



WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-96

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

2 719 897 confirmed (93 716)

187 705 deaths (5767)

Western Pacific Region

141 470 confirmed (1688)

5906 deaths (37)

European Region

1 314 666 confirmed (30 450)

119 463 deaths (2940)

South-East Asia Region

41 073 confirmed (2501)

1658 deaths (104)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

154 971 confirmed (5676)

6750 deaths (142)

Region of the Americas

1 047 508 confirmed (52 138)

53 103 deaths (2520)

African Region

19 497 confirmed (1263)

812 deaths (24)



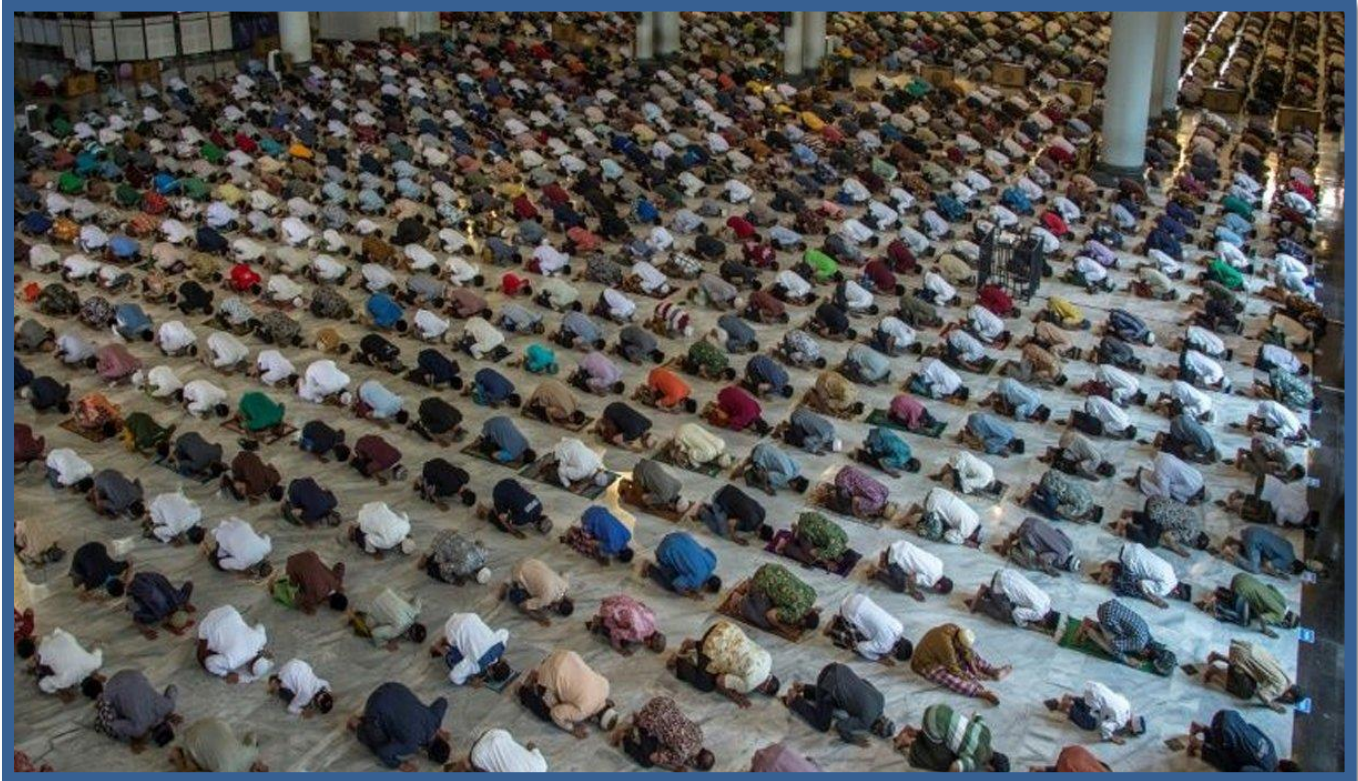
A man carrying balloons for his son's birthday party under lockdown—Reuters

Global News

- No evidence' people with coronavirus are immunised, says WHO.
- Virus lockdown raises tensions in France's poorest areas.
- Singapore reports 931 new coronavirus cases, taking total to 13,624.
- Low-tech Japan challenged in working from home amid pandemic.
- Sri Lanka tightens its lockdown amid a surge of new coronavirus cases.
- No new deaths reported in China for 10th straight day.
- Britain tops 20,000 deaths, making it the 5th country to reach the grim milestone.
- Russia reports 5,966 new coronavirus cases in past 24 hours.

Global Response

- Australia launches controversial Covid-19 tracking app as some states start easing rules.
- India rolls out mobile coronavirus testing vans.
- Over 21,000 Pakistani expats from Gulf region laid off amid Covid-19: Zulfi Bukhari.
- Hundreds protest against lockdown at Polish-German border, Protesters in Berlin defy social distancing rule.
- Etihad Airways extends suspension of scheduled flights to at least May 16.
- Indian Muslims face stigma, blame for surge in infections.
- Warnings issued after Trump's remarks about disinfectants. Dettol warns against injecting disinfectant after Trump suggests it may help against Covid-19.



**A mosque during Ramadan, which can be a cause of
Coronavirus spread—*The News***

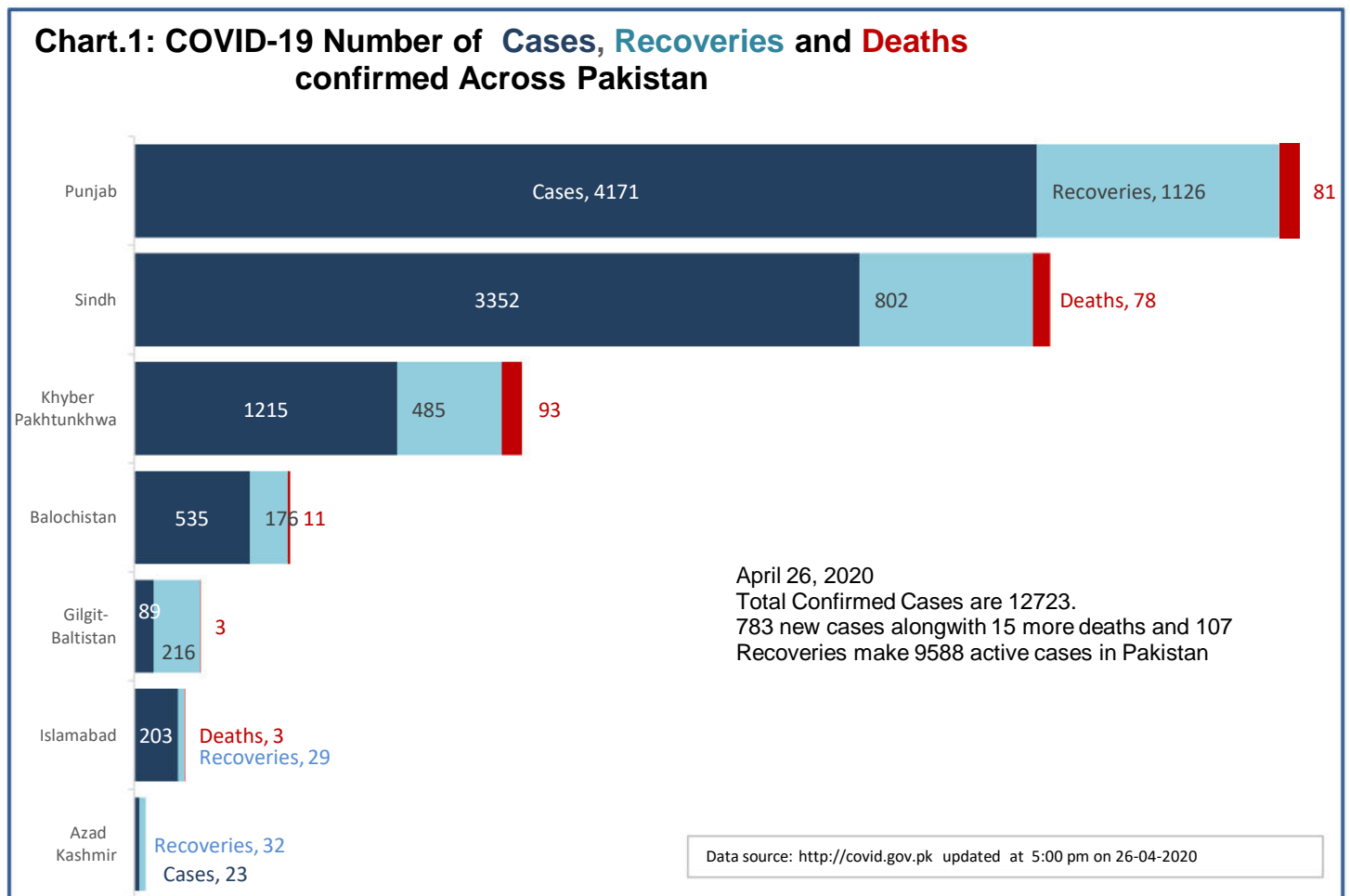
Local News

- Sindh CM presides over meeting to oversee existing isolation centres, establishment of new ones.
- Pakistan reports highest 24-hour jump with nearly 1,000 coronavirus cases.
- KP confirms 85 new coronavirus cases, 4 more deaths.
- Pakistan's coronavirus outbreak mostly through local transmission now: Mirza.
- President Alvi visits capital's mosques to review arrangements for Taraweeh prayers.
- Two journalists test positive for coronavirus in AJK.
- Pakistan expects \$1.8b debt relief from G-20.
- Tax refund claims surge to Rs348b.

Local Response

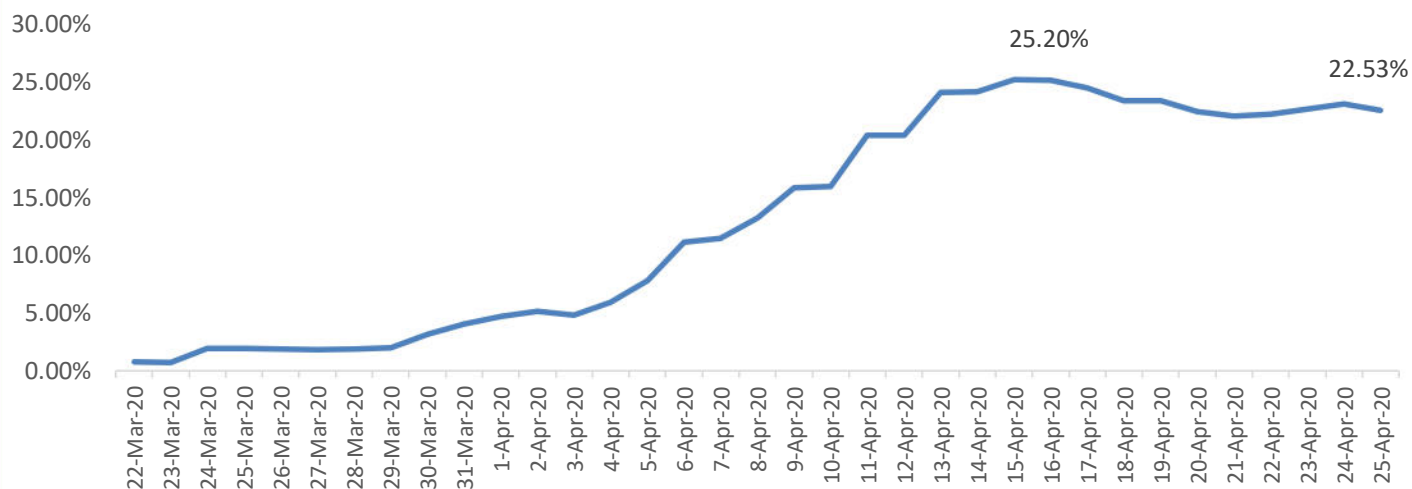
- Balochistan CM urges citizens not to take coronavirus lightly, maintain social distancing.
- Former cricket stars look to inspire current cricketers through video sessions.
- Suspension of international flights extended till May 15: CAA.
- 78 arrested, 107 shops sealed for violating lockdown in Quetta.
- Govt. invites overseas Pakistani health professionals to volunteer in country's fight against Covid-19.
- 228 more people have recovered from coronavirus in Pakistan.
- Taraweeh prayer congregations held in numerous Karachi mosques in violation of govt orders: sources
- Minister for Religious Affairs dismayed at violation of social distancing in mosques.
- Govt. extends lockdown till mid-Ramazan.
- Weekly review: KSE-100 index slips as oil tumbles, virus cases surge.

During the last 24 hours, 783 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 12723. Eight deaths from Punjab, Four from KP and three from Sindh have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 269 deaths and 2866 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



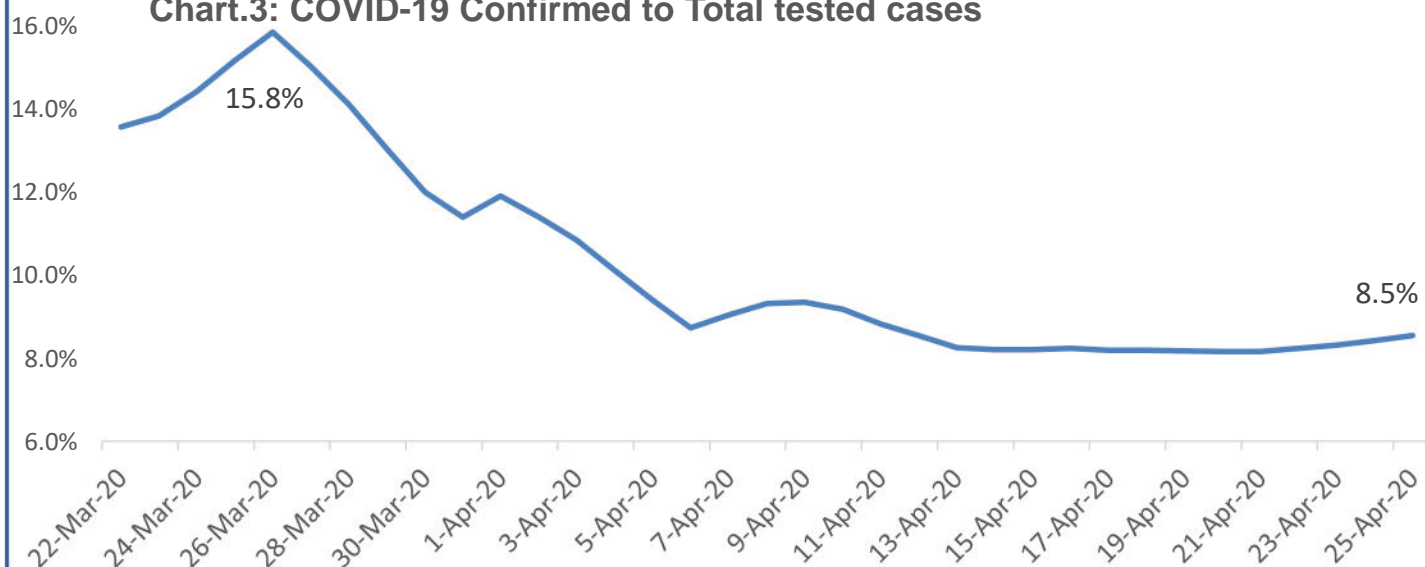
The recovery ratio from COVID-19 has continuous increasing trend in Pakistan. It approached to maximum of 25.2% and declines after 15 April 2020, this is the date when lockdown was soften, see Chart.2. At present the average world recovery ratio from COVID-19 is 28.6%. Recovery from infection takes time, we have only two months data for Pakistan since the first case reported, it is expected that recovery ratio in Pakistan will soon converge to the world average.

Chart.2: COVID-19 Recovery Ratio



Since the mid April 2020 the ratio of confirmed cases to total tested cases is consistent with insignificant changes. A five days moving average of ratio of confirmed cases to total cases depicts a downward trend from maximum of 15.8% to currently prevailing 8.5%, see Chart.3. With this currently prevailing average ratio a rough guess of 18.7 million COVID-19 infected cases may be expected at maximum out of the total population of 220 million in Pakistan given all other factors constant. This rough estimate is a huge number with expected serious economic and social consequences. In the absence of vaccination the only cure is prevention, with constrained social interaction COVID-19 outbreak can be controlled.

Chart.3: COVID-19 Confirmed to Total tested cases



COVID-19 and Faith in Pakistan

It is rather naive to think and establish a wholly cogent and transparent link between socio-economic conditions and faith of a community. Although, in special cases like us-as a nation's, whose faith is more generally based upon the socio-political history of this region. The sudden spike in mosque going '*zaahids*' can be attributed (up to fair extent) to the fear which is generated by the extreme section of Salafism, in Salafist school of thought. As one can easily witness that many people are flocking toward mosques as if some sort of '*Jihad*' is going on. When there are clear directions of personal safety in Ahadees (Sayings of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)) about a situation, similar to contagious viral outbreak or pandemic, and to limit one's movement and change the behavioral patterns so to limit the viral spread.

Ignoring constant calls by the incumbent government to refrain from congregations, whatsoever be the nature of these meet over, cultural, social or religious in large groups, would be devastating. However, it is another matter of debate that whether state has at any time, treated its subjects as per the rules and guidelines set for the 'citizens' of principled democracy and cry of civil society.

It would be safer to say that we must rather focus on devising a policy and its implementation, which is all encompassing of cultural, social and religious affiliations, to contain the spread of COVID-19. We must bear in mind that the holy month of Ramadan is about to begin and there will be cultural, social and religious gatherings, in the context of daily market activity and preparations for *chhoti eid* (*Eid-ul-fitr*, in Arabic).

(Written by Tabish Ayaz; a student at the department of Environmental Economics, PIDE)

COVID-19 Outbreak and the Issue of Misinformation

Currently, the world is confronting with the issue of COVID -19 pandemic. The issue associated to the pandemic is misinformation about it. Here it is worthwhile to mention the consequences of misinformation of COVID-19 that causes panic and anxiety in the society. Nowadays, fake news of COVID-19, about its origin and treatment, is circulating on social media more vehemently.

Some conspiracy theorists say COVID-19 is a failed attempt of China to outplay other global powers. Some other news states that it is a game which is being played globally

for reducing world population. Unverified news circulated on Facebook and WhatsApp assert that the virus is power-politics of America being played against China.

The misinformation is misleading. COVID-19 pandemic is in its full surge in the whole world. The world has locked down and one of the readily available sources of information to public is social media. It's the age of WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook where one can get more valuable information. Along with this it has the propensity to misguide people. News circulated on social media, that alcohol cures the virus by consuming homemade alcohol resulted in many people being hospitalized and about forty died in Iran.

In Pakistan, awareness about social media is relatively low as compared to the other parts of the world, still uneducated people are more active on social media i.e. Facebook, WhatsApp where information about COVID-19 is spreading without checking reliability and sources. In most of the cases, the information lacks authenticity and is not verified by the authorized body.

Colin Furness, an Epidemiologist at University of Toronto, in his unofficial interview to a news channel, rejected all the news related to the remedies/cures of COVID-19. He said that garlic is an antibacterial which can be used against the bacterial infection not that of viral. He also added that by inhaling steam, the virus will not be killed.

The spreading of misinformation about the pandemic of COVID-19 is out of control. Certain serious measures should be taken against the spreading of misinformation; otherwise it will deteriorate the situation relentlessly.

World Health Organization (WHO) is a reliable source of information. It provides information to public on daily basis on the outbreak of COVID-19. So, sources like WHO or the Ministry of Health of Pakistan can be looked into for the updated and reliable information. Regarding misinformation, The Government of Pakistan and Pakistan and Telecommunication Authority (PTA) should take strict action against such social media services/users who are spreading misinformation.

(Written by Abu Bakar Sadiq; a student at the department of Economics, PIDE)

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the disinfectants recommended for environmental cleaning in healthcare facilities or homes housing patients with suspected or confirmed 2019-nCoV infection?

Environmental cleaning in healthcare facilities or homes housing patients with suspected or confirmed 2019-nCoV infection should use disinfectants that are active against enveloped viruses, such as 2019-nCoV and other coronaviruses. There are many disinfectants, including commonly used hospital disinfectants that are active against enveloped viruses. Currently WHO recommendations include the use of:

- 70% Ethyl alcohol to disinfect reusable dedicated equipment (e.g., thermometers) between uses
- Sodium hypochlorite at 0.5% (equivalent 5000ppm) for disinfection of frequently touched surfaces in homes or healthcare facilities

Can chlorine solutions also be used?

Chlorine solutions are strongly discouraged as they carry a higher risk of hand irritation and ill health effects from making and diluting chlorine solutions, including eye irritation and respiratory problems. In addition, there is a risk of loss of antimicrobial effect if exposed to sunlight or heat. Preparing chlorine solutions requires training to reach the correct dose of 0.05% with varying strengths of bleach available in the private sector. Even if stored at a cool dry place with a lid away from sunlight, they have to be renewed daily. In comparison simple soapy water solution do not have any of the above-mentioned health risks and complications including loss of antiviral effect due to heat or sunlight. The antiviral effect of soapy water is due to the oily surface membrane of the COVID-virus that is dissolved by soap, killing the virus.

Source: World Health Organization



Children of a slum standing in a line to get food distributed by a group—*Getty Images*



Turkey's Mosques remain closed due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus as Muslim's around the world celebrate Ramadan—*Getty Images*

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Feb. 29, 2020 — March 01, 2020)

Feb. 29 — WHO updates its guidance on travel restrictions. While it continues to advise against travel or trade restrictions, it notes that in certain circumstances countries can use travel restrictions temporarily, such as in settings with few international connections and limited response capacities. It says that countries can only justify significant travel restrictions at the beginning of an outbreak to give a country time to implement preparedness measures for an outbreak.

"Travel bans to affected areas or denial of entry to passengers coming from affected areas are usually not effective in preventing the importation of cases but may have a significant economic and social impact," according to the guidance.

WHO also says that temperature screening alone at airports and borders is not an effective way to stop international spread because people may be in an incubation period and not showing symptoms or be using antipyretics to reduce fever.

"Such measures require substantial investments for what may bear little benefits. It is more effective to provide prevention recommendation messages to travellers and to collect health declarations at arrival, with travellers' contact details, to allow for a proper risk assessment and a possible contact tracing of incoming travellers," WHO says.

WHO also recommends that countries intensify surveillance for "unusual outbreaks of influenza-like illness and severe pneumonia and monitor carefully the evolution of COVID-19 outbreaks, reinforcing epidemiological surveillance."

Ecuador, Qatar, Monaco, and Luxembourg report first cases of COVID-19.

March 1 — The United Nations releases \$15 million from its Central Emergency Response Fund to WHO and UNICEF to support vulnerable countries in areas including monitoring the spread of COVID-19, investigating cases, and operating national laboratories.

The number of new cases of COVID-19 in Hubei province, China — the epicenter of the outbreak — increased for two successive days following a period of decline in the number of new cases.

Countries should work to increase the availability of pulse oximeters and medical oxygen systems, according to WHO.

South Korea, with 3,736 cases, and Italy, with 1,128 cases, have the most cases outside of China.

Czech Republic, Iceland, and Armenia report their first cases of COVID-19.

The Dominican Republic also reports the first confirmed case of COVID-19 — a 62-year-old Italian man who arrived in the country on Feb. 22. This is the first confirmed case in the Caribbean.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>

Experts' View

At this level, organic smartness — as opposed to simulated smartness — is a prerequisite. Armed to the teeth with testing kits, smart teams of people will fan out across the country and start testing random people. When they find those infected with the virus, these smart people will track all those people who had in any way come into contact with the infected ones. This tracking they will do using smart gadgets and smarter intelligence. Once they find them — and find them they will — they will test them and quarantine them. Then they will go after those who had come in contact with them and find them and test them and...If many such people are in clusters, then they will lock down those particular areas. And so shall the smartness spread across the land till we have prevailed over every possible aspect of the virus. **(Fahd Husain, DAWN)**

The solution to better teaching quality doesn't lie in creating more rules or making some centralized monitoring bureaucratic apparatus whether at the level of government or of individual universities. While some small benefits might accrue, the very purpose of a university — creative ways of teaching, academic freedom and encouragement of critical reasoning — could be endangered. In Pakistan's peculiar circumstances, the best that can be presently done is to require complete and total transparency. With 21st-century technology, this is perfectly possible. So let there be a freely accessible central repository where every professor is required to deposit all his/her recorded lectures, videos, notes, research papers and seminars. **(Pervez Hoodbhoy, DAWN)**

Experts' Opinion

Obesity can be avoided by adopting a healthier lifestyle. This involves eating a healthy and balanced diet and doing regular exercise or physical activity. The WHO recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity a week for all healthy adults. How many Pakistanis are following this advice in order to maintain a healthy body and mind? Again, we do not have regular and up to date data. But the findings of a survey on stepwise surveillance of non-communicable disease risk factors conducted in Punjab and Sindh during 2013-14 showed that nearly half of the women and a quarter of the men were not meeting this recommended physical activity level. **(Sara Gilani, The News)**

Covid-19 was admittedly a black swan. We could neither anticipate it nor prevent it. But, having been warned about global recession and the looming food crisis, we cannot afford to be complacent about the need for both food security and food safety. We must remember that no amount of financial stimulus can save a state from social unrest if its food supply system is not functioning the way it should. Money can never be a substitute for food. **(Abid Qaiyum Suleri, The News)**

World Health Organization
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public

How should I wash and dry clothes, towels and bed linen, if **someone in my household is a **suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient**?**



- Wash the patient's clothes, towels and bed linen separately.
- If possible, wear heavy-duty gloves before handling them.
- Never carry soiled linen against your body; place soiled linen in a clearly labelled, leak-proof container (e.g. bag, bucket).
- Scrape off solid excrement (e.g. faeces or vomit) with a flat, firm object and dispose of in the patient's toilet before putting linen in the designated container. Place the excrement in a covered bucket to dispose of in the toilet, if this is not in the patient's room.
- Wash and disinfect linen: Machine wash at 60-90°C with laundry detergent.
Alternatively, soak linen in hot water and soap in a large drum, using a stick to stir, avoiding splashing. If hot water is not available, soak linen in 0.05% chlorine for approximately 30 minutes. Rinse with clean water and let linen dry in the sunlight.
- Do not forget to wash your hands at the end of the process.

23 April 2020

#Coronavirus

#COVID19



World Health
Organization



**People observing distancing while buying snacks for Iftar in Ramadan
during Coronavirus threat—DAWN**

COVID-19 READS

1. **Meet 'Spot:' The Robot That Could Help Doctors Remotely Treat COVID-19 Patients**
<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/24/844770815/meet-spot-the-robot-that-could-help-doctors-remotely-treat-covid-19-patients>
2. **First trial for potential Covid-19 drug shows it has no effect**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/23/high-hopes-drug-for-covid-19-treatment-failed-in-full-trial>
3. **Coronavirus: medical experts denounce Trump's theory of 'disinfectant injection'**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/23/trump-coronavirus-treatment-disinfectant>
4. **South Korea's plan for the "new normal" shows that social distancing is here to stay**
<https://qz.com/1844946/south-korea-keeps-social-distancing-post-covid-19-containment/>
5. **Coronavirus world map: which countries have the most cases and deaths?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/24/coronavirus-world-map-countries-most-cases-and-deaths>
6. **The Covid-19 crisis creates a chance to reset economies on a sustainable footing**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/commentisfree/2020/apr/23/covid-19-crisis-reset-economies-sustainable-footing>
7. **Coronavirus: US business leaders call for co-ordinated approach — as it happened**
<https://www.ft.com/content/4ce6351c-4f5a-3834-b27a-2ca7e3c1b875>
8. **How COVID-19 Is Affecting Bank Ratings**
<https://www.spglobal.com/ratings/en/research/articles/200422-how-covid-19-is-affecting-bank-ratings-11446652>
9. **U.S. hits 50,000 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, outpacing expert predictions**
<https://theweek.com/speedreads/910711/hits-50000-confirmed-covid19-deaths-outpacing-expert-predictions>
10. **Surveys of infectious disease experts aim to predict COVID-19's toll**
<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/surveys-infectious-disease-experts-aim-predict-covid-19-s-toll>
11. **Lack of data makes predicting COVID-19's spread difficult but models are still vital**
<https://theconversation.com/lack-of-data-makes-predicting-covid-19s-spread-difficult-but-models-are-still-vital-135797>
12. **Sewing a Covid-19 Mask? You Need This Chart**
<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-04-24/sewing-a-covid-19-mask-these-materials-are-best>

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