



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

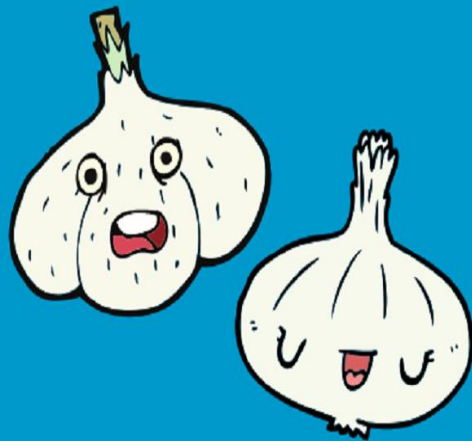
- PIA stopped from operating special flights for UK, Canada.
- Youth force 'Corona Relief Tigers' to help mitigate spread of virus in Pakistan: PM Imran.
- Areas which report virus cases to be sealed off.
- AJK PM announces Nishan-e-Kashmir for GB doctor who died of coronavirus.
- Coronavirus outbreak: 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

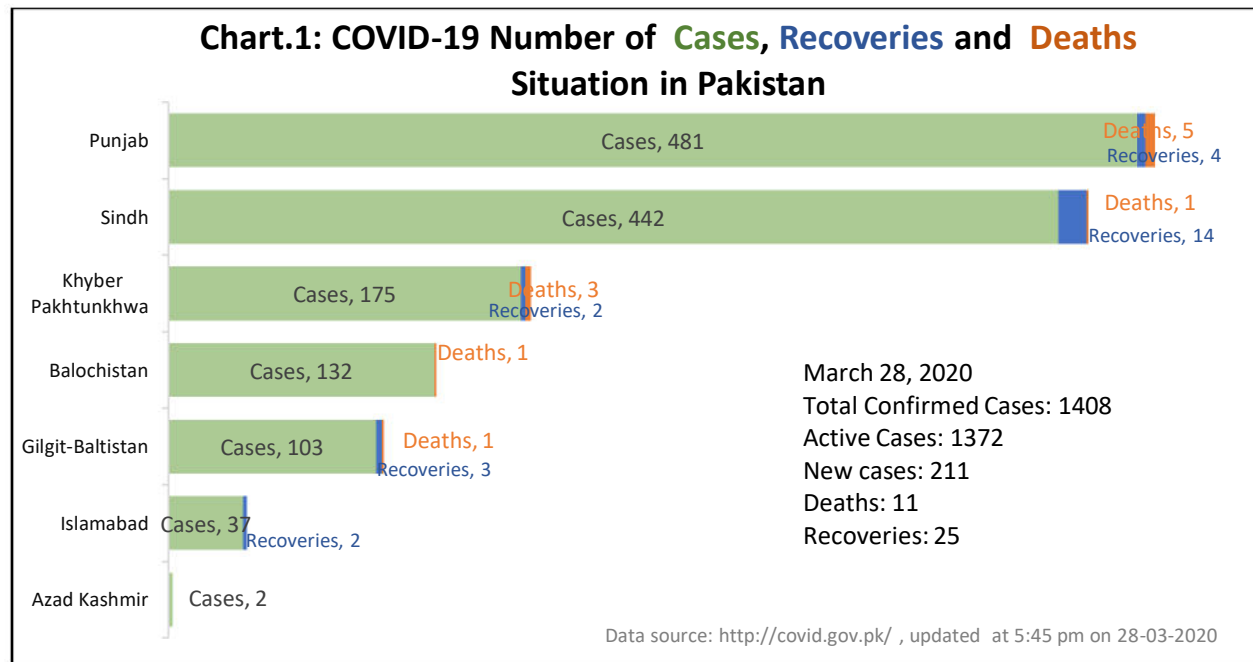
Garlic is a healthy food that may have some antimicrobial properties. **However, there is no evidence from the current outbreak that eating garlic has protected people from the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**

Can eating garlic help prevent infection with the new coronavirus?

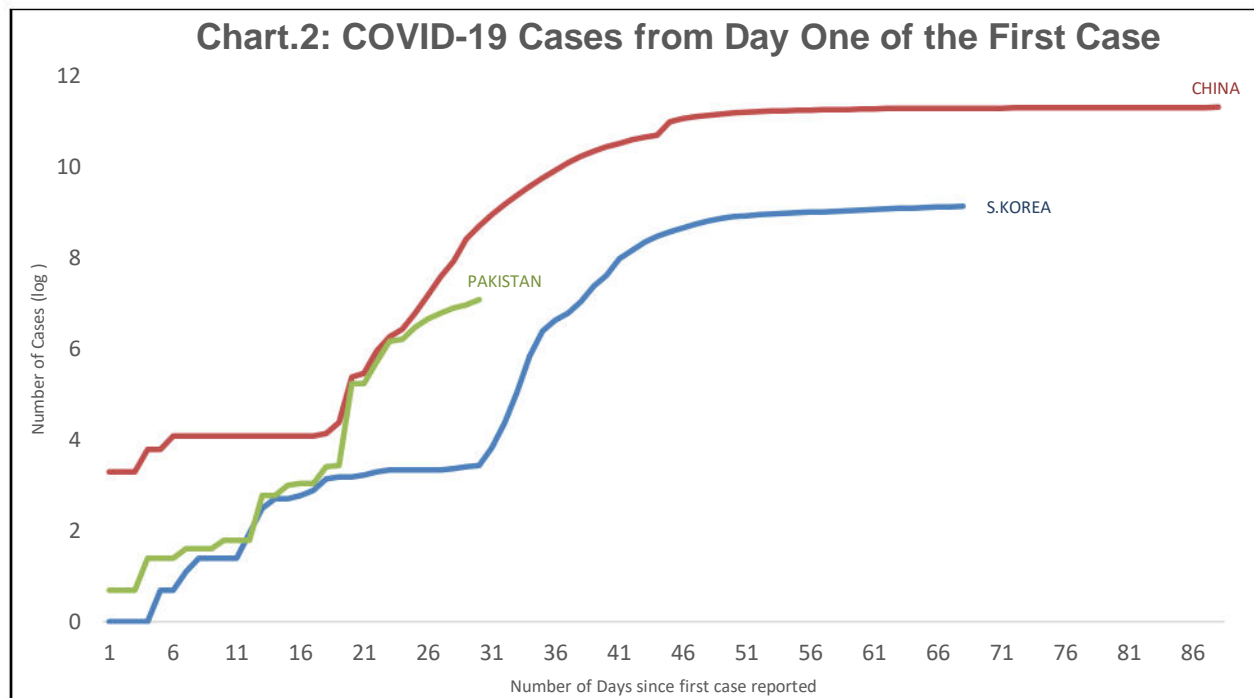


#2019nCoV

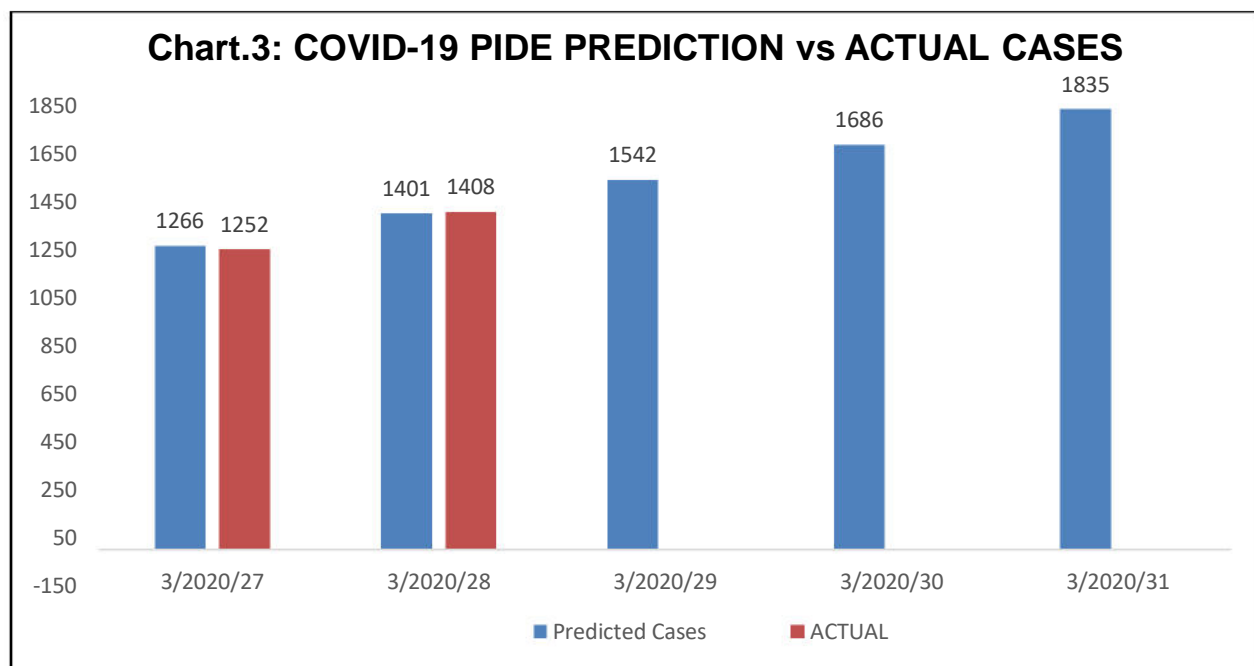
As of 28th March 2020, during last 24 hours, 211 new cases confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 1,408. So far total deaths due to COVID-19 are 11 across country while 25 recoveries are reported, see Chart.1.



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/>

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