

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

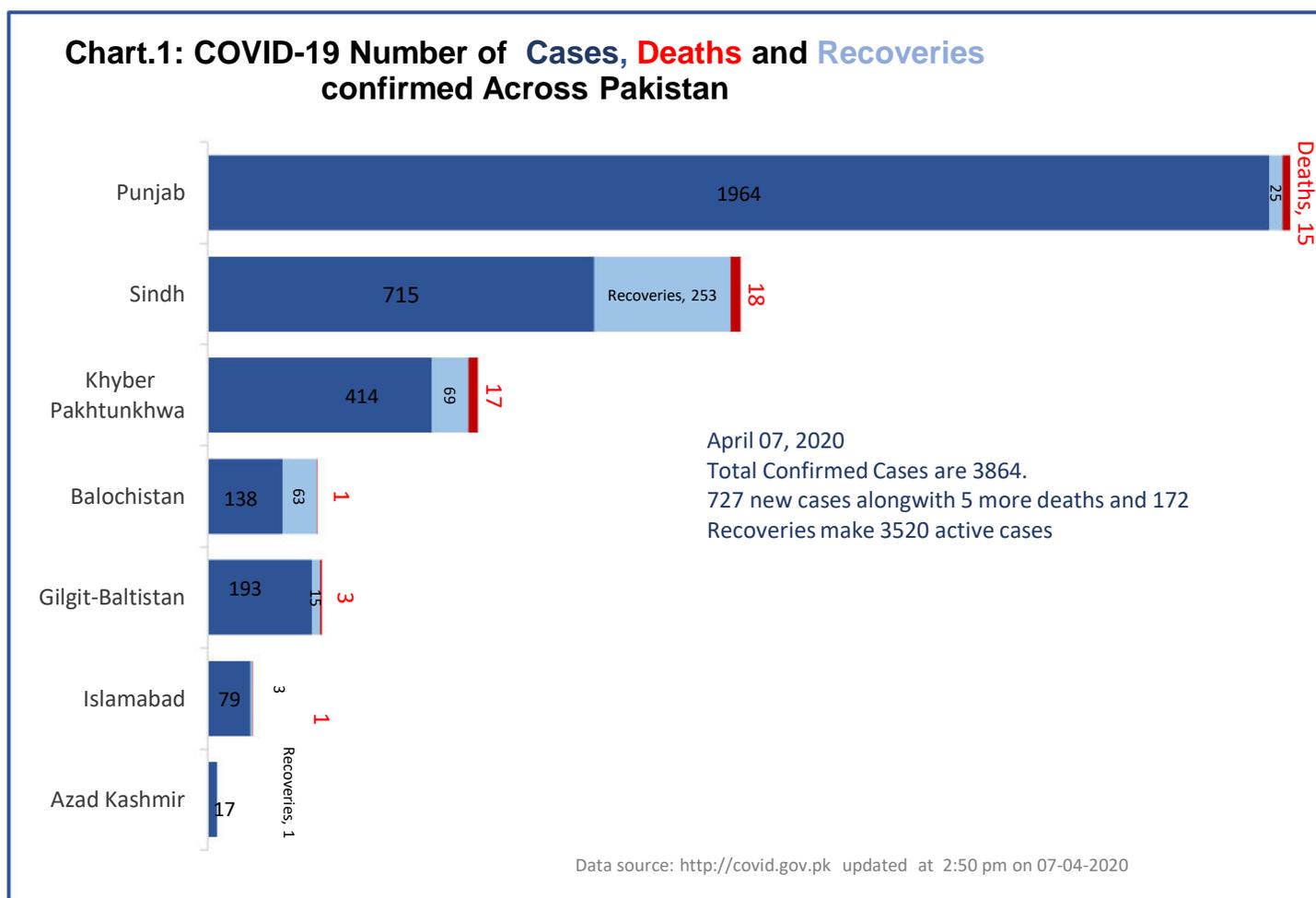
- Outfitters is making protective suits free of cost for medical professionals.
- 250-year-old festival in Okara cancelled due to Covid-19.
- Builders ready to initiate new projects worth Rs1tr.
- Nausheen Amjad replaces Shabbar Zaidi as FBR chairperson.
- Textile giant's top official appeals to govt. 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.

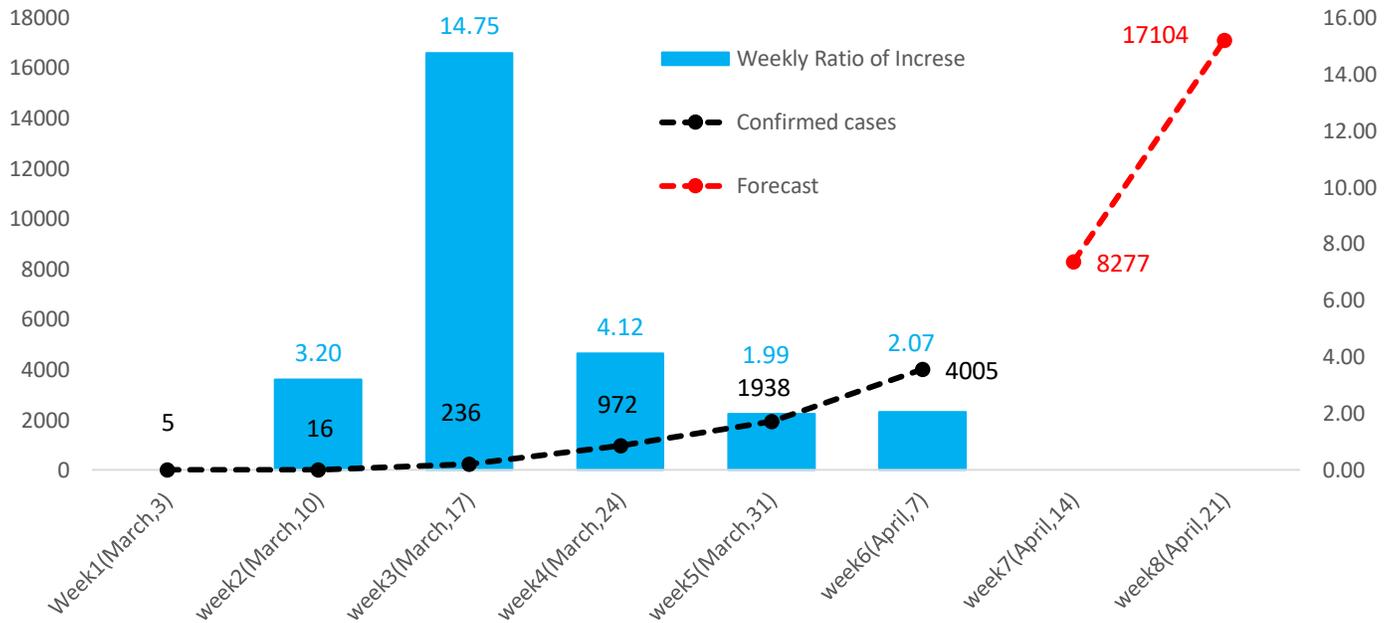
Kimimasa Mayama/EPA

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.



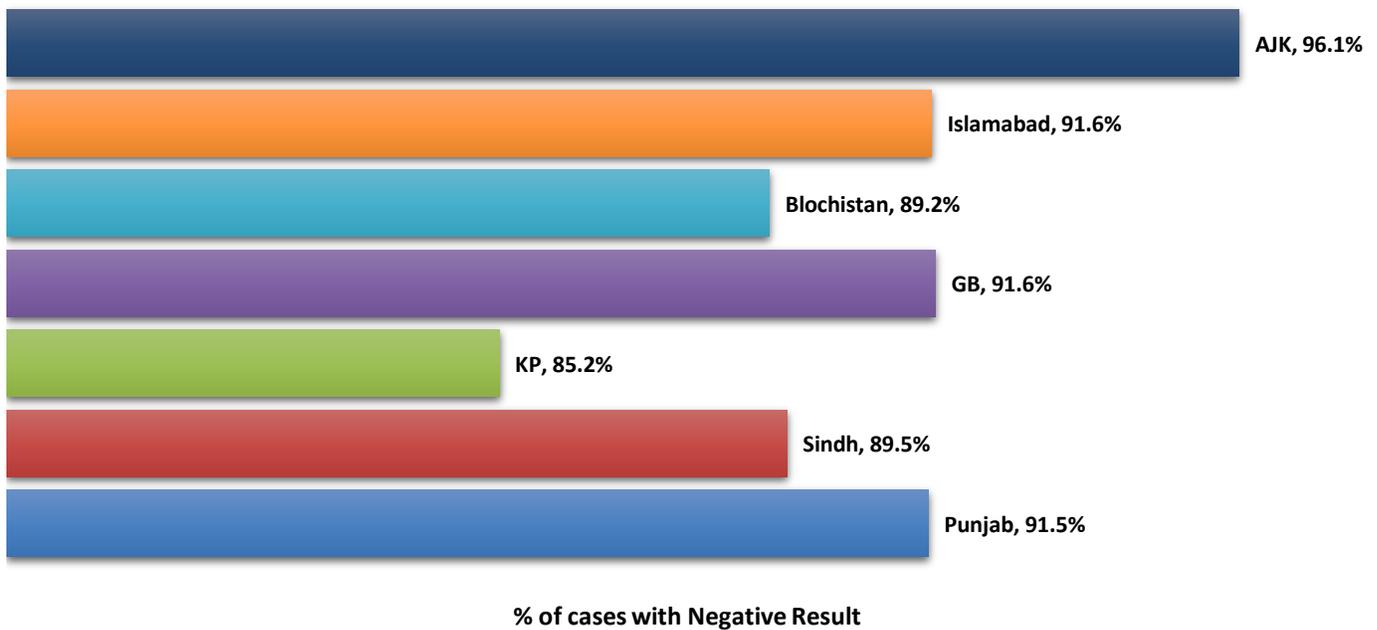
For the last two weeks the COVID-19 cases are increasing with the common ratio of approximately 2.1. At the end of 5th week (March,31,2020) of COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan the number of confirmed cases were 1938, almost double of last week and at the end 6th week the number of confirmed cases rises 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.

Chart.2:COVID-19 Weekly Cases and Projections



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%, KP85.2%, Baluchistan 89.2%, GB 91.6%, in AJK 96.1% and in ICT 91.6%.

Chart.3: Suspected cases get Negative Result



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.

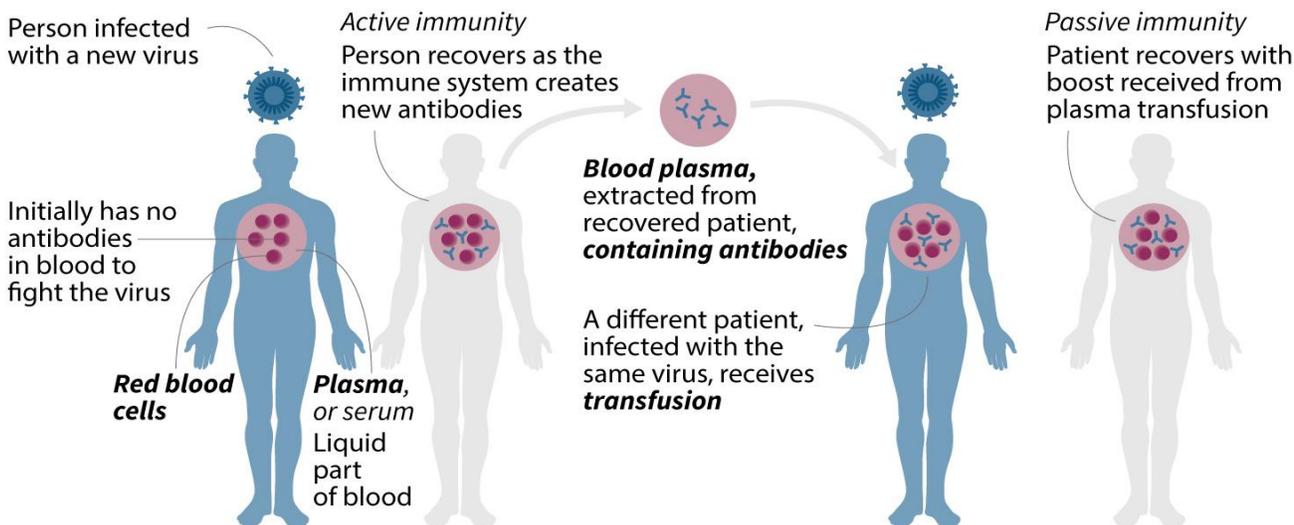
It is not easy to predict the economic condition of every city due to limited data, even for Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. The economic condition is uncertain and do not have much information of immediate future impact of Coronavirus. In 2014-2015, according to FBR, 20% of revenue generated from 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)

Plasma in the battle against COVID-19

How taking antibodies from people who recovered from infection with SARS-CoV-2 may help others

Convalescent plasma therapy



Since the 1930s, doctors have given antibody-rich blood serum to boost the defences of people sick with the same infection

Has been used in China on COVID-19. A study on 10 severe adult cases has shown promising results

Though preliminary research on COVID-19 looks promising, randomised trials are yet to be completed

The therapy has saved lives in polio and Ebola epidemics, measles outbreaks and in the 2003 SARS epidemic

Source: [newscientist.com/hub.jhu.edu/fda.gov/covidplasma.org/PNAS](https://www.newscientist.com/hub.jhu.edu/fda.gov/covidplasma.org/PNAS)

© AFP

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>

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