



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

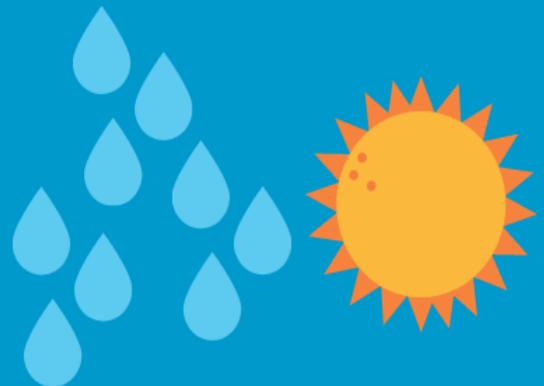
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public Myth busters

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

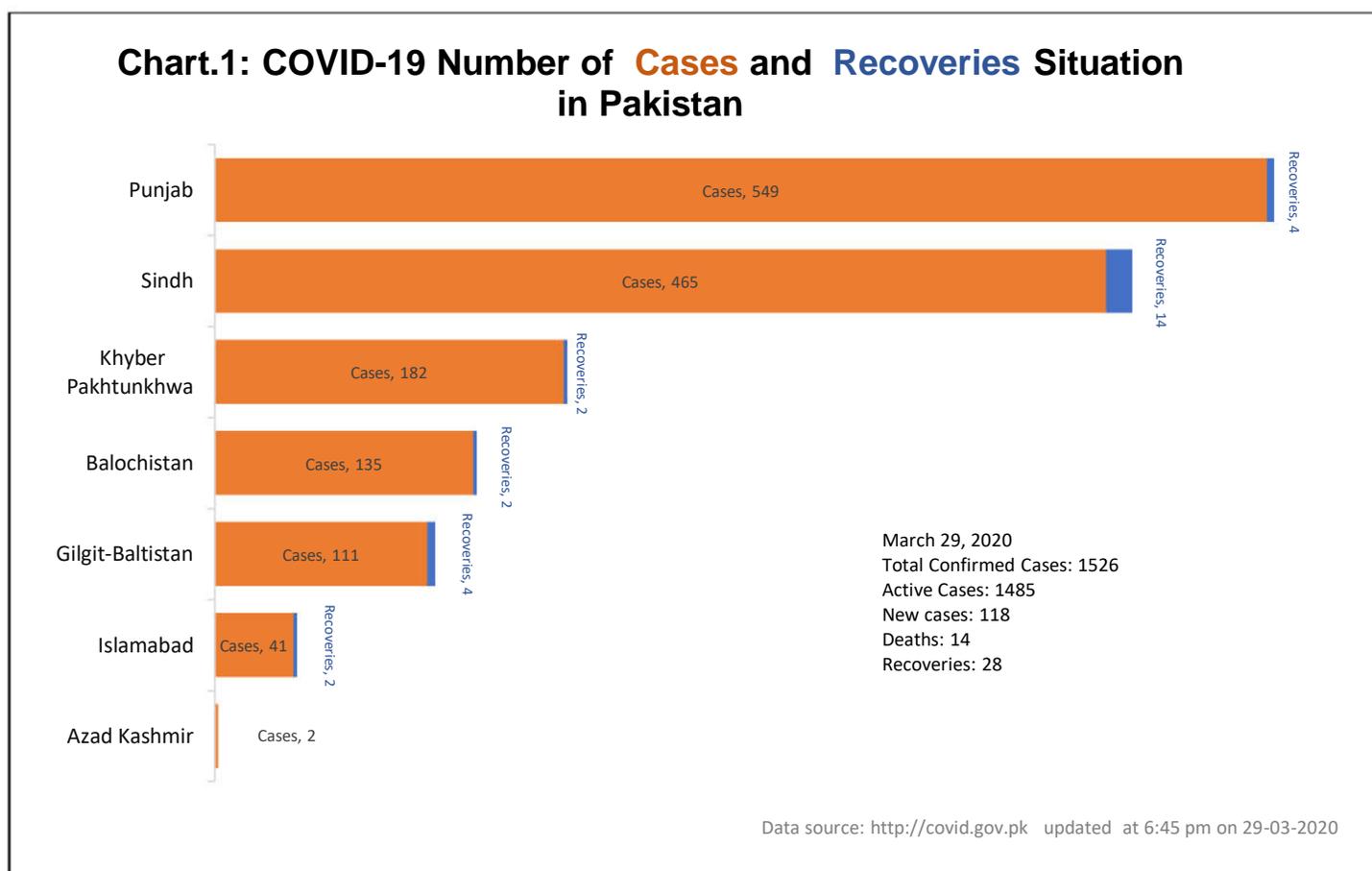


World Health
Organization

#Coronavirus #COVID19

9 March 2020

According to the official sources (NIH¹ 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.

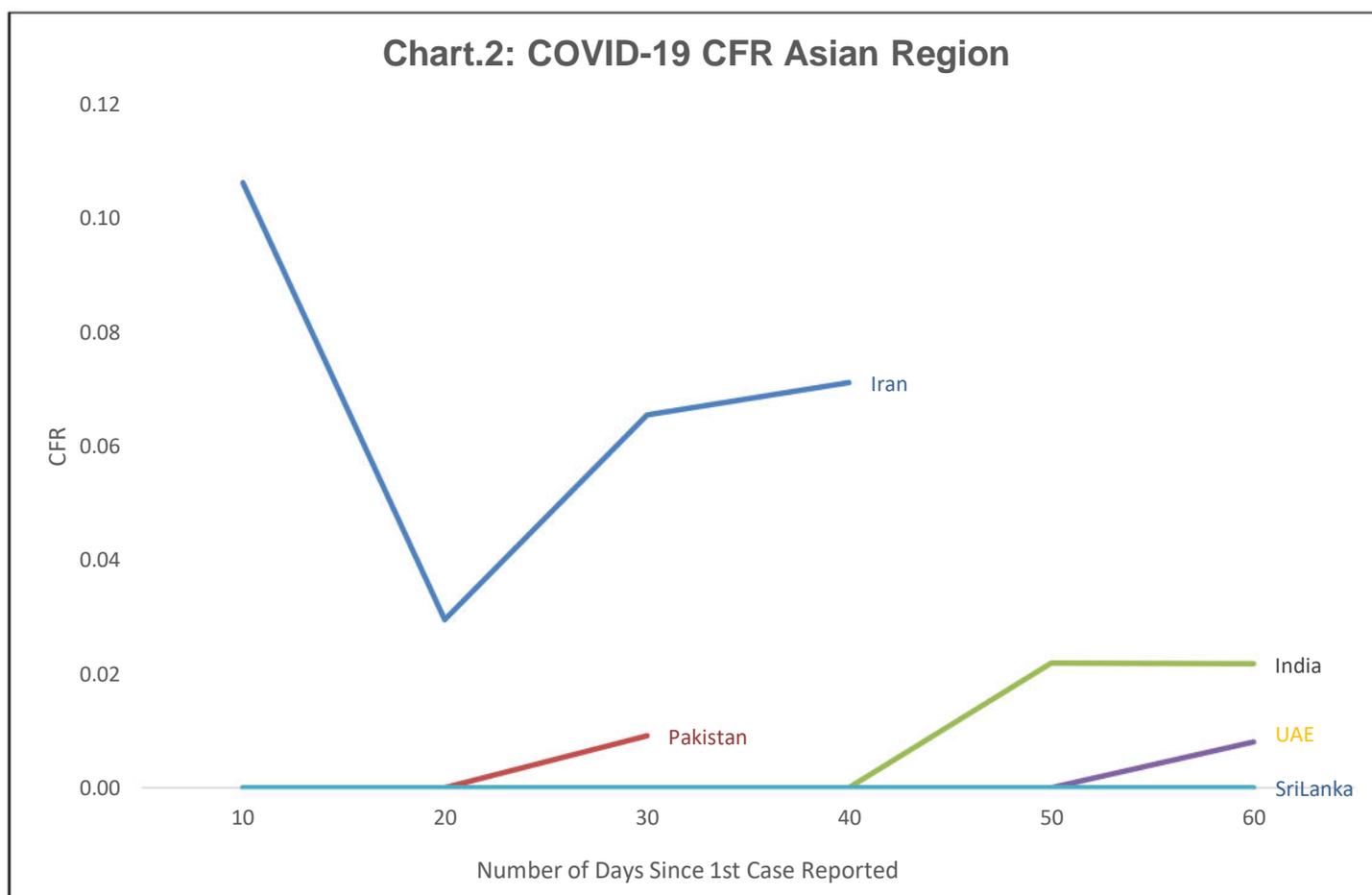


Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is ratio of Number of deaths from certain disease to Number of people diagnosed with this disease. According to medical scientists the human immunity increases gradually against any pandemic and as a result CFR decreases. Scientists further state that level of immunity may vary 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, provided other factors remained same. A time pattern of COVID-19 CFR starting since first

¹ National Institute of Health, Pakistan.

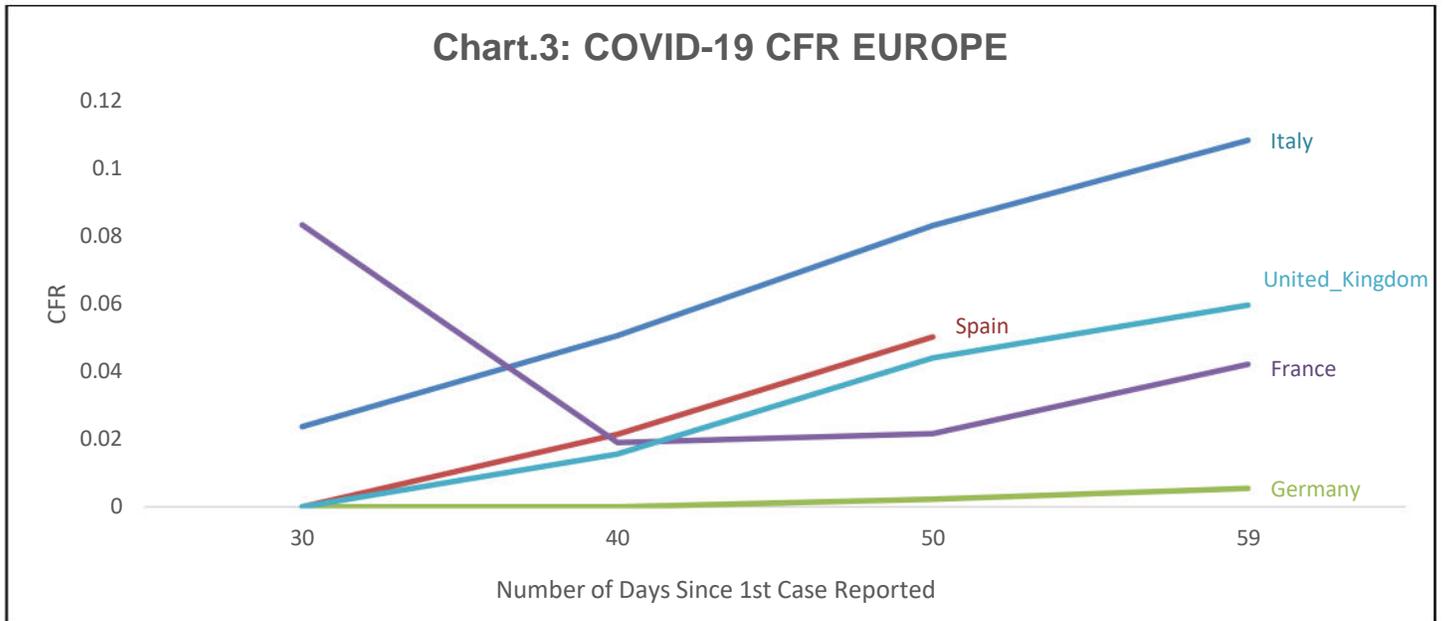
reported case of distinct regions/countries confirms this phenomenon, see Chart.2, 3 and 4.²

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.

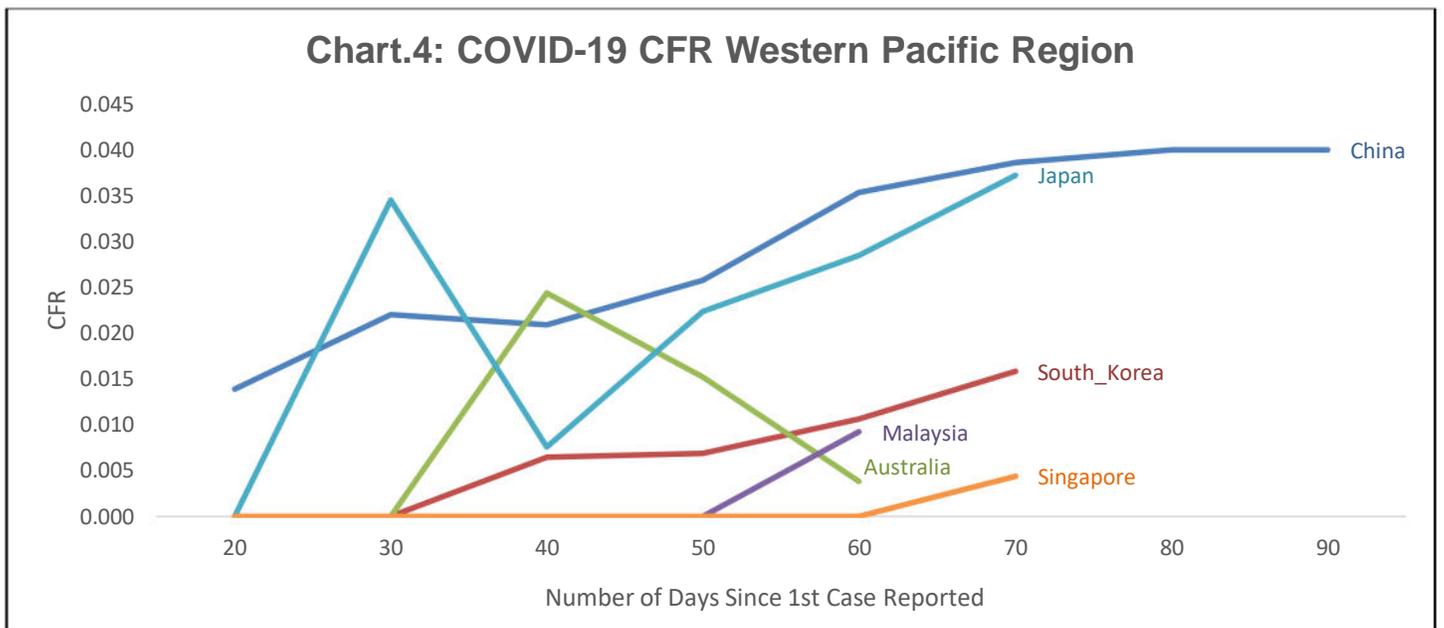


In selected European countries, death toll starts after twenty days since first case reported. Over all CFR in Europe is much higher than selected Asian countries. Germany is exceptional where CFR is even less than Pakistan, India and UAE, in Germany the first death was reported after forty since first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

²Data 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.

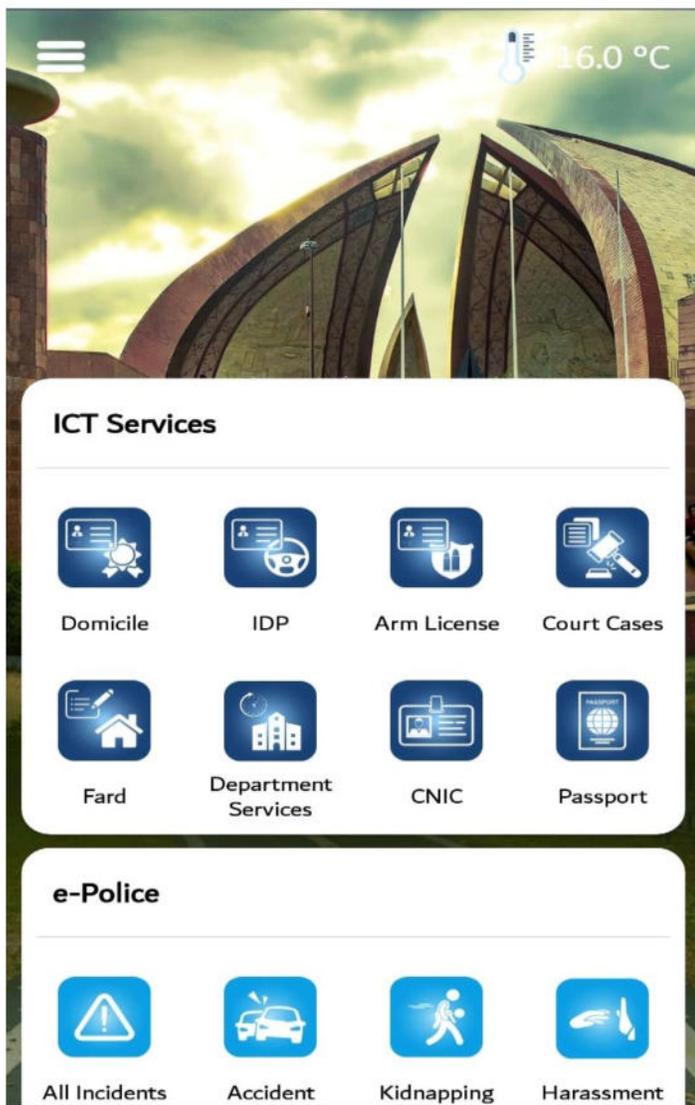
The App has a user-friendly interface and provides a total of 43 services under the headings of ICT Services, e-Police, Excise and Taxation, CDA/MCI, Notifications, City Guide, Featured Services and Utility Bills. The citizens can verify or check authenticities of documents like Domicile, Arms License, 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.



GJXY
I S L A M A B A D



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 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_head

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