



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.

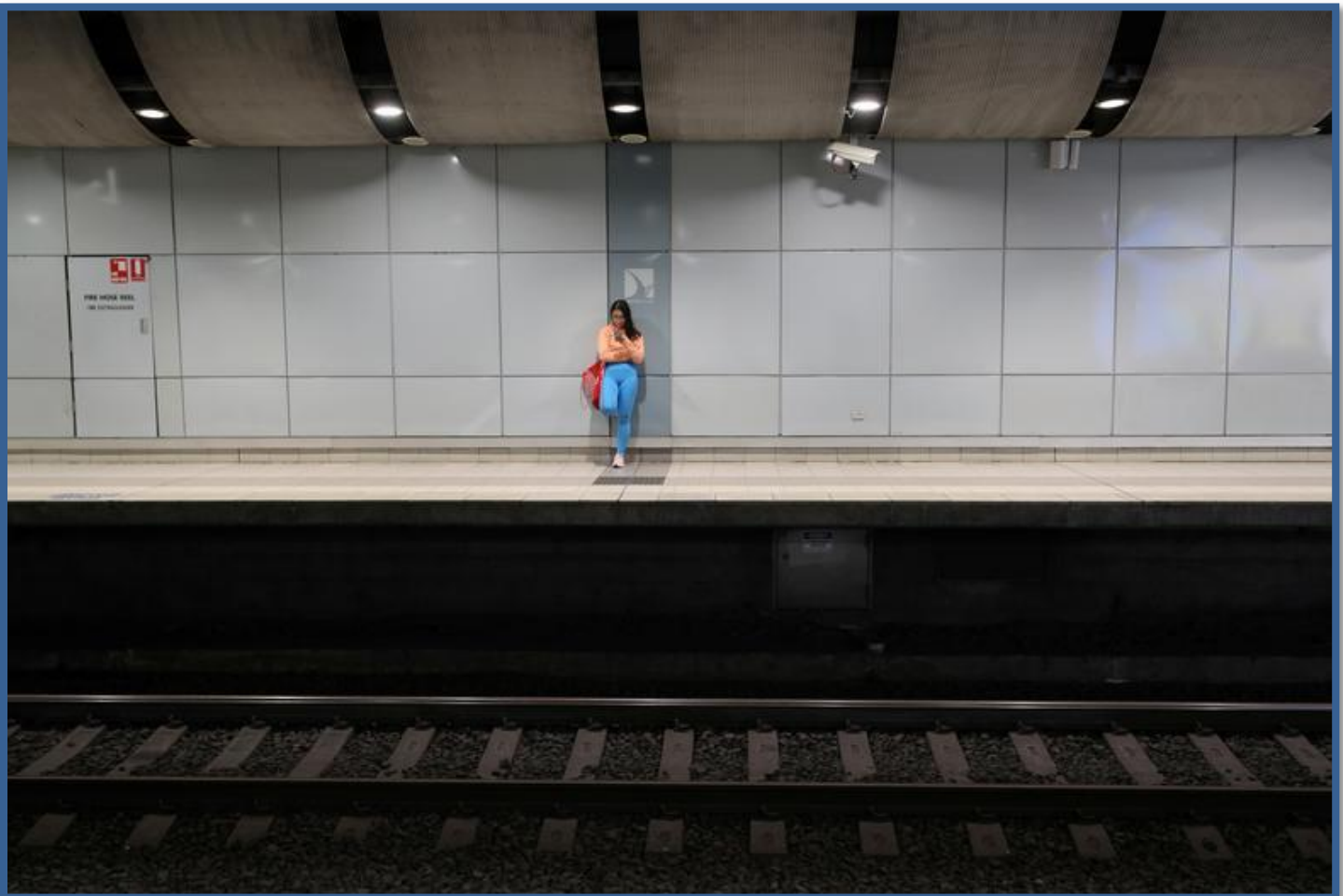
Credit: Farooq Naeem/Getty Images

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

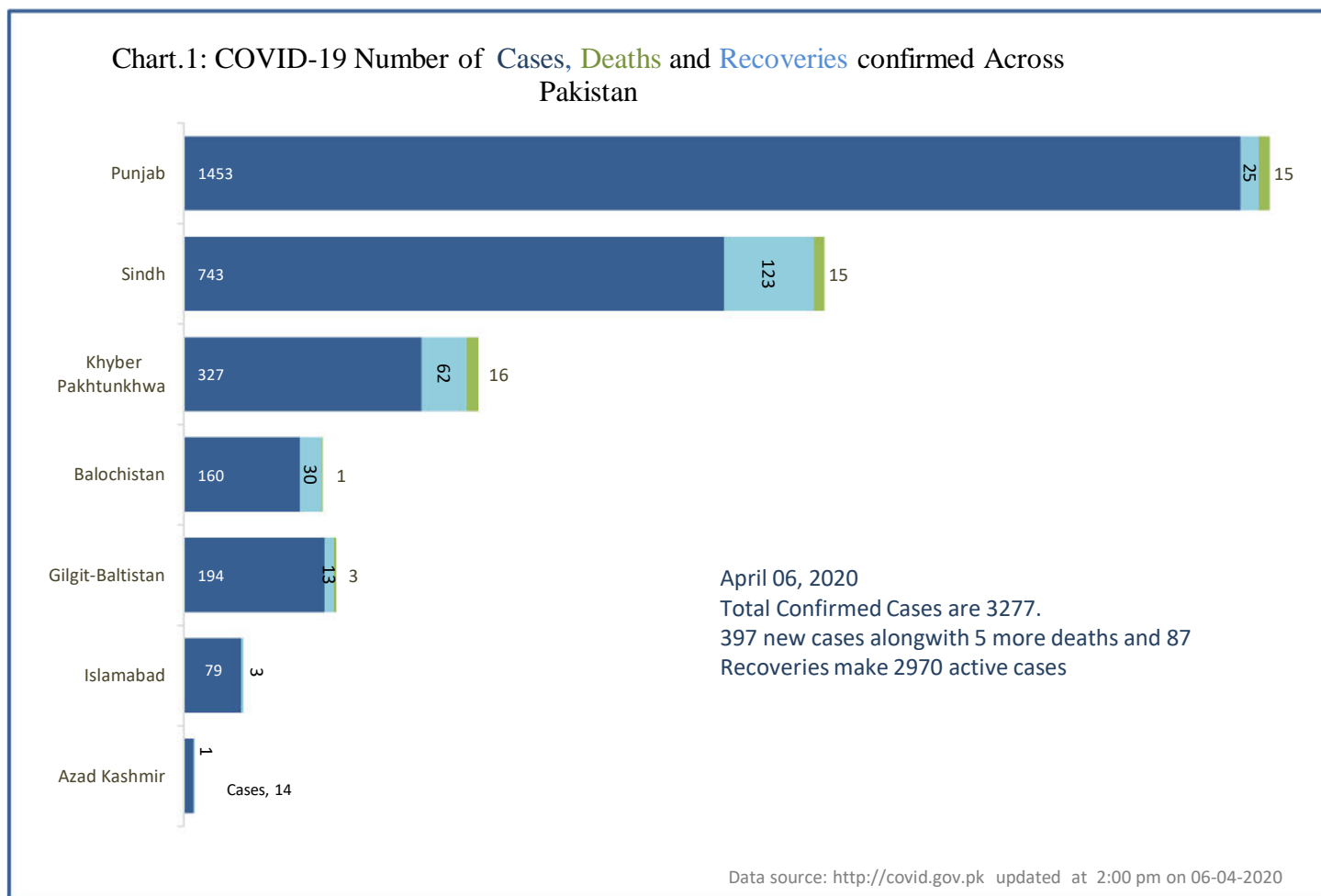
- Sindh CM directs officials to set up ICUs at 6 hospitals in Karachi.
- Punjab schools directed to give 20pc concession in tuition fee.
- Punjab extends partial lockdown till April 14.
- Tableeghi Jamaat members in KP to be sent back to respective provinces after being tested: Wazir.
- Prayer leader 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.

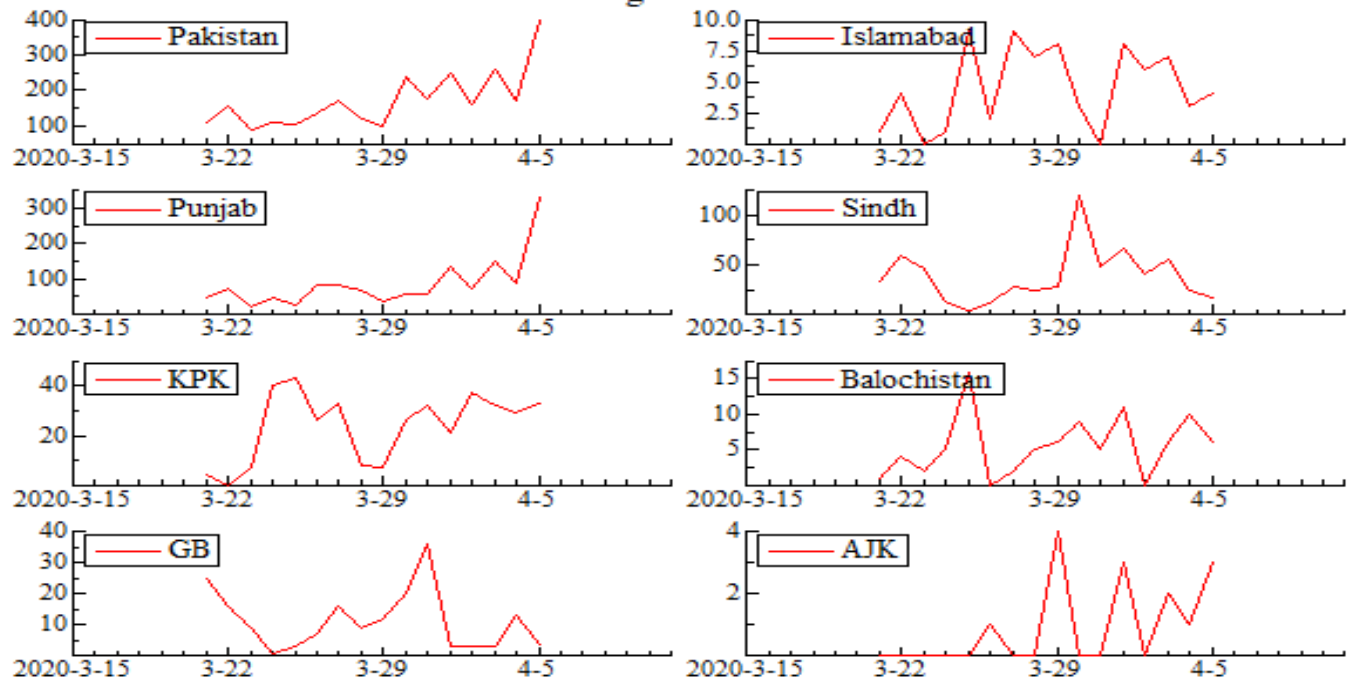
Muhammad Sajjad/The Associated Press

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.



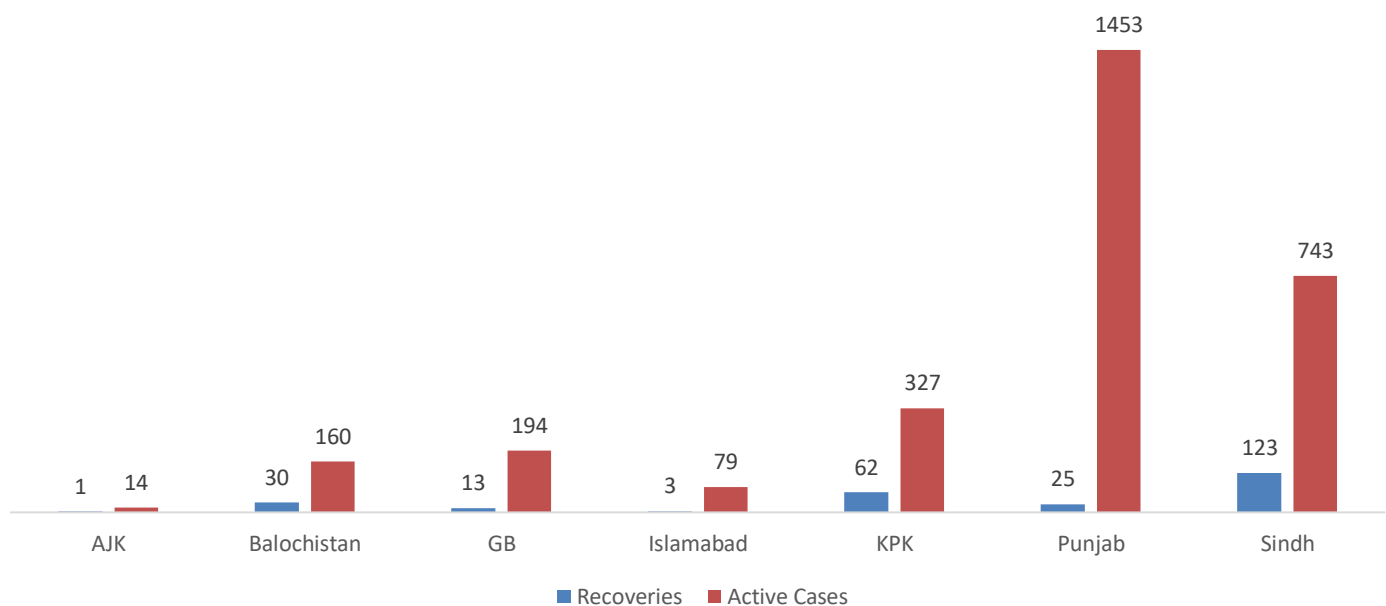
In the month of April the number of new cases increase manifold in Punjab; KPK is also following the increasing trend. In other regions of Pakistan the pattern of new COVID-19 cases stays either stable or decreasing. Since the lockdown imposed by provinces on 24th March 2020, comparatively a strict government 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)**

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-52114829>
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>
6. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20200315.319008/full/>
7. <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200331-the-law-of-generosity-combatting-coronavirus-in-pakistan>
8. <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/internet/coronavirus-pandemic-drove-life-online-it-may-never-return-n1169956>
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.



#2019nCoV

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



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



Tableeghi 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>

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