PIDE COVID-19 NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2020
No. 12

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

COVID-19 PANDEMIC
How is the virus transmitted?

SINGLE SNEEZE CAN PRODUCE UP TO 10,000 DROPLETS

SINGLE COUGH CAN PRODUCE UP TO 3,000 DROPLETS

VIRUS BECOMES AIRBORNE, AND CAN REMAIN SUSPENDED IN THE AIR IN VERY TINY DROPLETS FOR HOURS

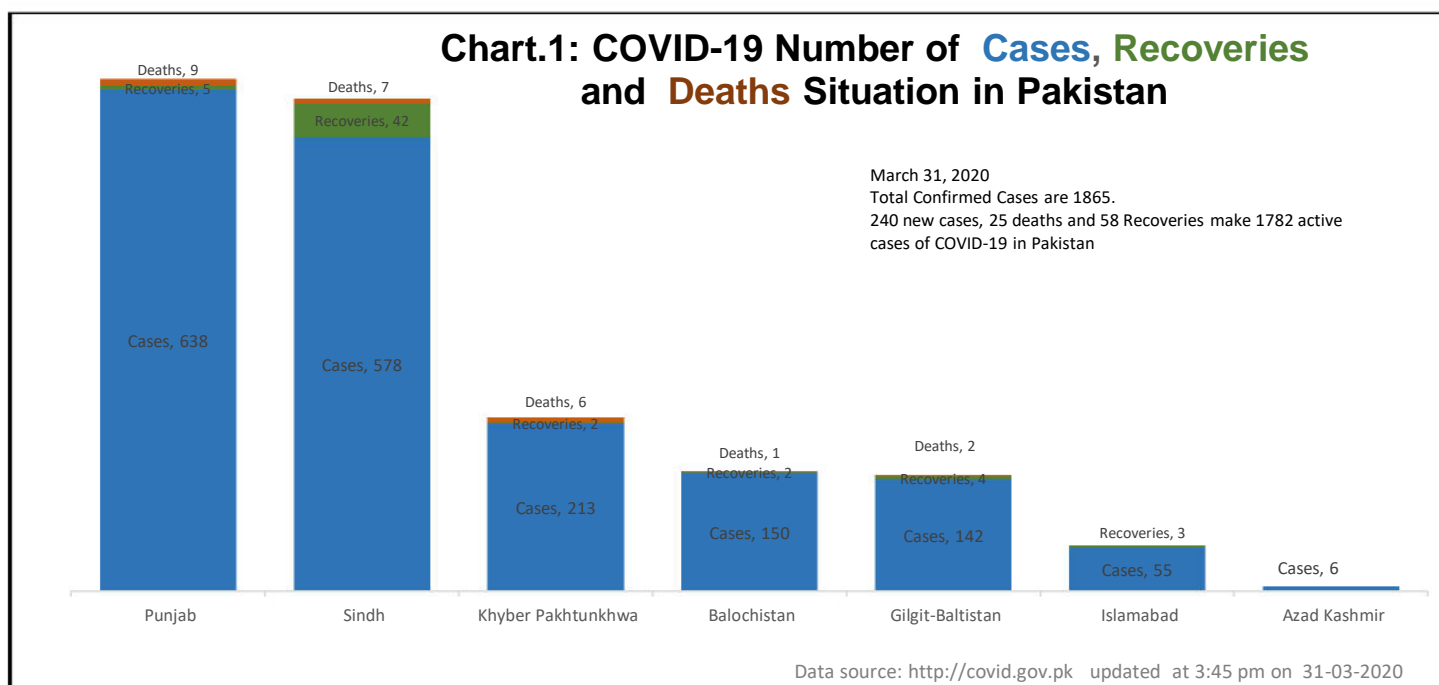CARDBOARD STAINLESS STEEL PLASTIC

If the droplets land on surfaces, the virus may survive for as long as 24 hours on cardboard and up to 3 days on stainless steel and plastic, according to a recent study.

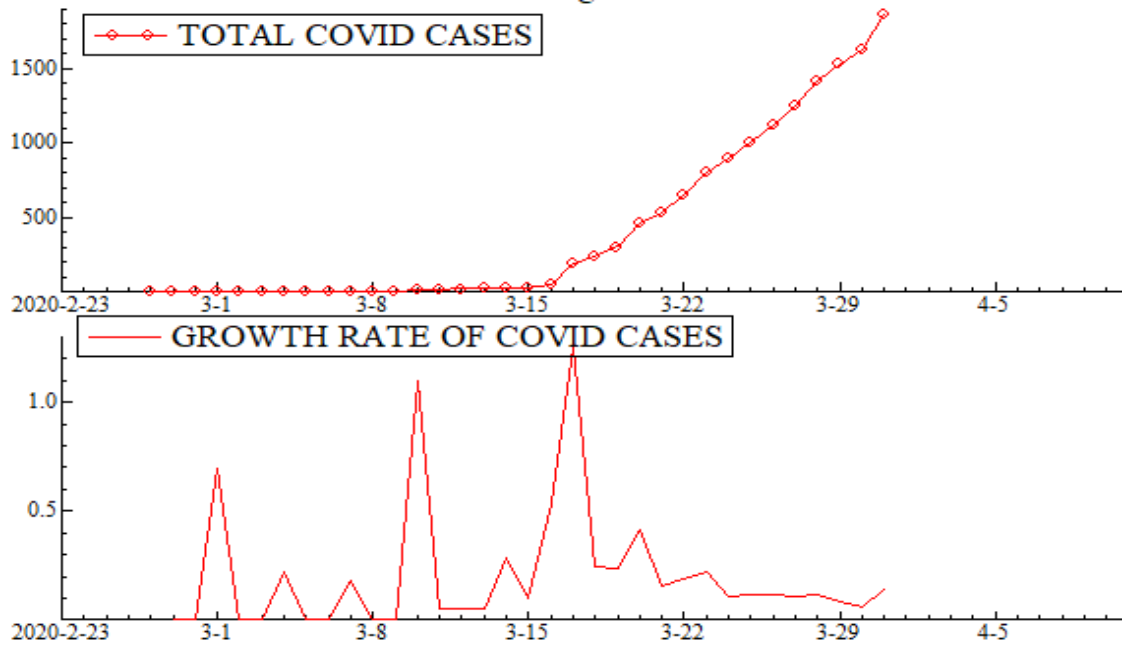Source: AL JAZEERA | Last updated: 11:30 GMT, March 24, 2020

@AJLabs ALJAZEERA

According to the official sources (NIH[1] 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.

Chart.1: COVID-19 Number of Cases, Recoveries and Deaths Situation in Pakistan

March 31, 2020
Total Confirmed Cases are 1865.
240 new cases, 25 deaths and 58 Recoveries make 1782 active cases of COVID-19 in Pakistan

Data source: http://covid.gov.pk updated at 3:45 pm on 31-03-2020

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.
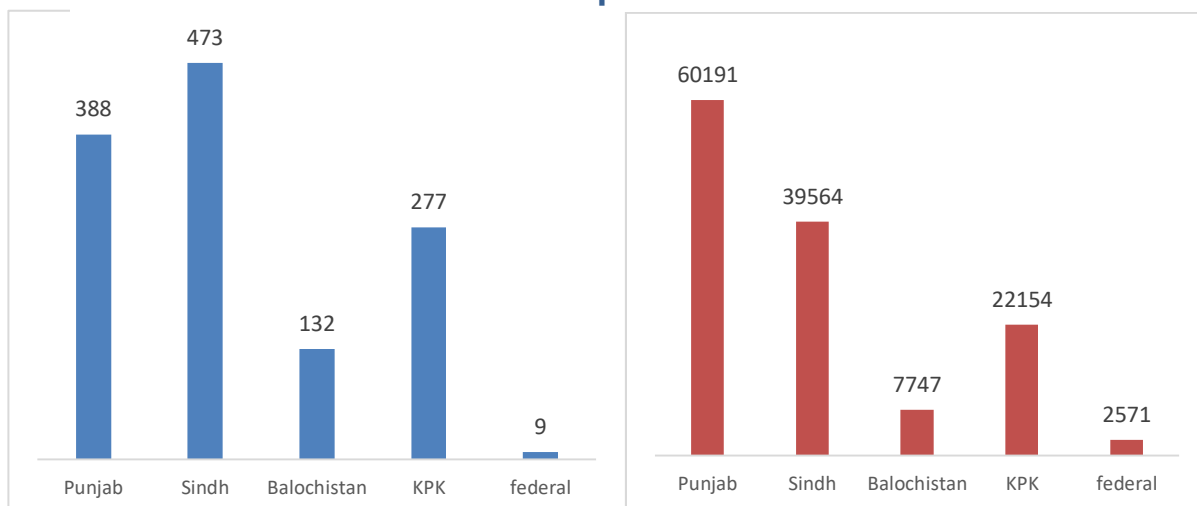
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[1] National Institute of Health, Pakistan.

Chart.2: COVID-19 CASES and growth rate of CASES

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?

World Health Organization

#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-19in 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

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