exchange rate (PKR/USD) is at its highest ever which can cause a negative effect and can lessen the benefit of low oil prices. There is a need to rationalize the Exchange Rate for the course correction to mitigate the effects of possible recession.



Experts' View

A recently issued bulletin by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), has highlighted the large share (56 percent) of vulnerable employment in the total employment. It says 71 per cent of the women and 52 per cent of the men are in vulnerable employment. It can be safely presumed therefore that panic buying will affect more than 50 percent of our employed labour force...[T]he irrational public response to pandemics may cause significant harm to the poor who are already battling with multiple deprivations. According to the PIDE bulletin-1, the coronavirus is likely to add 20 million people to the current number of poor (55 million) if the impacts tend to be the low scenario and to 70 million people if the effects loom large. The lack of coordination between the public and private actors may exacerbate the adversities stemming from COVID-19. **(Lubna Naz, TNS)**

The federal government's response to the pandemic reflects the abysmal condition of our health system. It was far too slow to grasp the gravity of the problem and enforce necessary precautions. Its confusion regarding key measures such as imposition of a lockdown and suspension of congregational prayers displayed a frustrating absence of leadership. A silver lining through this has been the proactive response of the Sindh government. Although the public health sector in Sindh is historically neglected, the Sindh government's approach to the current crisis has been decisive, systematic and evidence-based. In addition to the enforcement of precautionary measures, provisions were made in Sindh to address the shortage of hospital beds, facilities and equipment. This has shown that if the Sindh government chooses to address a problem decisively, it possesses the capability to do so and to some extent, can even muster the resources to do so. **(Sara Malkani, DAWN)**

Beyond survival, work shapes our sense of self. The thought of being without it induces existential terror. **(Josh Cohen, The Guardian)**

Timely treatment is of utmost importance and can save the patient's life. If someone has a sore throat (and mild fever), the first line of defence is to gargle with warm water laced with salt and lemon juice. Preventative measures are frequent washing of hands with soap for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizers and stay away from other people, maintaining a distance of at least 1.5 meters if avoidance is not possible. Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and get rid of the tissue immediately. Stay at home if at all possible and don't receive guests. **(Dr. A.Q.Khan, The News)**

Experts' Opinion

This pandemic combines an unfortunate triple jeopardy: rapid loss of human lives, fast economic recession, and structural disruption in efforts to combat global warming. Never before had these three factors coincided to determine the gravity of a pandemic. This year was regarded as critical for international climate action, centered on COP-26 in Glasgow, but the pandemic has distracted world attention. Perhaps Covid-19 will forever change our globalized lifestyles — something climate change has so far not been able to do, despite its seriousness. **(Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, DAWN)**

It's understandable if you're feeling worried about the coronavirus. But fear and stigma make a difficult situation worse. For example there are reports emerging from around the world of individuals, particularly of Asian descent, being subject to verbal or even physical abuse. Public health emergencies are stressful times for everyone affected. It's important to stay informed and to be kind and supportive to each other. Words matter, and using language that perpetuates existing stereotypes can drive people away from getting tested and taking the actions they need to protect themselves and their communities. **(UNICEF)**

World Health Organization

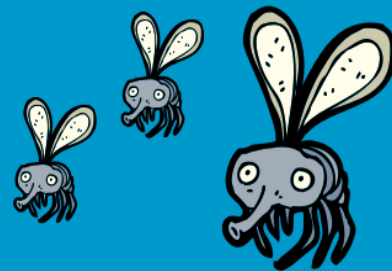
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

To date there has been no information nor evidence to suggest that the new coronavirus could be transmitted by mosquitoes.

The new coronavirus is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose.

To protect yourself, clean your hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Also, avoid close contact with anyone who is coughing and sneezing.

FACT:
The new coronavirus
CANNOT
be transmitted through
mosquito bites



#Coronavirus #COVID19



A road in Bhara Kahu being disinfected with chlorine water.

Photo by: Muhammad Asim/ DAWN

COVID-19 READS

1. **Young-The Inadvertent Agents for Spreading COVID-19**
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-Covid-Blog-8.pdf>
2. **Coronavirus and the Plight of Laborer**
<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2186940/6-coronavirus-plight-labourer/?amp=1>
3. **COVID-19 and the Question of Religious Sentiment**
<https://dailytimes.com.pk/writer/fahd-zulfiqar/>
4. **Tackle climate crisis and poverty with zeal of Covid-19 fight, scientists urge**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/28/coronavirus-tackle-climate-crisis-and-poverty-with-zeal-of-covid-19-fight-scientists-urge>
5. **COVID-19: Social distancing may affect one's mental health, experts say**
<https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/local/covid-social-distancing-may-affect-one-mental-health-experts-say/n3mH08cI8FaoOFm5fMjJ9O/>
6. **Understanding the Economic Shock of Coronavirus**
<https://hbr.org/2020/03/understanding-the-economic-shock-of-coronavirus>
7. **COVID-19 Economic Stimulus: Get Money to People Faster with Digital Dollars**
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lawrencewintermeyer/2020/03/30/covid-19-economic-stimulus-get-money-to-people-faster-with-digital-dollars/#3fbd618b31fc>
8. **Class and COVID: How the less affluent face double risks**
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/03/27/class-and-covid-how-the-less-affluent-face-double-risks/>
9. **COVID-19 poses a dramatic threat to life in conflict zones**
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/covid-19-poses-a-dramatic-threat-to-life-in-conflict-zones/>
10. **Rightwing think tanks use fear of Covid-19 to fight bans on plastic bags**
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/mar/27/rightwing-thinktanks-use-fear-of-covid-19-to-fight-bans-on-plastic-bags>
11. **The coronavirus could devastate poor countries**
<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2020/03/26/the-coronavirus-could-devastate-poor-countries>
12. **Conflict regions vulnerable to COVID-19 catastrophe**
<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/conflict-regions-vulnerable-to-covid-19-catastrophe/1782833>

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-70

SITUATION IN NUMBERS total (new) cases in last 24 hours

Globally

693 224 confirmed (58 411)

33 106 deaths (3215)

Western Pacific Region

103 775 confirmed (987)

3649 deaths (23)

European Region

392 757 confirmed (31 726)

23 962 deaths (2535)

South-East Asia Region

4084 confirmed (375)

158 deaths (19)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

46 329 confirmed (3552)

2813 deaths (145)

Region of the Americas

142 081 confirmed (21 289)

2457 deaths (484)

African Region

3486 confirmed (482)

60 deaths (09)



**A daily-wage labourer devastatingly awaits work amid
countrywide lockdown – Reuters**

Global News

- Global infections head towards 800,000.
- World Bank warns of ‘unprecedented global shock’.
- France suffers its worst daily death toll.
- Lockdown leaves millions without jobs in India.
- Despair and pride in China's Wuhan as coronavirus lockdown eases.
- US coronavirus death toll rises past 3,000 on deadliest day.
- India, Pakistan grappling with archaic epidemic law.
- Coronavirus outbreak exacting huge toll on China's economy: World Bank.

- Mercedes F1 engineers help make a breathing aid for coronavirus patients in less than 100 hours.

Global Response

- 1,000-bed hospital ship to help NY cope with exigency.
- Putin and Trump hold talks on coronavirus and plunging oil prices.
- Italy extends lockdown until Easter.
- Russian army to send coronavirus help to Italy after Putin phone call.
- Saudi Arabia plans to boost oil exports to 10.6 million barrels per day from May.

Local News

- Another \$2m ADB grant to help Pakistan fight Covid-19.
- Faith and youth to guide Pakistan in fight against coronavirus.
- Coronavirus outbreak: Supreme Court stops prisoners' release by HCs orders.
- Sialkot teachers performing quarantine duties demand safety supplies 7,413 teachers staged a protest on Tuesday.
- COVID-19: Pakistan's air quality improves amid lockdown
- Pakistan will be amongst hardest hit economies by coronavirus crisis, says UN report.



Municipal Workers are busy in disinfecting premises of PIMS- *Photo by Muhamad Asim*

Local Response

- ECC approves Rs534bn relief package.
- Sindh government gives go-ahead to trial of passive immunization to treat coronavirus.
- Punjab to distribute funds among laborers amid lockdown. Step taken as part of Insaf Imdad Programme.
- NGO to deliver ration to transgender people across Pakistan.
- Punjab to conduct 2,500 coronavirus tests every day: Yasmin Rashid.
- Balochistan industrialists should help people amid coronavirus outbreak: CM Khan.
- NDMA to increase testing labs from 14 to 50 in 20 days: Gen Afzal.

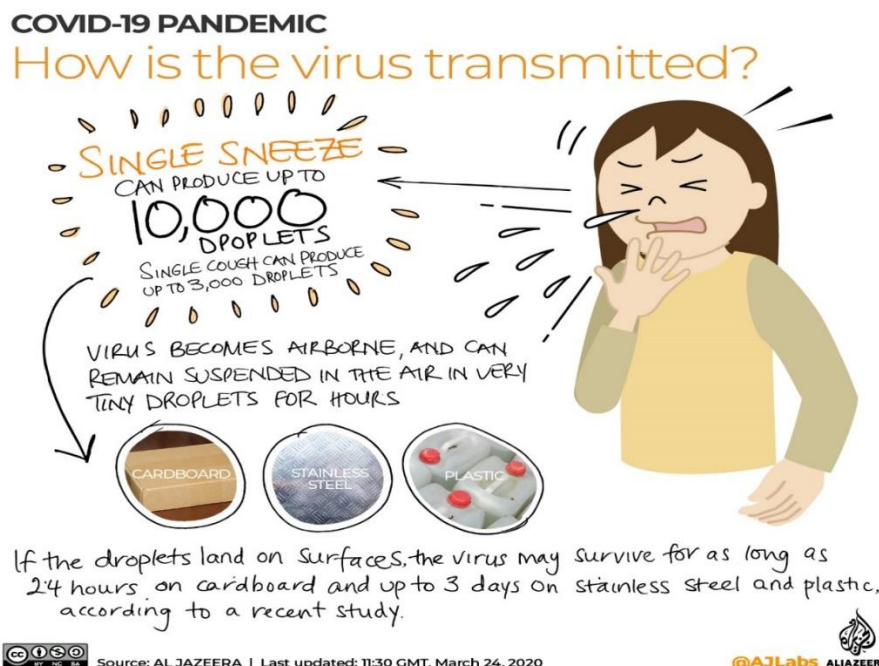


Lockdowns affecting the poor and elderly across the globe

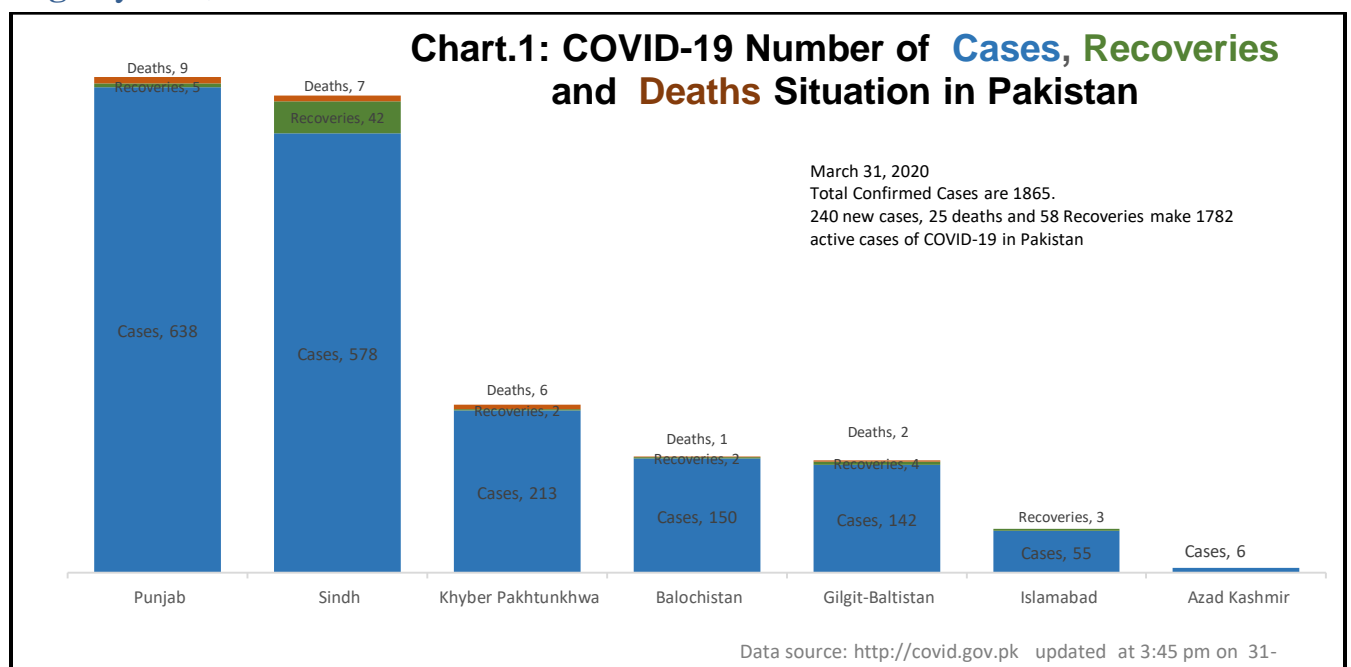
COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Dec. 31, 2019 – Jan. 9, 2020)

- Dec. 31, 2019** — Chinese authorities inform WHO's China office of pneumonia cases in Wuhan City, Hubei province, China, with unknown cause.
- Jan. 1** — Officials close the Huanan seafood market, suspected to be the source of the mystery disease, as some of the patients presenting with the pneumonia-like illness were dealers or vendors at the market.
- Jan. 3** — China reports a total of 44 suspected patients with the mystery disease.
- Jan. 7** — China identifies new coronavirus as cause of the outbreak. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause varying levels of disease, from common colds to severe fatal diseases. Usually found in animals, some can infect humans and transmit between humans. Both SARS and MERS are caused by a coronavirus.
- Jan. 9** — China reports first death linked to the new coronavirus, 2019-nCoV. A 61-year-old male admitted to hospital in Wuhan with several underlying medical conditions. Apart from respiratory failure and severe pneumonia, the patient also suffered from abdominal tumors and chronic liver disease.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/news/covid-19-a-timeline-of-the-coronavirus-outbreak-96396>

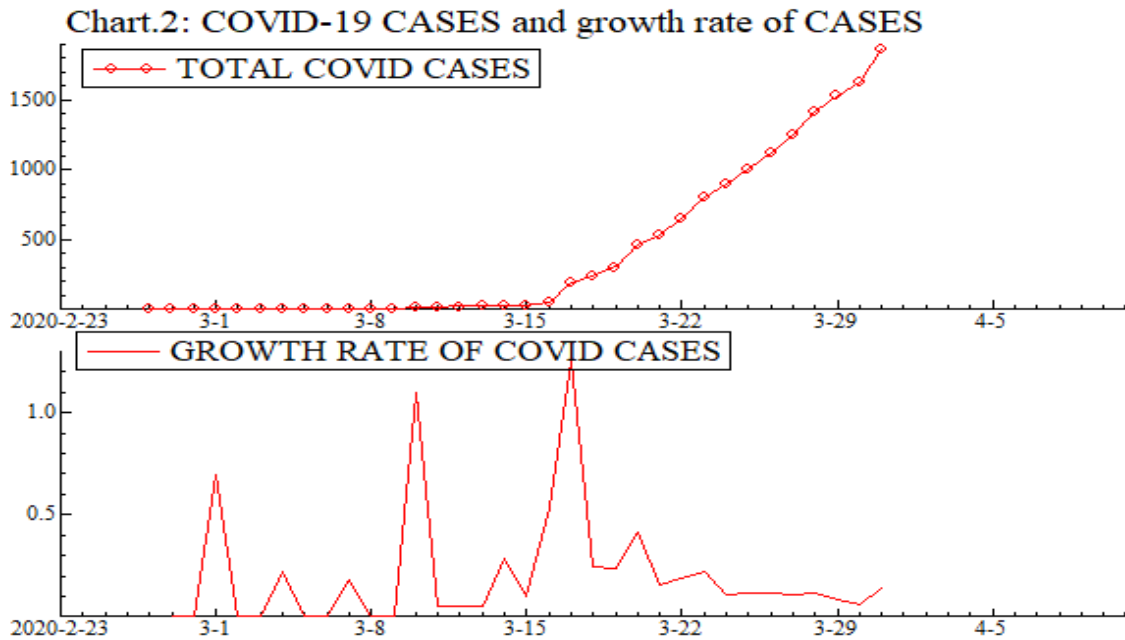


According to the official sources (NIH⁷ daily report), a total of 15709 suspected cases have been admitted in hospital where 14658 tests in different laboratories across country are conducted for COVID-19. During last 24 hours, 240 new cases are confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 1,865. One death is reported in KP and GB each, three deaths are reported in Punjab and two deaths are reported in Sindh in last 24 hours. Total deaths due to COVID-19 are 25 across country while 58 recoveries are reported. Since the recovery time is about two to three weeks, it is expected that number of recovered cases may increase in couple of weeks. Current impact of the disease in Pakistan is declared as **High** by NIH, Pakistan. see Chart.1.



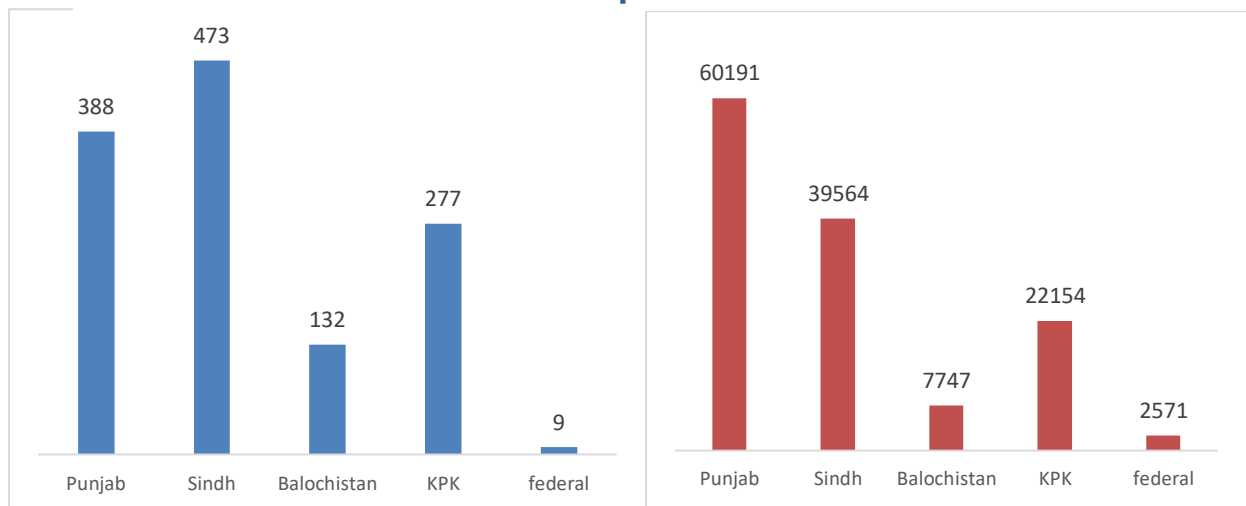
In Pakistan, the figure of infected cases, remained in single digit during first 10 days, however, the count increases manifold after mid-March 2020. Though the number of COVID-19 infected cases is increasing all over Pakistan, but the rate of change is not monotonically increasing. It is observed that on 1st March, 10th March and on 17th March the rate was higher comparatively. Although the number of cases increased manifold in last ten days of March but the growth rate was lowest since the first case was reported, it is possible result of general public awareness, social distancing and the change of Personal Normative Belief (PNB) regarding pandemic, see Chart.2. With continuous awareness campaign to change PNB of masses, Pakistan will defeat the virus.

⁷ National Institute of Health, Pakistan.



To handle with number of increasing COVID-19 cases in different provinces and the federal capital of Pakistan, there are 1279 registered public sector big hospitals with 113150 beds in total. Province Sindh and Punjab being high hit areas are equipped with ample infrastructure to respond. Military Hospitals, private medical facilities and currently established quarantines by NDMA are over and above the existing basic health infrastructure. Looking at the growth trajectory of COVID-19 in Pakistan across different provinces and the incidence of disease in these regions, the prompt planning and efficient use of available resources may help Pakistan pass through this health calamity, See Chart.3.

Chart.3: Distribution of Hospitals and Beds across Pakistan



Pakistani Students in Time of COVID-19

Governments around the world have temporarily closed schools in an attempt to slow down the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), these nationwide closures are affecting 80% of the world's student population which includes 184 countries and over 18,849 million students. The shift in viral classrooms is totally a new concept in developing countries like Pakistan. Majority of the students of such countries are not used to online learning. This big challenge of online classes requires great efforts and resources.

Following the footsteps of Stanford, Colombia and Duke, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), which I am attending, moved all classes online, like other institutes on recommendations of HEC. The educational institutes and students of developed country did not suffer much because they have relatively better resources than us. As the major part of students of PIDE belong to remote rural areas of Pakistan this is a big challenge for them to attend classes with such poor resources. I, myself have to travel 10 km for the facility of internet, where I can only use 2G network.

Somehow students manage to attend classes. When students join the classes with puffy eyes from their bed, they cannot concentrate as much as required. The unmuted microphones create noise in the class and the muted microphones suspend spontaneous reactions of students. Some of the students miss the right moment because of trouble with internet connections. The screens also create hurdles for those who hesitate to speak. Stopping for coffee, texting, checking feeds, and running to bathroom are also much common in online classes.

Finally, I strongly agree with Steve Jobs, who was a firm believer of in-person collaborations and opposed remote work. He once said “creativity comes from spontaneous meetings, from random discussions. You run into someone, you ask what they are doing, you say ‘wow’, and soon you are cooking up all sort of ideas.” (Written by Ishfaq Hussain, a student at the Department of Business Studies, PIDE)

Experts' View

Coronavirus is different kettle of fish. It needs a cadre equipped with scientific training, like Fidel Castro's magical doctors, China's disciplined medical corps, and Kerala's highly experienced people. The common factor between them is high literacy, and a commitment to the most defenceless, somewhat like the army of 400,000 volunteers raised overnight in the UK. **(Jawed Naqvi, DAWN)**

The more vulnerable need food but they also need to take preventive measures against the virus and this requires them to wash their hands often. Why can't the debate over how to make the lockdown bearable also focus on how the more vulnerable citizens in informal settlements can be assisted to wash their hands? No public policy debate or the questions being asked are pushing the state to deliver water and soap to the poorer urban settlements. Urban planners say such efforts are being made in the African countries. Can we not add hygiene of the more vulnerable to the debate? For right now, it seems that the vulnerable only need to eat to live (and they work to earn enough to eat), and that cleanliness is not really something important. **(Arifa Noor, DAWN)**

If the public health response is stronger and more successful - controlling the spread of the virus in each country within two-to-three months - the outlook could be more positive, with economic recovery by the third quarter of 2020 for the US, the fourth quarter of 2020 for China and the first quarter of 2021 for the Eurozone. **(World Economic Forum)**

Experts' Opinion

"We need to go to their homes, test them, test their family members, their friends and neighbours, and all the people who test positive should be taken, if they are well enough, to accommodation centres outside their homes. Without these measures we would be seeing far worse numbers and our health service would be in a far more dramatic state," The ongoing rate of contagion and deaths did not mean the national government's measures were ineffective. **(Angelo Borrelli, Civil Protection Agency)**

We should not expect all magnanimity from our medical staff only. The coming weeks could be apocalyptic. Our health facilities could be overwhelmed. Therefore, all hostels of public representatives, governor houses and CM houses should be turned into quarantine spaces. Law-makers could donate their salaries to the fight against corona. Millions are suffering because of the lockdowns; the state should set up a helpline to register the complaints of people, especially against those employers that have not paid salaries to their employees or have laid off staff. Only collective efforts can help us win. **(Abdul Sattar, THE NEWS)**

The issue confronting the government was institutionalizing the Covid-19 response in a linear policy framework. The WHO also wants a Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) as part of its Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP). It has already issued the guidelines for an initial CPRP, which should be developed for three months from February 1 to April 30. Subsequent CPRPs will be developed based on the evolving situation and needs. The WHO guide outlines the priority steps and actions to be included in the CPRP across the major areas of the public health preparedness and response: country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring; risk communication and community engagement; surveillance, rapid-response teams, and case investigation; points of entry; national laboratories; infection prevention and control; case management; and operations support and logistics. **(Nadeem Iqbal, THE NEWS)**

World Health Organization

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

No. Hand dryers are not effective in killing the 2019-nCoV.

To protect yourself against the new coronavirus, you should frequently clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Once your hands are cleaned, you should dry them thoroughly by using paper towels or a warm air dryer.

Are hand dryers effective in killing the new coronavirus?



#2019nCoV



Animals left unattended in the markets due to Coronavirus lockdown- Photo by *Sitwat Khawar*

COVID-19 READS

1. What do confirmed numbers tell us? Using an Adapted SEIR Model for Estimation of COVID-19 in Pakistan
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-10.pdf>
2. Developing countries face economic collapse in COVID-19 fight: UN
<https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/developing-countries-face-economic-collapse-covid-19-fight-200330003332689.html>
3. COVID-19: As China Recovers, Will Its Economy Follow?
<https://thediplomat.com/2020/03/covid-19-as-china-recovers-will-its-economy-follow/>
4. COVID-19: Implications for business
<https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/risk/our-insights/covid-19-implications-for-business>
5. 'Immediate nationwide ceasefire' needed for all-out effort to counter COVID-19 in Syria
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/03/1060672>
6. Coronavirus epidemic 'far from over' in Asia-Pacific, WHO warns
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/31/us-deaths-pass-3000-as-world-bank-warns-covid-19-will-drive-east-asia-into-poverty>
7. How Will Coronavirus Affect Our Food? The Pandemic and Our food Systems, a Dispatch From Mexico
<https://foodtank.com/news/2020/03/how-will-coronavirus-affect-our-food-a-dispatch-from-mexico/>
8. How does economic policy interact with public health measures for COVID-19?
<https://review.chicagobooth.edu/economics/2020/article/how-does-economic-policy-interact-public-health-measures-covid-19>
9. Defusing Bangladesh's COVID-19 time bomb
<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/defusing-bangladeshs-covid-19-timebomb/>
10. Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh at risk of COVID-19 infection
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-risk-covid-19-infection-200330124605721.html>
11. The Math Behind Social Distancing
<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/the-math-behind-social-distancing/>
12. Social distancing comes with psychological fallout
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/coronavirus-covid-19-social-distancing-psychological-fallout>



PIDE COVID-19 NEWSLETTER

April 2, 2020

No. 13

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-71

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in last 24 hours

Globally

750 890 confirmed (57 610)

36 405 deaths (3301)

Western Pacific Region

104 868 confirmed (1093)

3671 deaths (22)

European Region

423 946 confirmed (31 131)

26 694 deaths (2733)

South-East Asia Region

4215 confirmed (131)

166 deaths (8)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

50 349 confirmed (4020)

2954 deaths (142)

Region of the Americas

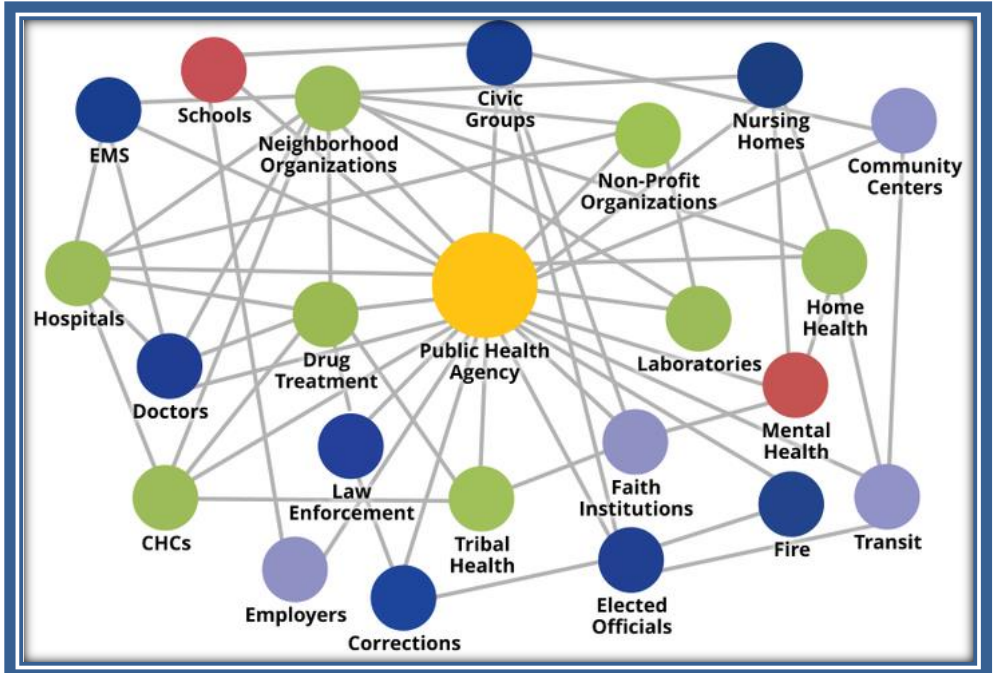
163 014 confirmed (20 935)

2836 deaths (379)

African Region

3786 confirmed (300)

77 deaths (17)



The Public Health System — Image courtesy: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Global News

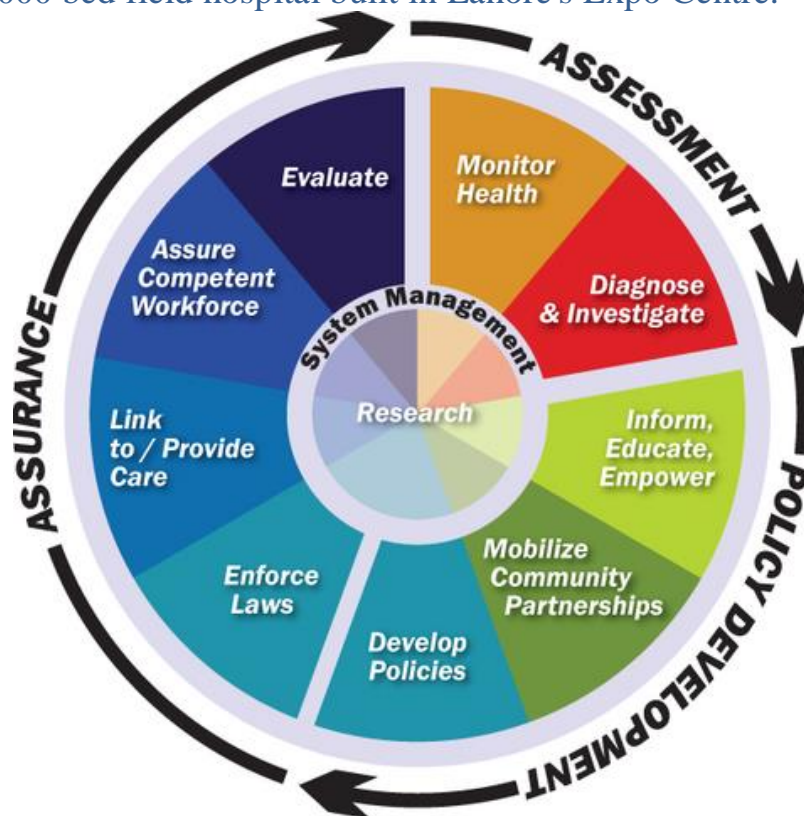
- UK coronavirus response criticized as people are filmed by drones and stopped while shopping.
- Coronavirus: Three out of four Americans under some form of lockdown.
- Coronavirus: Amazon workers strike over virus protection.
- Hundreds of British Pakistani doctors affected by coronavirus.
- The world's largest coronavirus lockdown is having a dramatic impact on pollution in India.
- Spain records a record daily death toll of 864 as Europe passes another grim milestone in the pandemic.
- Coronavirus threatens Myanmar's most vulnerable in displacement camps.
- Study: China lockdown may have blocked 700,000 COVID-19 cases.

Global Response

- Coronavirus: Millions will be left in poverty, World Bank warns.
- Coronavirus: Stock markets suffer worst quarter since 1987.
- Coronavirus: Zoom under increased scrutiny as popularity soars.
- Coronavirus: India's race to build a low-cost ventilator to save Covid-19 patients.
- Coronavirus: Urgent appeal for evacuation of Greek refugee camps.
- Beijing reiterates one China policy after reports say Beijing considers Taiwan WHO membership.
- Regulators across Europe clash over bans on short selling.

Local News

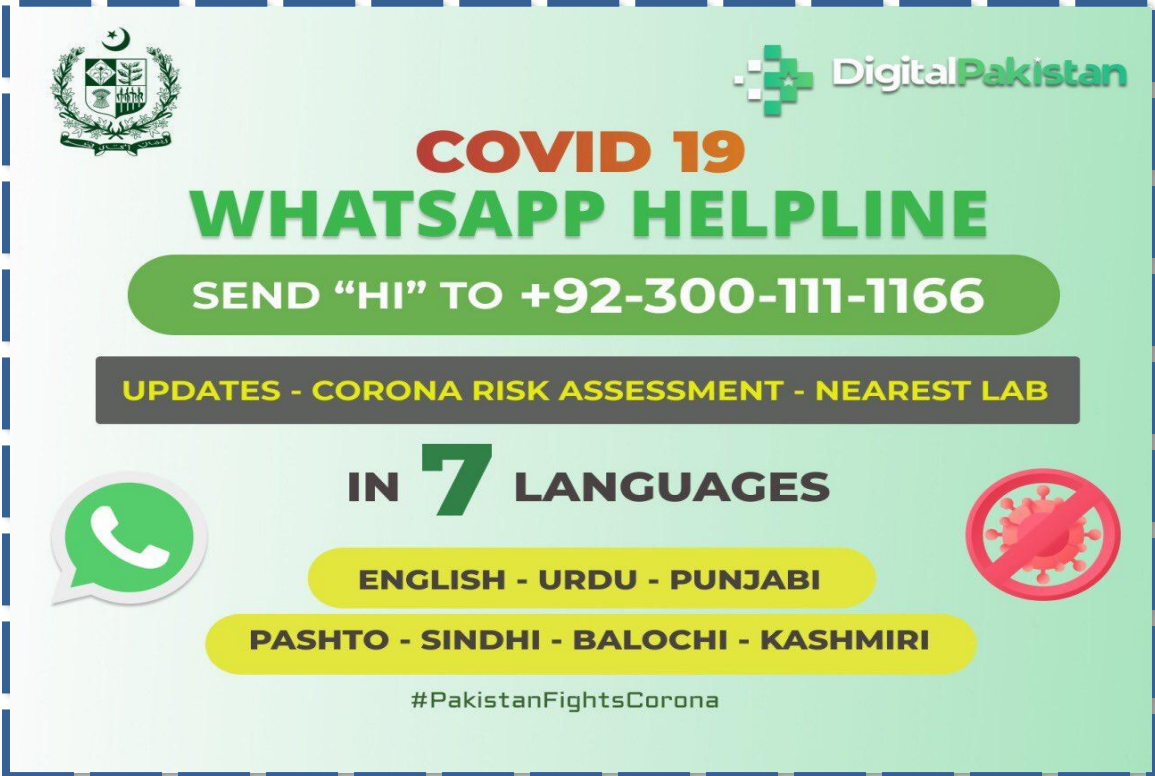
- Coronavirus pandemic has forced Pakistan to go digital.
- Low-cost private schools may not be able to survive COVID-19 crisis
- Federal govt skeptical of Punjab's coronavirus testing data.
- Escalating fiscal deficit: Cabinet approves domestic Sukuk bond for generating Rs700 bn.
- Buzdar visits 1,000 bed field hospital built in Lahore's Expo Centre.





Ten essential public health services. — Image courtesy:
US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Local Response

- First drive-through coronavirus testing centre set up in Karachi.
- Rangers summoned after failure by Sindh govt. to enforce transport deal 'in true spirit': Awan
- IG Sindh orders Tableeghi Jamaat members be quarantined wherever they are in province.
- Country's first drive-through testing facility for covid-19 set up in Clifton.
- Govt. to provide protective kits to journalists visiting quarantine centres, ICUs.
- Registrations start for PM's Corona Tigers Force
- Sindh govt. announces full-fledged lockdown from 12-3pm to restrict Friday congregation.
- Govt. slashes LPG cylinder price by Rs462.78, maintains petrol at Rs96.58 per liter.
- Govt. trying to reschedule loans from IMF, WB, ADB: FM.



The poster features the national emblem of Pakistan on the top left and the Digital Pakistan logo on the top right. The main text is centered and reads: 'COVID 19 WHATSAPP HELPLINE SEND "HI" TO +92-300-111-1166'. Below this, a dark grey bar contains the text 'UPDATES - CORONA RISK ASSESSMENT - NEAREST LAB'. Further down, it says 'IN 7 LANGUAGES' with a large number 7. Two yellow bars list the languages: 'ENGLISH - URDU - PUNJABI' and 'PASHTO - SINDHI - BALOCHI - KASHMIRI'. On the bottom left is a WhatsApp icon, and on the bottom right is a red circle with a white slash over a coronavirus icon. The hashtag '#PakistanFightsCorona' is at the very bottom.

COVID 19
WHATSAPP HELPLINE
SEND "HI" TO +92-300-111-1166

UPDATES - CORONA RISK ASSESSMENT - NEAREST LAB

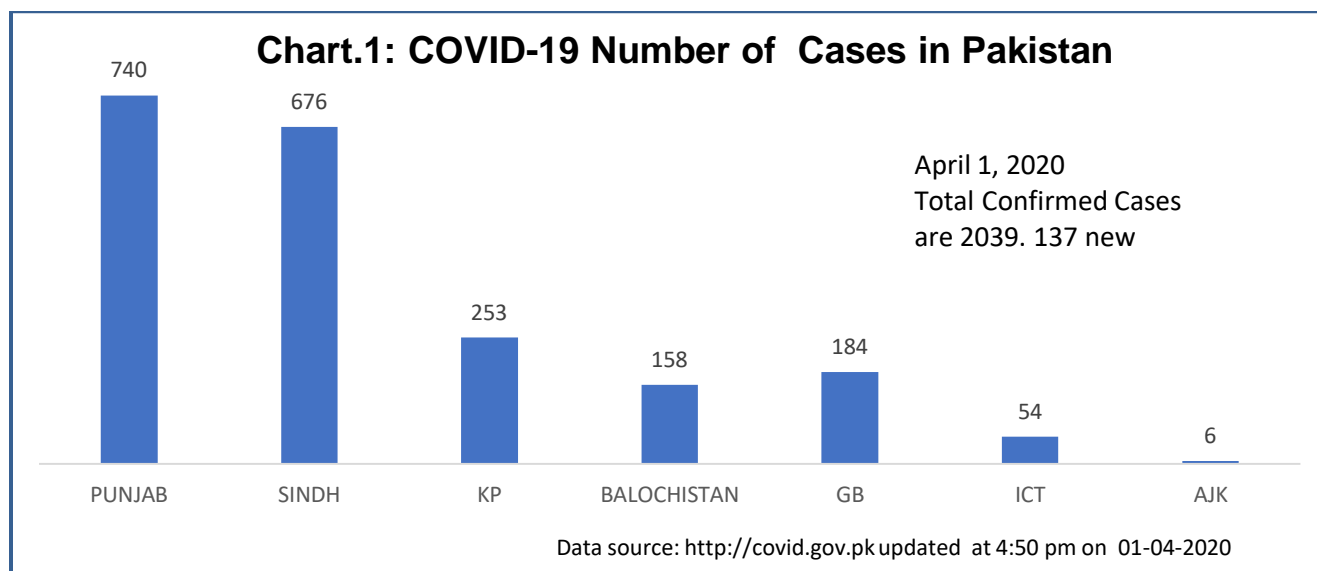
IN **7** LANGUAGES

ENGLISH - URDU - PUNJABI
PASHTO - SINDHI - BALOCHI - KASHMIRI

#PakistanFightsCorona

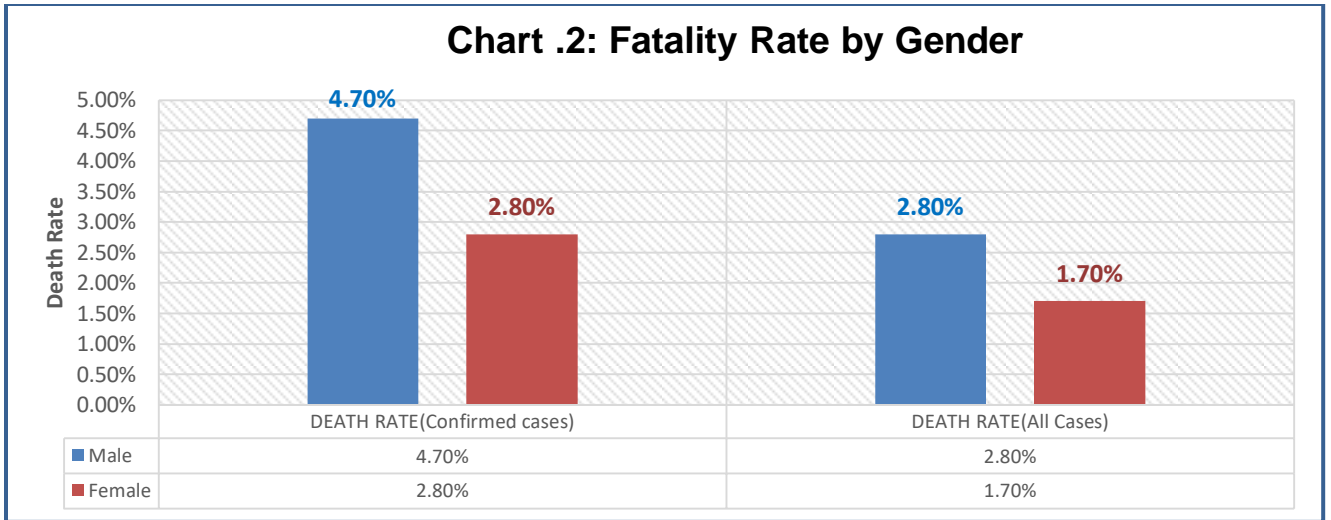
Government of Pakistan launched a WhatsApp helpline for Covid-19

During last 24 hours, 137 new cases are confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 2071. The number of new cases added are significantly less than the new cases added a day before, it indicates decreasing rate of change. Total deaths due to COVID-19 are 26 across country while 82 recoveries are reported. Since the recovery time is about two to three weeks, it is expected that number of recovered cases may increase in couple of weeks. Current impact of the disease in Pakistan is declared as **High** by NIH, Pakistan, see Chart.1.

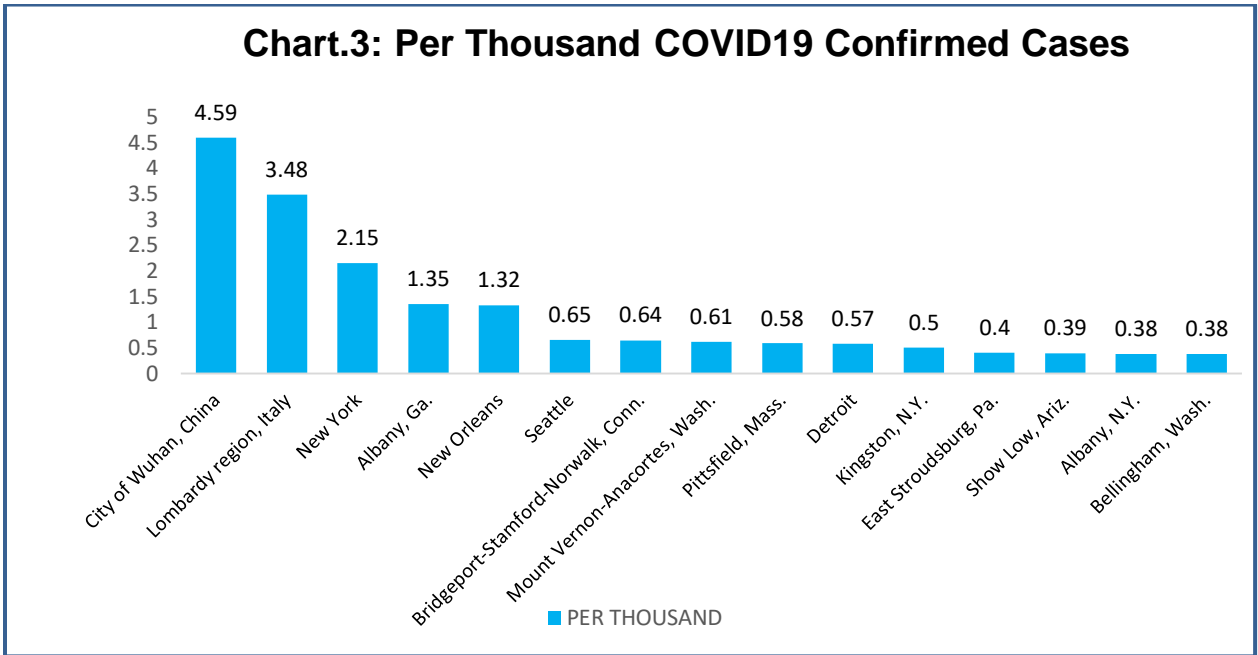


COVID-19 fatality rate by Gender

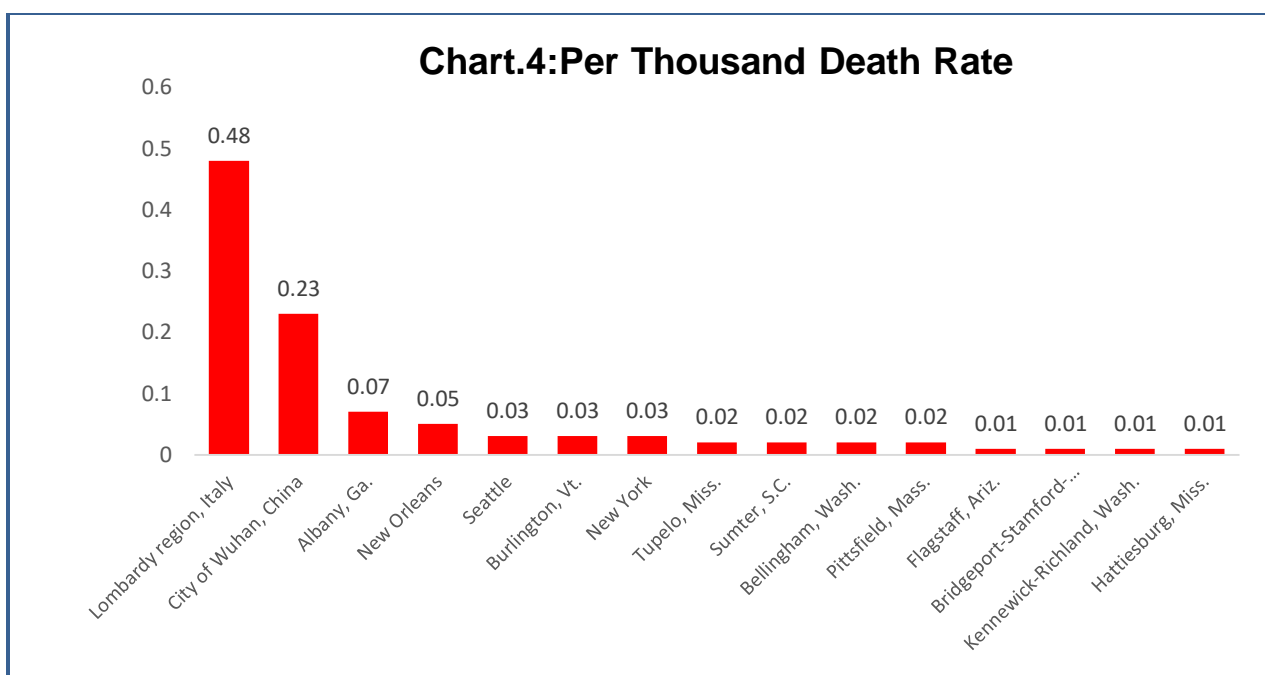
As Coronavirus envelop most of the world, so far above 0.8 million cases are being reported and some trends are becoming more apparent. The virus is not only more deadly for older age people but also for men as compared to women. The death rate (Number of deaths/number of confirmed cases) differs by gender, see Chart.2.



Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the total number of confirmed cases per 1000 population in different cities are presented in Chart.3. In Wuhan city of China this number is highest 4.59 cases per thousand population. In US the New York is highest with 2.15 cases per thousand population.



Now if we look at death ratio per thousand Population is its highest in Lombardy region Italy. In New York this 0.03 and some other cities information is give, see Chart.4.



Lessons for health care

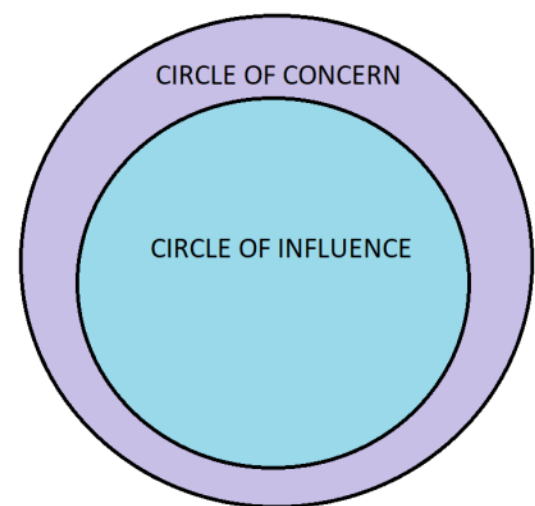
Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic penetrating in, Pakistan's already deficit healthcare system is on the verge of a major breakdown. Pakistan is a country struggling with its healthcare system ever since it gained independence. The forced Islamic Revolution followed by trails of political instability, poor social cohesion, urban rural divide, and accumulation of wealth by the elite, and serious issues such as terrorism and corruption have melted the transparency of the system. Being under the influence of the foreign forces ever since its independence, Pakistan has never developed its own healthcare system; it still is under the influence of the British made rules and policy frameworks. To begin with Health Policies are close to being nonexistent, and if they are any, they are no favorable conditions to implement them. The present government mainly focuses on curative Healthcare such as increasing number of health facilities, laboratories, ambulances and modern equipment without assessment of how health professionals will use them, who are not trained for modern technology. While formulating the policies, insight is taken from success stories of developed countries without considering ground realities, religious and cultural values, and social dimension while paying less attention to

economic differences. Pakistan has a system of poorly governed public service hospitals in the different districts of provinces. The wave of globalization set the guiding stone of privatization of many organizations in Pakistan, such as the setting up of healthcare facilities, medical colleges and other educational institutions, funded by foreign financiers for the elite class in the metropolitan cities that led to a rather widened gap between the poor and rich people in terms of accessibility of healthcare services. This however was put under the “unintended consequence” basket by the pro-globalization experts. However in this time of pandemic, the poor have no option but to head to government hospitals for treatment as the private services and quarantines are as heavy on their pockets as the countrywide lockdown. The Basic health Units (BHUs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) lack the necessary materials, kits and equipment to fight with this lethal pandemic. All the healthcare providers including the government have exhausted their resources, and now are waiting for a mighty miracle to wipe off COVID-19. **(Written by Afsheen Talat, a student at the Department of Development Studies, PIDE)**

Coronavirus Pandemic and Circle of Influence

When Stephen Covey wrote his best-selling book, he did not imagine that his “Circle of Concern/Influence model would be incredibly relevant to COVID-19 epidemic. The world around us is made up of only two factors: The things we can control and the things we can’t.

Stephen explained in his book that everything falls into two circles, the circle of concern and the circle of influence. The circle of concern covers everything in our life that affects us. The circle of influence, on the other hand, includes everything within our life that we can impact or effect. He also explains how people cope up with anxiety, especially when things are outside of their control. Every situation can be divided into two circles: the circle of concern, which consists of factors which have little or no influence over, and the circle of influence, which is made up of things we can control.





Brian Pennie uses this model and explains how it works in current situation of Coronavirus pandemic. In the circle of concern, we are worried about external events like news, social media feeds, economic and political issues and other people's behavior during panic, but beyond our control. In contrast, everything in the white circle, including our behaviors that we see on TV, and with which we surround ourselves, are in control.

The idea here is simple: If we focus on the circle of concern, we allow what's in it to control us. If we focus on the circle of influence, we are the ones in charge. It's okay to be afraid we all are but understanding where to channel our thoughts and energy can help us more clearly navigate these uncertain times. (Courtesy: Dr. Nadeem Ahmed Khan)


COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Jan 10, 2020 – Jan. 17, 2020)


- Jan. 12**— China shares the genetic sequence of the novel coronavirus, helping countries in testing and tracing any potentially infected people.
- Jan. 13**— Thailand reports first imported case of 2019-nCoV. The patient, a 61-year-old woman from Wuhan, did not report visiting the Huanan seafood market.
- Jan. 15**— China reports second death linked to 2019-nCoV. The patient was a 69-year-old male with severe myocarditis, abnormal renal function, and severe damage to multiple organ functions.
- Jan. 16**— Japan reports another imported case of 2019-nCoV. The Chinese national, a man in his 30s, also did not report visiting the Huanan seafood market.
- Jan. 17**— Thailand confirms the second imported case of 2019-nCoV in the country, bringing the total exported cases from China to three.

World Health Organization
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

Most of the people who catch COVID-19 can recover and eliminate the virus from their bodies. If you catch the disease, make sure you treat your symptoms. If you have cough, fever, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early – but call your health facility by telephone first if possible. Most patients recover thanks to supportive care.

FACT:
You can recover from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Catching the new coronavirus **DOES NOT** mean you will have it for life.



 World Health Organization #Coronavirus #COVID19

Experts' View

Generally, public policy refers to government action which is intended to solve problems and improve the quality of life of its citizens. A policy formulated by the government goes through several stages from problem identification, agenda building, formulation, adoption, implementation, evaluation and termination. It involves all the stakeholders from inception to conclusion. But unfortunately, in our country public policy is not made on a scientific basis but on the whims and wishes of our rulers, who try to shape policymaking. No discussion on the merits and consequences of the policy is assessed. The result is utter failure has happened in the case of the corona pandemic. **(Dr. Manzoor Ali Isran, THE NEWS)**

COVID-19 is a massive health crisis, and it is also a humanitarian and development crisis. It threatens to create devastating social, economic, and political crises that could leave deep scars for years to come - reversing development gains achieved over the last 20 years. Developing countries could lose at least US\$220 billion in income, which translates into lost jobs, closed factories, and stretched governments in some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries. With WHO and our UN sister agencies, UNDP is working with governments on their most urgent health system needs and is ready to respond to recovery needs in countries around the globe. **(UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner on UN COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan)**

Experts' Opinion

Nothing could be a greater disaster for the economy and the poorest segments of society than the uncontrollable spread of the disease. The signs are already there with the rising number of locally transmitted cases. It is not surprising that a major source of the local spread of infection can be traced to a group that had recently gathered at Raiwind for the tableeghi ijtima. What is more worrisome is that no one talks about it. It has contributed to the spread of infection beyond our boundaries, with two cases of the disease in the Gaza Strip being traced to the same congregation. It may take years or even a generation for the world to recover from its aftermath. The crisis has amplified existing challenges and vulnerabilities that require a global response. A major lesson is that the threat to human security caused by such epidemics is beyond geographical and national boundaries. (**Zahid Hussain, DAWN**)

Now that the Supreme Court has taken cognisance of the matter to examine the measures taken by the provinces, it is a unique opportunity for us to become regional leaders in the fight against Covid-19. Provincial inspectors general and governments have stayed ahead of the curve and are in a position to be quoted as an example. The Supreme Court must consider not halting that. Hopefully, it will take a comprehensive view to implement and improve these steps. Every minute lost takes us one step closer to pandemonium. We are lucky that the matter, in such a short time, has reached the apex court where the collective wisdom of learned judges will surely be a guiding force. (**Muhammad Ahmad Pansota, DAWN**)

PIDE Pays Tribute To The Medical Heroes Who Are On Frontlines Of The Coronavirus Pandemic



Dr. Usama Riaz, from Gilgit-Baltistan, was on the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19 in Pakistan. He became the first Pakistani doctor to die of coronavirus while treating patients of the disease.



Italian doctor Roberto Stella, 67, died on March 13 2020 after being infected with Covid-19.



Peng Yinhua, a 29-year-old Chinese doctor who delayed his wedding to work on the frontline, died after getting infected with the Covid-19 on Feb. 2020. He planned to get married on Feb.1 2020.

COVID-19 READS

1. **Economic Impacts of COVID-19 Through Trade Disruptions in Pakistan**
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-COVID-Bulletin-11.pdf>
2. **Growth of Coronavirus Cases in Pakistan: Do we have enough hospital beds available?**
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-Covid-Blog-10.pdf>
3. **Technology to our help in flattening the curve: Making use of a lockdown more efficiently**
<https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-Covid-Blog-9.pdf>
4. **Coronavirus map of the US: latest cases state by state**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2020/apr/01/coronavirus-map-of-the-us-latest-cases-state-by-state>
5. **Coronavirus World Map: Tracking The Spread Of The Outbreak**
<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/03/30/822491838/coronavirus-world-map-tracking-the-spread-of-the-outbreak>
6. **COVID-19 crash: How China's economy may offer a glimpse of the future**
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/covid19-economy-china-health-coronavirus-economics-global/>
7. **Why the COVID-19 is an urban crisis**
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1544933>
8. **What will it take to develop a vaccine for COVID-19?**
<https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/03/26/covid-19-vaccine-development-ruth-karron/>
9. **How long does coronavirus live on different surfaces?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/31/how-long-does-coronavirus-live-on-different-surfaces>
10. **COVID-19 and Circuits of Capital**
<https://monthlyreview.org/2020/04/01/covid-19-and-circuits-of-capital/>
11. **Coronavirus vaccine: when will it be ready?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/01/coronavirus-vaccine-when-will-it-be-ready-covid-19>
12. **What will coronavirus do to one of Africa's largest slums?**
<https://www.fastcompany.com/90483973/what-will-coronavirus-do-to-one-of-africas-largest-slums>



WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-72

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

823 626 confirmed (72 736)

40 598 deaths (4193)

Western Pacific Region

106 422 confirmed (1554)

3701 deaths (30)

European Region

464 212 confirmed (40 266)

30 089 deaths (3395)

South-East Asia Region

5175 confirmed (960)

195 deaths (29)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

54 281 confirmed (3932)

3115 deaths (161)

Region of the Americas

188 751 confirmed (25 737)

3400 deaths (564)

African Region

4073 confirmed (287)

91 deaths (14)



Daily wagers are already feeling the impact of the lockdowns—*M Arif, White Star*

Global News

- Pandemic could create global food shortage.
- New estimates show 25% to 50% of coronavirus carriers don't even feel sick and can infect others blindly.
- After weeks of resistance, Florida governor issues stay-at-home order.
- Belarusian leader bucks coronavirus 'psychosis,' plays hockey.
- President Trump warned of “a very, very painful two weeks” ahead as his medical experts issued their first official predictions of the virus’s toll.
- 80pc of US under lockdown as death toll crosses 4,800.
- Pakistan-origin doctor lauded for ultimate sacrifice on frontline of UK pandemic.

Global Response

- Coronavirus: Germany extends social distancing restrictions until April 19.
- Ventilator firms are racing to boost production as the pandemic accelerates.
- Finding patient zero could help us prevent another pandemic.
- Debt restructuring discussed during G-20 moot, KSA tells Pakistan.
- Google introduces new features to assist Pakistan's coronavirus effort.
- British American Tobacco is trying to make a coronavirus vaccine.

Local News

- PM Imran says China gave priority to Pakistan after curbing COVID-19.
- Usman Dar says 90,000 applications received for 'Corona Relief Tigers Force'.
- Genetic make up of locally-transmitted coronavirus may have mutations, say experts.
- \$2 billion export losses feared.
- Govt. stands with virus patients in hour of difficulty: Shahryar Afridi.
- Rapid reaction teams formed in Quetta.
- Hoarders won't be forgiven at any cost: KP CM.



Sitting in circles made with lime, people wait to get food at the Numaish traffic intersection, Karachi.—*White Star*

Local Response

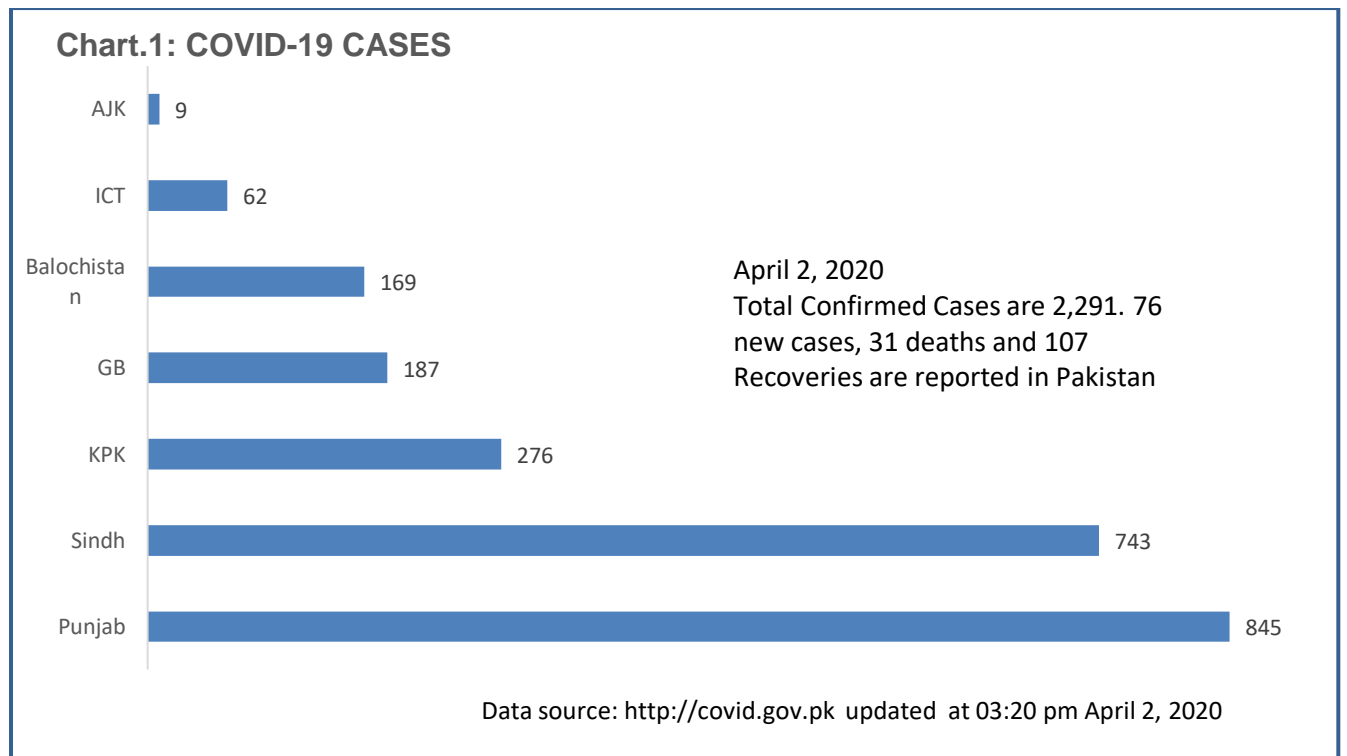
- Federal govt. extends 'restrictions' till April 14 to curb spread of coronavirus.
- 54 patients in Sindh have recovered from coronavirus: Murtaza Wahab.
- Punjab has conducted nearly 15,000 Covid-19 tests but other provinces are lagging behind.
- Pakistan's fashion industry is stepping up to fight Covid-19.
- FM Qureshi says govt's first priority is to bring back Pakistanis stranded in transit.
- Government to announce Rs100 billion package for construction industry: PM Imran.
- Govt gives people three months to pay electricity, gas bills Deadline extended because of coronavirus lockdown.
- Human Rights Watch asks government to take special measures to protect workers' welfare.



People sitting on ground waiting to collect ration as a philanthropic

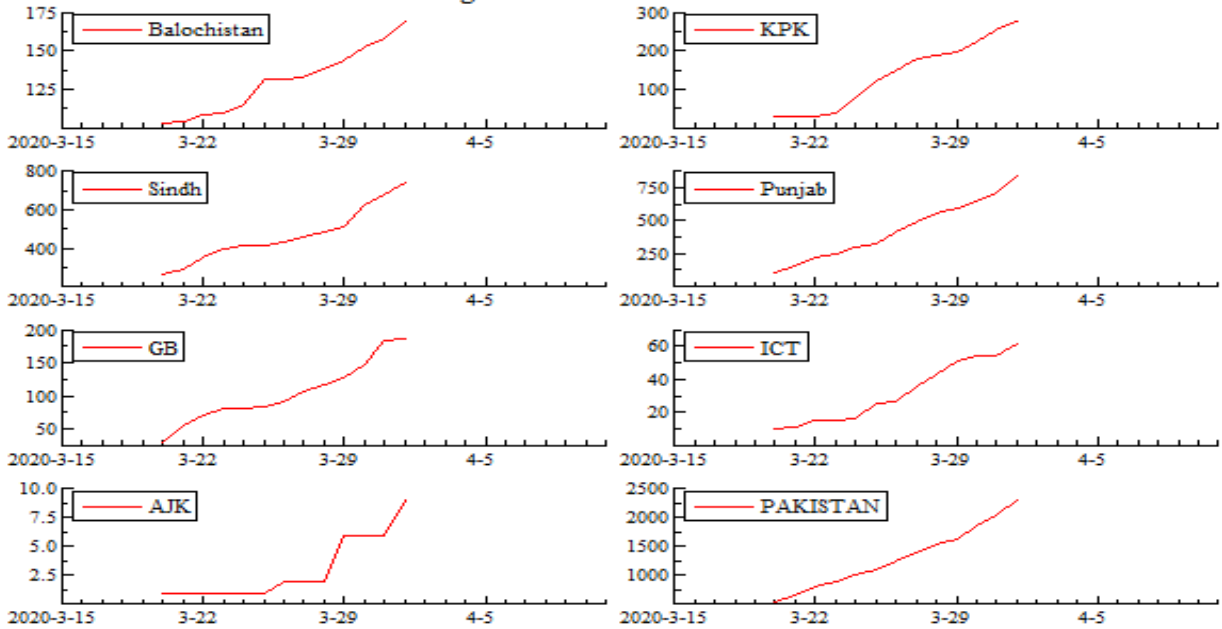
activity by people in Quetta- Reuters

During last 24 hours, 76 new cases are confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 2,291. The number of new cases added are about half of the new cases added a day before, it indicates decreasing rate of change. Total deaths due to COVID-19 are 31 across country while 107 recoveries are reported. Since the recovery time is about two to three weeks, as expected the number of recovered cases is increasing continuously. Current impact of the disease in Pakistan is declared as **High** by NIH, Pakistan, see Chart.1.



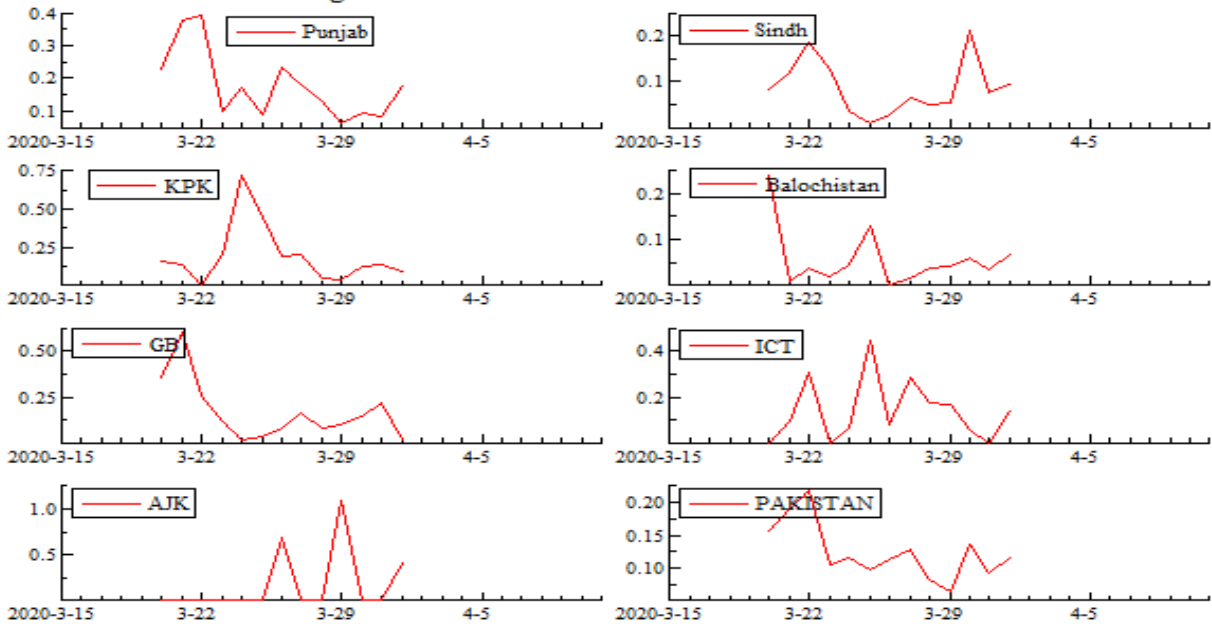
In all regions of Pakistan, COVID-19 infected cases increase manifold after mid-March 2020. Except for AJK the trend is increasing rapidly, see Chart.2. In last few days, in Punjab the number of cases has crossed Sindh, and GB crosses Balochistan.

Chart.2: COVID-19 Cases Region wise



Although the number of cases increased manifold in last ten days of March but the growth rate is decreasing since the first case was reported, it is a possible result of general public awareness, social distancing and the change of Personal Normative Belief (PNB) regarding pandemic, see Chart.3. With continuous awareness campaign to change PNB of masses, Pakistan will defeat the virus. Some swings are also observed in distinct regions e.g. Sindh, Punjab and ICT, it means an increasing pattern may be observed in few coming days but it is not unusual.

Chart.3: Rate of change of COVID-19 cases



Pandemics in Human History

Diseases have spread with the spread of humanity on the planet Earth. Blame it on Pandora, but a myriad of epidemics and pandemics have affected the course of human history, affecting the human population and its distribution, rise and fall of civilizations, medicine, economy and even geopolitical relations. **Epidemics** specify diseases which affect a large number of a population at a time; a **Pandemic** is an epidemic which is spread over a large area including a country, continent all over the globe⁸. Pandemics have been a part of human life since the beginning and are still very much in the presence in today's modern, highly evolved and advanced world where medicine and technology are at their historic peak. From the very first recorded pandemic taking out almost one-third of the human population to today's Coronavirus pandemic which has shaken up socio-economic and healthcare systems worldwide due to its spread, among other major pandemics in history are discussed here in a chronological order.

The Antonine Pandemic: The very first pandemic recorded took place was the Antonine plague, also referred to as the plague of Galen in the late second century, dating to the years 165-180 AD. The pandemic has been speculated to be either smallpox or measles as theorised under the descriptions provided by the Greek physician Galen. The death toll for the Antonine plague was around 5 million humans⁹, wiping out one-third of the total human population. The plague is said to be brought by the Roman military from their siege of Seleucia, Mesopotamia and was spread to affect the whole of the Roman empire¹⁰. The pandemic is stated to be one of the initial points of the fall of the Roman empire. Magic and numerous mystical as well as early medical ideas were employed to fight the pandemic which slowly ended after completing its course of destruction.

⁸ Trisha Torrey, "*Difference Between an Epidemic and a Pandemic*", Verywellhealth, March 17th, 2020 <https://www.verywellhealth.com/difference-between-epidemic-and-pandemic-2615168>

⁹ Nicholas LePan, "*Visualizing the History of Pandemics*", Visual Capitalist, March 14th, 2020 <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/history-of-pandemics-deadliest/>

¹⁰ "*Outbreak: 10 of the Worst Pandemics in History*", MPH online, March 2020 <https://www.mphonline.org/worst-pandemics-in-history/>

Plague of Justinian: The pandemic was caused by bubonic plague in the years 541-542 AD claiming around 30 to 50 million souls. The pandemic was spread around Asia, North Africa, Arabia and Europe through rodents via merchant ships¹¹. Mass burials had to be conducted due to the extreme mortality rate from the disease while extreme food shortages were also witnessed. The pandemic was a major component of the end of serfdom in Europe where half the population had succumbed to the disease¹². Like the Antonine pandemic, people turned to exorcisms and charms to stay away from the demons causing the disease while others referring to the wrath of God¹³.

Black Death: The most destructive pandemic in the recorded human history was the Black Death or the bubonic plague during the years 1347-1341 AD. About 200 million people died during this pandemic all over Europe and much of Asia¹⁴. The plague started when a fleet of ‘‘death ships’ docked on the Sicilian harbour with most of the sailors dead and the alive covered in black boils all over their bodies¹⁵. The disease originated from fleas on rodents. An extreme social distancing started which slowed down the spread eventually, developing the term *quarantine*¹⁶. Superstition dominated proper medicine and the historic plague doctor dress was commonly worn by doctors.

Smallpox: 1520 onwards, the world saw another pandemic of smallpox which took an estimated 56 million lives. This is the second most destructive pandemic after the Black Death, killing 90% of the Native Americans and producing much similar havoc in Europe

¹¹ Ken Than, “Two of History’s Deadliest Plagues Were Linked, With Implications for Another Outbreak”, National Geographic, January 31st, 2014 <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/1/140129-justinian-plague-black-death-bacteria-bubonic-pandemic/>

¹² Elizabeth Yetter, “ 10 scary facts about the Justinian plague”, Listverse, updated August 29th, 2018 <https://listverse.com/2016/10/17/10-scary-facts-about-the-justinian-plague/>

¹³ Elizabeth Yetter, “10 scary facts about the Justinian plague”, August 29, 2018.

¹⁴ Nicholas LePan, “Visualizing the History of Pandemics”, March 14th, 2020

¹⁵ “Black Death”, History.com, Updated March 30, 2020 <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-ages/black-death>

¹⁶ “Black Death”, History.com, Updated March 30, 2020.

in the 1800s where 400,000 deaths were recorded annually¹⁷. The Americas were affected so greatly by the pandemic as the European settlers brought the disease with them. Edward Jenner created a vaccine for smallpox in 1796 therefore advancing the medical knowledge and practice¹⁸.

Spanish Flu: The Spanish flu took about 40-50 million lives in the years 1918-1919¹⁹. The H1N1 virus pandemic affected one-third of the global population. The disease unlike most of such diseases affected the healthy young people too apart from affecting the old. The pandemic was controlled through isolation and quarantining, hygiene practices and use of disinfectants due to lack of suitable medical interventions²⁰. **SARS, MERS, Ebola** are similar pandemics happening with smaller death toll since 2002²¹.

HIV/AIDS: This pandemic started from the year 1981 and is still going on, claiming about 35 million lives to date²². The pandemic was first found in Congo. The autoimmune disease has remained widely incurable, while advancements in its management have been substantial therefore making HIV positives living better productive lives²³.

Coronavirus Pandemic: The currently spreading pandemic has affected almost the whole world, increasing the death toll each day. To date above 45,000 people have died due to the flu-like disease²⁴ which started in China in late 2019. It has affected socio-economic systems on a global scale as no concrete treatment for this disease has yet been made (**Written by Shah Bukht Fatima, an alumna of the Department of Development Studies, PIDE**).

¹⁷ Nicholas LePan, “*Visualizing the History of Pandemics*”, March 14th, 2020.

¹⁸ “*Smallpox vaccines*”, WHO, 2016 <https://www.who.int/csr/disease/smallpox/vaccines/en/>

¹⁹ Nicholas LePan, “*Visualizing the History of Pandemics*”, March 14th, 2020.

²⁰ 1918 Pandemic (H1N1 virus), NCIRD, March 20th, 2019 <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-pandemic-h1n1.html>

²¹ Nicholas LePan, “*Visualizing the History of Pandemics*”, March 14th, 2020.

²² Nicholas LePan, “*Visualizing the History of Pandemics*”, March 14th, 2020.

²³ “*Outbreak: 10 of the Worst Pandemics in History*”, March 2020.

²⁴ Nicholas LePan, “*Visualizing the History of Pandemics*”, March 14th, 2020.

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Jan 18, 2020 – Jan. 24, 2020)

- Jan. 18-19** — Chinese authorities report a spike in 2019-nCoV cases, including first confirmed cases in Shenzhen (1 case) and Beijing (2 cases), bringing the total to 204 confirmed cases. They also report a third death linked to the new coronavirus.
- Jan. 20** — South Korea confirms its first case of 2019-nCoV. The patient did not report visiting markets in Wuhan.
- Jan. 21** — WHO confirms human-to-human transmission of the virus. The total number of cases is now 222, including infections among health-care workers. Chinese authorities have also reported a fourth death. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has convened an emergency committee on Jan. 22 to decide whether this constitutes a public health emergency of international concern.
- Jan. 22** — The emergency committee defers its decision on whether to advise WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to declare 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. The meeting takes place amid a significant rise in confirmed cases of individuals infected with 2019-nCoV, at 580, according to China's National Health Commission. The death toll has now risen to 17, with all cases reported from Hubei province.
- Jan. 23** — WHO's director-general decides to not declare the 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency of international concern yet, as per recommendations by the emergency committee.
- The city of Wuhan shuts down public transportation, closing the airport and railway stations as of Thursday morning, in efforts to curb the spread of the 2019-nCoV. The suspension is in effect “until further notice.” Later in the day, another city is on lockdown: Ezhou. Beijing cancels plans for Chinese new year festivities and closes the Forbidden City. Another city, Huanggang, announces it will go into lockdown Friday. Singapore also confirms its first imported case, while Vietnam confirms two cases.
- Jan. 24** — Japan and U.S. each confirm second 2019-nCoV cases, while Nepal confirms the first case of 2019-nCoV in the country. Total confirmed cases in China rise to 830, with 177 in severe condition and 25 deaths.
- Later in the day, China's National Health Commission reports 444 new confirmed cases and 16 new deaths in China, bringing total confirmed cases in the country to 1,287. This includes 237 cases in severe condition and a total of 41 deaths.

Experts' View

Pakistan is also part of the global effort to defeat the coronavirus and is under a partial lockdown. Though it is a long fight and our resources are insufficient, the outbreak does provide a window of opportunity to put our house in order by adopting at least three pathways: one, by enhancing public health capabilities and infrastructure, especially in the primary healthcare; two, by reorienting the role of leadership and coordination for preparedness and response; and three, by propelling research and development in the arena of infectious diseases. Together, these solutions would build a comprehensive and coherent framework to make the country safer against the threat of not only infectious, but all kinds of diseases. **(Durdana Najam, The Express Tribune)**

The COVID-19 pandemic is a crisis like no other. It feels like a war, and in many ways it is. People are dying. Medical professionals are on the front lines. Those in essential services, food distribution, delivery, and public utilities work overtime to support the effort. And then there are the hidden soldiers: those who fight the epidemic confined in their homes, unable to fully contribute to production. In a war, massive spending on armaments stimulates economic activity and special provisions ensure essential services. In this crisis, things are more complicated, but a common feature is an increased role for the public sector. **(IMF)**

Experts' Opinion

This requirement of maintaining a distance of at least a metre from one another even within homes can be fulfilled only by a minority that has homes large enough to make segregation possible. How can the social distance precaution be observed in a single-room tenement occupied by five to 10 or more members of a family? We find that the precautions to escape the contagion can be taken only by individuals and families that maintain a certain level of cleanliness and personal hygiene; they use tissue papers to wipe their nose whenever they sneeze. But the situation on the ground is that a very large number of people do not have proper toilets in their dwellings and they drink water contaminated by toxic waste. The direction to wash one's hands with soap, and preferably with hot water, presumes that even the poorest households enjoy the facility of running hot and cold water, or can keep a vessel on the stove for boiling water all the time. There are men who wash their hands and faces only while performing ablutions at mosques at prayer times. Their women don't have this facility and are often short of water for drinking, cooking and washing themselves or utensils. That poverty, poor housing and

lifestyles reduce a people's capacity to fight a new viral epidemic cannot be denied. (I. A. Rehman, DAWN)

In our own country, the government argues that the lockdown which is necessary to contain the disease will hurt the poor. But does it recognize fully that our failure to develop a healthcare system which is funded by a minuscule percentage of our GDP cannot survive if millions turn up at hospitals and other centers? Do they recognize that it is the same daily wage laborers they wished to protect who will suffer worst, because they do not have access to spacious housing, good hygiene or decent nutrition. We have learned that we can possibly survive without placing thousands of petty criminals in overcrowded jails. Many already die of starvation daily in our country, directly or indirectly. More will do so across the capitalist world in the cruel age of corona. (Kamila Hayat, THE NEWS)

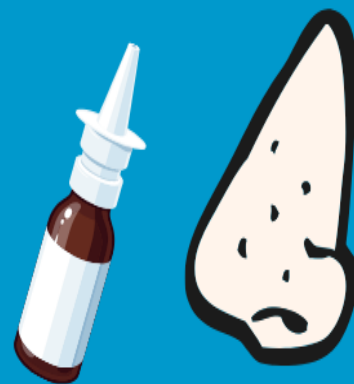
World Health Organization

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

No. There is no evidence that regularly rinsing the nose with saline has protected people from infection with the new coronavirus.

There is some limited evidence that regularly rinsing the nose with saline can help people recover more quickly from the common cold. However, regularly rinsing the nose has not been shown to prevent respiratory infections.

Can regularly rinsing your nose with saline help prevent infection with the new coronavirus?



#2019nCoV

COVID-19 READS

1. **How will coronavirus change the world?**
<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200331-covid-19-how-will-the-coronavirus-change-the-world>
2. **Egypt battles COVID-19 amid flood of misinformation, conspiracy theories**
<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/03/egyptian-superstitions-jokes-on-coronavirus.html>
3. **What can hospitals still do to prep for COVID-19?**
<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/03/what-can-hospitals-still-do-prep-covid-19>
4. **Coronavirus world map: which countries have the most cases and deaths?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/01/coronavirus-world-map-countries-most-cases-and-deaths>
5. **The Science Behind A 14-Day Quarantine After Possible COVID-19 Exposure**
<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/04/01/824903684/the-science-behind-a-14-day-quarantine-after-possible-covid-19-exposure>
6. **What are the rules of social distancing?**
<https://www.vox.com/2020/3/15/21179296/coronavirus-covid-19-social-distancing-bored-pandemic-quarantine-ethics>
7. **Self-isolate or quarantine? Coronavirus terminology explained**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/coronavirus-terminology-explained-covid-19-glossary-200323064432820.html>
8. **Coronavirus symptoms: what are they and should I call the doctor?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/01/coronavirus-symptoms-what-are-they-should-i-call-doctor-covid-19>
9. **Coronavirus: Symptoms, unusual signs and what happens in your body**
<https://gulfnews.com/world/coronavirus-symptoms-unusual-signs-and-what-happens-in-your-body-1.1585797875058>
10. **Is there a cure for the new coronavirus?**
<https://www.livescience.com/can-coronavirus-be-cured.html>
11. **Coronavirus symptoms: what are they and should I call the doctor?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/02/coronavirus-symptoms-what-are-they-and-should-i-call-the-doctor>
12. **Coronavirus: Potential drug treatment starts UK trials**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/amp/health-52111674>

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-73

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

896 450 confirmed (72 839)

45 525 deaths (4923)

Western Pacific Region

107 626 confirmed (1204)

3723 deaths (22)

European Region

503 006 confirmed (38 809)

33 604 deaths (3515)

South-East Asia Region

5324 confirmed (149)

216 deaths (21)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

58 168 confirmed (3887)

3279 deaths (164)

Region of the Americas

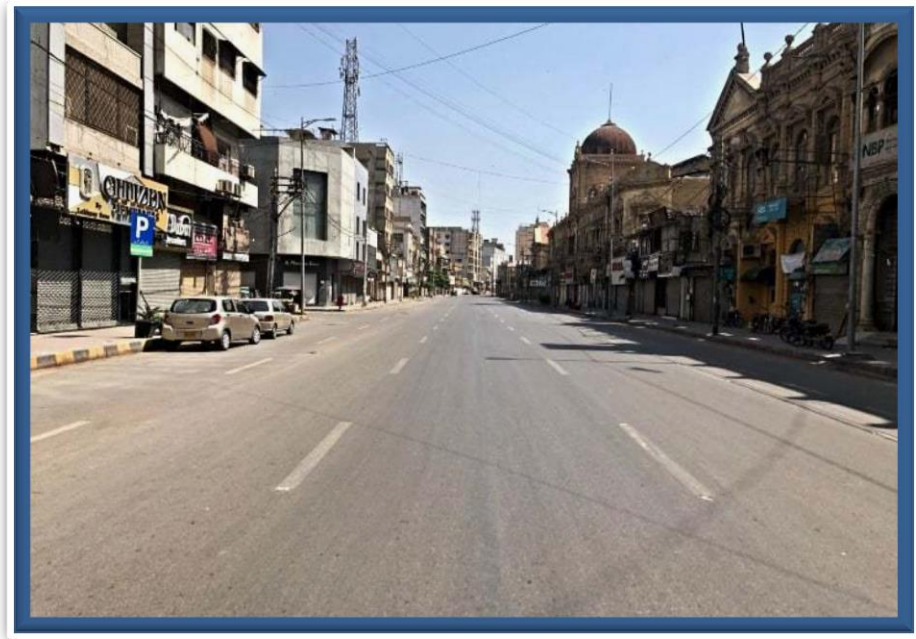
216 912 confirmed (28161)

4565 deaths (1165)

African Region

4702 confirmed (629)

127 deaths (36)



Sindh observed a strict lockdown to restrict Friday congregational prayers. *Reuters*

Global News

- New grim record: US becomes 1st country to report 1,000+ Covid-19 deaths in single day as global infections top 1 million.
- Another 6.6 million joined the U.S. unemployment ranks, bringing the two-week total to a staggering 10 million as the pandemic upends the economy.
- China says US officials making shameless comments on coronavirus data.
- Coronavirus threatens the next generation of smartphones.
- Coronavirus epicenter could 'possibly' shift back to Asia, says public health expert.

Global Response

- Leonardo DiCaprio helps launch \$12 million coronavirus food fund.
- Wall Street grapples with unemployment claims and rallying oil prices.
- Coronavirus: India's bailout may not be enough to save economy.
- WB approves \$200mn package for Pakistan to combat COVID-19.
- Singapore shuts schools and closes most workplaces temporarily to stem the spread of coronavirus.
- World Bank Offers India \$1 Billion Aid to Fight Coronavirus.

Local News

- Economists anticipate food shortages if pandemic prolongs.
- Dar says more than 400,000 youth register for Corona Relief Tigers' Force.
- US applauds Pakistani university for its efforts to counter coronavirus.
- ADB forecasts Pakistan's GDP to shrink, sees rise in inflation in 2020.
- Karachi's busiest roads devoid of traffic as city goes into lockdown.
- Strict lockdown across Pakistan to restrict Friday congregations.



**Daily-wage workers face problems throughout South Asian Region
due to Corona Lockdown—Reuters**

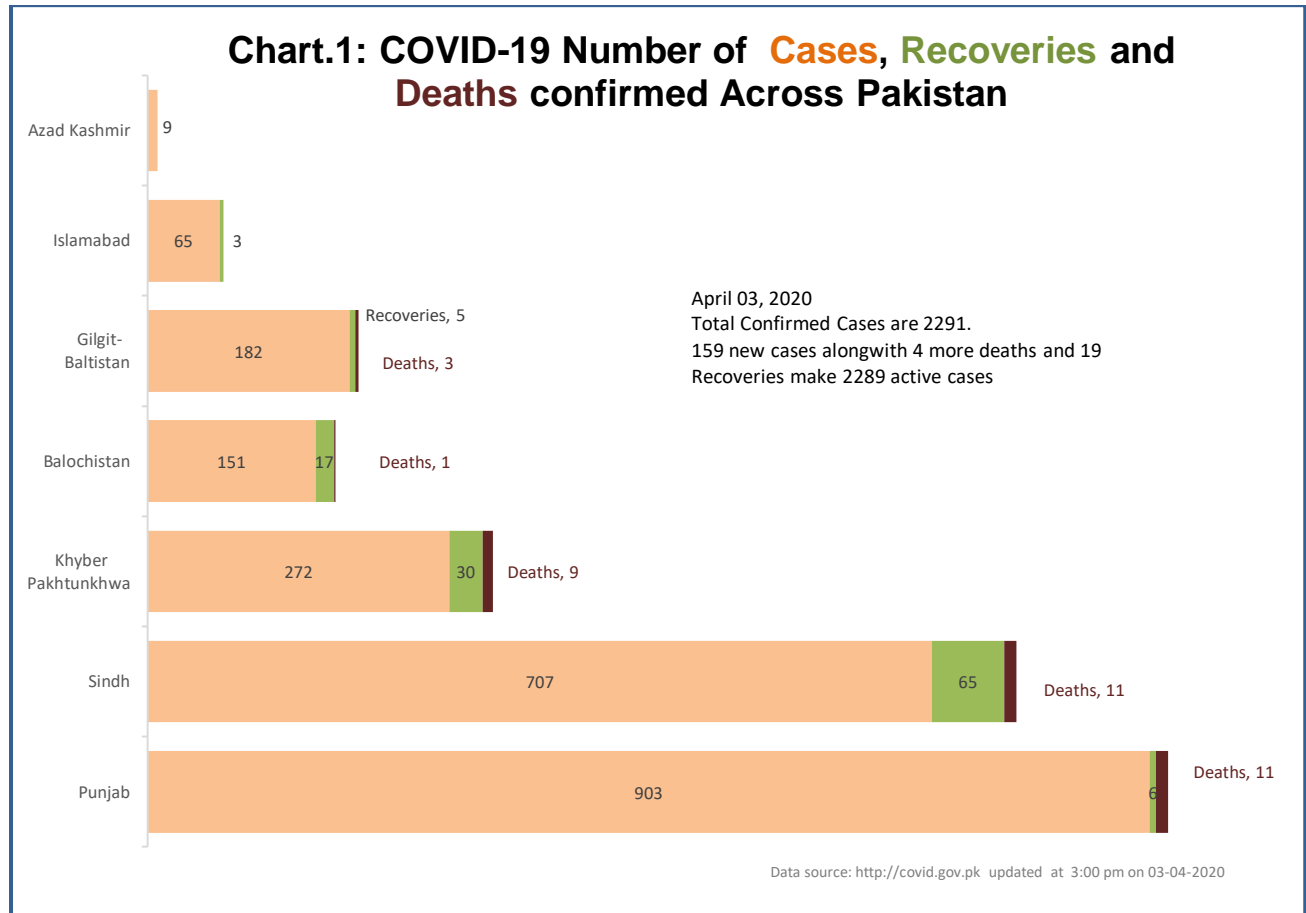
Local Response

- Govt. extends suspension of domestic flight operation till April 11.
- Education ministry, PTV sign agreement to launch Tele School.
- Pakistan's infectious disease experts warn about chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19.
- Nestle Pakistan commits Rs 100m to corona relief.
- Over Rs3 billion deposited in Sindh govt's relief fund for coronavirus pandemic.
- Council of Islamic Ideology urges public to pray at home, adhere to govt's safety guidelines.
- Punjab educational institutions should take 80% fees for April and May.
- Pakistan's first COVID-19 patient donates plasma for new therapy.

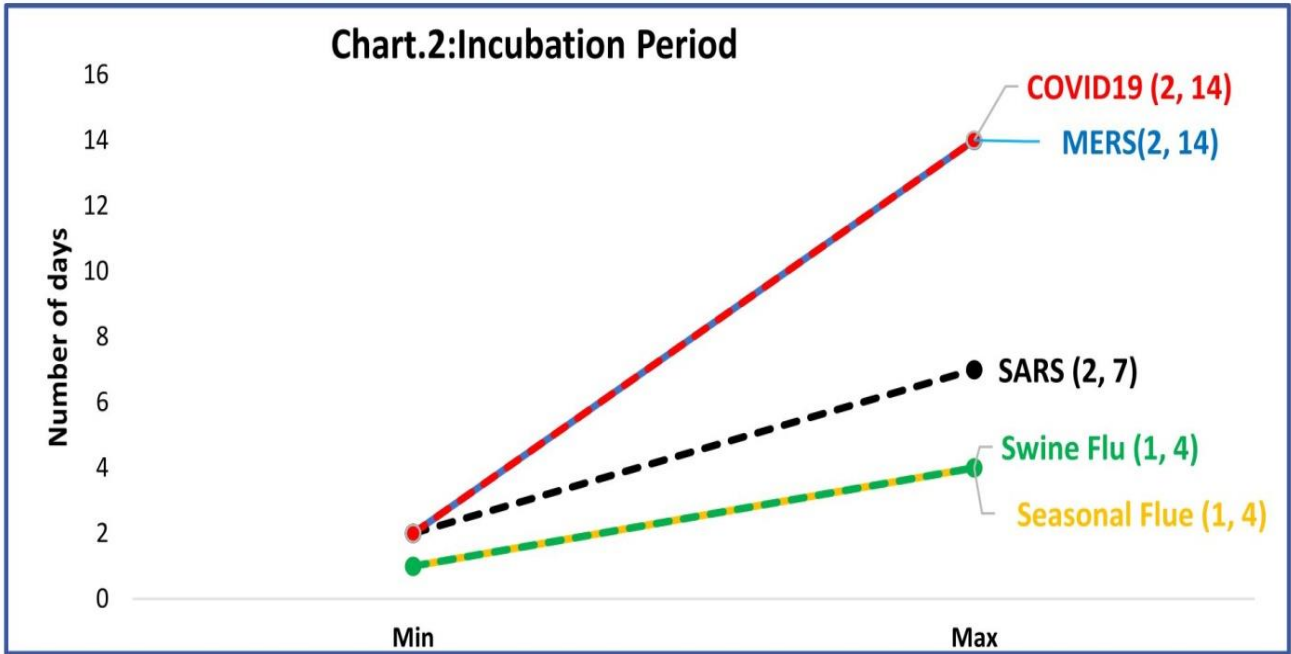


Wuhan preparing back to work by disinfecting the city—*Reuter*

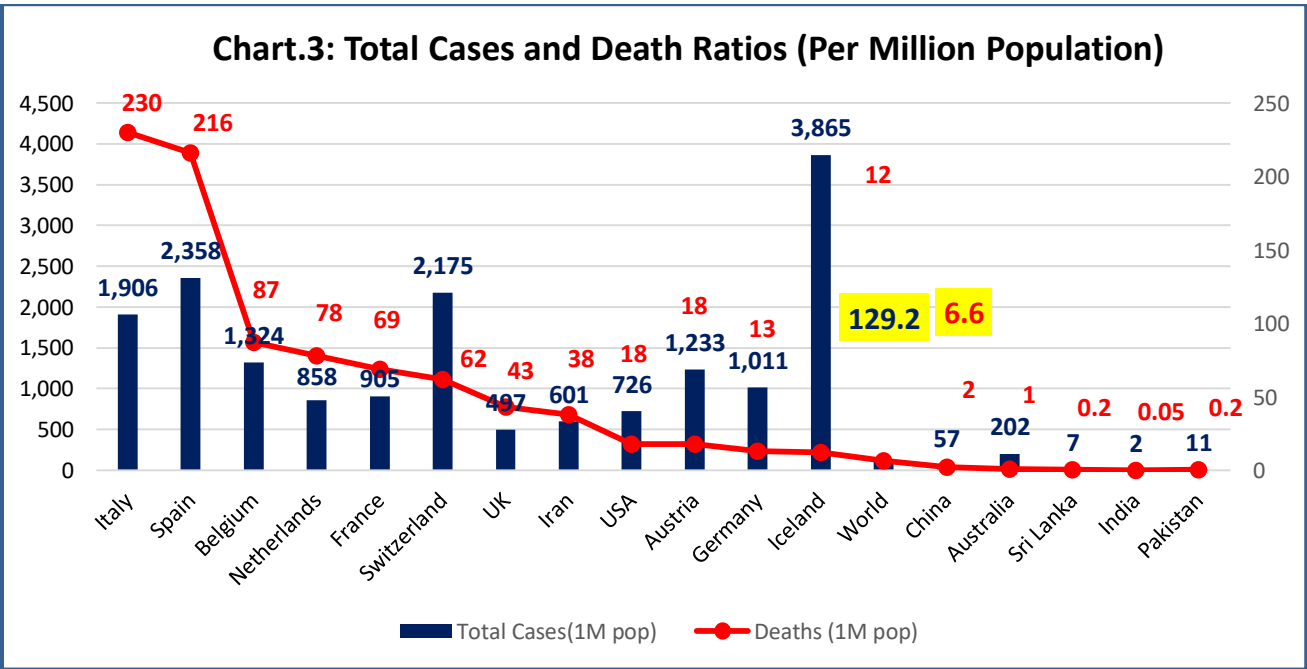
During last 24 hours, 159 new cases are confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 2450. Two deaths are reported from Sindh and one death is reported from KP and GB each in last 24 hours. Total deaths due to COVID-19 are 35 across country while 126 recoveries are reported. Current impact of the disease in Pakistan is declared as **High** by NIH, Pakistan. see Chart.1



For efficient and effective quarantine period of a specific infection, it is very important to know about the incubation period of that infection. The incubation period for COVID 19 just like MERS is 2-14 days. For SARS its 2-7 days and for seasonal flue and Swine Flu it is 1-4 days. (See Chart 2)



In Italy total cases per million population is 1906 and death per million is 230 per million which is highest in the world. This ratio is quite high in all European countries as compared to other countries. In US and Australia although total cases per million population is high but the death ratios not as high as European countries. In south Asian countries the death ratios of per million population is less than one, See char.3.



COVID-19 and a Paradigm Shift

A Crisis overturns existing social orders and instigates changes in the form of a paradigm shift; as composed by Albert Camus in his book 'The Plague'. COVID -19 being a global pandemic is affecting all forms of societies, nationalities and exposing the fault lines in our health systems. It will further take the entire globe equally by surprise just like wars have deep-rooted effects and introduce a paradigm shift. In the virtuous words of Camus "There have been as many plagues as wars; yet always plagues and wars take people equally by surprise".

It is not just about the immediate short term affects caused by this global calamity rather it is more about the unforeseen cascading long term effects that need to be taken care of. The pandemic, which is the true manifestation of a mutual suffering of humanity, is set to seriously hamper the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and possibly put us back in terms of progress made until now in this regard.

This state of urgency that has dawned upon us demands new models of dealing with risks, impacts and mitigation strategies of such calamities to be made and tested for upcoming years. The devastating situation as of now, especially the peaks and valleys of the global stock markets push for adaptations of newer models to combat with such pandemics in the future. The longer this contagious disease will stay the more it will speed up digital transformation and human dependence upon it. However, this widespread lockdown is somehow favoring the planet and letting it breathe better. This will pave way for further digitalization of cities which is need of the hour amidst social distancing.

Though this Novel Virus has sent shockwaves to the entire globe within days and with its hopeful end there's a hope for a paradigm shift. It will be great to see positive socio-political effects and better universal participation and uncontested coordination, as opposed to the principles of isolation we are at presently observing. If such constructive paradigm shift follows which should befall, Pakistan should warmly welcome it working along the lines of increased involvement and entanglement in post COVID international politics. **(written by Amna Urooj, a student at the PIDE School of Public Policy)**

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Jan. 25, 2020 – Jan. 27, 2020)

Jan. 25 — The 2019-nCoV reaches more countries. Australia confirms the first case of 2019-nCoV in the continent, with health authorities announcing three more cases later in the day. France confirms three cases, the first in Europe. Malaysia also reports the first four cases, Canada reports its first case.

Several infected countries also confirm new cases, such as Thailand and Japan. In China meanwhile, Chinese government reports 688 new cases, bringing the total to 1,975. Cases with severe conditions rise to 324, and deaths to 56 in total.

Hong Kong meanwhile raises response to 2019-nCoV to the highest level, suspending all flights to and from Wuhan.

Jan. 26 — China reports 769 new confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV, significantly raising the total number of cases globally to 2,801. This includes 461 severe cases and 80 deaths.

China's National Health Commission starts recommending use of HIV drugs as treatment against 2019-nCoV, as scientists globally start efforts to look for effective treatment and preventive therapy. The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention also starts developing a vaccine against 2019-nCoV.

In a circular, China's Ministry of Civil Affairs tells charities and volunteer organizations not to send staff and volunteers to Hubei province amid the ongoing novel coronavirus epidemic.

Jan. 27 — WHO chief Tedros travels to Beijing to meet with government and health experts on 2019-nCoV outbreak response. Hong Kong denies entry to visitors with travel history from Hubei Province, China, in the past 14 days. Authorities in Hubei suspend passport application and the provision of exit and entry permits in efforts to contain the spread of the virus.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation commits \$10 million for the 2019-nCoV outbreak response in China, and screening and outbreak preparedness in Africa.

Cambodia, Germany and Sri Lanka each confirm their first 2019-nCoV cases.

In its latest update, China's National Health Commission reports 1,771 new confirmed cases, more than double the cases on Jan. 26. This brings total confirmed cases in China to 4,515, with 976 severe cases and 106 deaths, and 4,580 total cases globally.

Source: www.devex.com

Experts' View

Due to the lockdown and distancing rules, the burden on the internet in Pakistan and across the world is also increasing rapidly. Internet speeds are starting to slow down. We will also have to keep an eye on this. Infrastructure will need to be upgraded to take into account the additional expected and unexpected traffic. But this does not mean universities should not start experiments in online teaching. It means we have to start looking for, developing and deploying solutions. It will take some time for all universities to get there and for all students to have access of a sufficient quality, but the work has to start now. And universities, given their situations, will traverse this distance at varying speeds. The HEC should be ready to invest in infrastructure, material development and trainings. It has already announced some committees on these issues, but it remains to be seen what resources are invested in this pursuit and what the results are. (**Faisal Bari, DAWN**)

Ensure that, in these challenging times, seafarers are adequately protected from the COVID-19 pandemic, have access to medical care, and can travel to and from their ships, as necessary, in order to continue to play their crucial role. (**ILO**)

Experts' Opinion

In Punjab a new law came into effect on March 27, 2020: the Punjab Infectious Diseases (Prevention and Control) Ordinance 2020. It gives legal backing to draconian steps that the government may need to take to control the spread of the coronavirus. The law empowers the government to require doctors and health facilities (including private ones) to treat patients. It does not prohibit charging for such services but does not expressly stipulate that compensation will be payable for providing services or facilities on the basis of a government directive. Any class of persons (including doctors and nurses) may be required to undergo medical examinations and to submit medical reports. They may be required to wear certain specified clothing and be subject to restrictions as to where they may go and with whom they maintain contact. (**Khwaja Ahmad Hosain, THE NEWS**)

The government needs to prepare a clear strategy to reach out to the people who need support to survive in these tough times. The lockdown has created a tough situation for daily wage labourers and contract workers both in the formal and informal sectors. The closure of markets, businesses and industries have made millions of daily wage labourers, third party contract workers and temporary workers unemployed. They need government support to survive in these tough times. The federal government and provincial governments are trying to help them. But they are facing two problems at the moment. One, there is no institution in the country that has accurate data of daily wage and contract workers working in industries, businesses and markets. No one has the data of self-employed workers who have also been badly hit by the lockdown. (**Khalid Bhatti, THE NEWS**)

World Health Organization

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

To date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

However, those infected with the virus should receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms, and those with severe illness should receive optimized supportive care. Some specific treatments are under investigation, and will be tested through clinical trials.

WHO is helping to accelerate research and development efforts with a range of partners.



#Coronavirus

Are there any specific medicines to prevent or treat the new coronavirus?



COVID-19 READS

1. **COVID-19 pandemic is testing world leaders. Who's stepping up?**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/covid-19-pandemic-testing-world-leaders-stepping-200402201221844.html>
2. **FDA authorizes first antibody-based test for COVID-19**
<https://www.theverge.com/2020/4/2/21204478/fda-authorization-coronavirus-antibody-test-diagnostic-covid-19>
3. **COVID-19 could lead to an epidemic of clinical depression**
<https://theconversation.com/covid-19-could-lead-to-an-epidemic-of-clinical-depression-134528>
4. **How will humans, by nature social animals, fare when isolated?**
<https://www.economist.com/international/2020/04/04/how-will-humans-by-nature-social-animals-fare-when-isolated>
5. **Oil prices could remain depressed for at least a year. Here's why**
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/oil-prices-could-remain-depressed-for-at-least-a-year-heres-why/>

6. Covid-19 and the already anxious: 'I have been covertly training for this stress marathon'
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/apr/03/covid-19-and-the-already-anxious-i-have-been-covertly-training-for-this-stress-marathon>
7. Can Stress, Loneliness and Sleep Deprivation Make You More Prone to COVID-19?
<https://www.discovermagazine.com/health/can-stress-loneliness-and-sleep-deprivation-make-you-more-prone-to-covid-19>
8. Coronavirus live news: Spain records first drop in daily death toll as Wuhan residents told to stay indoors
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/apr/03/coronavirus-update-live-news-usa-uk-spain-italy-china-who-middle-east-spike-world-global-cases-latest-updates>
9. Coronavirus in Africa Tracker: How many covid-19 cases & where?
<https://africanarguments.org/2020/04/02/coronavirus-in-africa-tracker-how-many-cases-and-where-latest/>
10. Spanish Malady
<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/spanish-malady/>
11. Lessons from 1918 pandemic
<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/lessons-from-1918-pandemic/>
12. When will a coronavirus vaccine be ready?
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/03/when-will-a-coronavirus-vaccine-be-ready>

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-74

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

972 303 confirmed (75 853)

50 321 deaths (4822)

Western Pacific Region

108 930 confirmed (1304)

3760 deaths (37)

European Region

541 808 confirmed (38 802)

37 103 deaths (3499)

South-East Asia Region

5881 confirmed (557)

245 deaths (29)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

62 236 confirmed (4068)

3438 deaths (159)

Region of the Americas

247 473 confirmed (30 561)

5600 deaths (1061)

African Region

5263 confirmed (561)

164 deaths (37)



China announced on Tuesday that a lockdown would be lifted on more than 50 million people in central Hubei.

LINTAO ZHANG/GETTY IMAGES

Global News

- Chile's president sparks outrage with visit to quarantined protest square.
- US Coronavirus Deaths Hit New Daily High Of 1,480 In 24 Hours: Report.
- Thousands of Central Americans detained for flaunting coronavirus rules.
- Russian ventilators sent to U.S. made by firm under U.S. sanctions: Russia newspaper.

Global Response

- Trump says 3M 'will have a big price to pay' over face masks.
- As coronavirus surges, non-COVID medical emergencies take a back seat, putting patients at risk.
- Coronavirus India: Government puts curbs on exports of diagnostic kits with immediate effect.
- China stops for three minutes to remember the dead.
- Russia uses facial recognition to tackle virus.
- Google data shines light on whether coronavirus lockdowns worldwide are working.

Local News

- Govt tells SC number of coronavirus cases expected to rise to 50,000 by April 25.
- Sheikh Rasheed says Railways incurring more than Rs1 billion losses each week due to lockdown.
- Stranded British-Pakistanis: Labour MPs write to British foreign secretary seeking to return home.
- 11 more tested positive for COVID-19 in twin cities, 4 in critical condition.
- Punjab Rozgar Scheme worth Rs9.5b approved.



Roads leading to Islamabad sealed- Photo by *Muhammad Asim*

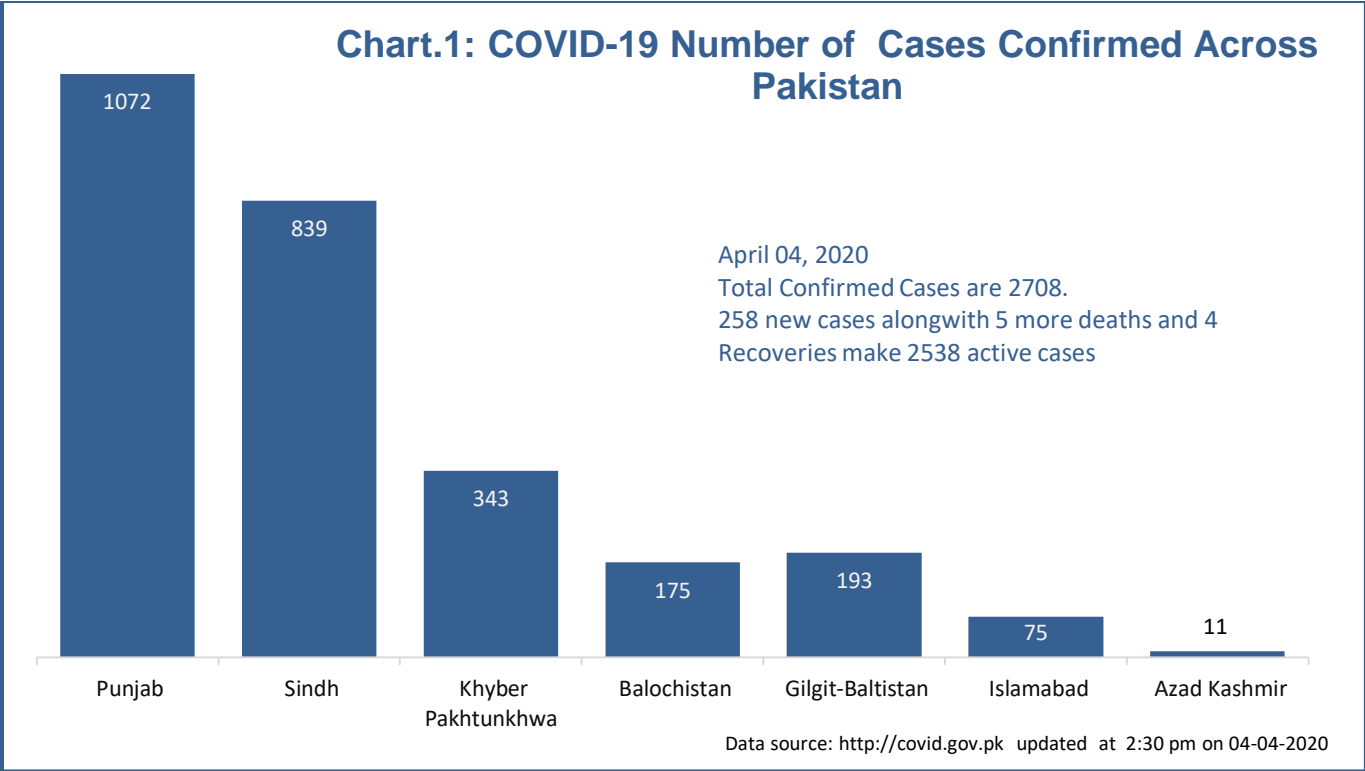
Local Response

- Sindh extends lockdown till April 14.
- Workers at graveyards designated for COVID-19 victims get safety gear.
- Rs30 billion was being given to the Naya Pakistan Housing Project to spur the construction activities across Pakistan amid corona crisis.
- Pakistan walking a ‘tightrope’ to ensure balance between lockdown and economy: PM.
- NUST develops bilingual app for coronavirus screening.
- Money Changers allowed to open outlets for five days amidst lockdown.
- Pemra asks cable operators to facilitate Punjab govt's ‘Taleem Ghar’ plan.

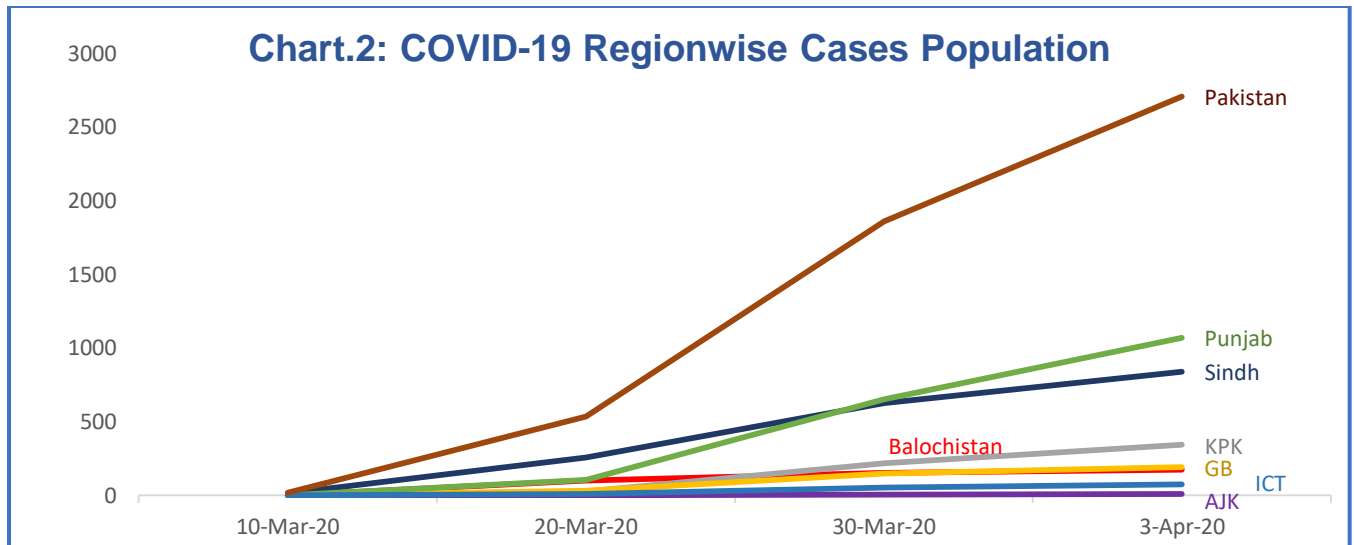


Disinfection taking place in Rawalpindi—DAWN

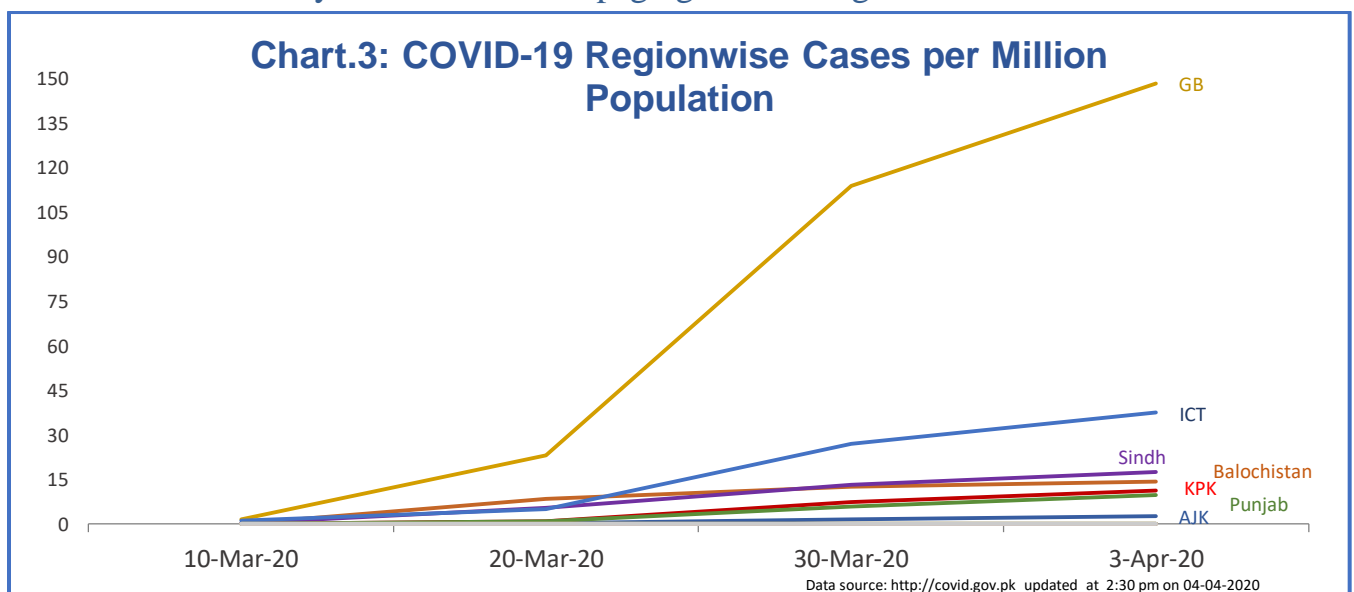
During the last 24 hours, 258 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 2708. Three deaths from Sindh and two from KP have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 40 deaths and 130 recoveries across the country are reported. The current impact of the disease in Pakistan has been declared as **High** by NIH, Pakistan. see Chart.1.



The COVID-19 case count in Pakistan is constantly rising since the report of the index case on March 27, 2020, but the case occurrence pattern is not uniform across regions. Up till March 15, 2020, the number of infected cases remained in single digit across all regions of the country except Sindh. However, the count increases manifold after mid-March 2020 across all regions except AJK region (see Chart.2). Federal and Provincial governments have reacted adequately within their available resources to reduce the impact of the Pandemic. Although the current intensity of disease in Pakistan is much lower than many other countries but this requires constant effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 enough so that health sector can deal with the patients coming in.



In order to curb the outbreak, measures ambitious in their scope and reach are much needed. Observing the number of COVID-19 infected cases regionwise indicates that although the absolute counts per region remains high in Sindh and Punjab but as a matter of fact, these two provinces hold the majority of country's population. Analysing the number of COVID-19 infected cases per million population indicates that the Gilgit-Baltistan region is handling the highest per million occurrences with Federal capital following next (see Chart.3). Since, the country is not exercising national lockdown, looking at the number of confirmed cases per region with respect to the population of the region, possible plans and actions regarding general public awareness, social distancing and extensive restrictions can be adopted to minimize the enormity of the disease rampaging across the globe.



Provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Healthcare Professionals

The Novel Coronavirus, which originally emerged in China, has now spread to more than 170 states. Even the western countries with the best healthcare systems are facing serious challenges to cope with the current situation. The only remedy to contain virus till now is social distancing. That is the reason behind lockdowns all over the world.

Hundreds of quarantines have been set up for the suspected patients. Healthcare workers are considered as saviors of the nation, especially in Pakistan. White flags were hoisted in the honor of healthcare workers. Doctors combatting coronavirus were given Guard of honor in Punjab and Balochistan but what they need more desperately is the Protective Equipment because they are frontline warriors against COVID-19. The Personal Protective Equipment includes protective mask, goggles, gloves, gown and shoes. As of now, healthcare workers are left exposed to coronavirus and are seen working with a single mask in most cases. A young Doctor, Osama Riaz from Gilgit-Baltistan, died of COVID-19 and scores of others have been quarantined/ isolated. Similarly, a Swabi based physician Dr. Amir Khan's photo got viral through social media while he was performing his duty wearing a polybag as a protest for not having equipment. Instead of providing him with equipment, he was sought explanation over his behavior from the competent authority²⁵. Another photo from Central Punjab made rounds on social media where commissioner was wearing N95 mask while Doctors had simple surgical masks during an inauguration ceremony. Moreover, spokesperson of Sindh Government took twitter to share that our country needs ventilators and protective gears for medical staff. These healthcare workers, if left exposed like this, have a strong tendency of becoming potential virus carriers and super-spreaders. So it must be the top priority of the government to provide the healthcare workers with PPE, only guard of honor and white flags are not enough. Government should suspend the development activities for time. Development budget allocated for the members of lower house should be diverted to fulfill the essential requirements of healthcare workers to the maximum capacity. The head of World Health Organization (WHO) is calling for a stepped-up production of medical equipment and supplies. As the pandemic is global, we are not facing these challenges alone. The "just in time" approach has been working well before the crisis. **(Zohaib Mehmood Awan, a student at the Department of Development Studies, PIDE)**

²⁵ KP's doctor up in arms against PPE shortage, The Express Tribune, 27th march 2020

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Jan. 28, 2020 – Jan. 31, 2020)

Jan. 28—WHO’s Tedros meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing to discuss the latest developments in the 2019-nCoV outbreak. China agrees for WHO to send in international experts to help increase global understanding of the outbreak and guide response efforts.

Africa prepares for the potential spread of 2019-nCoV as the number of confirmed cases in China rises to 5,974 with 132 deaths. Confirmed cases globally now total over 6,000.

Jan. 29—Tedros decides to reconvene the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on Thursday for advice on whether to declare the 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. The announcement comes just a week after Tedros initially refrained from declaring the outbreak an emergency. As 2019-nCoV cases grow in number and spread to more countries, the virus reaches the Middle East for the first time, with the United Arab Emirates reporting imported cases in a family of four. Finland also reports its first confirmed case.

Meanwhile, several countries prepare to repatriate people from Wuhan, and multiple airlines suspend or restrict flights to and from Chinese cities, just as confirmed cases in China continue to rise, now at 7,711. Globally, total confirmed cases are now at 7,816, with 170 deaths.

There are, however, some positive developments, as Australian scientists announce they have successfully grown 2019-nCoV in the laboratory, which can be helpful in improving diagnosis of the virus. Through his foundation, Alibaba Founder Jack Ma also donates 100 million Chinese yuan (\$14.4 million) to help fund the development of a vaccine for the 2019-nCoV.

Jan. 30—WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declares the 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency of international

concern, noting the potential spread of the virus to countries with weak health systems. The decision comes as more countries outside China report cases of infection, including the Philippines and India. Both confirm their first 2019-nCoV cases. Total confirmed cases in China reach 9,692, with 213 deaths. WHO recommends “2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease” as interim name for the disease.

Jan. 31—More countries are applying border control measures against foreign nationals with recent travel history from China, just as confirmed cases in China reach 11,791, with 259 deaths. The U.S. declares the 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency domestically. The U.K., Russia, Sweden, and Spain also confirm their first 2019-nCoV cases.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>



A migrant worker resting outside a loom amid global lockdown—*Reuters*

Experts' View

If Covid-19 deaths remove the denialism blindfold on the transformational value of cooperation lost in conflict, the two nuclear neighbours can agree to a calibrated lowering of tensions, which include steps on Kashmir, where thousands suffer a double-burden of security-curfew trauma as well as coronavirus shocks. The Siachen glacier, which has the dubious distinction of being the highest altitude battlefield in the world, remains a surreal low-news reminder of how both India and Pakistan continue to lose soldiers' lives from temperatures, not bullets. What the indication of flexibility by New Delhi on Kashmir may do is improve confidence levels in dialogue between two neighbours whose conflict has held back any regional dividends of economic growth, energy connectivity, trade optimization to reduce poverty, climate cooperation on water, air and carbon negotiations at all forums. **(Sherry Rehman, THE NEWS)**

Unlike developed countries, our ability to maintain food security may be more challenging. To ensure subsistence and equal access to food and healthcare for all citizens, we may have to resort to war-time consumption and rationing temporarily in the absolute worst case scenario. I hope we don't have to. But we should prepare for that scenario. Chiefly, the lesson from China is that coordination works. We need our central government to act in concert with provincial governments, leading a coordinated national effort. On a global level, we have to pursue the IMF and World Bank for concessions. Encouragingly, the IMF has indicated that it is ready to mobilize \$1 trillion for coronavirus lending. We need to lobby for more money with fewer public spending restrictions. Global solidarity combined with state action should define the path forward.

No Pakistani can be left to starve or die of disease. That is the promise of our constitutional right to life. Pakistan is because Pakistanis are—the poor, the old and the sick too. **(Morial Shah, THE NEWS)**

Experts' Opinion

Constantly hearing about the pandemic can be very disturbing. It is helpful to take breaks from watching, reading or listening to news stories, including social media. It is also necessary to make some time to unwind and spend time doing activities one enjoys. Reading, music, reflection, writing, meditation are just a few of those things that one may wish to rediscover. While we recharge ourselves, connection with others remains integral; talking with people, sharing concerns, and communicating our feelings and thoughts and maintaining healthy relationships prevent loneliness and despair. Social distancing, mandated with the outside world, gives us an opportunity to slow down and reconnect with close family and friends using available technology. In this era of growing information, it is worth finding one or two trustworthy resources to watch or read for news updates. Global crises are breeding grounds for rumours, misinformation and sensationalism. It is vital to always check on sources and avoid forwarding or sharing information that does not have a dependable reference. And while we are finding our own ways of coping with this situation, there is a need to keep things in perspective. While some things are obviously beyond our control, there are guidelines we can follow, useful information we can access and share, relationships we can nurture, and memories we can create. Let's focus on that. **(Ayesha Mian, DAWN)**

World Health Organization
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

You can catch COVID-19, no matter how sunny or hot the weather is. Countries with hot weather have reported cases of COVID-19. To protect yourself, make sure you clean your hands frequently and thoroughly and avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

FACT:

Exposing yourself to the sun or to temperatures higher than 25C degrees DOES NOT prevent the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)



#Coronavirus #COVID19

COVID-19 READS

1. **Who are the workers already impacted by the COVID-19 recession?**
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/who-are-the-workers-already-impacted-by-the-covid-19-recession/>
2. **Africa Roundup: Africa's tech ecosystem responds to COVID-19**
<https://techcrunch.com/2020/03/31/africa-roundup-africas-tech-ecosystem-responds-to-covid-19/>
3. **COVID-19 Economic Stimulus: Get Money To People Faster With Digital Dollars**
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lawrencewintermeyer/2020/03/30/covid-19-economic-stimulus-get-money-to-people-faster-with-digital-dollars/#1456a8931fc9>

4. **Explaining Policy Judgements In Covid-19 Times**
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lbsbusinessstrategyreview/2020/04/03/explaining-policy-judgements-in-covid-19-times/#4073790f1bab>
5. **COVID-19 pandemic proves the need for ‘social robots,’ ‘robot avatars’ and more, say experts**
<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/03/covid-19-proves-the-need-for-social-robots-and-robot-avatars-experts.html>
6. **India COVID-19 lockdown means no food or work for rural poor**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/india-covid-19-lockdown-means-food-work-rural-poor-200402052048439.html>
7. **More Covid-19 patients needed for drug trials, says Matt Hancock**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/03/more-covid-19-patients-needed-for-drug-trials-says-matt-hancock>
8. **Coronavirus vaccines: Drug trials, chloroquine and treatments for COVID-19**
<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/coronavirus-vaccines-drug-trials-chloroquine-and-treatments-for-covid-19/>
9. **COVID-19 pandemic is testing world leaders. Who's stepping up?**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/covid-19-pandemic-testing-world-leaders-stepping-200402201221844.html>
10. **FDA authorizes first antibody-based test for COVID-19**
<https://www.theverge.com/2020/4/2/21204478/fda-authorization-coronavirus-antibody-test-diagnostic-covid-19>
11. **You’re a parent with COVID-19. Your partner is also sick. What do you do?**
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-04-03/coronavirus-partner-sick-parents-kids>
12. **Restaurant Operators On Life Before, During And After COVID-19**
<https://www.pymnts.com/coronavirus/2020/restaurant-operators-on-life-before-during-and-after-covid-19/>

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-75

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

1 051 635 confirmed (79332)

56 985 deaths (6664)

Western Pacific Region

110 362 confirmed (1432)

3809 deaths (49)

European Region

583 141 confirmed (41333)

42 334 deaths (5231)

South-East Asia Region

6528 confirmed (647)

267 deaths (22)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

65 903 confirmed (3667)

3592 deaths (154)

Region of the Americas

279 543 confirmed (32070)

6802 deaths (1202)

African Region

5446 confirmed (183)

170 deaths (6)



China observed three minutes of silence nationwide today to mourn the thousands of “martyrs” who died in the fight against the pandemic—AP

Global News

- Global cases pass 1.2 million.
- Pandemic threatens survival of European Union, Spanish PM warns.
- Malala, Charlize Theron back UN chief’s calls for global ceasefire amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- Deaths in New York pass 3,000.
- Trump warns of big spike in coronavirus fatalities in US.
- Spain notes consecutive drop in coronavirus deaths for second day at 809.

- Coronavirus lockdown: Delhi struggles to feed migrants left behind.
- Coronavirus - the worst is yet to come, UK warned.
- African economics face “complete collapse” if virus not controlled.
- Tehran could see virus resurgence.

Global Response

- Air India relief flight gets special message from Pakistan.
- UAE helps Pakistan in fight against coronavirus, sends medical aid.
- Neymar donates \$1 million to battle coronavirus in Brazil.
- Coronavirus: Malawi president takes 10% pay cut.
- PIA flights bring British citizens to UK.
- Lufthansa and British Airways announce massive reduction in workforce.



A man carries home groceries during a nationwide 21 day lockdown in an attempt to contain coronavirus disease outbreak in Umlazi township near Durban, South Africa on March 31, 2020—Reuters

Local News

- Coronavirus pandemic: Confirmed cases surge past 2,900 in Pakistan.
- Chinese doctors hail steps taken by Punjab govt. to curb coronavirus spread.
- Chinese doctors advise Punjab to ensure lockdown for at least 28 days.
- Lack of coordination between Centre and Sindh likely to affect coronavirus relief efforts: report.
- 45 people caught illegally travelling from Karachi to Mansehra.
- Deepak Perwani designs protective bodysuits for Pakistani medics.

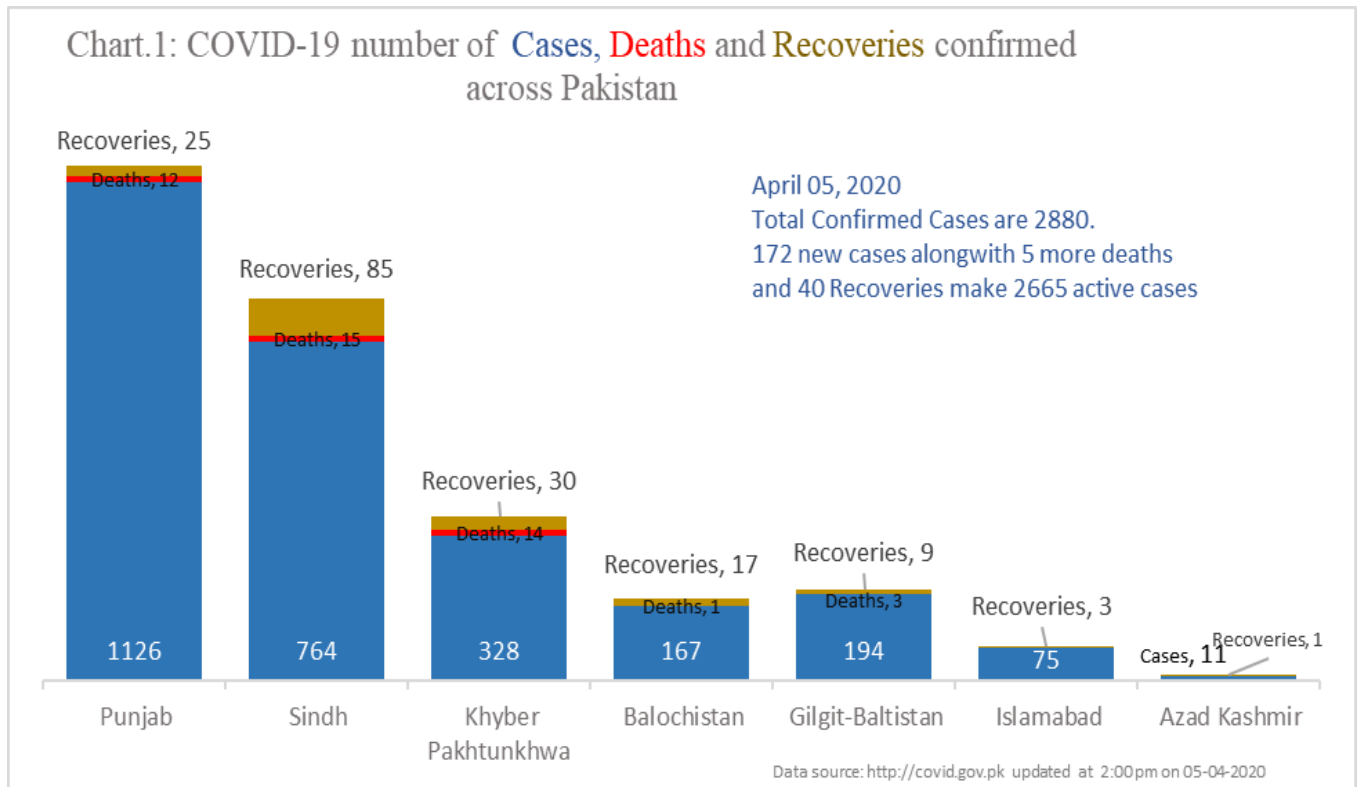
Local Response

- After winning coronavirus battle, Pakistan will emerge as the welfare state that was envisioned: PM Imran.
- 74 pilgrims from Iran reach quarantine centre in Jhang.
- 13 more coronavirus patients recover in Balochistan as total tally reaches 32.
- Pakistan govt. convenient targets when world powers are helpless against coronavirus: Asad Majeed
- Chaman, Torkham borders to be opened from tomorrow for four days.
- 44 doctors suspended for refusing duties in Taftan.
- Govt to distribute ration to 150,000 poor families in first phase: CM Jam Kamal.
- PIA stops Karachi operations after pilots suspected of contracting coronavirus.
- Thousands of daily wagers to be hired for plantation.



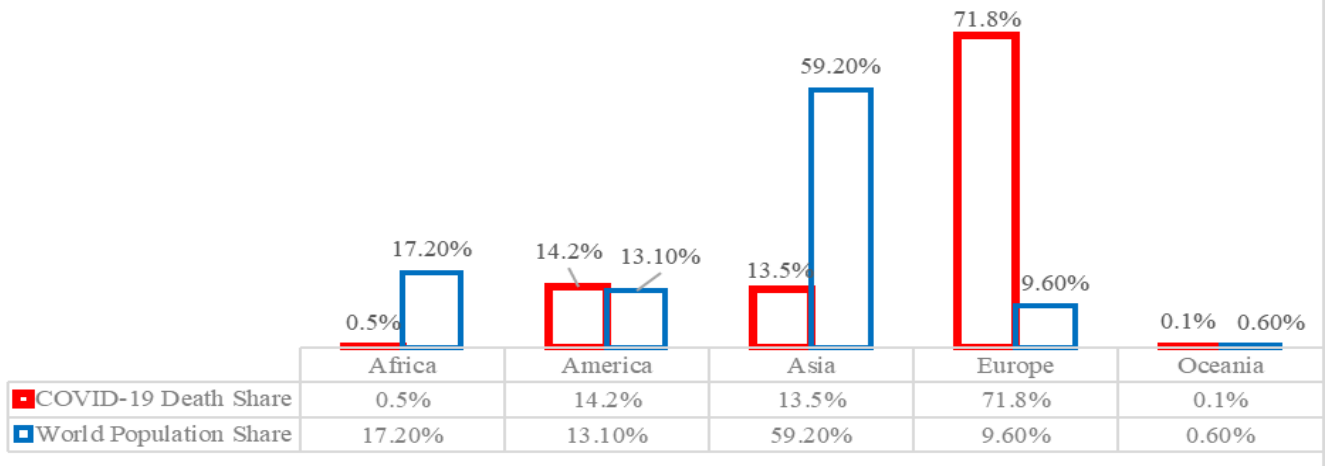
Coronavirus: Scientists brand 5G claims 'complete rubbish'—*Getty Images*

During the last 24 hours, 172 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 2880. Three deaths from KP and one from Punjab and Sindh each have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 45 deaths and 170 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



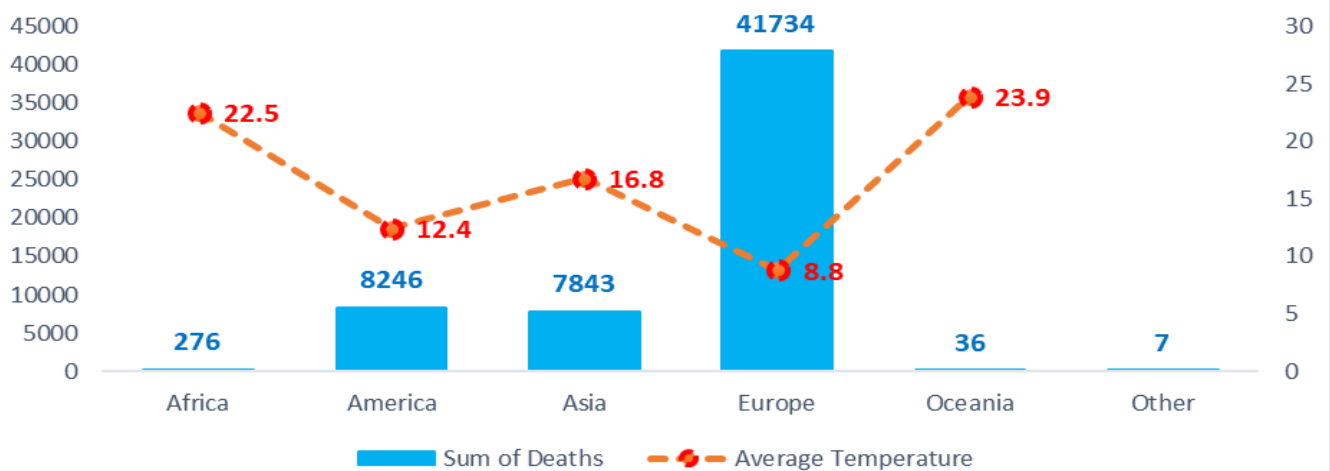
It is observed that most populous continents of the world have less deaths from COVID-19. In Africa total deaths by COVID-19 is only 0.5% of world total deaths by COVID-19, while Africa's share of the total world population is 17.20%. Asia is the most populous continent of the world but death share with COVID-19 is 13.5%. Europe which is just 9.60% of total world population, have highest death share of 71.8% of world total deaths by COVID-19, see Chart.2.

Chart.2: Continents' Population share and Covid-19 Death share



Does the Higher temperatures and humidity significantly reduce the spread of the coronavirus? It is eventually observed that countries with warmer and humid climate have fewer coronavirus deaths are reported than countries with colder and less humid climate. Oceania with highest average temperature of 23.9 °C have 36 deaths only, the lowest number of deaths with COVID-19. Similarly in Africa average temperature is 22.5 °C and the number of deaths are 276. In Europe with average temperature of 8.8 °C have 41,734 deaths the maximum number of deaths by COVID-19. Americas with average temperature of 16.8 °C have 7,843 deaths, see Chart.3.

Chart.3: Average Temperature and COVID-19 Deaths



The Economic Impact of CoVID-19 in Pakistan: Facts and Foresights

Where concurrent trends of a global outbreak have been highlighted by many, CoVID-19 continues the chain by emerging as the heart of the debates in 2020. In measures to contain the spread of the virus, nations throughout the globe have contributed heavy investments giving a blow to their economies. Struggling to maintain the social distancing among public, one of the initial steps taken by Pakistan was to halt the PSL. According to estimates by the Planning Commission, the curb in trade (imports and exports) can strike a 4.6% loss on GDP, about Rs. 700-800 million in quantified form till April-June in FY20. About 60 pc of Pakistan's exports industry is textile relying on Chinese imports for its chemicals and dyes. As a result, KSE struck about 20 pc to a decrease in the last two weeks of trading, according to The Economic Times. But luckily, where it had experienced a 37% loss in market capitalization, KSE has hiked a 12.5% jump as on April 3, 2020, according to The Express Tribune, producing the highest weekly return. Investors gearing towards a safe-haven have started investing in gold and dollars, bringing cash-shortage to the limelight in the end of FY20 and the beginning of FY21. According to the Asian Development Bank, , the local currency is expected to drop about 9.8% against the US dollars in the first half of 2020. Moreover, Pakistan will experience a 2.6 per cent deceleration in her GDP for FY20. The Asian Development Outlook 2020 estimates that this year will also face 11.5 accelerated inflation; 16.3% and 14.5% inflation in rural and urban food prices respectively. The economic land-sliding has paved way for other nationwide economic loopholes in the long-run. Pakistan's aviation sector is likely to face a \$63 million loss if the flights continue to suspend for the upcoming months, as per The Economic Times. Similarly, with the assistance of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics in estimating the statistics, the Planning Commission provided the international donors with a foresight in the country's economic health. According to estimates, the current population of Pakistan living below the poverty line is expected to rise form 50-60 million to 125 million. Furthermore, with the harvest season of wheat approaching closer, it is highly probable that the agricultural economy of Pakistan will face heavy losses if the pandemic continues to halt the activities. In addition, the crisis of worst locust infestation in 2 decades has further damaged the cotton, wheat and other crops, according to ADB. Despite the forlorn conditions amid the CoVID-19 crisis, it is imperative to hope for a better future. On the brighter side, this crisis has provided us with an opportunity to stand together and face the struggles of a common citizen of Pakistan. (**Written by Fatima Hasnain, a student at the Department of Development Studies, PIDE**)

8 out of 10 deaths reported in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years old and older (CDC)



Among adults with confirmed COVID-19 reported in the U.S.:

- Estimated percent **requiring hospitalization**
 - 31-70% of adults 85 years old and older
 - 31-59% of adults 65-84 years old
- Estimated percent requiring **admission to intensive care unit**
 - 6-29% of adults 85 years old and older
 - 11-31% of adults 65-84 years old
- Estimated percent **who died**
 - 10-27% of adults 85 years old and older
 - 4-11% of adults 65-84 years old

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html>

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Feb. 1, 2020 – Feb. 4, 2020)

Feb. 1 — In China, confirmed cases now total 14,380 and the death toll rises above 300.

Feb. 2 — The first 2019-nCoV death outside China is reported in the Philippines. The patient was a 44-year-old Chinese male, and known companion of the 38-year-old woman who tested positive for 2019-nCoV on Jan. 30 and the first case in the Philippines. It also imposes travel ban for travelers coming from China, Hong Kong, and Macao, and a 14-day quarantine period for Philippine residents.

Overseas donations flood into China, while citizens scrutinize organizations receiving donations for the response. The local Red Cross in Hubei province faces criticisms over the slow delivery of donated medical supplies, as cases in Hubei, the epicenter, reach over 11,000. Confirmed cases now at 17,205, bringing total global cases to 17,386, with 362 deaths.

Feb. 3 — China launches a clinical trial of Gilead’s antiviral drug remdesivir, previously tested in patients with Ebola, against the 2019-nCoV, just as China’s Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan starts operations. The hospital was built in 10 days and is dedicated to treating 2019-nCoV patients.

In Hong Kong, hospital workers go on strike to demand that the government impose total border closure with mainland China, where cases total 20,438, bringing total confirmed cases globally to 20,625, and 426 deaths. Chinese officials call on the U.S. not to overreact and cause panic over 2019-nCoV.

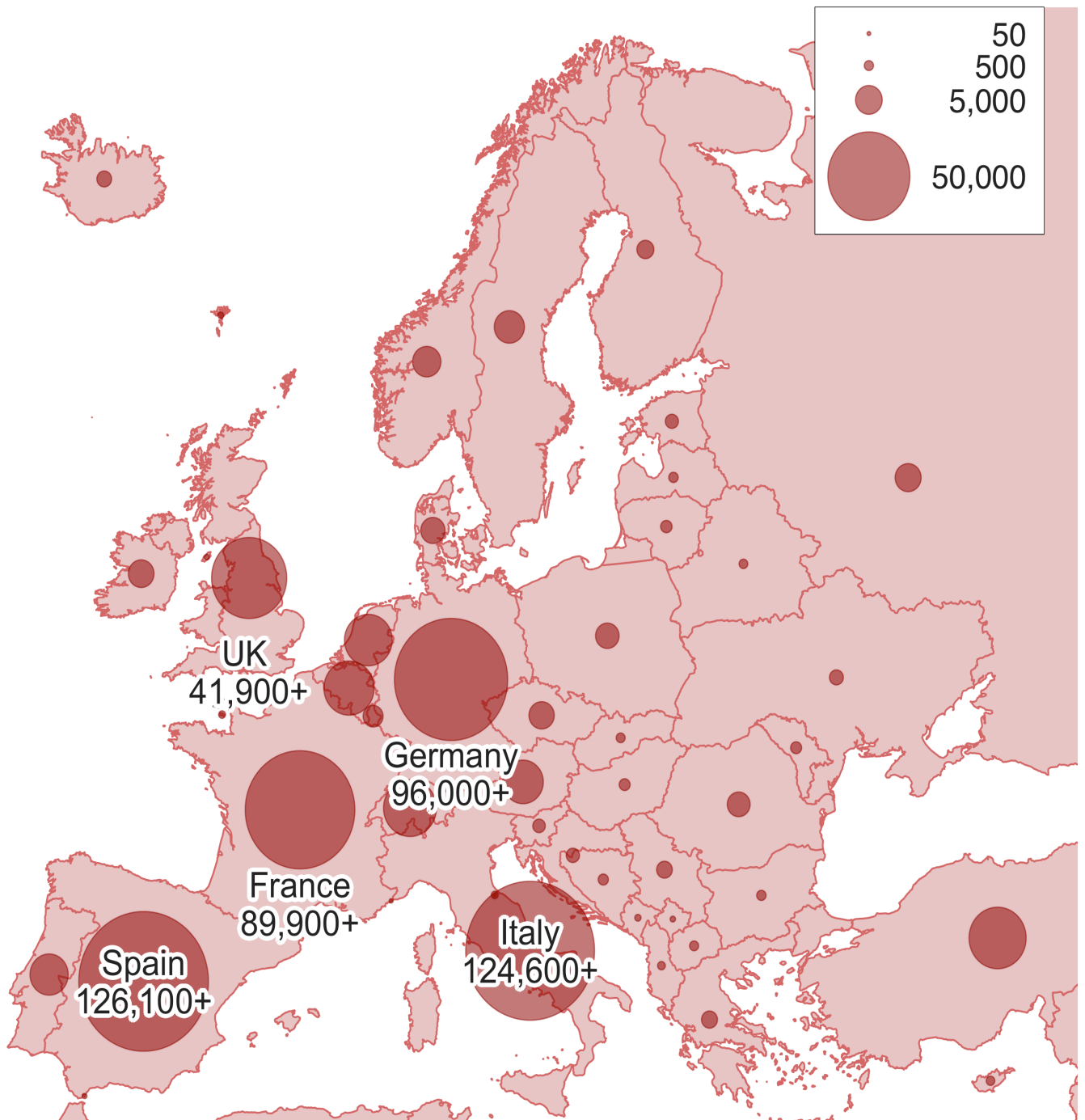
The World Bank releases a statement saying it is reviewing financial and technical resources that can be mobilized to support countries affected by the 2019-nCoV outbreak. WHO meanwhile launches its own dashboard of 2019-nCoV confirmed cases in China and globally.

Feb. 4 — Hong Kong reports its first death of a patient with 2019-nCoV. The 39-year-old man had travel history from Wuhan, the outbreak’s epicenter. This is the second death linked to the 2019-nCoV reported outside mainland China, after the Philippines. The total number of deaths from 2019-nCoV stands at 492, and confirmed cases globally over 24,000.

Belgium reports its first case of 2019-nCoV. The patient was one of the nine people repatriated from Wuhan over the weekend.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>

Cases of coronavirus in Europe



Source: Johns Hopkins University. Updated: 5 Apr 10:30 BST



Experts' View

If mobile phone surveillance will help to slow down the spread of the virus then it must be done. But it is imperative that the government is transparent about which agencies are collecting what data and why that data is required. The data collected must be tied to public health goals and steps must be taken to ensure that it is not used for other purposes. Moreover, we must question if the data collection infrastructure being built to respond to the pandemic will be dismantled once the threat has been dealt with. Where Covid-19 is being used to justify the strengthening of the surveillance apparatus, we must ensure that this surveillance apparatus will not be a permanent fixture, aiding other agencies to achieve other goals. While these questions may take a back seat to the more urgent need of responding to a very serious health crisis, they must be kept in mind and must serve as a reminder of the need to expand the digital economy while proactively mitigating the risks that come with it. **(Anum Malkani, DAWN)**

Our decision-making process must be able to value both the right to subsistence and the right to protection against disease and strike a balance to the extent that they don't seem as competing rights in this moment. Pakistan can't afford an extended lockdown. But Pakistan also can't continue business-as-usual with hundreds of thousands getting infected by the virus or dying. Neither can we swing from one extreme of severe lockdown to the other of opening things up completely based on public opinion and whether more folks dread Covid-19 or financial misery. **(Babar Sattar, THE NEWS)**

Experts' Opinion

The government needs to recognize that this isn't just one big epidemic. It's lots of outbreaks at different stages that all need to be tackled locally through local teams, and local action plans in each area so measures can be lifted over time. **(Professor Allyson Pollock, a consultant in public health and director of the Newcastle University Centre for Excellence in Regulatory Science)**

The government and state institutions also have to overcome their weakness in dealing with religious actors and affairs. Power elites have to make a firm decision that religion and religious actors will not be used for any political purposes. Second, there is a need to encourage religious scholarship instead of religious brands, parties, sects and individuals. Post-pandemic Pakistan should have a clear vision about its future. **(Muhammad Amir Rana, DAWN)**

World Health Organization

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are dry cough, tiredness and fever. Some people may develop more severe forms of the disease, such as pneumonia. The best way to confirm if you have the virus producing COVID-19 disease is with a laboratory test. You cannot confirm it with this breathing exercise, which can even be dangerous.

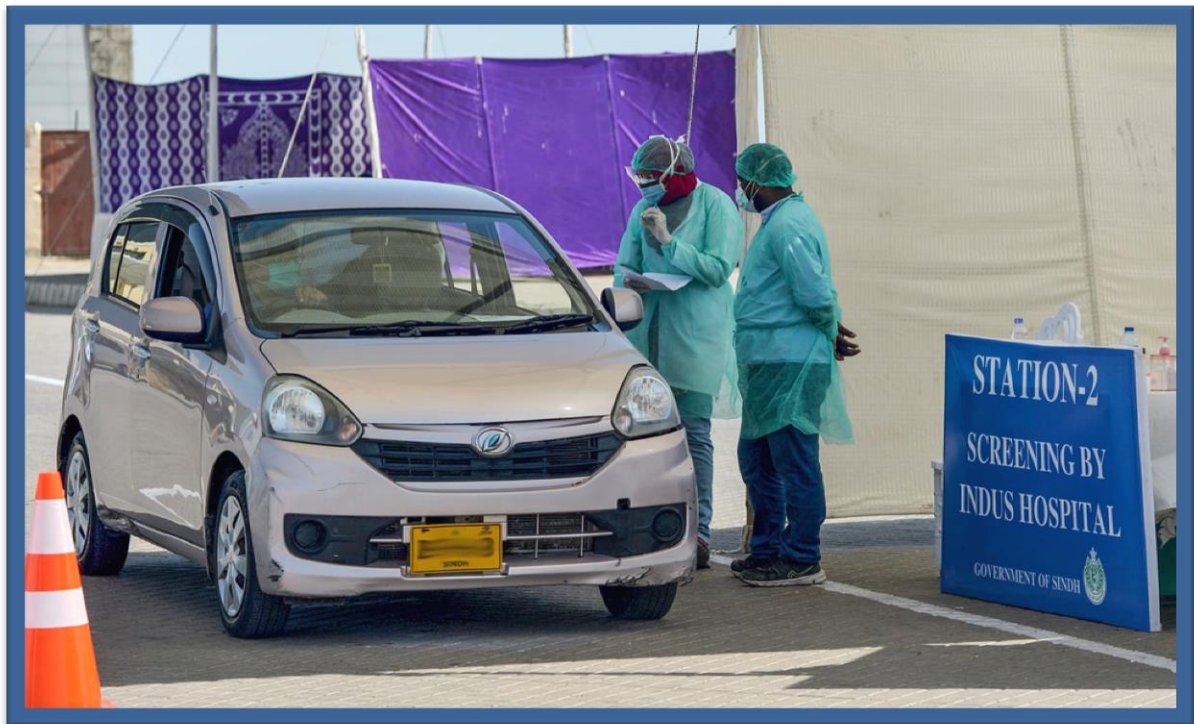
FACT:

Being able to hold your breath for 10 seconds or more without coughing or feeling discomfort DOES NOT mean you are free from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) or any other lung disease.



World Health Organization

#Coronavirus #COVID19



Pakistan's first Covid-19 Drive through testing center—*DAWN*

COVID-19 READS

1. First Statistical Signs Of The COVID-19 Recession
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/miltonezrati/2020/04/01/first-statistical-signs-of-the-covid-19-recession/#1fb43ebf999e>
2. Pakistan ill-equipped to fight COVID-19: Healthcare workers
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/pakistan-ill-equipped-fight-covid-19-healthcare-workers-200404095933357.html>
3. How Hospitals Are Using AI to Battle Covid-19
<https://hbr.org/2020/04/how-hospitals-are-using-ai-to-battle-covid-19>
4. Coronavirus map of the US: latest cases state by state
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2020/apr/04/coronavirus-map-us-latest-cases-state-by-state>
5. When will a coronavirus vaccine be ready?
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/04/when-will-a-coronavirus-vaccine-be-ready>
6. Doctor's Note: Why will it take so long for a COVID-19 vaccine?
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/doctor-note-long-covid-19-vaccine-200403163646558.html>
7. How COVID-19 will change GCC labor markets
<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/04/gulf-covid19-coronavirus-change-gcc-labor-markets-crisis.html>
8. 1 Million Bangladeshi Garment Workers Lose Jobs Amid COVID-19 Economic Fallout
<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/03/826617334/1-million-bangladeshi-garment-workers-lose-jobs-amid-covid-19-economic-fallout>
9. How COVID-19 will change GCC labor markets
<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/04/gulf-covid19-coronavirus-change-gcc-labor-markets-crisis.html>
10. Coronavirus: Anger as migrants sprayed with disinfectant in India
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-52093220>
11. Can a face mask protect me from coronavirus? Covid-19 myths busted
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/05/face-mask-protect-coronavirus-covid-19-myths-busted>
12. Can an Old Vaccine Stop the New Coronavirus?
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/03/health/coronavirus-bcg-vaccine.html>



WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-76

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

1 133 758 confirmed (82061)
62 784 deaths (5798)

Western Pacific Region

111 396 confirmed (1034)
3838 deaths (29)

European Region

621 407 confirmed (38266)
46 416 deaths (4082)

South-East Asia Region

7816 confirmed (1288)
302 deaths (35)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

70 293 confirmed (4328)
3794 deaths (201)

Region of the Americas

315 714 confirmed (36171)
8187 deaths (1385)

African Region

6420 confirmed (974)
236 deaths (66)



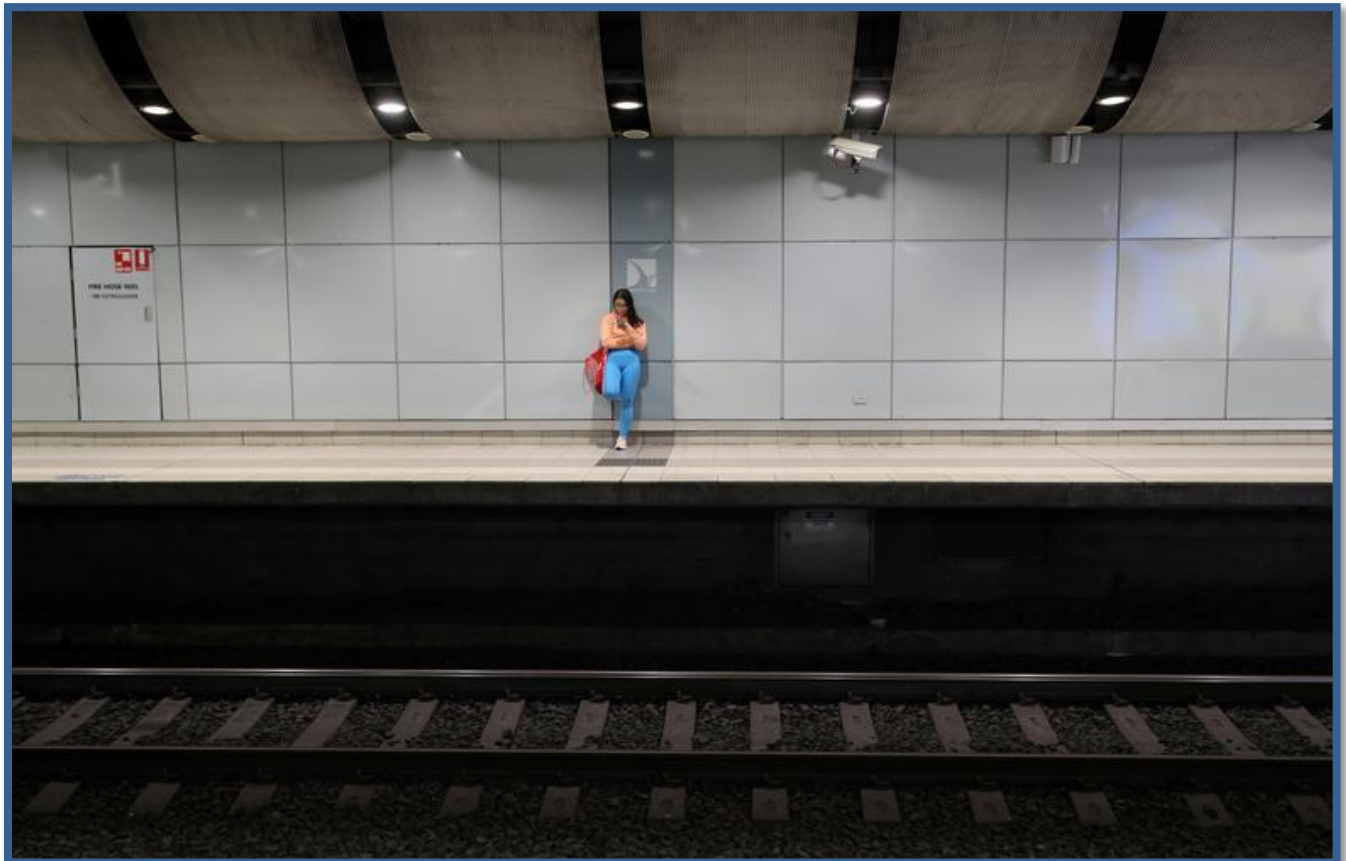
The concept of social distancing is new in Pakistan and it has left many daily wage earners out of work. Credit: Farooq Naeem/Getty Images

Global News

- Near 1,100 die in US in one day.
- Spain's pace of coronavirus deaths slows again.
- UAE citizens in Pakistan have returned to 'homeland', announces ambassador.
- A tiger at a New York zoo has tested positive for the coronavirus.
- UK house sales will collapse in 2020 as market goes into deep freeze, says study.
- New infections and deaths have fallen in Spain and Italy in recent days - suggesting lockdowns are working.
- UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is in hospital after suffering "persistent symptoms".

Global Response

- Japan prepares for state of emergency.
- China players join clubs after completing quarantine.
- The global economy just got a \$1 trillion infusion from Japan.
- Trump signals support for another round of stimulus checks, blasts 'complaining' Dem governor.
- Indonesia records biggest daily jump in cases.
- Germany considers mandatory face masks.
- Coronavirus: Singapore quarantines 20,000 migrant workers.
- White House says COVID-19 testing has ramped up in an 'unprecedented historic way'.
- Chinese envoy calls for China-U.S. cooperation against COVID-19.



A busy train station in Sydney has just one commuter amid lockdown- Reuters

Local News

- Quetta police arrest, baton-charge protesting doctors and paramedics.
- Punjab reports 191 new cases, taking provincial tally to 1,684; Sindh confirms 51 more.
- 128 Pakistanis flown in from Uzbekistan by PIA.
- 3,800 ventilators available in Pakistan, says NDMA chairman.
- Punjab CM inaugurates Covid-19 testing lab in Lahore.
- Ready to become part of PM Imran's Corona Tiger Relief Force: Waqar Younis.
- Punjab govt. outlines rules for philanthropic activities in province.

Local Response

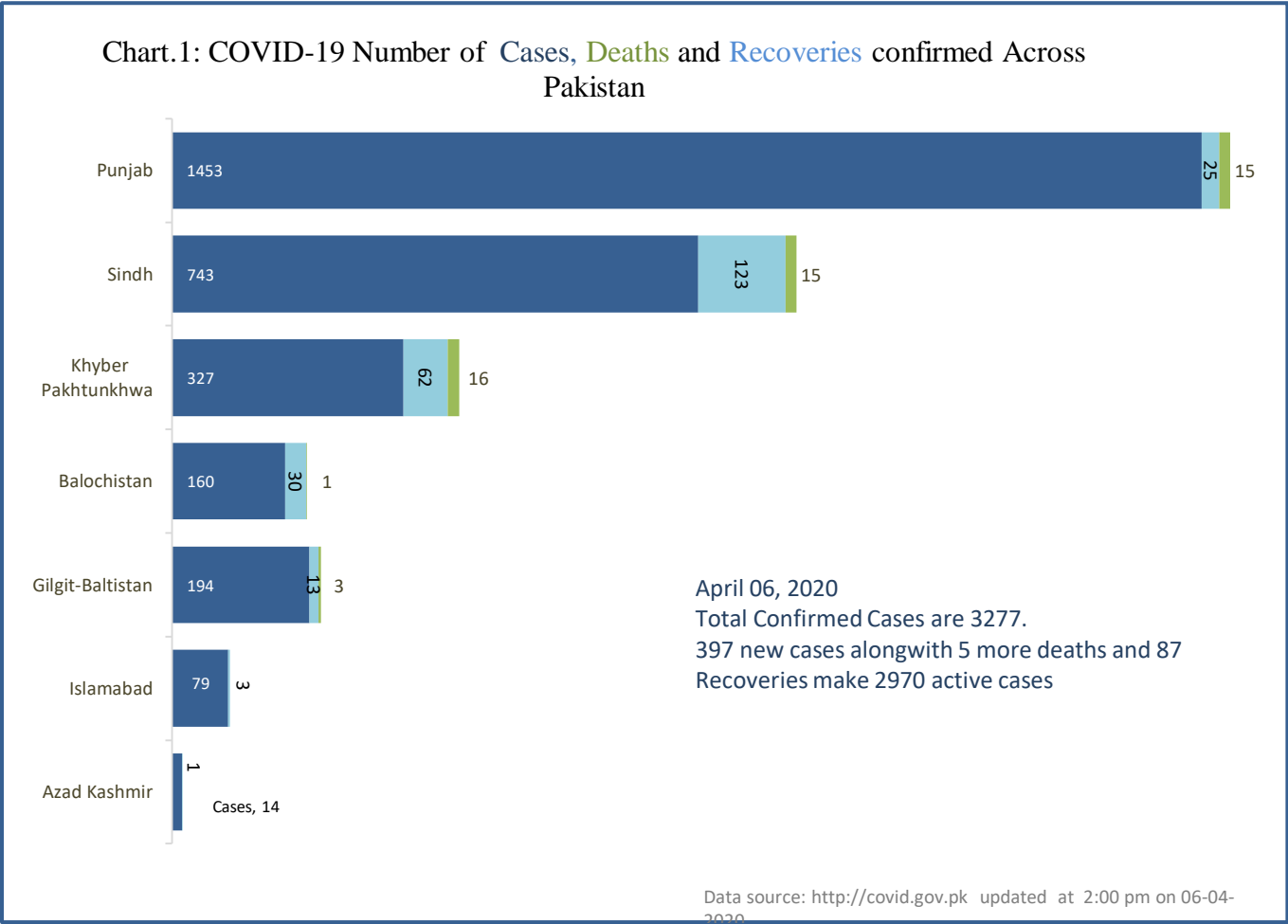
- Sindh CM directs officials to set up ICUs at 6 hospitals in Karachi.
- Punjab schools directed to give 20pc concession in tuition fee.
- Punjab extends partial lockdown till April 14.
- Tableeghi Jamaat members in KP to be sent back to respective provinces after being tested: Wazir.
- Prayer leader among seven sent to two-day police remand over Friday violence
- Pakistan opens border crossings to allow Afghan nationals to return.
- NDMA chairman says 2,000 additional ventilators to be sought from China.
- PIA halts operations from Karachi, rejects reports of pilots infected with COVID-19.
- PIA agrees to provide protective gear to pilots.



A Pakistani health personnel taking part in a drill in Peshawar.

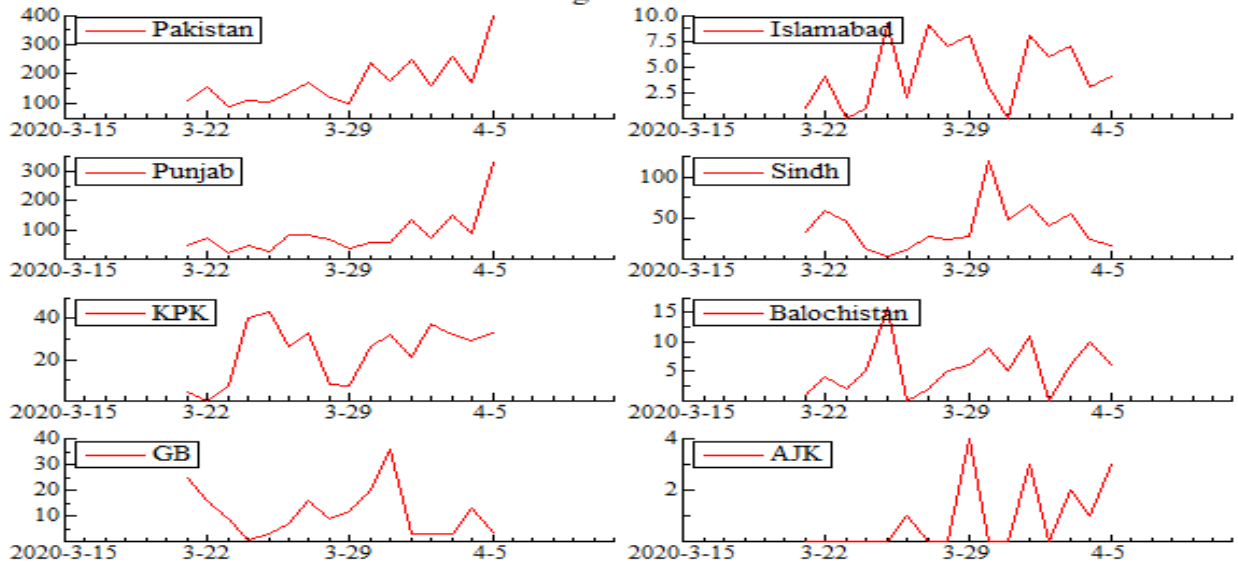
Muhammad Sajjad/The Associated Press

During last 24 hours, 397 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 3277. Three deaths from Punjab and two from Sindh have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 50 deaths and 257 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



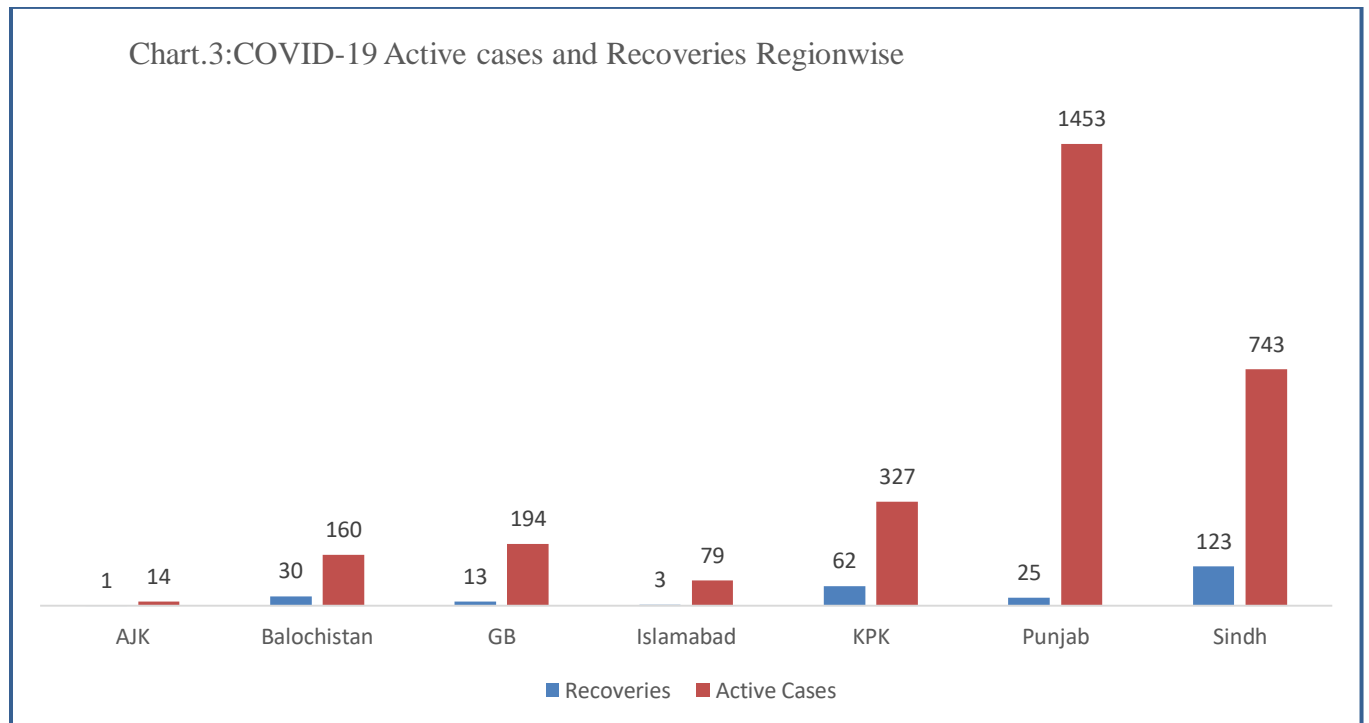
In the month of April the number of new cases increase manifold in Punjab; KPK is also following the increasing trend. In other regions of Pakistan the pattern of new COVID-19 cases stays either stable or decreasing. Since the lockdown imposed by provinces on 24th March 2020, comparatively a strict government intervention by Province Sindh seems paying off; a significant decrease in number of new cases is observed in Sindh, see Chart.2.

Chart.2: COVID-19 Total and Regionwise New Cases



Number of recoveries is highest in province Sindh; astonishingly recoveries in Punjab is even less than Balochistan, see Chart.3. According to medical experts, every Virus has bell shape life cycle, if confined the infection rate decreases to zero; COVID-19 is not an exception. In the absence of Vaccine the only cure is prevention, with social distancing the spread of COVID-19 can be controlled.

Chart.3: COVID-19 Active cases and Recoveries Regionwise



The World after the Coronavirus Pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic has been overwhelmingly exhausting for people all over the world. Some countries have been in deeper waters than others but what unites them is the state of sturdy peril. Policy circles around the globe have posited wide variety of solutions so deal with the economic, social and health aspects of the crises. Scientists believe that the peak of the epidemic is still a few weeks away but it has not prevented us from envisioning the post-coronavirus world. It has been said that the coronavirus pandemic is the biggest challenge for the world since the World War II.¹ No one can be unequivocally sure about how the world would reshape but one thing is for certain that for a very long time, things will change; the way we work, live and socialize will be different from what it was. So, what is the world going to look like?

Technology

The lockdowns and curfews have battered social lives of everyone. The idea of such a restricted and limited life was lost on our generation until this pandemic reared its ugly head. In this stressful period what has kept our sanity buoyant is technology.

Social media has helped us stay in touch with our social circles. Sites such as YouTube and Netflix have helped us provide a nuanced outlook to this curfew. The world is increasingly becoming digitalized and this is how it's going to be further on. The analog aspect of life is losing applicability and practicability. What has helped countries such as China to control the spread of this virus is the hardcore surveillance of its citizens.² Also, the spread of the virus is believed to be aggravated by paper money. So the post-coronavirus world might incorporate digital money and surveillance technology to a larger extent.

Economics

What is common among the economic and financial crises of 1929 (Great Depression), 1997 (Asian Financial Crisis) and 2008 (Lehmann Brothers) is that they altered the way we live our lives and how we interact with our economy. The current pandemic has brought an economic crisis of its own which has thrown financial markets around the world in free-fall. The current economic model of comparative advantage has advanced the difficulties in dealing with the virus.³ It has created a paradox where we need instant supplies of numerous things but at the same time the exchange of people and materials has furthered the scale of contagion. I envision a world in which countries strive to become as self-reliant as they can

be. The dependency on global supply has to be reduced. The economics of today is based on a relentless hunger for perpetual GDP growth which has destroyed man's relationship with nature. The virus is believed to be originated from the cold-market in Wuhan which is home to the world's rarest animals such as pangolins. These animals fetch huge amounts of money and so people leave no stones unturned to hunt them down. The same hunger for GDP growth has led to another evil – climate change. It is high time that governments around the world start implementing a different economic model.

Healthcare

The current health crisis has further crystallized the fact why the NHS in the UK and other free healthcare systems in the world particularly liberal democracies of Scandinavia are a blessing and why the overpriced and underfunded healthcare in the US is extremely counterproductive.⁴ New York City, considered to be one of the most prosperous cities in the world is having trouble coping with the burden of the crisis and it is believed that its healthcare system will not be able to handle the crisis in the coming week. Exorbitant fees in the US have left the poor population without refuge.⁵

Healthcare systems around the world should be regulated by the government as every citizen of the world should have the right to free healthcare. In the coming future, this debate will catch such a momentum that policymakers around the world will find it very difficult to ignore the demand. Governments globally will enhance capabilities of their healthcare systems and develop capacity to avoid a future crisis. Providing healthcare services online and telephone during the pandemic has helped people in isolation to get the help they require. It would not be wrong to say that in the coming future, digitizing healthcare would be a priority for governments.

Wouldn't it be just better for everybody when we could just sit at home and video call our doctor? Telemedicine would save time and doctors will be able to focus on patients with critical need.⁶

Community

The social and socio-economic effect of the pandemic has largely been mitigated because of the compassion showed by the relatively well-off. In countries such as India and Pakistan, people have stepped up to provide hundreds of millions dollar in aids. Also, the needy have let humanity get the better of them by not hoarding the aid provided by various avenues. The community has stepped up for each other in numerous ways.⁷ Such behavior by the public is an overture to what lies ahead. Even after the pandemic has settled the people will become much more flexible towards social welfare and solidarity. Hopefully, a much more humane society will emerge out of this crisis.

Lifestyle

We have altered our way of living by socially distancing and doing everything online, whether it's working, studying, connecting with people or streaming movies and TV shows.⁸ We are trying to function like we did before but changing our ways has taken a toll on every one of us. Feelings of despair have increased in these unprecedented and taxing times affecting the mental health of millions of people.⁹ We are constantly bombarded with instructions and measures to take care of our hygiene. The younger generation is becoming accustomed to home cooking. Even though consumption might be reducing, a fundamental change in consumerism and consumption requires a change in the system. While I believe that some of these changes will linger in the future, some will be left behind. Imagining how life would be after all the bad days are over raises so many questions and thoughts. Will we continue washing our hands properly, use sanitizers and feel anxious while shaking hands or hugging others? Will we evaluate our choices?

The mental and emotional impact of the pandemic cannot be predicted. The coronavirus pandemic has brought extreme distress and suffering for people all over the world. I only hope that we learn from the lessons, recognize what truly matters and strive to do more than we had been doing for a better society and environment. **(Written by Sarah Humayun; a student of department of Business Studies, PIDE)**

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2. <https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-china-surveillance-police-state-xinjiang-2020-2>
3. <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3077879/lessons-coronavirus-pandemic-will-show-our-economic-models-are>
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/21/medicare-for-all-coronavirus-covid-19-single-payer>
5. <https://qz.com/1809382/us-health-care-costs-could-help-coronavirus-spread>
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9. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/02/opinion/mental-health-coronavirus.html>

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the disease being called Coronavirus disease 2019, COVID-19?

On February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, first identified in Wuhan, China. The name of this disease is coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, ‘CO’ stands for ‘corona,’ ‘VI’ for ‘virus,’ and ‘D’ for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as “2019 novel coronavirus” or “2019-nCoV”. (Courtesy: Centers for Disease control and Prevention-CDC)

Is COVID-19 the same as SARS?

No. The virus that causes COVID-19 and the one that caused the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 are related to each other genetically, but the diseases they cause are quite different.

SARS was more deadly but much less infectious than COVID-19. There have been no outbreaks of SARS anywhere in the world since 2003. (Courtesy World Health Organization-WHO)



A man commuting with children wearing masks due to Covid-19–Getty Images

PIDE Picks

(From Kaleem Aftab's article "Why cinema will bounce back from the coronavirus crisis published on April 6, 2020 in BBC).

In recent years, China has posted huge box-office figures. In February 2019, Chinese audiences spent \$1.63 billion on tickets, a record for a single month anywhere in the world. The contrast to February 2020 could not be greater.

The situation is bad all over. In the UK, the popular Tyneside cinema has started a donation campaign to ensure that it will be able to open its doors again. In New York, the world-famous Lincoln Center, home to the New York Film Festival is one of many to serve redundancy notices as it faces a financial battle to keep going.



Recently, some cinemas in China have tried to reopen - as here, disinfecting them first - but almost all have shut down again after receiving a letter from the government. *Getty Images*



After the crisis is over, the hope is that audiences will flock back to cinemas, desperate for the indefinable adrenaline rush that comes from watching a film on the big screen. *Getty Images*

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Feb. 5, 2020 – Feb. 6, 2020)

Feb. 5—Ten passengers from a cruise ship currently docked in Yokohama, Japan, test positive for 2019-nCoV, bringing the total cases in Japan to 35, now the highest among countries with confirmed cases outside mainland China. Global cases total over 28,000, with 565 deaths, and a majority of cases in China. China state media Xinhua also reports a newborn has been infected with the virus, but the route of transmission is still unknown.

Meanwhile in China, the central government has started penalizing officials found to be neglectful in performing their duties in relation to infection prevention and control of the outbreak, amid increasing anecdotal reports of government officials' slow response to the early days of the outbreak.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announces \$100 million in funding in support of 2019-nCoV response and preparedness efforts. WHO estimates resources required from February to April 2020 to amount to \$675 million, as per its newly launched Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.

Feb. 6—Japan announces a \$10 million contribution for WHO's 2019-nCoV outbreak response fund to support countries with weak health systems as they prepare for the potential spread of the virus.

WHO unveils plans to host a global research and innovation forum from Feb. 11-12 in Geneva to bring together leading scientists, public health agencies, ministries of health, and research funders. The forum is aimed at setting the research agenda for 2019-nCoV.

Total cases in China now at 31,161, and 636 deaths. Outside mainland China, cases at 310, with 2 deaths.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>

Experts' View

The youth must understand that our true enemies are backwardness, disease, ignorance, illiteracy, poverty, and unemployment. They must ask why our resources are not being utilized to fight these enemies. Will we keep wasting our resources in preparation against imaginary enemies and wars as we have been doing for over 70 years? Will we ever be ready to fight against disease without begging and borrowing? Today's youth must start reading and thinking, without which they can't play any role to change this society. **(Naazir Mahmood, THE NEWS)**

Concluding, overall the impact of low oil prices on Pakistan's economy would be positive, although there may be some risks of reduction in remittance income and loss of revenue and profits in the domestic oil industry. This may give some space to the government to arrest inflation and offer welfare-oriented consumer tariff for energy items other than oil. While the corona effect may last beyond one year, oil prices may eventually recover partially after touching a new low which has yet to come. **(Syed Akhtar Ali, THE NEWS)**

Experts' Opinion

Based on the material put out so far, it is apparent that the government's economic stimulus to date remains skewed towards large enterprises in the formal sector. A host of refinancing schemes, quicker refunds, interest payment deferments, and tax rebates to particular sectors are important instruments, but they do not hold as much value to the thousands of micro, small and medium enterprises, many of whom do not meet documentation thresholds, and do not exist within the realm of formal banking relations. Turning attention to the informal sector is important not just because they contribute extensively to the economy, but because businesses within this segment also absorb large amounts of urban labour (employing upwards of 60 per cent of the urban workforce). This means there is both an economic stimulus and a welfare and social protection argument to be made for their assistance. **(Dr. Umair Javed, DAWN)**

The real work will start after the immediate crisis passes. But the seeds of the political polarisation that may emerge are already being planted. Brexiters and remainers, pro- and anti-immigration, climate advocates and change deniers will recast themselves as the 'back to normal' brigade versus the 'reimagine and rebuild' squad. The only way to pre-empt a divisive, counterproductive debate in the aftermath is to start having open, inclusive discussions while we're all unified by the threat of the pandemic. Politicians must start that debate now, and ensure a high quality dialogue — nothing less than humanity's future depends on it. **(Huma Yusuf, DAWN)**

World Health Organization

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

No. Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body will not kill viruses that have already entered your body. Spraying such substances can be harmful to clothes or mucous membranes (i.e., eyes, mouth). Be aware that both alcohol and chlorine can be useful to disinfect surfaces, but they need to be used under appropriate recommendations.

Can spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body kill the new coronavirus?



#2019nCoV



The water and sky look clean in Italy after lockdown- *DAWN*



Tableghi Mosques in Pakistan converted into Quarantine centers. *Reuters*

COVID-19 READS

1. These 7 charts show COVID-19's effect on the US job market in March
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/coronavirus-covid19-united-states-economics-employment-business>
2. The Economy Will Survive the Coronavirus
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-economy-will-survive-the-coronavirus-11586103392>
3. Will coronavirus signal the end of capitalism?
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/coronavirus-signal-capitalism-200330092216678.html>
4. How the Coronavirus Pandemic Has Impacted the Travel Industry
<https://www.searchenginejournal.com/coronavirus-pandemic-impact-travel-industry/358128/>

5. How hard will the coronavirus hit the travel industry?
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/2020/04/how-coronavirus-is-impacting-the-travel-industry/>
6. The Curve Is Not Flat Enough
<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/03/coronavirus-forcing-american-hospitals-ration-care/609004/>
7. The culture and politics of the coronavirus
<https://www.clingendael.org/publication/culture-and-politics-coronavirus>
8. Have I already had coronavirus? How would I know and what should I do?
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/apr/05/have-i-already-had-coronavirus-how-would-i-know>
9. Social Distancing Is a Privilege
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/05/opinion/coronavirus-social-distancing.html>
10. Social distancing tips: the rules of safe shopping under coronavirus
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/01/social-distancing-tips-the-rules-of-safe-shopping-under-coronavirus>
11. Covid-19's Impact on Libraries Goes Beyond Books
<https://www.wired.com/story/covid-19-libraries-impact-goes-beyond-books/>
12. The hunt for a coronavirus vaccine
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2020/apr/06/the-hunt-for-a-coronavirus-vaccine-podcast>

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-77

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

1 210 956 confirmed (77200)

67 594 deaths (4810)

Western Pacific Region

112 522 confirmed (1126)

3861 deaths (23)

European Region

655 339 confirmed (33932)

49 479 deaths (3063)

South-East Asia Region

8828 confirmed (1012)

344 deaths (42)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

74 347 confirmed (4054)

3976 deaths (182)

Region of the Americas

352 592 confirmed (36878)

9680 deaths (1493)

African Region

6616 confirmed (198)

243 deaths (7)



A wall is painted in Los Angeles after orders to stay at home—
Reuters

Global News

- Accused of ‘piracy’, US denies diverting masks bound for Germany.
- Coronavirus: Trump warns death rate close to ‘horrific point’ as top doctor speaks of ‘Pearl Harbor moment’.
- US; man shot five people for ‘talking too loud’ during lockdown, investigators say.
- New York City may have to bury coronavirus victims on public lands as deaths overwhelm mortuaries.
- US Coronavirus mortgage bailout: ‘There is going to be complete chaos,’ says industry CEO.
- WHO says the coronavirus can spread one to three days before symptoms start.
- Coronavirus: Defence firm Babcock to make 10,000 ventilators.
- American comedian’s tweet on Abhinandan sends Indian social media into a frenzy.

Global Response

- China sells back medical supplies donated by Italy for fight against coronavirus: report.
- Dow surges 1,100 points as coronavirus shows signs of slowing in New York.
- Coronavirus outbreak spurs record Bible purchases: ‘People are looking for hope’.
- Trump nominates former GSA watchdog as inspector general for coronavirus response.
- Coronavirus outbreak reported at California nursing home after 30 patients, ‘some staff’ test positive.
- Heated disagreement breaks out in Situation Room over hydroxychloroquine, Trump doubles down on unproven drugs to treat virus.
- Asian markets boosted by easing virus toll.
- Small businesses worry coronavirus loans ‘too risky’.
- Coronavirus: New UK car registrations plunge by more than 40%.



Pak Navy distributing ration during Coronavirus crisis.

Image by Channel 24 Digital

Local News

- Thousands of Pakistanis in UAE seek to return home amid coronavirus outbreak.
- Children at risk of missing out on essential routine immunisation amid Covid-19.
- Number of Corona patients doubles in a week.
- IMF delays approval of review for \$450m tranche.
- Doctor in Karachi loses battle against coronavirus but wins hearts.

Local Response

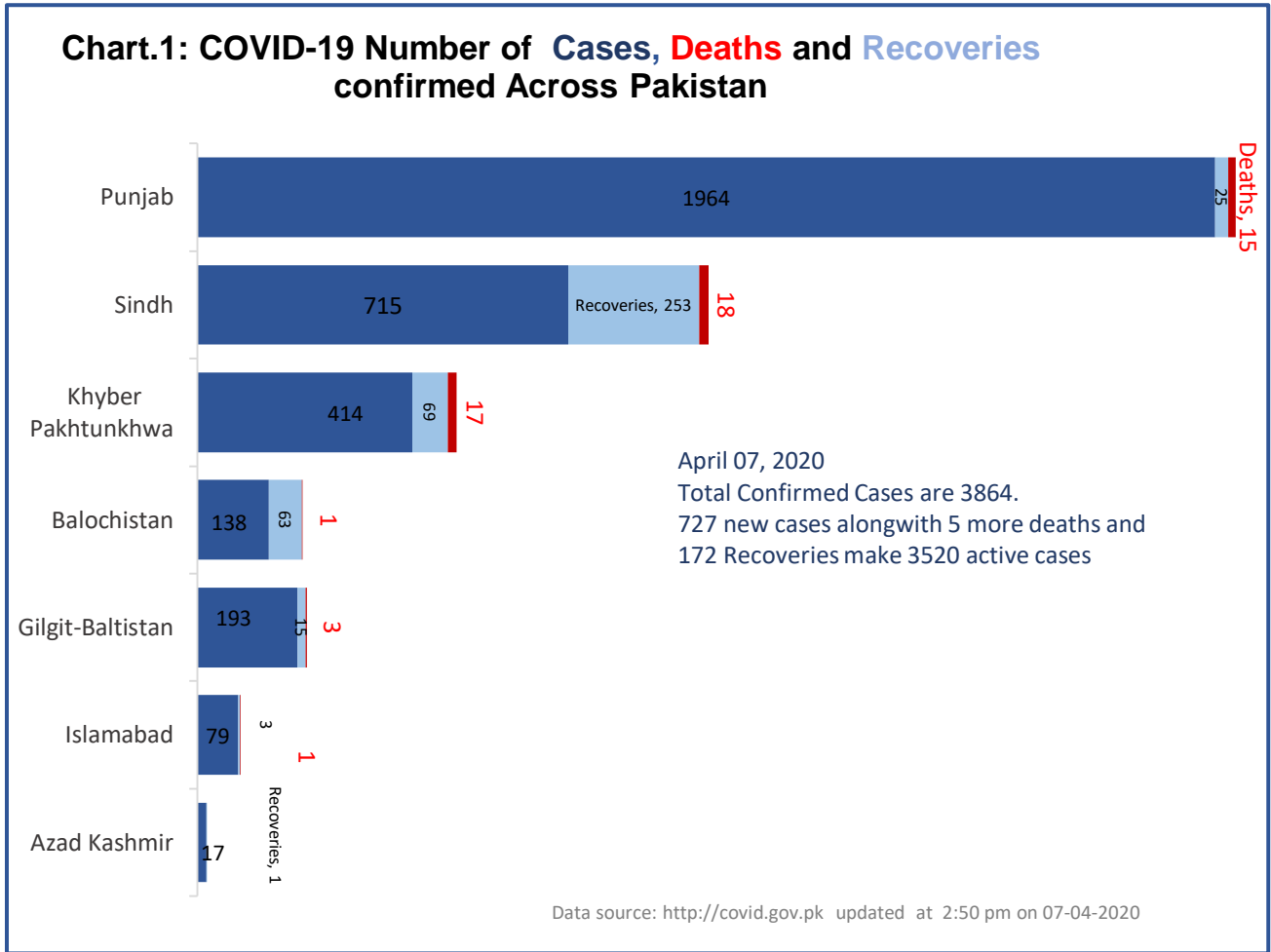
- Outfitters is making protective suits free of cost for medical professionals.
- 250-year-old festival in Okara cancelled due to Covid-19.
- Builders ready to initiate new projects worth Rs1tr.
- Nausheen Amjad replaces Shabbar Zaidi as FBR chairperson.
- Textile giant's top official appeals to govt. to act in timely fashion lest job loss occurs.
- Pakistan hints at delaying privatisation of LNG power plants amid COVID-19 outbreak.
- 'Remain steadfast and patient': Army chief orders dispatch of medical equipment to Quetta
- President for measures to enhance Internet connectivity to facilitate students.



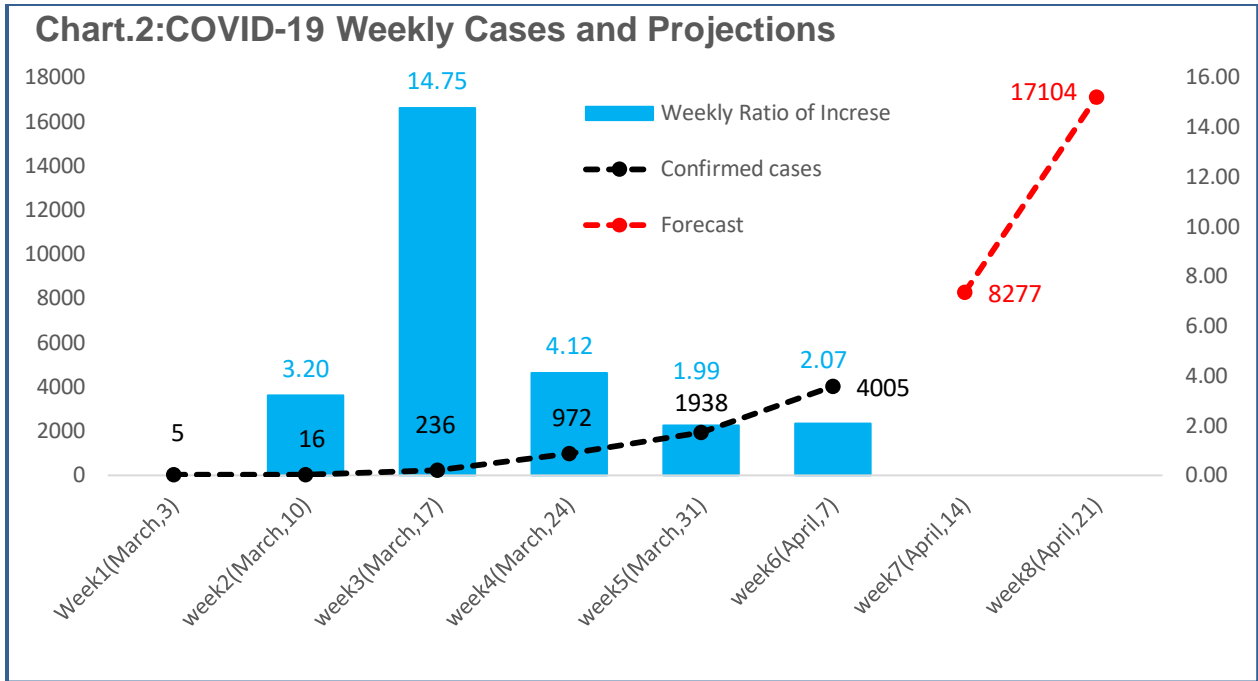
Commuters wear masks on their way to work in Tokyo, Japan.

Kimimasa Mayama/EPA

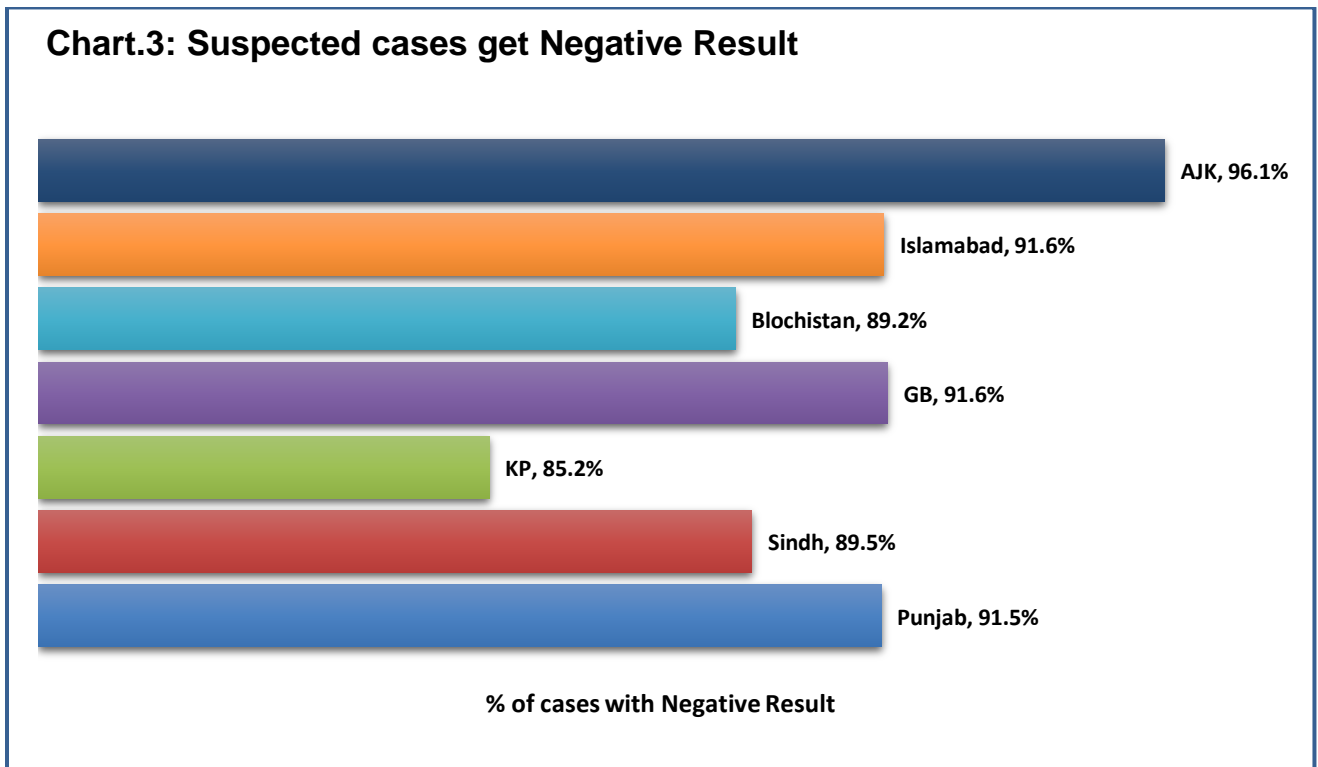
During the last 24 hours, 727 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 4004. Three deaths from Sindh, two from KP and one from Islamabad have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 55 deaths and 429 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



For the last two weeks the COVID-19 cases are increasing with the common ratio of approximately 2.1. At the end of 5th week (March,31,2020) of COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan the number of confirmed cases were 1938, almost double of last week and at the end 6th week the number of confirmed cases rises to 3918 (with almost common ratio of 2.2). Under the assumption that these cases will rise at the same pace, at the end of 7th week (April 14,2020) this number expected to be around 8000 and at the end of third week it might go above 16000, see Chart. 2.



Fortunately the ratio of number of people with negative result after COVID-19 test is on average 90% in Pakistan. In province of Punjab this ratio is 91.5%, Sindh 89.5%, KP 85.2%, Baluchistan 89.2%, GB 91.6%, in AJK 96.1% and in ICT 91.6%.



Media Hype during COVID-19

The Globe is facing one of the most outrageous pandemics, after Influenza outbreak in 1918. COVID-19 commonly known as the Novel corona virus is spreading rapidly. The coping mechanisms of countries vary as per how efficient their healthcare system is and the level of understanding the general public has about the spread, prevention and control of the virus.

As per the latest statistics 4004 confirmed cases have been reported in Pakistan. Countries like Pakistan, where the health system is not up to the mark and the quality and quantity of services vary from public to private the pandemic has been like a storm for the general public. What adds more to the broth is the media, sources of information and the perception builders of the masses. Indeed, the role played by these mediums of information is appreciable when it comes to advocacy and educating the people regarding the preventive measures and ways to combat the spread and yes, entertaining them in their quarantine period but on the other hand creates a hype among the public about the pandemic. From the very beginning, not just the news channels but the social media platforms, WhatsApp and Facebook specifically as they are commonly used by the people have been the sources where the statistics from different domains have been uploaded and more focus was driven towards the rise in death toll caused due to the pandemic.

The government has asked the public to stay calm and use the necessary measures to prevent the spread of the virus. Since, the myths about the spread and prevention were increasing day by day, the public started seeking authentic information from sources like World Health organization and the official Government websites/pages.

In the very beginning the media channels were trying to politicize the outbreak, what can be assessed is that the responsible journalism in the majority has failed to deliver in its true spirit. A difference between inquiring about the necessary interventions and insulting the government representatives can be clearly seen at many press conferences, discussing about the facilities and highlighting how the previous government has given less focus towards healthcare.

The Public Health experts are of the view that corona should be taken seriously but should not be dealt by causing an alarming situation and spreading panic among the public, if only media channels play a more vital role along with the government we will be able to overcome this at a greater pace. Government should put up a little check upon the media channels because their role will build the perception among the public and their contribution will indeed bring about positivity. **(Written by Mian Ali Kamran Baba, a student at the Department of Development Studies, PIDE)**

Former Vice President of ICCI views: Coronavirus impacts on small businesses

The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry has set up a relief camp to provide support to the needy people as well as ICCI appealed to all of its members to participate and donate funds for this cause. It will be decided later that the disbursement of the fund has been taken by ICCI itself or deposited in the PM's relief fund.

In an informal meeting the former Vice President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Saeed Ahmed Bhatti discussed the real situation of Coronavirus lockdown and its impact on business activities of Islamabad.

He said, more than 90% of business is closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. During the lockdown of the past two weeks, almost all businesses have been shut down except grocery, milk, fruit and vegetable shops in Islamabad. Hence, the pandemic is impacting every part of our lives.

The unavailability of the data on financial loss due to this lockdown, which is extended to the 14th of April, is a big hindrance for the estimation of loss on the basis of an individual city. In such a situation, the guess-game for data will not be a good idea.

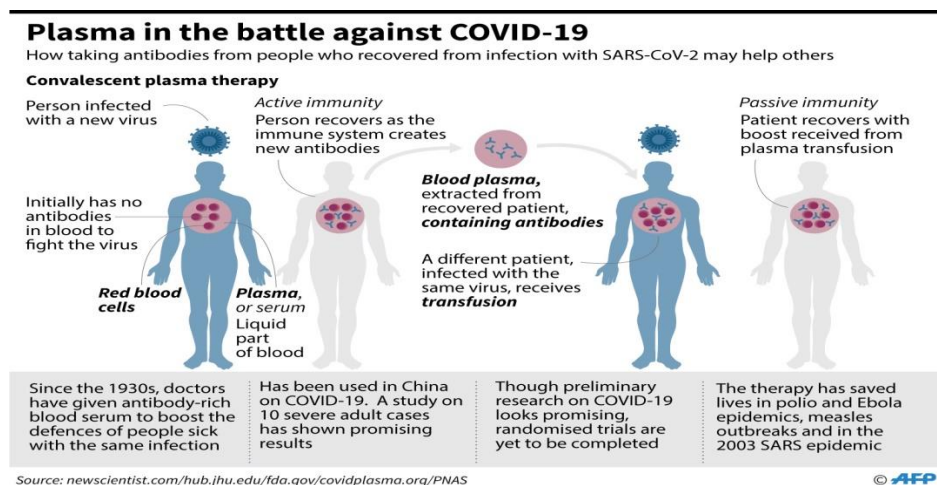
Laborers will likely bear the brunt of the economic impact of coronavirus and they are the most likely to suffer, particularly as many face work hour reductions. It is unclear how badly the COVID-19 will hit the micro-businesses and labor market. The economic cost of lockdown cannot be calculated for the time being, as we have no exact statistics for each city.

He appreciated, historic PM relief package worth US\$8 billion but showed concern on the mechanism of disbursement of the amount to the deserving people. Since the government has

already announced to deliver the grocery bag to the needy people at their doorstep which is still in the pipeline. There is no package for small shopkeepers, vendors, no reduction in electricity bills, and no waiver in rents for small shops. Most of the trader community has expressed dissatisfaction over the economic package as announced by the Prime Minister given the spread of coronavirus in the country.

It is not easy to predict the economic condition of every city due to limited data, even for Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. The economic condition is uncertain and do not have much information of immediate future impact of Coronavirus. In 2014-2015, according to FBR, 20% of revenue generated from larger taxpayers of Islamabad. Flour, ghee & oil mills, pharmaceutical, marble and steel industries are not working due to Coronavirus pandemic and they contribute a major share of FBR revenue from Islamabad. So, it would not be easy to estimate the impact of this lockdown even on the revenue of Islamabad.

He also appreciated medical officials, their round the clock services despite the risks fears. They are frontline fighters and keeping our society functioning. He was also thankful to all cleaners, delivery boys, grocery workers and to all those doing vital work that leaves them exposed (written by Nadeem Ahmed Khan; Assistant Professor at PIDE and Shahzaib Khan, a student at the Department of Business Studies, PIDE)



AFP graphic on the potential use of blood plasma from patients who have recovered from COVID-19, to help other infected people. Image courtesy: AFP news agency

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does the virus survive on surfaces?

It is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces, but it seems to behave like other coronaviruses. Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g. type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment).

If you think a surface may be infected, clean it with simple disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others. Clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose.

Can humans become infected with the COVID-19 from an animal source?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in animals. Occasionally, people get infected with these viruses which may then spread to other people. For example, SARS-CoV was associated with civet cats and MERS-CoV is transmitted by dromedary camels. Possible animal sources of COVID-19 have not yet been confirmed.

To protect yourself, such as when visiting live animal markets, avoid direct contact with animals and surfaces in contact with animals. Ensure good food safety practices at all times. Handle raw meat, milk or animal organs with care to avoid contamination of uncooked foods and avoid consuming raw or undercooked animal products.

Source: World Health Organization

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Feb. 7, 2020 – Feb. 8, 2020)

Feb. 7 — The Asian Development Bank approves \$2 million to support response capacity efforts against the 2019-nCoV outbreak in the Asia-Pacific region. The fund will supplement the bank's technical assistance work in several Southeast Asian countries as well as China. The bank is working with WHO to identify areas for further possible financial assistance.

Confirmed cases in Japan jump to 86, as the number of infected rises to 61 inside a cruise ship docked in Yokohama. Patients include non-Japanese citizens.

Meanwhile, a local doctor in Wuhan, Li Wenliang, who tried to raise the alarm on the 2019-nCoV in December, dies. His death causes further angry sentiments in China, where he has been hailed a hero, with some calling for “freedom of speech” in the country where communication is tightly controlled by the government.

South Korea news daily JoongAng Ilbo reports of confirmed 2019-nCoV in North Korea, but this has yet to be confirmed by WHO. WHO representative to North Korea Edwin Ceniza Salvador tells Devex the U.N. agency has not received any report of coronavirus cases from North Korea's public health ministry.

WHO announces that 28 countries in Africa now have the capacity to diagnose coronavirus — up from an initial two. By the end of the weekend, all other African nations should have the capacity to do so as well, according to the agency. This was later revised on Feb. 13 to 17 countries.

WHO tells reporters on a press call that there is a “severe global disruption” in the market for personal protective equipment, impacting access for front-line health workers. Demand is up to 100 times higher than normal and prices are 20 times higher, resulting in “depleted stockpiles and backlogs of four to six months.”

The United States pledges \$100 million to the 2019-nCoV response.

Feb. 8 — At a press conference, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus criticizes the levels of misinformation spreading around the virus, saying “we're not just battling the virus; we're also battling the trolls and conspiracy theorists that push misinformation and undermine the outbreak response.” He says WHO is engaging with Facebook, Google, Tencent, Baidu, Twitter, TikTok, Weibo, Pinterest, and others to promote accurate information about 2019-nCoV.

Five British citizens test positive for the virus at a ski resort in eastern France.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>

Experts' View

We cannot keep drawing on the heroism of Pakistanis and returning to business as usual. Business as usual is the sugar and wheat crisis. If you are angry about this, you have to ignore your own ego, and think about the system at large. Covid-19 makes this window of opportunity larger than any that may have existed before. The heroism of the people on the ground needs to be paid back with heroism in the committee room, and on video conferences. We do not need to eat the rich. We need to make sure that the poor eat..

(Mosharraf Zaidi, THE NEWS)

For democracy to be meaningful, its institutions must adapt to the future and to public needs in real time. Pakistan's economy is on ventilator, and little coordination is visible from Islamabad. Our informal sector and daily wagers are in urgent need of social protection, while health professionals are in desperate need of equipment. Parliaments must seek answers on economic transparency and aid inflows while ensuring the delivery of government benefits with both care and compassion. **(Sherry Rehman, The Express Tribune)**

Experts' Opinion

Infrastructure development is closely associated with economic growth, and even in the West, policymakers are making a case for pumping in money for infrastructure to stimulate growth. However, the incentives package alone may not be the ultimate solution to get Pakistan out of the current economic crisis or even to create a construction boom. As soon as we adapt to the 'new normal' of working in the Covid-19 world, the next challenge would be to kickstart the economy and that is when the construction package is likely to help. **(Hasaan Khawar, The Express Tribune)**

Today, 'nation branding' is essential. Policymakers should identify and imaginatively incorporate our soft power resources into our foreign policy, engaging more vigorously in public diplomacy to shape the narrative abroad. There is no reason why Pakistan should remain at the bottom of the Global Soft Power League. **(Maliha Lodhi, DAWN)**

World Health Organization
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

UV lamps should not be used to sterilize hands or other areas of skin as UV radiation can cause skin irritation.

Can an ultraviolet disinfection lamp kill the new coronavirus?



#2019nCoV



Rescue workers checking equipment to check body temperatures—
Getty Images

COVID-19 READS

1. The COVID-19 Virus May Have Been in Humans For Years, Study Suggests
<https://www.sciencealert.com/the-new-coronavirus-could-have-been-percolating-innocently-in-humans-for-years>
2. Corona, Crises and Reforms
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/640484-corona-crises-and-reform>
3. Social Distancing Is A Distant Dream In Pakistan's Urban Slum
<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/04/06/827999804/social-distancing-is-a-distant-dream-in-pakistans-urban-slums>
4. COVID-19 Could Set Women Back Decades on Gender Equality
<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2020-04-06/commentary-coronavirus-pandemic-may-set-women-back-decades-on-equality>
5. How the Coronavirus Pandemic Has Impacted the Travel Industry
<https://www.searchenginejournal.com/coronavirus-pandemic-impact-travel-industry/358128/>
6. Don't Let Fear of Covid-19 Turn into Stigma
<https://hbr.org/2020/04/dont-let-fear-of-covid-19-turn-into-stigma>
7. Pakistan ill-equipped to fight COVID-19: Healthcare workers
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/pakistan-ill-equipped-fight-covid-19-healthcare-workers-200404095933357.html>
8. Coronavirus map of the US: latest cases state by state
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2020/apr/07/coronavirus-map-of-the-us-latest-cases-state-by-state>
9. COVID-19 and Oil markets
<https://www.fxstreet.com/analysis/covid-19-and-oil-markets-202004020623>
10. A virologist writes to his family to explain Europe's lockdown
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/why-we-cant-end-lockdown-soon/>
11. No work, no stimulus check add anxiety for undocumented immigrant laborers
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/04/07/undocumented-immigrant-workers-feel-extra-anxiety-amid-coronavirus/2957122001/>
12. UK fashion retailers brace for shakeup as clothing piles up in warehouses
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/apr/05/cath-kidston-to-call-in-administrators-amid-coronavirus-lockdown>

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-79

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

1 353 361 confirmed (73 639)

79 235 deaths (6695)

Western Pacific Region

114 667 confirmed (1026)

3922 deaths (30)

European Region

720 219 confirmed (33 881)

57 639 deaths (4904)

South-East Asia Region

10 707 confirmed (1575)

426 deaths (64)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

81 993 confirmed (3428)

4314 deaths (165)

Region of the Americas

417 416 confirmed (33 174)

12 597 deaths (1500)

African Region

7647 confirmed (555)

326 deaths (32)



**A Red Crescent worker checking temperature of a man
at railway station—Reuters**

Global News

- Confirmed cases of COVID-19 have exceeded 1.5 million globally, with the death toll surpassing 88,000, according to Johns Hopkins University (JHU).
- Chinese officials ended the lockdown on Wuhan, where the coronavirus first emerged. But the city that has reopened is a profoundly damaged one.
- New York State reported 731 more deaths, its largest one-day increase, after two days of flattening numbers. But hospitalizations are slowing.
- Rohingya camps in Bangladesh put under 'complete lockdown'.
- New York is having a hard time coping with coronavirus.
- Zoom hires former Facebook security chief as app use grows.

- Spain has 'reached the peak' of the pandemic.
- Millions of coronavirus infections left undetected worldwide—study.

Global Response

- Swiss govt. to amend bankruptcy laws to protect firms hit by coronavirus crisis.
- Chennai disinfects streets as India's lockdown persists.
- Coronavirus fuels a surge in fake medicines.
- Coronavirus in India: Bihar's healthcare system faces risk of collapse.
- Pakistan 'deeply concerned' over lack of medical supplies in occupied Kashmir: FO.
- China seeks to contain new coronavirus 'silent carriers'.



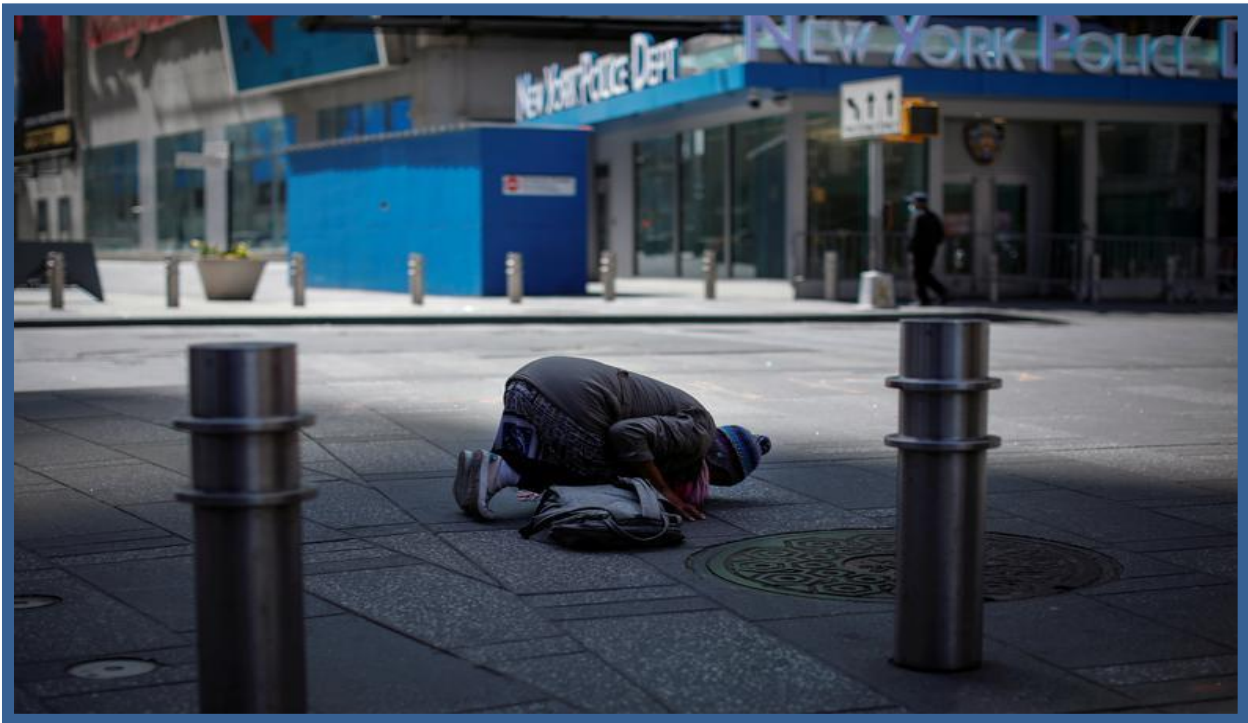
A man is being tested for COVID-19—*Reuters*

Local News

- Sindh case tally reaches 1,128 with 92 new cases.
- Lahore's Christian community will not hold Good Friday events tomorrow.
- PM Imran departs for Quetta to review Covid-19 situation in Balochistan.
- Bhara Kahu, Shahzad Town de-sealed by capital admin.
- Another 105 recover from Covid-19 in Pakistan.
- 300 Pakistani students stranded in Bangladesh cry out for help.

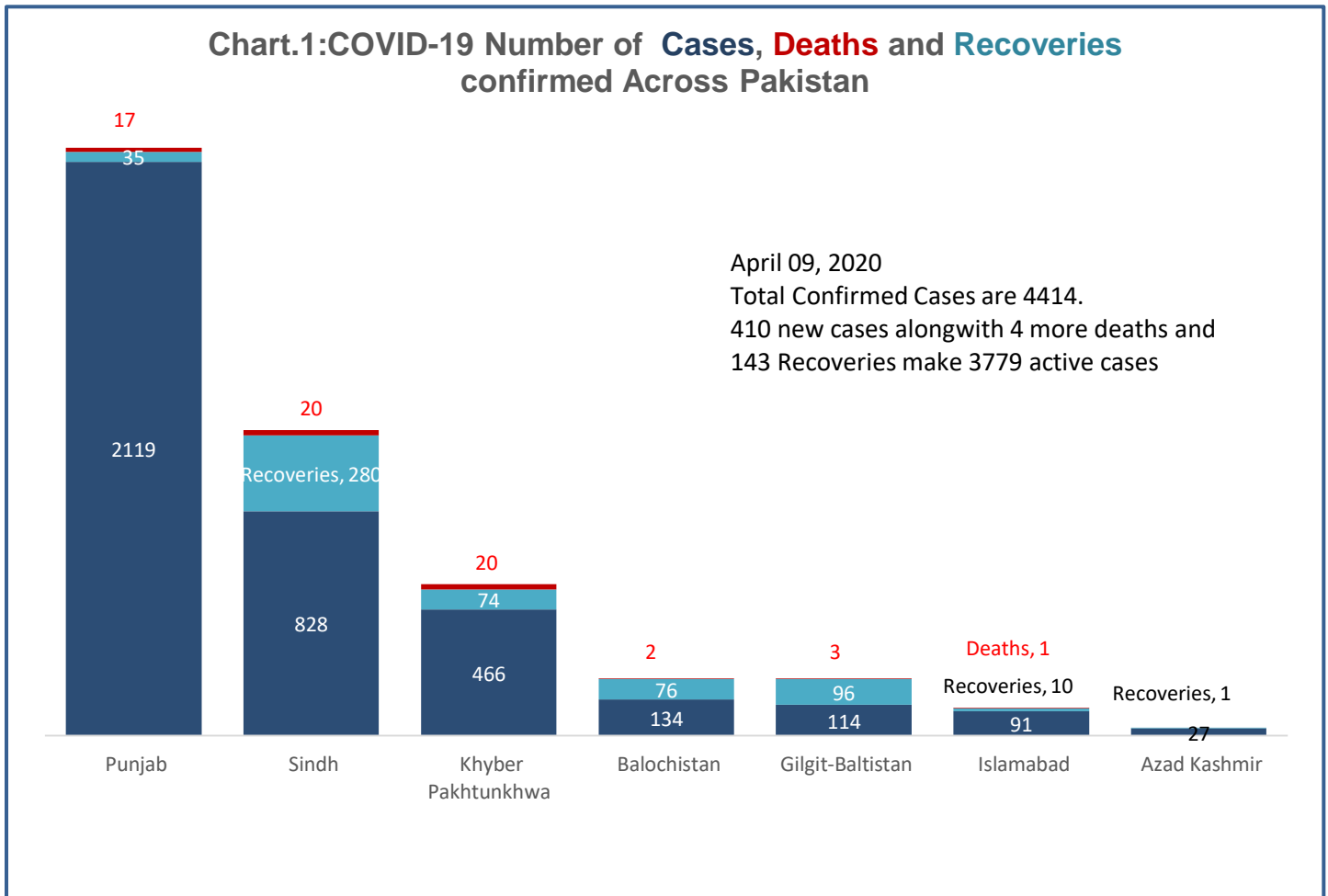
Local Response

- PM Imran says burden on healthcare system will increase, nationwide tally crosses 4,400.
- Sindh lockdown 'likely' to be eased after Apr 14, public gatherings to remain banned: CM spokesman.
- Health ministry allows clinical trials of plasma therapy, says Dr Mirza.
- Drap allows use of alcohol, hydrogen peroxide and glycerol for hand sanitiser production.
- Gilgit to observe curfew on Thursday, Friday mornings from 11am.
- PIA to bring back Pakistani nationals stranded in Baku, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok.
- Construction sector to open from 14th: Govt. help for poor from today.
- Majority stay indoors, but some visit graveyards ahead of Shab-e-Barat.



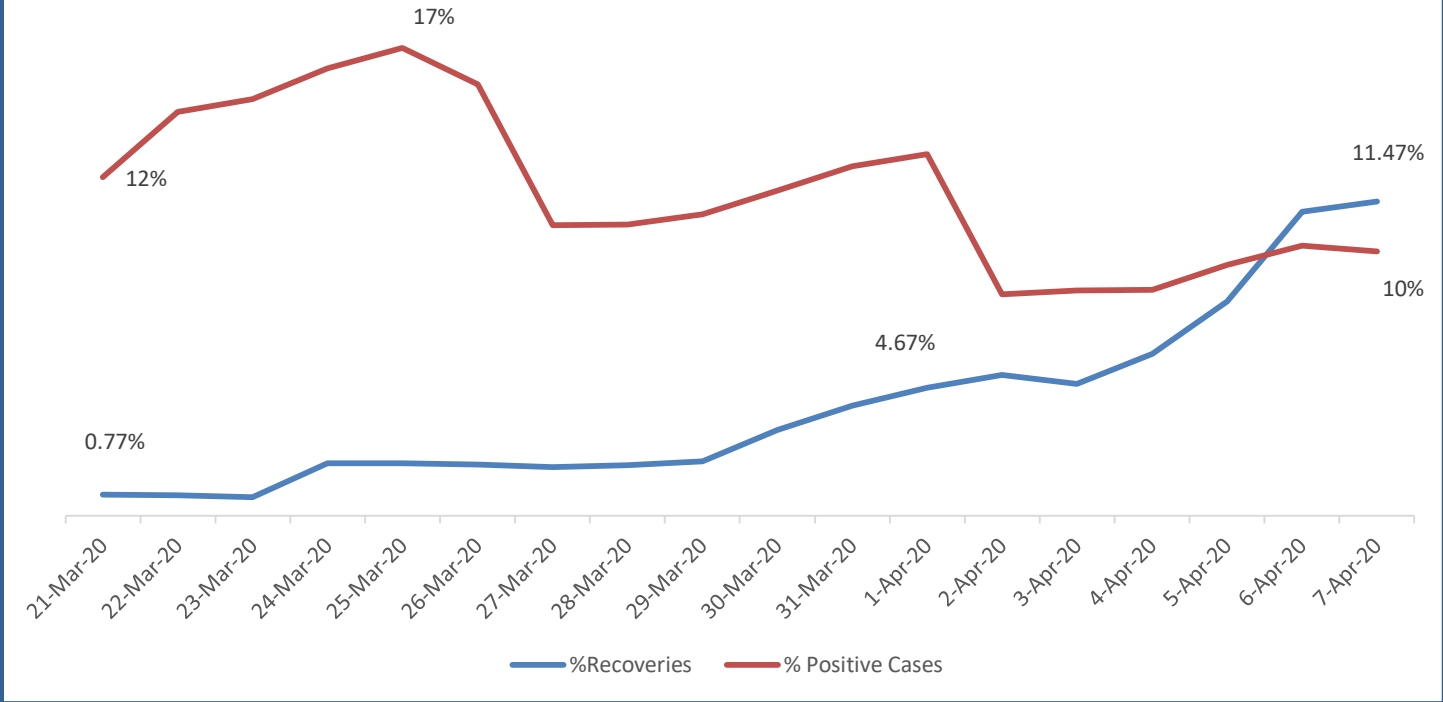
**A lady praying in empty Manhattan, which is otherwise,
the busiest area of New York—Reuters**

During the last 24 hours, 92 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 4414. Two deaths from Sindh and KP, and one from Punjab have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 63 deaths and 572 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



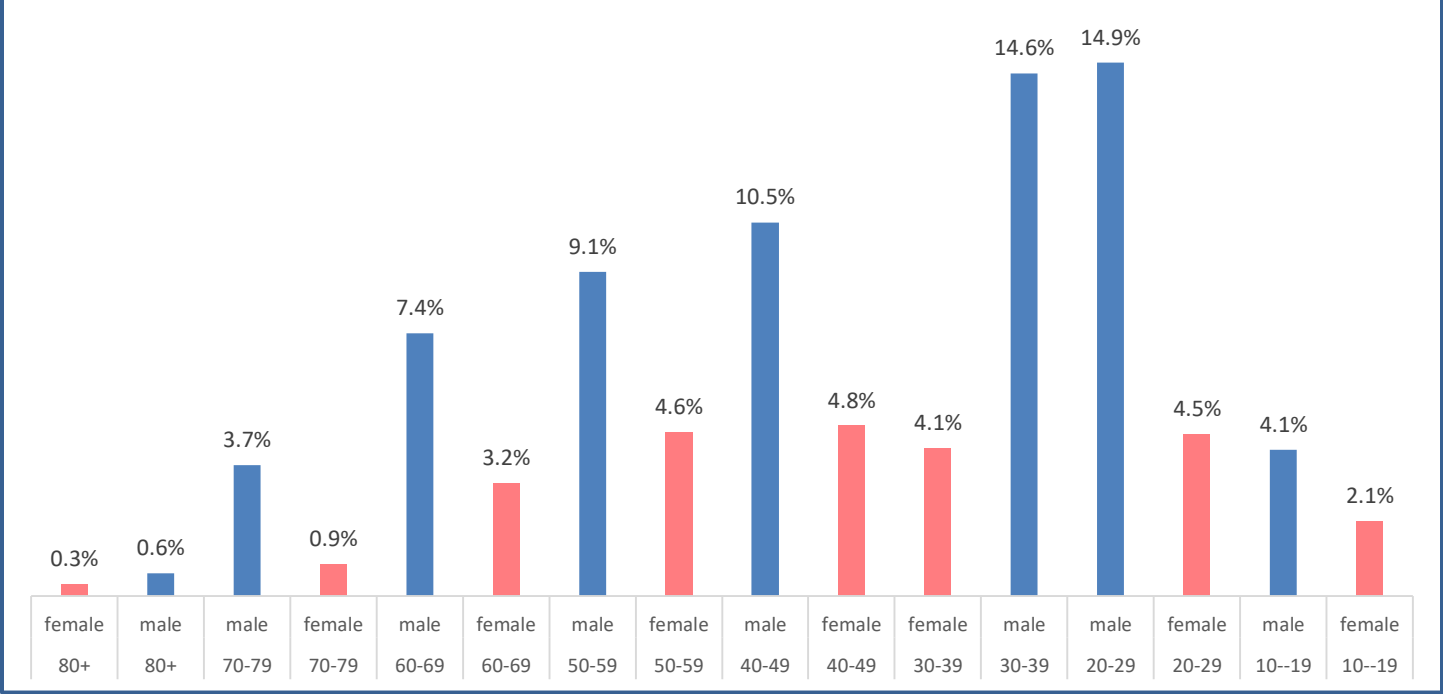
Though the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing, but it is observed that the percentage of positive cases (ratio of confirmed cases to total tested) is gradually decreasing. During the shown period it remained highest in last week of March 2020, a clear decreasing pattern is shown in April 2020. Also the percentage of recoveries is increasing exponentially, with in last few days the number of recoveries increases three threefold. May be these two interpretations provide not enough evidence to say anything related to high immunity against COVID-19; it might be a possible result of social distancing and increased personal normative belief of masses about precautionary measures amid COVID-19 pandemic, see Chart.2.

Chart.2:COVID-19 Recoveries and Positive cases in percentage point



COVID-19 is contagious, with no vaccine available the only cure is prevention. It is observed that more exposed, age and gender, groups are more vulnerable to COVID-19. Generally male of prime age are more vulnerable to pandemic. Particularly the males of age 20-39 are highest hit by pandemic, the females of same age group are about one third only, see Chart.3.

Chart.3:COVID-19 Age and Gender wise cases in percentage points



In The Middle of COVID-19, Global Epidemic

Recently a pandemic engrosses the whole world named as coronavirus or COVID-19: a transferrable disease which is caused by a virus discovered lately. Basically, this virus is assumed to instigate in Wuhan city of China last year and World Health Organization (WHO) announced coronavirus a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. There is no particular vaccine for covid-19, till the date; however, there are numerous current clinical experiments identifying probable treatments. Besides, the number of cases in China appears to downturn after taking extreme actions by the government, but in Europe and USA the situation is going to be comparatively worse. Glaringly, the counties all around the world took the instantaneous measures and limit their activities but the number of cases is still inclining and it is the challenging situation for every sector especially the healthcare centres. In short, this global epidemic which has spread in the length and width of the world; influenced human life from every perspective such as economically, environmentally, and socially. In this article, I will try to touch all the apparent aspects of this issue.

To embark on, this lethal pandemic adversely affecting the people's social lives worldwide, as WHO urged people to maintain social distancing to curb the spread of the virus. Howbeit, according to the new reports of Aljazeera, WHO now start using the term physical distancing rather than social distancing as it has not good influence on people's mental health. Grievously, the virus already took hundreds of lives of people all over the world but this is not it; it also has drastic effects on people's mental health. As the finance minister of the Germany' Hesse state, Thomas Schaefer, killed himself after being depressed on how to manage the economic crisis from the coronavirus. Similarly, a citizen of Pakistan's biggest city Karachi also committed suicide because he thought he caught the virus and he did not want to transfer the virus to his family. People are under great fear of the coronavirus especially after knowing the situation of some advanced countries of Europe and their death toll. The government of Pakistan, like the other counties, also burn the candles from both ends against the cruel virus and taking every probable precautionary measure to keep its citizens safe. It should be noted that the role of the paramedical staff is phenomenal and we cannot thank enough as they are dealing with the patients despite of all the circumstances and without proper facilities as compared to the developed world. Also, we cannot deny the part that police and army is playing as they are still on duty to guide the citizens and asking everyone to stay at homes.

However, unfortunately there are still people who do not follow the instructions of government and do not take the situation as something serious. They are still busy in their normal life activities such as going outside and not maintaining the physical distancing. Consequently, according to the officials the number of novel coronavirus in Pakistan is reached up to 2,007, with the death toll soared to 26, whereas 12 are in critical condition. Until now, the 58 persons are recovered and discharged from the hospital.

Moving on, the world economic activities are also ramping down critically by the coronavirus pandemic. As the governments have been compelled to close down the borders, educational institutions and markets; due to the total confirmed cases of coronavirus have reached to 862,766 with 641,104 active case and 42,534 deaths, worldwide. According to the CNN business some experts claimed that China's economy may face a recession for the first time since 1970's. As far as Pakistan's economy is concerned it is already on ventilator; now, this global pandemic can damage the economy even worse than before. The government of Pakistan also put country under severe lockdown to confine the movement of citizen; yet, it has dire effects on business

community and on job holders as well. As reported by the rough evaluation this global monster will cause economic fall of R.s.1.3 trillion to the Pakistan's economy. Country is now facing a demand-pull inflation as the people buying excessive stuff out of panic; on the contrary, the sellers create an artificial shortage of products which leads to more dreading situation among populace.

Likewise, education sector is also disturbed by the pandemic due to the closure of educational institutes globally. In consonance with the data of March 25 by UNESCO, all worldwide educational organisations in 185 countries were advised to remain close due to the covid-19. This will affect more than 1.5 billion pupils overall, comprises of over 89% enrolled students.

By the same token, the virus somehow has a strong influence on the religious activities around the globe, as the governments now banned most of the religious gatherings to restraint the transmission of the virus. For clarification, in Rome, St. Peter's Church has been totally closed; also, the cathedral management and priests from different countries and faiths cancelled the conferences. Likewise, the colourful festivals of Hindus called Holi also celebrated passively in India. Moreover, the Jewish Purim commemoration also had the similar restrictions, a few days back. Even the Muslim councils and Islamic scholars also vowed that it is permissible for the local mosque to cancel the Friday's congregational prayer and other daily prayers for the health sake. The great mosque of Mecca is also closed which revealed the seriousness of the situation, and the precautions and concerns of the management. The Ullams of Islam and experts also warned to use this crisis for the collisional activities; for instance, in some counties of south, the Muslim scholars are illustrating this epidemic as the revenge of God. Some others said that it is the torment from God caused by the grievances of millions of oppressed Muslims all around the world.

Perhaps, the only positive impact of this perilous virus is that the air pollution and greenhouse gasses have surprisingly slumped. According to the New York researchers the carbon monoxide mainly produced by the vehicles dropped down by 50% comparatively the last year. Moreover, carbon dioxide emissions have also declined rapidly.

In retrospection, the universal pandemic not only poses a dreadful health risk but also confounded the social lives of people. Correspondingly, it blows the global economic situation as there is a rapid recession can be observed in the economies all around the world. One the other side of the coin, it also accommodating the environment as the level of toxic gas emissions have fell down by great extent. **(Written by Abdul Khaliq; a student at the department of Economics and Econometrics, PIDE)**

Social Media and COVID-19

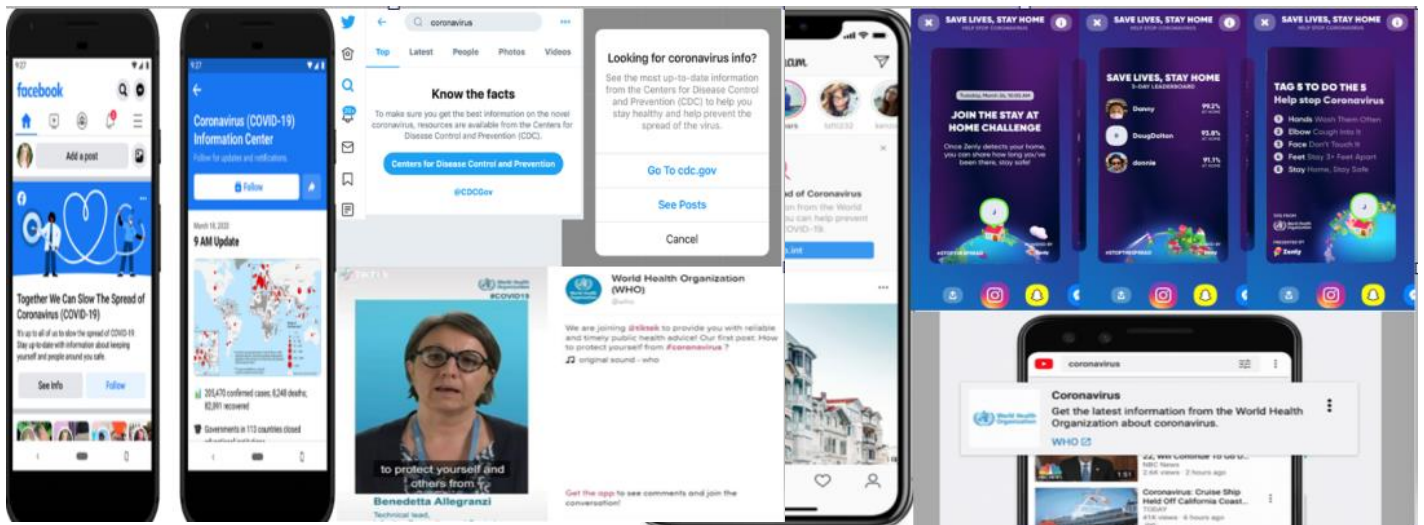
The unanticipated epidemic started in China in December 2019 and now it has become a pandemic with confirmed COVID-19 cases in 209 countries reported by the World Health Organization (WHO). This pandemic leads to curfews and lockdowns globally which along with health care practices such as social distancing, isolation, and self-quarantine bring people to social media and it became the reason for the upsurge in social media consumption. In this virtual crowd, social media is a race and all the social media sites try to be ahead of other sites. The



news about COVID-19 spread on these sites like the forest fire, faster than the virus. In the wake of vast information skeptical of accuracy and difficult to be dealt with WHO declared it as 'infodemic'. Masses using social media came across the news either in search to get the updates or being informed about it through shared messages and posts on these sites. Many social media sites have joined hands with WHO to provide information about COVID-19. There is a separate link for this in a box on many sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit, Youtube. On WhatsApp, WHO health alert has also been launched before that WhatsApp Coronavirus Information Hub has also been launched with the partnership of WHO, UNICEF and UNDP. These links are reliable and provide authentic news. On Twitter and Instagram, since the emergence of a pandemic, the hashtags of coronavirus have been on trending and prove to be informative to some extent but they are not considered as credible. On WhatsApp photos, videos, voice notes have been shared about coronavirus and its precaution and remedies. Most of this shared information is rumors and hoaxes which are being shared by someone trustworthy hence masses are practicing and sharing it more. This behavior turned misinformation into disinformation and is escalating more on these sites tremendously. Different websites have also been made to help people in this difficult time. There are some websites on detecting illness such as Med Call that have been like a self-test with all the symptoms of this disease, in the end, it will tell you either you are infected or not and how many chances you have to get this virus. In Pakistan, there is another website Doctors247online, it is a corona telemedicine helpline that connects different doctors and you can get any information about corona from online doctors. The link to these sites has been circulated more on social media sites. Celebrities, athletes, social media influencers are also using these sites effectively, they have been educating their fans about coronavirus, how to stay safe and calm and what to do in quarantine.

On the contrary, social media also created an atmosphere of fear. The panic and fear are helpful up to some extent, it helped people to stay at home, to take some precautionary measures. But now somehow it crosses that extent and turned to be a nightmare. All the voice notes on WhatsApp about treatment by people pretending to be doctor, fake remedies, videos on affected people and deaths, conspiracy theories about Islamic teaching, racism aggravated this panic. Some people are sharing memes considering its entertainment however, some take them seriously and get terrified. According to many studies use of social media is linked with anxiety and depression and, psychologists said that amidst isolation there are chances of mental illness. The loneliness, thoughts about the job, salary, health can make people anxious and suicidal, the existing panic heightened by social media can be fatal in this situation. This fear has been acknowledged by officials and many measures have been taken to get rid of this state. Director of WHO said, "we are not just fighting an epidemic we are fighting an infodemic". Facebook Twitter, Tiktok and Youtube is eliminating misinformation by blocking, demoting and elevating posts to tackle this infodemic. Moreover, the WHO Information Network for Epidemics (epi-win) has also been launched, an amplification network aims to debunk myths that emerge on social media to disseminate information by a force of Mythbusters. Now the question is have you been lost or found yourself lately? To not get caught in this web of infodemic one should use official websites such as WHO and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for accurate information or to confirm any news related to COVID-19. Along with social media sites, being a responsible citizen we should also help WHO to fight this pandemic and infodemic by sharing any news after confirming it from some reliable sources. Staying home, avoiding panic,

staying calm, getting updated through reliable sources and sharing credible information, staying connected with acquaintances through social media sites is the powerful sword in this fight indeed. (Written by Ayesha Waheed; an alumna of Department of Development Studies, PIDE)



<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/637705-coronavirus-outbreak-fuels-conspiracy-theories-on-social-media>
<https://time.com/5802802/social-media-coronavirus/>
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/how-experts-are-fighting-the-coronavirus-infodemic/>



Garlic: It may be good for general health, but it won't stop the coronavirus—Getty Images

What is physical activity?

Physical activity includes all forms of active recreation, sports participation, cycling and walking, as well as activities you do at work and around the home and garden. It doesn't have to be exercise or sport – play, dance, gardening, and even house cleaning and carrying heavy shopping is all part of being physically active.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when so many of us are very restricted in our movements, it is even more important for people of all ages and abilities to be as active as possible. Even a short break from sitting, by doing 3-5 minutes of physical movement, such as walking or stretching, will help ease muscle strain, relieve mental tension and improve blood circulation and muscle activity. Regular physical activity can also help to give the day a routine and be a way of staying in contact with family and friends.

How much physical activity is recommended?

WHO has detailed recommendations on the amount of physical activity people of all ages should do to benefit their health and wellbeing. Here are the minimum levels we recommend:

Infants under the age of 1 year need to

- Be physically active several times a day.

Children under 5 years of age

- Should spend at least 180 minutes a day in physical activities, with 3-4 year-olds being moderately or vigorously active for an hour a day.

Children and adolescents aged 5-17years

- All children and adolescents should do at least 60 minutes a day of moderate to vigorous-intensity physical activity, including activities that strengthen muscle and bone, at least 3 days per week.

Adults aged over 18 years

- Should do a total of at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity throughout the week, or at least 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity throughout the week, including muscle-strengthening activities 2 or more days per week.
- Older adults with poor mobility should do physical activity to enhance balance and prevent falls on 3 or more days per week.

But any physical activity is better than none. Start with small amounts and gradually increase duration, frequency and intensity over time.

Being active during the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging for us all. Because the opportunities to be physically active seem to be more restricted, it is even more important to plan in every day the ways to be active and to reduce the time spent sitting for long periods. Put simply, it is a critical time to ensure we all move more and sit less.

Source: World Health Organization

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Feb. 9, 2020 – Feb. 12, 2020)

Feb. 9 — The death toll of victims of the 2019-nCoV is now over 800, surpassing the death toll of the SARS epidemic in 2002 and 2003, which killed 773 people.

Feb. 10 — An advance team for the WHO-led 2019-nCoV international mission leaves for China.

WHO chief Tedros says instances of onward transmission from people with no travel history to China are concerning, and that “the detection of this small number of cases could be the spark that becomes a bigger fire.”

WHO and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics announce that a memorandum of understanding was signed focused on strengthening diagnostic systems in resource-limited countries, saying that the ongoing 2019-nCoV outbreak has highlighted the need to close these gaps.

The U.K.'s health department declares 2019-nCoV an “imminent threat” to public health, allowing the government to forcibly quarantine individuals.

168 labs around the world now have the capacity to diagnose the virus.

The death count — at 909 — surpasses that associated with Middle East respiratory syndrome, which has claimed the lives of 858 people.

Feb. 11 — WHO assigns the novel coronavirus its official name: COVID-19.

A United Nations Crisis Management Team is activated, led by Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director at WHO’s Health Emergencies Programme.

A global research and innovation forum starts in Geneva, aimed at creating a roadmap for identifying research priorities on COVID-19.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus calls the outbreak a “very grave threat for the rest of the world.”

Feb. 12 — The number of countries outside China reporting cases has not changed since Feb. 4.

A total of 175 people test positive for COVID-19 on the Diamond Princess cruise ship, which is quarantined in Japan. Cambodia agrees to accept a cruise ship that had been turned away from five ports, over fears that passengers might have COVID-19.

A global research and innovation forum on COVID-19 concludes. Top research priorities identified include finding simpler diagnostic tools, best approaches for infection prevention, optimal treatment for patients, and acceleration of the development of vaccines and therapeutics.

WHO says a vaccine could be available in an estimated 18 months. Death toll from the outbreak reaches over 1,000.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>

Experts' View

One of the most common slogans in Pakistan these days is related to the urgent need for national unity to be able to meet the grave Covid-19 challenge. While a certain degree of unity is visible at various levels, its absence in national decision-making is causing anxiety, because national unity essentially means decision-making by national consensus, and does not mean the entire country's endorsement of the establishment's actions. **(I. A. Rehman, DAWN)**

Covid-19 could not have come at a worse time for Pak-istan. The spring crop is to be harvested by migrant workers. Hot summer is anxious to evict a benign spring. The holy month of Ramazan nears, when traders increase commodity prices, particularly sugar. An inquiry committee constituted last month by the prime minister on speculation by sugar barons in 2018-19 has told the government to take swift action, if necessary, by importing sugar which it had allowed to be exported. Oddly, the inquiry committee recommends an "immediate crack down on the Satta players who are well known to the Provincial Special Branch and Intelligence Agencies". The report discloses that subsidies totalling Rs2.47bn were paid to sugar producers/exporters in 2018-19. This state largesse includes names linked to major political parties normally inimical to each other — the PPP, PML-N, PML-Q and PTI. Greed overcomes what Sigmund Freud called "the narcissism of small differences". **(F. S. Aijazuddin, DAWN)**

Experts' Opinion

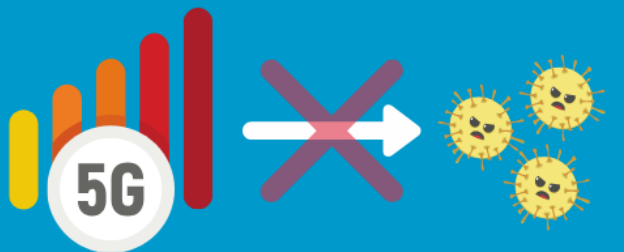
COVID-19 has transformed our lives in ways that will leave a permanent mark on all of humanity. While it is impossible to predict the exact type of scar that Covid-19 will leave, we do know that the world after this catastrophe will look very different. The big question is: in what ways? This is an incredibly tough question, but recent developments provide us with some hints. **(Muhammad Khudadad Chattha, DAWN)**

As human beings in the custody of the state, deprived of liberty, prisoners too have fundamental human rights. These rights are inalienable and have been conferred upon them by our constitution, domestic laws, as well as international treaties. These rights include inter alia the right to life, the right to adequate medical attention/care during detention, the right to due process, etc. Public health policies are meant to guarantee the best possible conditions for all members of the society, but prisoners are often forgotten in this equation, particularly in Pakistan. **(Naghma Shirin Afridi, THE NEWS)**

World Health Organization
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

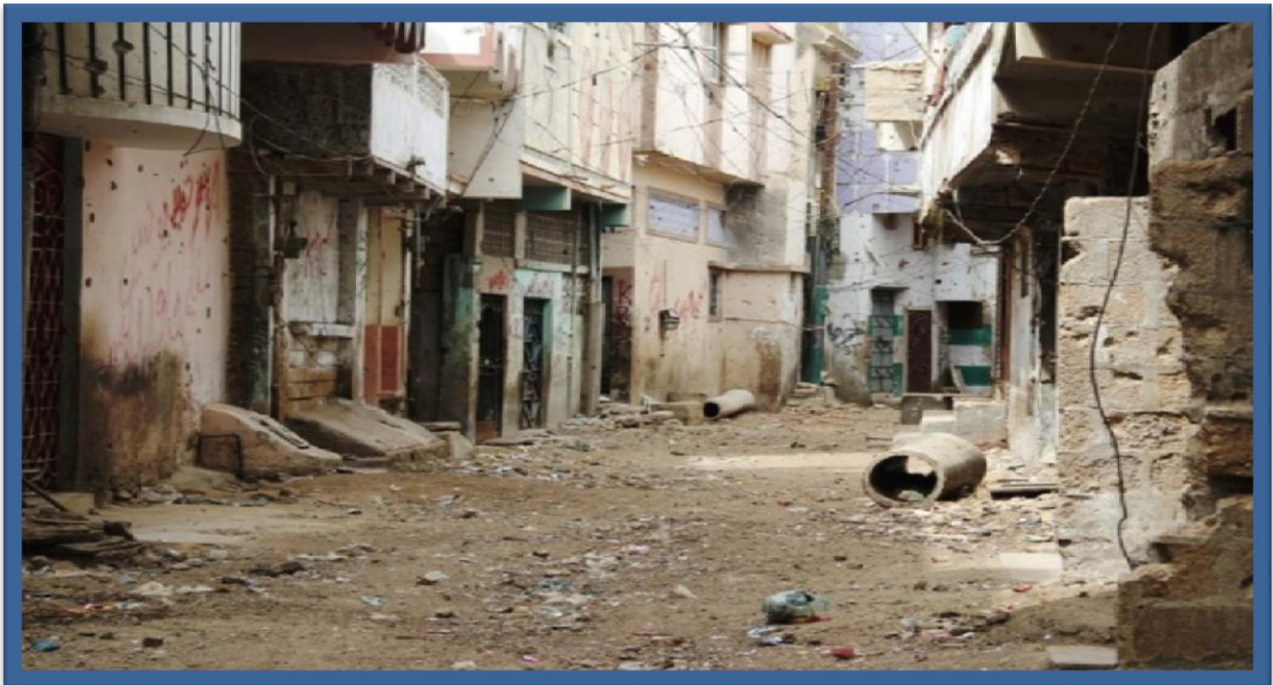
Viruses cannot travel on radio waves/mobile networks.
COVID-19 is spreading in many countries that do not have 5G mobile networks.
COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks.
People can also be infected by touching a contaminated surface and then their eyes, mouth or nose.

FACT:
5G mobile networks
DO NOT spread COVID-19



#Coronavirus #COVID19

8 April 2020



*An empty street in Lyari, Karachi amid lockdown—
Image by The Express Tribune*

COVID-19 READS

1. **How can we prepare for the post-coronavirus era? A view from Japan**
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/japan-covid-19-situation-and-coronavirus-impact/>
2. **Coronavirus economic updates: Markets close flat after Monday's steep rally**
<https://abcnews.go.com/Business/coronavirus-economic-updates-markets-opening-spike-building-off/story?id=70018686>
3. **New Coronavirus Drug Shows Promise in Animal Tests**
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/new-coronavirus-drug-shows-promise-in-animal-tests1/>
4. **Coronavirus symptoms: what are they and should I see a doctor?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/07/coronavirus-symptoms-what-are-they-and-should-i-see-a-doctor-covid-19>
5. **Coronavirus and chloroquine: Is there evidence it works?**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/51980731>
6. **How to shop for groceries during the COVID-19 pandemic**
<https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-grocery-shopping-guide.html>
7. **How Covid-19 could change fashion and retail, according to experts**
<https://qz.com/1831203/how-covid-19-could-change-fashion-and-retail/>
8. **Saliva spray during speech could transmit coronavirus – study**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/07/saliva-spray-during-speech-could-transmit-coronavirus-study>
9. **How Long Does the Coronavirus Live on Clothes—and Will Laundry Detergent Kill the Virus?**
<https://www.health.com/condition/infectious-diseases/coronavirus/how-long-does-coronavirus-live-on-clothes>
10. **The newspaper industry was already faltering. Will coronavirus obliterate it?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/06/the-newspaper-industry-was-already-faltering-will-coronavirus-obliterate-it>
11. **When Will There Be a Treatment for the Coronavirus?**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/07/opinion/coronavirus-treatment.html>
12. **Trials of drugs to prevent coronavirus infection begin in health care workers**
<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/trials-drugs-prevent-coronavirus-infection-begin-health-care-workers#>

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-82

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

1 610 909 confirmed (89 657)

99 690 deaths (6892)

Western Pacific Region

118 549 confirmed (1302)

4017 deaths (39)

European Region

839 257 confirmed (39 561)

70 565 deaths (4352)

South-East Asia Region

14 161 confirmed (1183)

617 deaths (48)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

92 226 confirmed (3569)

4771 deaths (164)

Region of the Americas

536 664 confirmed (43 491)

19 294 deaths (2256)

African Region

9340 confirmed (551)

415 deaths (33)



Women queue to collect cash through a mobile wallet under the governmental Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme for people in need in Karachi on Saturday.—AFP

Global News

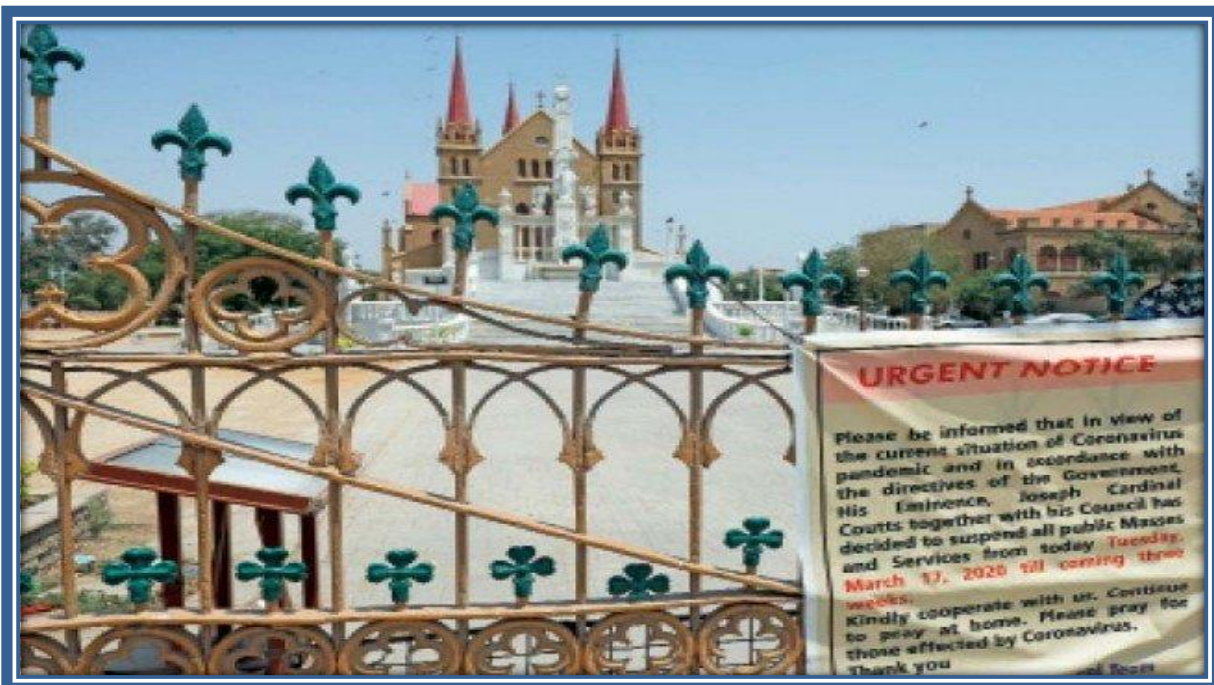
- Himalayas visible from India for first time in 30 years as Covid-19 lockdowns reduce pollution
- Spain's daily virus death toll falls again.
- China reports rise in coronavirus cases, most from abroad.
- Russia reports 1,667 new coronavirus cases.
- Coronavirus has melted away Belgium chocolate makers' hopes for Easter sales.
- A 93-year-old woman has recovered from corona in Turkey.
- US becomes first country to record more than 2,000 deaths in a day.

Global Response

- Turkey sends plane full of medical supplies to UK to help in Covid-19 fight
- Jogger in Scotland has raised 180,000 pounds for UK's NHS during Covid-19 outbreak.
- WHO says looking into reports of some Covid-19 patients testing positive again.
- Bangladesh extends coronavirus lockdown, India's Modi mulls longer restrictions.
- WHO warns about dangers of premature lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.
- New York kinless Covid-19 victims buried in mass graves.

Local News

- We are fighting on two fronts, corona and hunger: Ajmal Wazir.
- 20pc of tests conducted in past 24 hours came out positive: Sindh CM.
- State Bank governor hopeful about economy despite corona
- Six deaths recorded in Sindh in past 24 hours: CM Murad
- 'Country making atom bomb can't make ventilators, test kits' PM.
- Heatwave to grip Karachi amid coronavirus lockdown.
- More than 82 per cent of Sindh's new cases reported from Karachi.
- Balochistan CM requests federal govt. for 50,000 testing kits to get 'accurate estimate'.
- 6 new cases in Islamabad, 1 in AJK.



**Saint Patrick's Cathedral Church Karachi is empty on the Easter
due to Covid-19—*The Express Tribune***

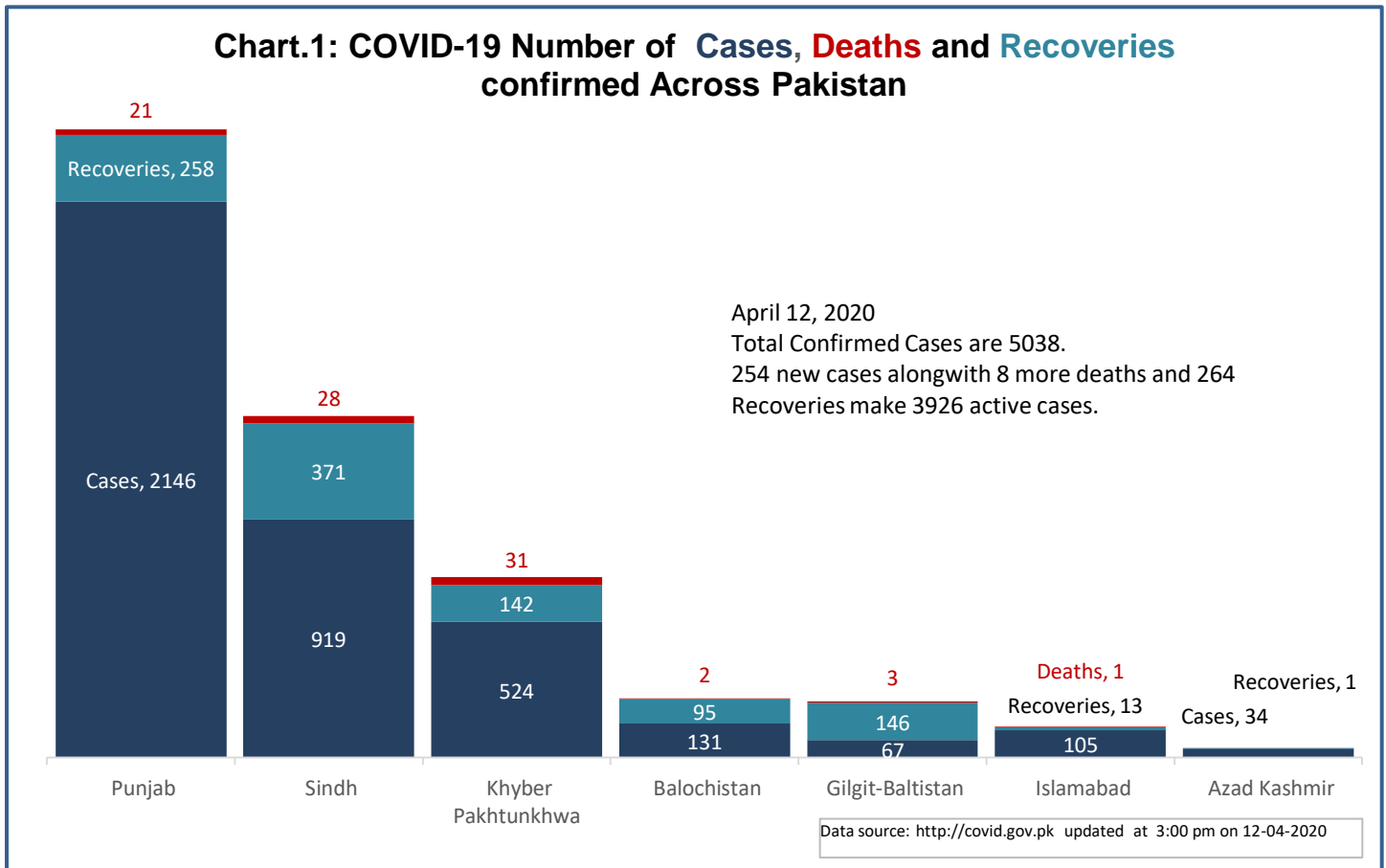
Local Response

- CJP to look into govt. steps on Corona
- Complete lockdown in two Malir areas after 24 coronavirus cases emerge.
- Payment of Rs12000 can be received from ATM, designated centers: Dr Sania Nishtar.
- KP calls on medical workers for recruitment in tribal districts.
- 762 people have now recovered from corona in Pakistan.
- State has to rescue small loan borrowers, observes court.
- PM assures doctors of full protection.
- Maulana Abdul Aziz booked for leading Friday prayers despite ban.
- SBP announces refinance scheme to avoid worker layoffs.



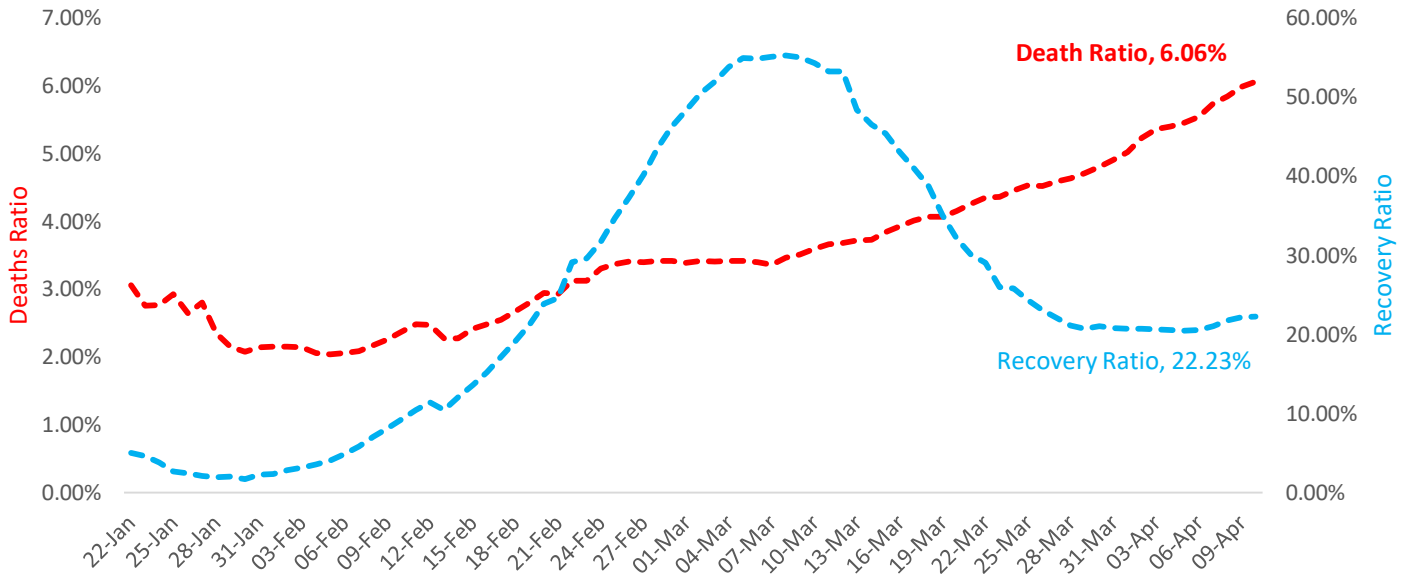
Medical staff members wearing protective gear wait in a train coach prepared as a temporary quarantine facility at the Rawalpindi Railway Station—*Getty Images*

During the last 24 hours, 254 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 5038. Six deaths from KP and two from Punjab have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 86 deaths and 1026 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



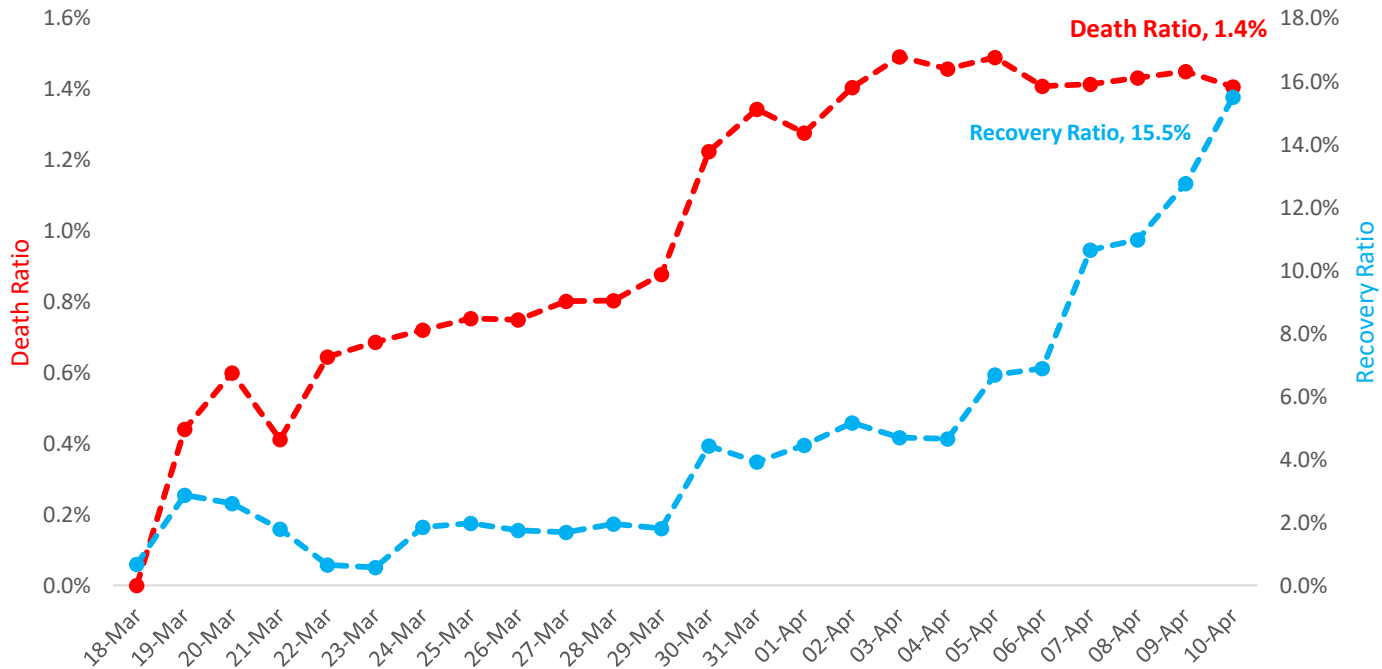
Since the outbreak of COVID-19, initially the global death ratio was 3% then decreased to about 2%. With worldwide spread the COVID-19 death ratio start increasing rapidly after mid-March 2020 and currently it is around 6%. The recovery ratio of COVID-19 depicts a bell curve shape it was highest at about 55%, after mid-March 2020 with worldwide spread especially in Europe and America the recovery ratio decreases sharply currently it is around 22%. Increasing death ratio and decreasing recovery ratio indicates the continuous worldwide spread of COVID-19. Amid continuous increase in COVID-19 cases globally these two ratios are not unusual; according to medical experts natural human immunity increases gradually, also it is dependent to climate conditions and human demographics. Soon it is expected to see a drop in death ratio and increase in recovery ratio, See Chart.2.

Chart.2: COVID-19 Global Death and Recoveries Ratios



In Pakistan, the highest COVID-19 death ratio persisted 1.5%, which is less than the least COVID-19 death ratio worldwide; since the second week of April 2020 it remains at 1.4%. The recovery ratio of COVID-19 cases is continuously increasing currently it is about 15.5%; though its less than global recovery ratio but it has continuous increasing trend, see Chart.3.

Chart.3: COVID-19 Death and Recoveries Ratios in Pakistan



How COVID-19 has affected the real estate or construction industry in Pakistan?

Construction industry is the second biggest sector of Pakistan's economy accounting for 10-12% of the total GDP spending.²⁶ World Bank estimates that 60%-70% of the global wealth lies in the real estate sector. If that were true for Pakistan as well then the estimated size of the country's real estate would be \$300-\$400 billion.²⁷ Despite its enormous wealth the sector began to show symptoms of slowdown in FY 2018-19. This is attributed to the lack of incentives by the new government and ban on non-filers to buy property worth more than Rs. 5million. Due to the forward and backward linkages of the construction sector with rest of the economy the overall growth came under pressure. This resulted in increasing calls in the political circles, often supported by the members of the ruling party, to offer support to construction and real estate sector. But the government seemed unwilling to make yet another radical policy change.

All of this was before March 2020 when Coronavirus was just a news for Pakistan. Soon the virus hit home and along came the *disaster capitalism*, a doctrine that explains how private industries profit from large scale system disruptions.

Amid the lock down and slowing economic growth the government came under increasing pressure to ease the burden of people, especially the lower class, who trade their services in the informal economy often working as laborers. The government has responded by offering amnesty to construction sector along with tax reduction and rebates, subsidy and special tribunals to resolve the disputes. Construction sector is also being granted the status of industry.

What is of concern here is the nature of real estate and construction sector which operates in asset class. Upon a single glance, it is revealed that the higher and middle asset classes stand to gain most from this arrangement. This may end up benefiting a minority at the cost of majority. However, it is yet to be seen.

The moguls of construction industry have responded very well to this development as they stand to gain from it in the long-run. While in the short-run uncertainty is expected to prevail depending largely on the containment of virus.

Construction experts don't expect the work to continue in full swing before Eid-ul-fitar, even though the sector will be opened on April 14. This is due to the migrant workers, most of whom have headed to their homes and are not likely to return before Eid.

Growth in real estate and construction sector is likely to pickup by the end of this fiscal year and long run prospects look even brighter. The intervention by the government has offered Rs. 30 billion as a subsidy for Naya Pakistan Housing though a lot remains to be done to solve the housing problems of the poor. As the growth seldom guarantees equity. Another point of concern in the return of overseas Pakistanis, as the remittances are a major source of investment in lower-middle and middle asset class. Therefore the growth maybe certain in near future, its fruits will not be shared by all. **(Written by Hamza Murad, a student at the Department of Development Studies, PIDE)**

²⁶ *Package may not reboot construction, DAWN.*

²⁷ *The real estate in Pakistan: Prospects and Challenges, THE NATION.*



A worker disinfecting a mosque in Karachi—*Getty Images*



A cow roaming freely in Bhara Kahu during lockdown—*Getty Images*

Are smokers and tobacco users at higher risk of COVID-19 infection?

Smokers are likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 as the act of smoking means that fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) are in contact with lips which increases the possibility of transmission of virus from hand to mouth. Smokers may also already have lung disease or reduced lung capacity which would greatly increase risk of serious illness.

Smoking products such as water pipes often involve the sharing of mouth pieces and hoses, which could facilitate the transmission of COVID-19 in communal and social settings.

Conditions that increase oxygen needs or reduce the ability of the body to use it properly will put patients at higher risk of serious lung conditions such as pneumonia.

How many malaria-affected countries have reported cases of COVID-19?

Malaria-endemic countries in all WHO regions have reported cases of COVID-19. In the WHO African Region, which carries more than 90% of the global malaria burden, 37 countries had reported cases of the disease as of 25 March; of these, 10 countries reported local transmission of the disease

What additional special measures may be needed in the context of COVID-19?

In addition to routine approaches to malaria control, there may be a case for special measures in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic – such as a temporary return to presumptive malaria treatment, or the use of mass drug administration – which have proved useful in some previous emergencies.

Presumptive malaria treatment refers to treatment of a suspected malaria case without the benefit of diagnostic confirmation (e.g. through a rapid diagnostic test). This approach is typically reserved for extreme circumstances, such as disease in settings where prompt diagnosis is no longer available.

Mass drug administration (MDA) is a WHO-recommended approach for rapidly reducing malaria mortality and morbidity during epidemics and in complex emergency settings. Through MDA, all individuals in a targeted population are given antimalarial medicines—often at repeated intervals—regardless of whether or not they show symptoms of the disease.

Such special measures should only be adopted after careful consideration of 2 key aims: lowering malaria-related mortality and keeping health workers safe. WHO is exploring concrete proposals for when and how to activate such measures; guidance will be published in due course.

Source: World Health Organization

Feb. 13 — Overnight, China reports a spike in cases, with 14,840 cases in Hubei province. This is due to the fact that the Chinese government changed its reporting to include both laboratory-confirmed cases and clinically diagnosed cases. This includes a medical professional classifying a confirmed case on the basis of chest imaging. "We understand that most of these cases relate to a period going back over days and weeks and are retrospectively reported as cases, since some time back to the beginning of the outbreak itself," says Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme, during a press conference.

WHO is still only reporting laboratory-confirmed cases. The rest of the world is also only reporting laboratory-confirmed cases.

The third death from the virus outside of mainland China is confirmed in Japan. The previous deaths took place in Hong Kong and the Philippines.

There could be information in a matter of weeks about the impact of drugs currently in trial to treat the virus, according to WHO.

A successful vaccine will require huge investments, according to WHO. "Making a decision to advance a vaccine to phase one, phase two, phase three trials, requires hundreds of millions of dollars to be invested. We may have to invest in multiple candidates, without any certainty that one of them will work," WHO's Ryan says.

WHO says 17 countries in Africa now have the capacity to test for COVID-19. This is a clarification from Feb. 7, when WHO had said 28 countries in Africa have the capacity.

Feb. 14 — China reports that 1,716 health workers have contracted COVID-19 and that six of them have died. "We've seen this before with MERS, we've seen this before with SARS, we've certainly seen this with hemorrhagic fevers," says Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme, during a press conference. "Our understanding is that the cases amongst health workers peaked in the third and fourth week of January and that there has been a rapid fall-off in the number of cases that have occurred in health workers in the last two weeks."

Overall, the percentage of health workers infected with COVID-19 is lower than what has occurred historically in outbreaks of other kinds of coronaviruses, he says.

Egypt reports its first case of COVID-19. This is the first case confirmed on the African continent and the first new country to see a case since Feb. 4.

Feb. 15 — France reports the first death from COVID-19 outside of Asia — an 80-year-old tourist from Hubei province. In a speech at the Munich Security Conference, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called for an increase in funding to the response. “We’re concerned by the lack of urgency in funding the response from the international community,” he said.

Feb. 16 — An American woman who had been on a cruise ship that docked in Cambodia, tests positive for COVID-19 after flying to Malaysia. The ship originally set sail from Hong Kong on Feb.1, with 1,455 passengers and 802 members of its crew.

Taiwan reports its first death from COVID-19, marking the fifth death from the virus outside of mainland China.

Feb. 17 — China publishes a paper with detailed information on more than 44,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19. The data appears to show that COVID-19 is not as deadly as other types of coronaviruses, including severe acute respiratory syndrome and Middle East respiratory syndrome. The data shows that more than 80% of patients have mild disease; about 14% of cases lead to severe diseases, including pneumonia; about 5% of cases lead to critical diseases including respiratory failure, septic shock and multiorgan failure; and about 2% of reported cases lead to death. Mortality rates increase in older patients, with few cases among children.

"This new data addresses some of the gaps in our understanding, but others remain," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a press conference. WHO switches methods for reporting confirmed COVID-19 cases, now aligning with how the Chinese government has reported cases since Feb. 13. WHO previously reported only laboratory-confirmed cases but now includes cases that are clinically confirmed via chest imaging.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>

Experts' View

And this brings me to the question: can a curfew to counter corona be as smooth and effective, given that it is required to cover the whole country rather than a city or two? Well, a short answer is a forthright no, mainly in view of the government's inability to cater to a large out-of-work segment of our population, facilitating them to stay indoors. A full-fledged curfew does run the risk of triggering chaos at some point and ending up abruptly. However, dismissing curfew as an option and continuing with the soft lockdown is much riskier — for being potentially fatal. It could be all hell breaking loose, like in the US and Europe. It is, thus, worth the “dare” to test the potential of our administrative machinery at managing an effective curfew, with the help of our highly disciplined military as well as our selfless philanthropists and every-ready volunteers. **(Syed Asif Ali, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE)**

A better strategy to deal with the balancing between health and economic needs is to try to emulate what South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan have achieved. They have undertaken massive testing of the disease, isolated the patients, traced the contacts (sometimes with mobile phone apps) that have come in contact with positive cases and isolated them as well. In other words, a well-implemented strategy of testing, tracing, and isolation has spared the massive China-style lockdowns for these above-mentioned countries. It is important to learn from those countries and try to emulate them, given that Pakistan cannot afford a shut-open strategy due to economic compulsions. **(Fozia Sadiq Khan, THE NEWS)**

Experts' Opinion

Gender norms associate women with the care economy within the family and in the health sector. Women make up 70 percent of the workforce in the health sector in Pakistan. Nurses are at the frontline to provide essential healthcare to Corona patients. Nurses and paramedics have more direct physical contact with corona patients in quarantine and isolation wards. But, despite their integral role in patient care, nurses and paramedics are given less preference in providing personal protective gear that makes them more vulnerable and exposed to virus contraction. Furthermore, women are responsible for taking care of families, children and sickrelatives in their homes. Due to lockdown measures, closure of workplaces and schools, family members are confined to their homes, which has increased domestic workload on women and girls. This situation has also given rise to domestic violence. The global spike in domestic violence had led UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to make an appeal for peace in homes around the world and urged all governments to put “women's safety first as they respond to the pandemic”. **(Farzana Bari, THE NEWS)**

The immediate challenge for the [Pakistan] government is to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, while minimising economic losses and protecting the poorest. In the medium-to-long term, the government should remain focused on implementing much needed structural reforms to boost private investment sustainably. **(World Bank)**

World Health Organization
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

People of all ages can be infected by the new coronavirus (nCoV-2019).

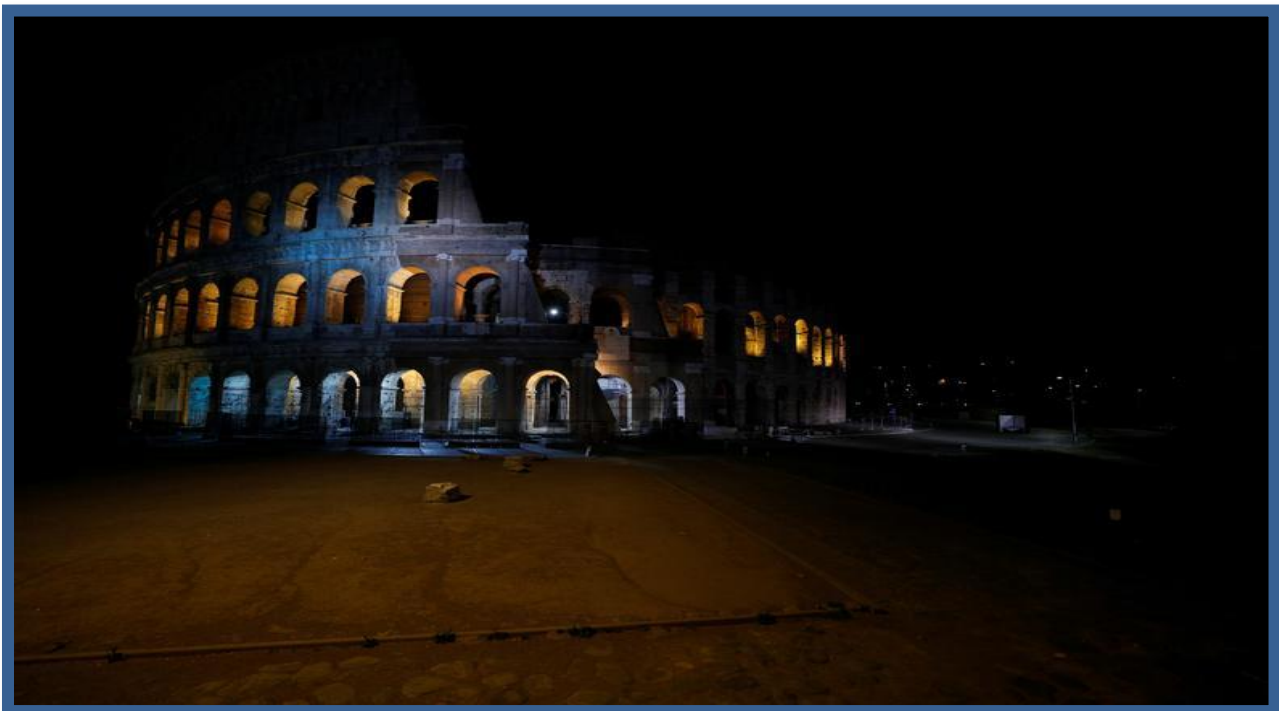
Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

WHO advise people of all age to take steps to protect themselves from the virus, for example by following good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene.



#Coronavirus

Does the new coronavirus affect older people, or are younger people also susceptible?



Empty colosseum on Good Friday sermon due to no public participation—*Reuters*

COVID-19 READS

- 1. COVID-19: Economic impact, human solutions**
<https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/04/10/covid-19-economic-impact-human-solutions/>
- 2. Covid-19 causes Britain's fastest economic contraction on record**
<https://www.economist.com/britain/2020/04/11/covid-19-causes-britains-fastest-economic-contraction-on-record>
- 3. 'Recruitment is on hold': the students graduating into the Covid-19 recession**
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/apr/10/recruitment-is-on-hold-the-students-graduating-into-the-covid-19-recession>
- 4. SEO in the Age of COVID-19: Organic Impacts on the Retail Industry**
<https://www.searchenginejournal.com/seo-covid-19-retail-industry-impact/359168/>
- 5. Market And Business Ties Often Determine Where COVID-19 Supplies Go**
<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/11/832176140/market-and-business-ties-often-determine-where-covid-19-supplies-go>
- 6. How did coronavirus start and where did it come from? Was it really Wuhan's animal market?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/09/how-did-the-coronavirus-start-where-did-it-come-from-how-did-it-spread-humans-was-it-really-bats-pangolins-wuhan-animal-market>
- 7. This visualisation shows what COVID-19 does to your body**
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/this-graphic-shows-what-covid-19-does-to-your-body>
- 8. Coronavirus conspiracies like that bogus 5G claim are racing across the internet**
<https://techcrunch.com/2020/04/10/coronavirus-5g-covid-19-conspiracy-theory-misinformation/>
- 9. Coronavirus symptoms: what are they and should I call the NHS?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/12/coronavirus-symptoms-what-call-the-nhs-fever-tiredness-cough>
- 10. Social distancing is working, but when will things return to normal, and what will that look like?**
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/11/metro/social-distancing-is-working-when-will-things-return-normal-what-will-that-look-like/>
- 11. Report: Trump ignored pleas to put social distancing practices in place, warnings of a pandemic**
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mattperez/2020/04/11/report-trump-ignored-pleas-to-put-social-distancing-practices-in-place-warnings-of-a-pandemic/#46af3637751f>
- 12. Coronavirus world map: which countries have the most cases and deaths?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/12/coronavirus-world-map-which-countries-have-the-most-cases-and-deaths>



PIDE COVID-19 NEWSLETTER

April 15, 2020

No. 22

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-84

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

1 773 084 confirmed (76 498)

111 652 deaths (5702)

Western Pacific Region

121 426 confirmed (1310)

4125 deaths (67)

European Region

913 349 confirmed (33 243)

77 419 deaths (3183)

South-East Asia Region

16 883 confirmed (842)

766 deaths (38)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

99 713 confirmed (3768)

5107 deaths (164)

Region of the Americas

610 742 confirmed (36 804)

23 759 deaths (2228)

African Region

10 259 confirmed (531)

464 deaths (21)



A barber in Peshawar is wearing a face mask as precautionary measure due to Corona virus—Reuters

Global News

- US coronavirus death toll tops 23,000
- UK chief adviser expects virus deaths' curve to plateau for 2-3 weeks.
- Turkey to impose fresh lockdown next weekend to halt Covid-19 spread: Erdogan.
- Canada coronavirus deaths rise by almost 9pc to 734.
- Putin says Russia may need the army to help battle coronavirus.
- Germany: Police attacked while enforcing social distancing measures.

Global Response

- Beijing to reopen some schools after coronavirus closures.
- COVID-19 pandemic offers chance for social sector, structural reforms: World Bank.
- European politicians, CEOs, lawmakers urge green coronavirus recovery.
- China tightens Russian border checks, approves experimental coronavirus vaccine trials.
- Beijing takes drastic measures to protect itself from second wave of virus.
- Nationwide lockdown in India extended till May 3: Modi.
- Taiwan introduces vending machines for face masks.
- New York, California and other states plan for reopening as coronavirus crisis eases.

Local News

- IMF acknowledges Pakistan's response to pandemic.
- Pakistan's virus cases doubling every 2 weeks: Tania Aidrus
- Pakistan grateful for China's cooperation in fighting coronavirus: NCOC.
- 68pc of Sindh's coronavirus patients are men, says Murad Ali Shah.
- 755 Zaireen quarantined in DG Khan have fully recovered, says Buzdar.
- Pakistan's Covid-19 recoveries surpass 1,000.
- 127 Pakistanis stranded in Azerbaijan evacuated via PIA flight: FO.
- Waste pickers across Pakistan remain vulnerable to coronavirus spread.



Two health workers in Spain mourning on the death of their colleague due to Covid-19—Reuters

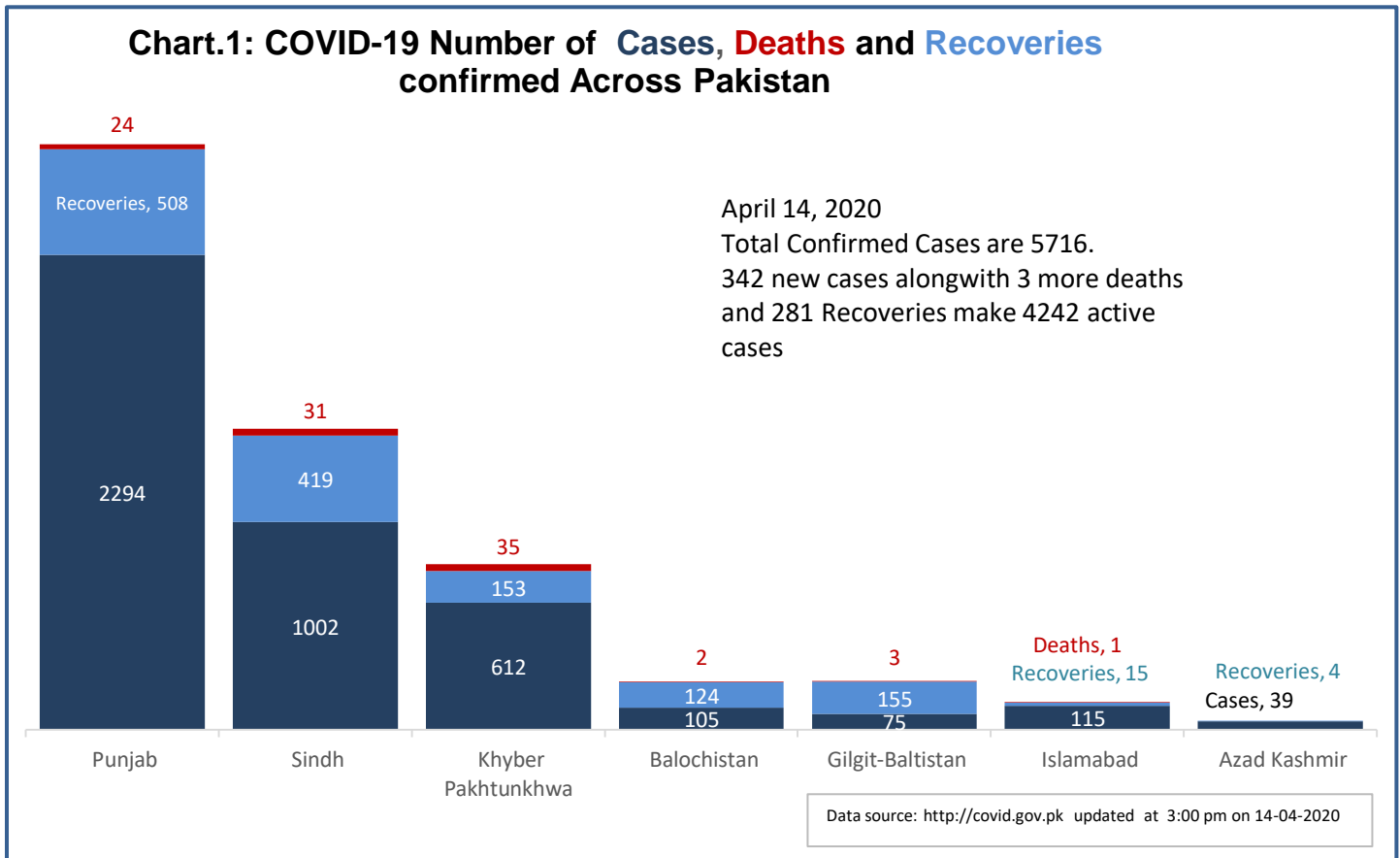
Local Response

- Face identification to also be used in Ehsaas programme: Awan.
- President Alvi visits GB to review steps taken to curb virus spread.
- Teleschool goes on air today to compensate for academic loss.
- Punjab establishes field hospitals in Rawalpindi and Sargodha for virus patients.
- 271 out of 274 pilgrims quarantined at Sukkur facility recovered.
- Train operations to remain suspended till April 24: minister.
- Man arrested in Jamshoro for illegally taking people to Peshawar.
- Blood donation camp set up in Multan amid acute shortage.
- Balochistan to start random COVID-19 testing from Wednesday: spokesperson.



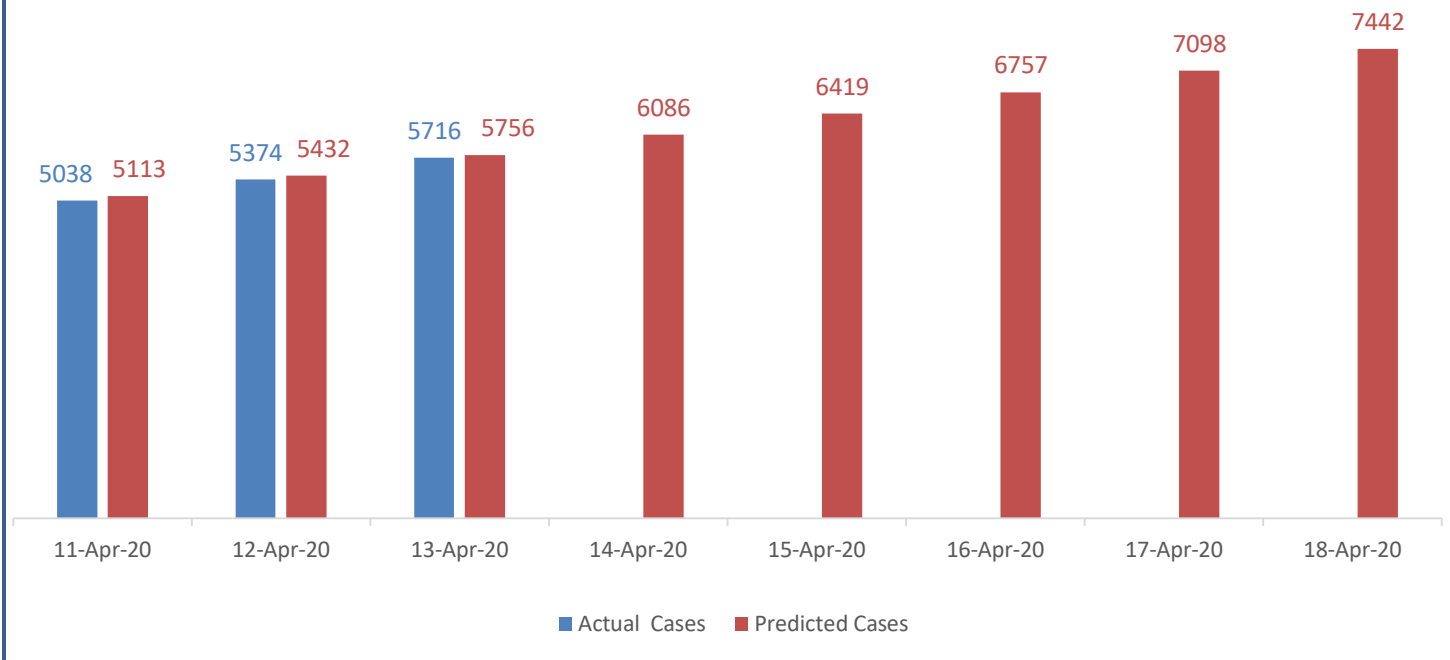
A health worker greets his daughter through the closed door as he maintains social distance from his family—*REUTERS*

During the last 24 hours, 342 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 5716. One death from Sindh, KP and Punjab each have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total of 96 deaths and 1378 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



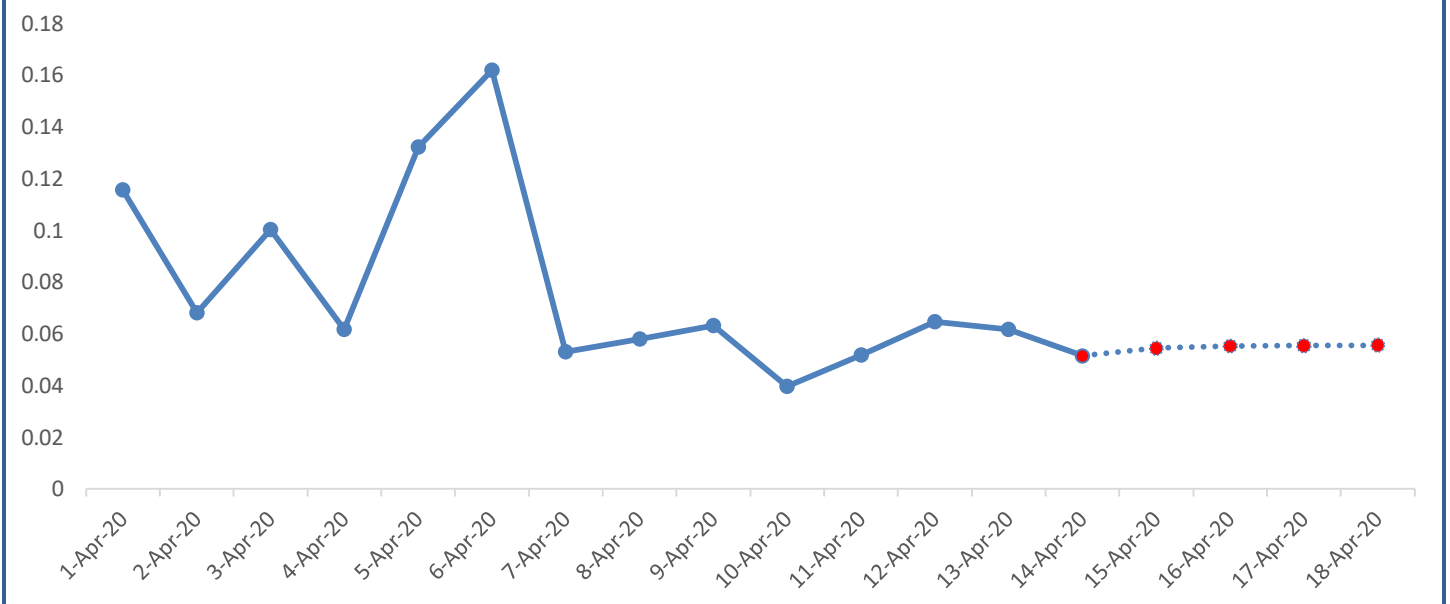
A careful track of COVID-19 cases and its sensible prediction is essential for necessary preparations to fight back pandemic. In Pakistan, the count increases manifold after mid-March 2020. Data set of infected cases after mid-March 2020 to 13th April 2020 is used to predict an estimated number of infected cases. Dynamic Econometric routine is employed to get the predicted values, it is observed that number of cases is not increasing exponentially but it shows cubic trajectory. To be justified and precise, only five days' prediction is estimated, see Chart.2. It is predicted that by the end of current week the total number of cases may rise to 7,442, which is just a fraction of cases in China and Italy during same period after first case is reported.

Chart.2: Actual & Predicted COVID-19 cases in PAKISTAN



Though the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing, but the growth rate of COVID-19 cases is pretty much stable after 7th April 2020. A careful forecast of growth rate shows a steady pattern till the end of the current week, see Chart.3. With general public awareness the spread can be controlled within next few weeks. In the presence of strong social bond and inherent best societal traditions, Pakistan is expected to achieve point of inflection much earlier than China and Italy.

Chart.3: Actual & Forecasted Growth Rate of COVID-19 caes in PAKISTAN



What is Behind the COVID-19?

Last year, the tyrant COVID arose and engulfed the whole world in no time and emergency declared on 11th of March, 2020 by the WHO. The whole world has become the victim of coronavirus and there is soaring trend in cases by every passing day. Moreover, the general population doesn't have any clue about what exactly is happening and why? What is behind this novel virus? Is it a game of trade or fear? What actually is it? And so on. In this article, some hidden aspects of this epidemic will be discussed and some facts will be uncovered that how this virus is a curse for some while blessing for others.

To commence with, thousands of people have lost their lives around the globe and around one million become the victim of this tyrant `virus worldwide. People are facing great fear after knowing the worsted situation of the advanced countries like USA, people have detached from each other. Consequently, people are not get effected only socially but mentally also like the case of German Finance minister Thomas Schaefer and the suicide of Karachi boy in Pakistan who killed himself after knowing that he is victim of this cruel virus. Continuous trend of job losses scared the people that how they will manage their daily life and how will they feed their families?

In a time. when the whole world is facing health threat; advanced countries are playing blame games as America named the virus as Chinese virus and Chinese foreign ministry claimed that the American soldiers had bring the virus to the China on purpose. Furthermore, American president Donald Trump issued a statement in February that 'the virus could perhaps disappear, we will see what happens. No one actually knows.' However, in a recent press conference he made projections that coronavirus could take probably 100,000 to 200,000 human lives in America. It seems to be contradictory and misleading stance as a president of world super power. Likewise, the UN secretary general Antonio Guterres also stated that the global pandemic will cause an economic downfall. When I attempted to understand the whole scenario, I am unable to understand that what actually COVID-19 wants? Is it a game of fear or something else?

We all know that everywhere either a group of friends or communities, there is a person who lead that group and same in the case of our world and every leading person try to use the powers, influence or something else means he/she use all the powers and influences to be remain the leader for the whole life or long term. And this a truth that some individuals from within that group try to become independent or some starts seeing their self as a new leader of that group or community and same happened in case of world. They don't care about how it will affect the common people of that community or our beautiful world. Again, in the sense of COVID-19. What is it actually? A War of Trade or Fear? Or it is a weapon to remain the influential.

Maybe this is token for the influential group to insists the developing states or those who are facing strict economic conditions to remain in the influence of agents of change on their own terms and conditions or this is an attempt to implement the new world order. Our scholars neglecting this side of coin intentionally or unintentionally or they are in the need of happiness of the change actors or they forgot to look at this side.

It is also being said that it is a game played by the secret agencies and there are no real cases of corona virus in America because the American media did not show any dead bodies or the situations of their hospitals like Italy did. So, is the Chinese foreign ministry's statement true about America bring the virus to china and now is playing victim? Moreover, it could also be the scheme of some world top pharmaceutical industries to boost up their shares in the stock market or their trade in terms of medicines and other necessary medical equipment. The

question is same, what actually is it? A game of trade or fear? So, the point to think that isn't the COVID-19 a special source of income for them? As the countries doing agreements for the medicines and medical equipment's with the actors.

It is a high time to think out of the box and understand the hidden aspects of the reality; instead of just believing what is being presented on the media. It is time to think that what if it is a planned biological war or is it a debt-trap? However, it has become dreadful for the whole world now and the great ratio of burden will be on the developing and third world countries.

It is like, they are hiding their true faces by selling and donating the masks and ventilators. It is time to think whether this virus is a war of trade by spreading the fear around the world. Or else, it is a token for agreements with developing or debt laden nations according to their terms, conditions. If they are helping the humanity based on the humanity principle then I would like to write a very beautiful sentence written in a novel named *THE INVISIBLE HEART: AN ECONOMIC ROMANCE* by Russel Roberts:

"You should try to help people on their terms, not your own". (Written by Abdul Khaliq, a student at the department of Economics and Econometrics, PIDE)

Frequently Asked Questions

Is COVID-19 the same as SARS?

No. The virus that causes COVID-19 and the one that caused the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 are related to each other genetically, but the diseases they cause are quite different. SARS was more deadly but much less infectious than COVID-19. There have been no outbreaks of SARS anywhere in the world since 2003.

How did the first human SARS-CoV-2 infections occur?

The first human cases of COVID-19 were identified in Wuhan City, China in December 2019. At this stage, it is not possible to determine precisely how humans in China were initially infected with SARS-CoV-2.

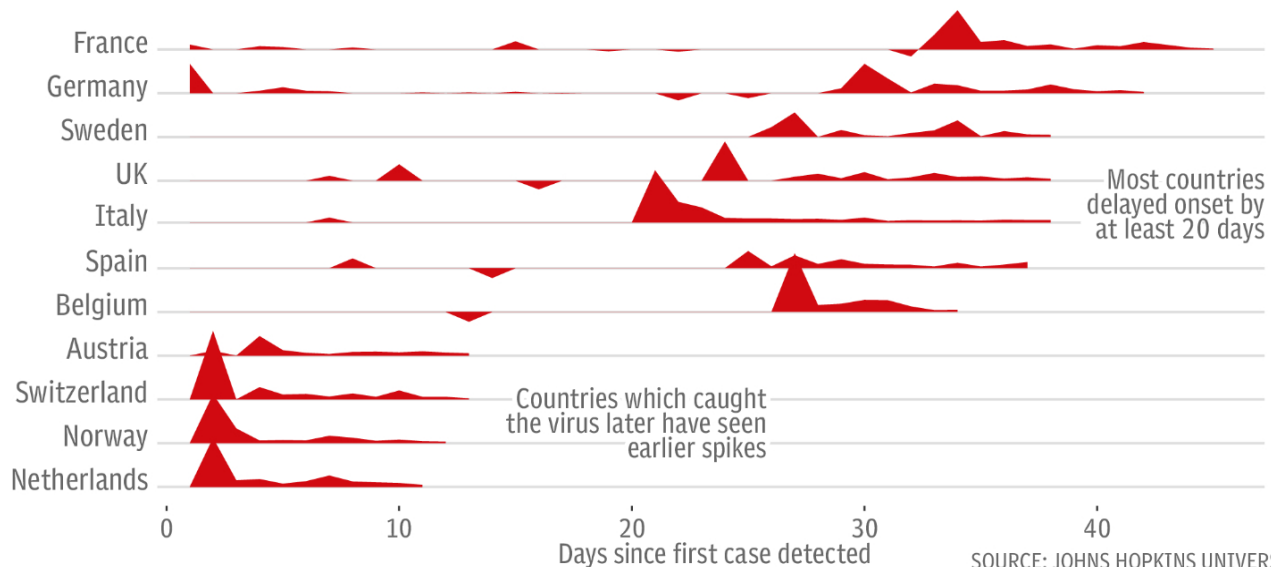
However, SARS-CoV, the virus which caused the SARS outbreak in 2003, jumped from an animal reservoir (civet cats, a farmed wild animal) to humans and then spread between humans. In a similar way, it is thought that SARS-CoV-2 jumped the species barrier and initially infected humans, but more likely through an intermediate host, that is another animal species more likely to be handled by humans - this could be a domestic animal, a wild animal, or a domesticated wild animal and, as of yet, has not been identified.

Until the source of this virus is identified and controlled, there is a risk of reintroduction of the virus in the human population and the risk of new outbreaks like the ones we are currently experiencing.

Source: World Health Organization

The spread of coronavirus in Europe

Daily change (%) in active cases since Covid-19 was first detected in each country



Feb. 18 — There are currently 92 documented cases in 12 countries other than China in which human-to-human transmission of the virus has occurred. Liu Zhiming, director of the Wuchang Hospital in Wuhan, dies from COVID-19.

Countries work to evacuate their citizens from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, which is quarantined in Japan, as the number of COVID-19 cases on the ship surpasses 450. “Clearly there has been more transmission than expected on the ship, and I think the authorities in Japan are adjusting to that reality now and taking the necessary public health measures with other countries to evacuate people and deal with their follow up in a different way,” says Ryan, during a press conference.

Feb. 19 — The death toll from COVID-19 surpasses 2,000.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS reports that, in a survey, nearly one-third of respondents living with HIV in China say they are at risk of running out of their HIV treatment in the coming days due to lockdowns and restrictions on movement amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

China revokes the press credentials of three Wall Street Journal reporters. The government’s Foreign Ministry says the move was retribution for a recent opinion piece published by the media outlet. **Iran reports first COVID-19 cases.**

Feb. 20 — Peng Yinhua, a 29-year-old respiratory doctor in Wuhan, dies from COVID-19.

Iran reports five cases of COVID-19 in two days, two of which have resulted in death. These are the first deaths from COVID-19 in the Middle East.

South Korea sees a spike in cases, bringing its count to 104. The country now has the second-highest number of cases outside of mainland China. The new cases are concentrated in the city of Daegu and the surrounding North Gyeongsang province.

Outside of China, there are 1,076 cases in 26 countries, with seven deaths.

China has again changed the way that it classifies confirmed cases, removing the category of “clinically diagnosed,” which includes the use of chest exams. “Some previously reported ‘clinically diagnosed’ cases are thus expected to be discarded over the coming days as laboratory testing is conducted and some are found to be COVID-19-negative,” according to WHO.

“This virus is very dangerous, and it’s public enemy No. 1. But it’s not being treated as such, and one important indicator is the response, especially to financing the response,” says WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during a press conference.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>

Experts' View

The global economy (hence all national economies) is expected to contract significantly and dangerously: people are not buying, and businesses will eventually shut down — no rocket science there. This will be a recession like no other. Double-digit unemployment and that too on the higher side is perhaps inevitable. With an unprecedented rise in non-performing loans, bank runs are probable. Commodity prices collapsing and global supply chains breaking down is a possibility. Free trade and free flow of currency may well become a memory. The future of paper currencies is highly uncertain, but definitely bleak. No point discussing the stock market, any broker will tell you it is always a buying market for some stupid reason! **(Syed Bakhtiyar Kazmi, DAWN)**

One can expect the employers to pay their staff on moral grounds, which is expected only by a small number of formal-sector employers as those running businesses in the informal sector have their own explanations against paying workers during the lockdown. The only short-term solution is to activate the existing tripartite mechanism in Sindh, in which workers, employers and the government come together to ensure that labourers are paid wages while businesses remain closed either as moral obligation or by law. It is equally important to learn from difficult situations and build systems and mechanisms which are more long-term, sustainable and credible to be relied upon both in normal and crisis situations. **(Zulfiqar Shah, DAWN)**

Experts' Opinion

No disease, not even a pandemic, is an equaliser. The mansions in Islamabad have drawn up their imaginary bridges and hide behind their high walls; others who can afford to have reduced their outings and are now either learning how to cook or yearning for company. But for many, life hasn't changed much...[I]t is not out of carelessness, as many (including politicians allege). As Ziaur Rehman, a Karachi-based journalist, points out, "No one is asking the poor why they are not staying in their homes." **(Arifa Noor, DAWN)**

On the question of preparing for the economic impact of Covid-19 on individuals, families, communities and the wider macroeconomic situation, I would argue that Pakistan has done remarkably well, both in terms of the range of its responses, as well as the tactics used. First, let's enumerate the responses. There is the Rs1.2 trillion Covid-19 relief package, the bulk of which was meant to put the business community at ease. Within this package is the Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme, meant to provide Rs12,000 to 12 million households. There is a construction industry stimulus, which is meant to offer big construction businesses a number of tax concessions and subsidies, and meant to offer low skill labour a large quantum of employment opportunities. In addition to these measures, there is a series of negotiations being conducted with the multilaterals, which has thus far yielded a \$1.4 billion IMF facility, and will likely generate both World Bank and Asian Development Bank loans. Finally, there is PM Khan's personal appeal for debt relief, an issue on which he is assuming global leadership. Now if the question is whether all of this will work, it is clearly too early to tell. But if the question is how this stands in terms of a range of responses, then the judgement has to be, quite emphatically, that this represents a remarkably timely, well-conceived, people-centric economic response to Covid-19. **(Mosharraf Zaidi, THE NEWS)**

World Health Organization
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

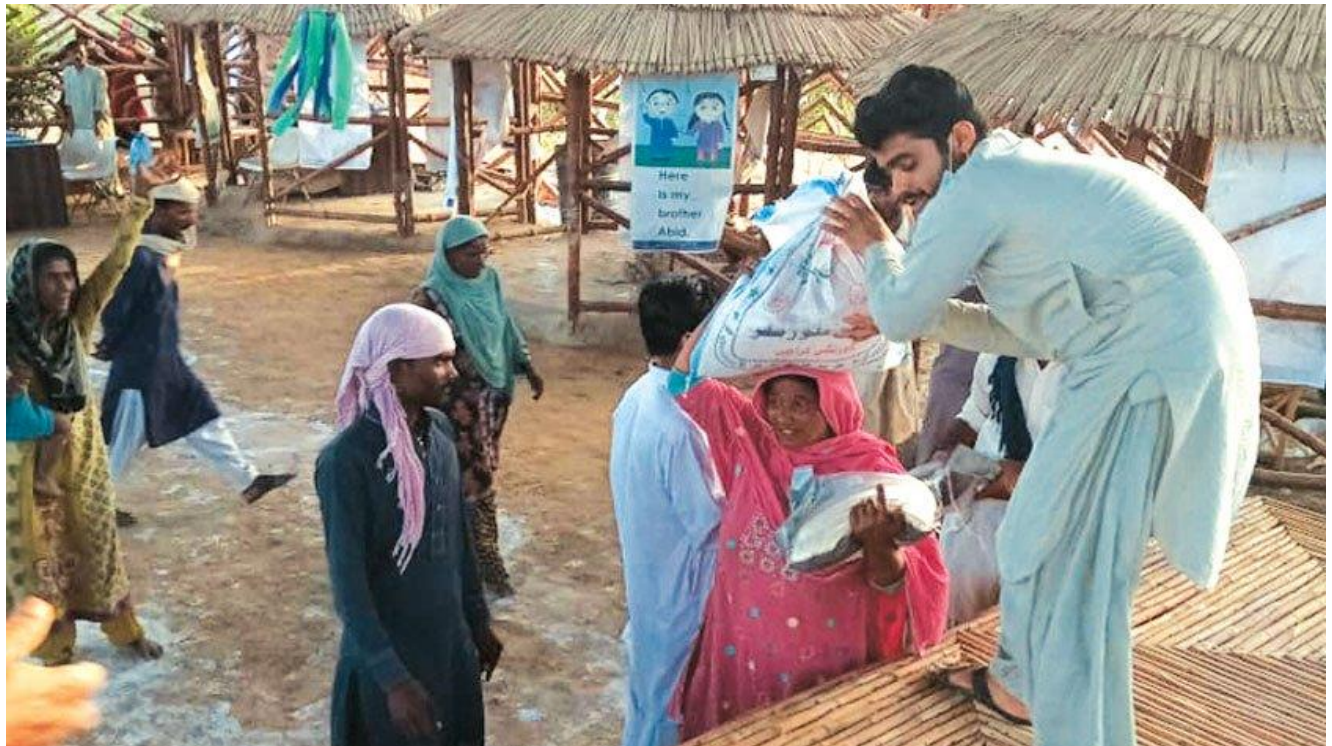
Thermal scanners are effective in detecting people who have developed a fever (i.e. have a higher than normal body temperature) because of infection with the new coronavirus.

However, they cannot detect people who are infected but are not yet sick with fever. This is because it takes between 2 and 10 days before people who are infected become sick and develop a fever.

How effective are thermal scanners in detecting people infected with the new coronavirus?



#2019nCoV



Ration distribution among the poor—*The News*

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