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Pakistan becomes 29th country in the world with over 600 COVID-19 deaths



CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN

CONFIRMED CASES
32,080

REPORTED DEATH
706

SINDH

12,017

PUNJAB

11,869

ISLAMABAD

716

BALUCHISTAN

2,061

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

4,875

GB/AJK

457/86

RECOVERED CASES

8,555

*Stats as of 12 May, 2020 - 2:24pm, Provided by Ministry
of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination,
Government of Pakistan

PM Imran Khan to ease lockdown despite spike in cases

MN Report

ISLAMABAD - Prime

Minister Imran Khan

recently announced

lifting of the

countrywide lockdown

in phases by reopening all construction-related industries and shopping centers for five days a week from Fajr [early morning] till 5pm and outpatient departments (OPDs) in hospitals.

The decision came on a day when Pakistan reported nearly 1,300 cases of Covid-19 and 48 deaths in 24 hours. The prime minister announced the decision after a meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) also attended by chief ministers of the four provinces.

As there was no consensus between

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MN Report

ISLAMABAD - While around 1,000 cases and over 20 deaths have been reported daily in the country during the last five days, in global ranking Pakistan has been ranked 24th in terms of most number of cases and has become 29th country in which over 600 deaths have been reported due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Moreover in Asia, Pakistan has been ranked sixth in terms of most number of cases

and eighth in terms of most number of deaths. According to data available on the website of the Ministry of National Health Services, the countries in which most number of deaths have been reported are: the United States with around 70,000 deaths, Italy over 29,000, United Kingdom over 28,000, Spain 25,000 and India more than 1,500 deaths. On the other hand the neighbouring countries China and Iran, which were initially at topmost ranks respectively in terms of number of cases, have now been dropped to double digit ranks.

Children's Health Nutrition and Immunity with Prof Dr Iqbal Memon

Dr Sonia Sameen

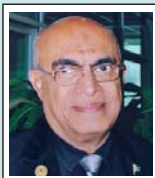
KARACHI - In light of the COVID-19 crisis, a topic that is being discussed by everyone is about immunity and preventing one's self from ailments such as the coronavirus. Children, in particular, are prone to contracting the infection.

To address queries regarding children's health nutrition and immunity, Medical News Pakistan collaborated with Prof Iqbal A Memon, Head of Department and Professor of Pediatrics, Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition, Sir Syed College of Medical Sciences for Girls. Prof Memon MBBS, FRCP (Canada), DABP (USA) and FAAP (USA) degree is a renowned pediatrician with 31 years of experience. In his talk, Prof Memon stressed on the importance of nutrition and its direct correlation with immunity.

When we talk about children's health, nutrition is a paramount factor that we need to consider not only for growth but for development as well. This includes mental, psychological/emotional, and social (language, skills, etc.) development, noted Prof Iqbal. Proper nutrition requires nourishment and physical activity. Physical activity is particularly important for children as it contributes to the development of a robust defense system, he emphasized. Reduced physical activity can negatively influence a child's immune system. Physical factors (skin, hair, mucus membranes, etc.) also play an integral role in developing immunity, and these physical factors are, in turn, governed by proper nutrition. The child's mental and emotional health also plays a vital role in developing and strengthening immunity. Immunity defenders play their due role in preventing infection; however, immunity and

Continued on Page 08

**LIVE
SESSION**



Novartis donates Rs40m to PRCS for COVID-19 testing kits and PPEs

MN Report

KARACHI - The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Sindh Branch recently received a donation of Rs40 million from Novartis Pakistan. The support package will go towards the procurement of Personal Protective

healthcare system, and also strengthening the efforts to fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

She also announced that the PRCS-Sindh would soon introduce a mobile testing service for COVID-19 suspects with the technical

humanitarian efforts of the PRCS aimed at alleviating people's misery. "Based on the credibility and reputation of the PRCS, we are confident that PPE and testing kits will be used efficiently," they added. As a representative of Pakistan's leading



Equipment (PPE) kits for medical workers and COVID-19 testing kits. The ceremony was organized at Hilal-e-Ahmer House, Teen Talwar Clifton. Former captain of the Pakistan cricket team, Moin Khan, and renowned actor, Adnan Siddiqui, received the donation cheque on behalf of the PRCS-Sindh and thanked the management of Novartis Pakistan.

While addressing the ceremony, Mrs Shahnaz S Hamid, Chairperson, PRCS-Sindh, expressed her gratitude to Novartis Pakistan. She further said that this generous donation for PPE and testing kits would help enhance the capacity of our

support of the Indus Hospital. She urged others to come forward to donate generously for the procurement of testing kits like Novartis Pakistan.

Zaid Chaudhry, CFO, and Mrs Ayesha Mushtaq, Project Lead, Novartis Pakistan, said that our company is making all possible efforts to contribute its corporate social responsibility to help such organizations who are fighting against COVID-19.

Zaid said that the Red Cross/Red Crescent is an international humanitarian organization, and the PRCS is serving humanity throughout Pakistan. He further added that we are highly impressed by the

pharmaceutical company, they also assured that wherever possible, we shall be contributing our efforts to such an organization in reducing the impact of COVID-19.

Celebrities from Pakistan's film and drama industry, including Humayun Saeed, Adnan Siddiqui, and others, also attended the event and praised the humanitarian contribution of Novartis and efforts of the PRCS for reducing the impact of COVID-19. "The people of Pakistan will long remember the generosity and contribution of Novartis in the fight against the coronavirus epidemic," said Moin Khan, the former captain.

Pakistan needs 300,000 midwives to reduce maternal mortality ratio

MN Report

KARACHI - Midwifery professionals, teachers, and students observed International Midwifery Day by a candle vigil in remembrance to and to pay tribute to all those healthcare workers lost their lives in the line of duty.

They vowed to fight COVID-19 with more dedication and improved services for patients. A short and simple ceremony was jointly organized by the Koohi Goth Women Hospital and the Midwifery Association of Pakistan on the premises of the hospital located in the rural locality of Malir.

The ceremony was attended by the renowned gynecologist, Dr Sher Shah Syed, President, Midwifery Association of Pakistan, Uroosa Lakhani, midwifery tutors, and students.

Sindh Government sanctions Rs30m for setting up Field Hospital at PAF Museum

MN Report

KARACHI - The Sindh Coronavirus Emergency Fund Committee headed by Sindh Chief Secretary, Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah, in a recent meeting, sanctioned Rs30 million for establishing a 300-bed Field Hospital at the PAF Museum Karachi.

The committee also approved Rs720 million out of the Emergency Fund for purchasing the laboratory equipment, PPEs, machinery, and other required medical equipment while Rs500 million out of the Health Department's budget for upgrading various public sector hospitals across the province.

Secretary Finance, while briefing the committee, gave details of the fund collection. According to him, Rs3.5 billion have so far been collected in the name of the Coronavirus Emergency Fund. The number of private

donors is 1000. He informed that overseas Pakistanis had donated Rs14.6 million through the I-Care, and the names of all the donors are displayed at the website of Finance Department GoS. Secretary Health

informed that the delivery of medical equipment, including Personal Protection Equipment ordered through CEF by the

Continued on Page 08



Murad orders random COVID-19 tests of people at grocery and vegetable shops

MN Report

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Health Department to start random testing of people at grocery and vegetable shops so that local spread could be assessed and contained accordingly.

In a video message released from the Chief Minister House, Murad Ali Shah said that cases of local spread were increasing equally in urban and rural areas. He added that a villager recently visited Hyderabad and got himself infected there. When he returned to his village, he infected others, he said. "We tested 30 of his relatives/connections. Nine turned out to be infected by him," he lamented. This is why he had decided to start randomly testing people at grocery stores, vegetable shops, and other public places.

Mr Shah said that random checking at grocery shops was aimed at checking the local spread of the virus, so a new strategy may be formulated to contain the virus further. "I have issued the directives and hope that the people will cooperate with our lab field staff," he said. Sindh Chief Minister shared the coronavirus situation report, which noted that 3671 samples were tested, out of which 451 new cases emerged while nine more people lost their lives battling the infection.

The number of tests conducted so far has reached 72,544 against which 8640 cases have been diagnosed. "451 cases against 3671 tests constitute a 12.3% positive rate," he said, adding that the ratio was high and alarming. Mr Shah said that nine patients succumbed to the viral infection talking the death toll to 157, which was 1.8% of the total patients. "The good news is that 60 more patients have been cured and discharged. The number of patients who have defeated the virus and recovered has reached to 1731, which is 20%, he said. The Chief Minister, while sharing the



data of 6,752 patients under treatment, said that 5,528 or 82% of the patients were in home isolation, 721 or 10% were in the isolation centers, and 503 were in different hospitals. He added that 89 patients were in critical condition, out of which 14 were on ventilators. He said that out of the 451 new cases, 327 cases belong to Karachi, including Central with 68, East with 74, Korangi with 25, Malir with 26, South with 87, and West with 47. He added that 24 new cases had been diagnosed in Shikarpur, 19 in Sukkur, seven in Larkana, five in Hyderabad, four in Sajawal, three in Ghotki, two in Sanghar, and one each in Matiari, Mirpurkhas, and Dadu. The Chief Minister said that out of 451 cases, 327 belonged to Karachi. They are 87 in South, 74 East, 68 Central, 47 West, 26 Malir, and 25 Korangi, he said and added over 6084 cases existed in the city. The Chief Minister disclosed that the inquiry launched to look into the unfortunate death of Dr Furqan, allegedly due to the unavailability of ventilators, has been completed. "Now, I have ordered the Health Department to take strict action against the officers whose failure has been pointed out," he said. He offered his condolence to the family members of late Dr Furqan. He also extended his condolences to the family members of other doctors, police officers, and paramedical staff who lost their lives in the line of their duty.

Mr Shah informed that

different flights had brought back 2,369 stranded Pakistanis, and all of them have been tested for the virus. Five hundred fifteen amongst them tested positive (22%). He said that the patients were being taken care of properly. The Chief Minister reiterated the people of the province to follow the SOPs and observe social distancing. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah also participated in an NCOC meeting organized by Federal Minister, Asad Omar, in Islamabad. The meeting discussed the matters pertaining to the lockdown. The Chief Ministers, as well as other provincial ministers, also attended the meeting. Sindh Chief Minister said that the death ratio stemming from the coronavirus has increased in addition to the spike in new cases, particularly due to local transmission. "In such state of affairs, we have to make decisions after thorough discussion and debate and with national unity," he said. The meeting discussed how to ease the lockdown and which business activities should be allowed to start operations and which activities will continue to remain closed. In the meeting, different sectors were discussed, and like other provinces, the Sindh Chief Minister gave his recommendations and observations. The meeting also discussed the operation timings for business activities and their SOPs. Finally, it was decided that the Asad Umar would firm up the suggestions, and the Prime Minister would take the final decision.

Sindh Government orders selection committee to hire medics and paramedics

MN Report

KARACHI - In the wake of the emergency declared in the Sindh province regarding the COVID-19 pandemic; the government has formed a three-member committee to hire medics and paramedics in the Sindh Health Department. According to the notification, in pursuance of section 3(1) of the Sindh Epidemic Diseases Act, 2014, and in the wake of the ongoing emergency, the Sindh government has curated a selection committee for the hiring of medical staff. The selection committee comprises of District Health Officer (concerned district), representative of the Secretary, Health Department, and representative of Director General, Health Services Sindh, Hyderabad.

The terms of reference for the selection committee are to submit its recommendations for suitable candidates for the approval of the competent authority.



AKU introduces COVID-19 course for its medical students

MN Report

KARACHI - The Aga Khan University's Medical College has introduced a new COVID-19 course for students in all five years of its undergraduate program in medicine and surgery, MBBS.



The six-week course will provide students with the latest research and evidence on the structure of the disease, its development and spread, and ways to prevent and manage the coronavirus in hospital and community settings.

"The current health crisis is unprecedented and requires us to adapt our curriculum to provide our graduates with the necessary skill set required to deal with pandemics in general, and COVID-19 in particular," said Dr Sadaf Khan, Associate Dean of undergraduate education at the AKU. She noted that recent pandemics such as Ebola, SARS, MERS, and now COVID-19 represent threats to our way of life and the long-term stability of our health systems. This requires universities to adopt a different approach to the study of pandemics.

"This is a public health issue that will be of concern for an indeterminate period of time. It will impact the delivery of medical care at all levels. This module will better prepare our students for the challenges that lie ahead," Dr Khan added. The course also includes a module on the use of artificial intelligence in pandemics as a tool for surveillance, diagnosis, and drug development.

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More than 462 healthcare workers test positive for COVID-19 in Pakistan

MN Report
KARACHI - As many as 462 frontline healthcare workers have been tested positive for the coronavirus across Pakistan since the outbreak of the viral infection in Pakistan.
An official of the National Health Ministry noted that up to 462 healthcare workers



had been infected by the coronavirus, out of which 231 are doctors, 68 are nurses, and 163 are other staff.
Nine healthcare workers, including four doctors, have died of the viral infection in the country so far, while 96 have recovered from the disease, 219 are in isolation at home or other places, and 138 are admitted to hospitals.
Most of the cases of the novel coronavirus infection among health professionals have been reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Baluchistan, and Sindh, while a few cases have also been reported from Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu Kashmir, and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).
An official further said that 86 health professionals have been infected with the COVID-19 in Sindh, out of which 36 are doctors, 17 are nurses, and 33 are paramedics and support staff.
Similarly, 102 have been infected in Punjab, including 58 doctors, 21 nurses, and 23 paramedics and support staff.
More than 112 health professionals have been infected with the COVID-19 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), including 58 doctors,
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Four more test positive for COVID-19 at JPMC

MN Report
KARACHI - The coronavirus has infected four more employees of the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC). The staff posted in the operation theater of the Gynecology Department recently contracted the viral disease. The head of the Gynecology Department has started screening everyone posted in the department.
Seven employees of the JPMC have tested positive for COVID-19 so far, including two nurses, two sweepers, and one doctor, nursing attendant, and storekeeper each. Executive Director, JPMC, Dr Seemin Jamali, confirmed that four employees, including two sweepers, a nursing attendant, and a doctor have tested positive for the viral disease.

Diabetes and Ramadan: Dr Ali Asghar addresses common misconceptions

Dr Sonia Sameen
KARACHI - Approximately 80% of type 2 diabetes patients fast for more than 15 days in the month of Ramadan on average. Nineteen million Pakistanis (20% of the population) suffer from diabetes. Pakistan is ranked fourth in the world for diabetes prevalence. There is a dire need to take emergency steps to control and prevent the 'silent killer' characterized by abnormally high glucose levels in the blood.
Dr Ali Asghar, Assistant Professor of Department of Diabetes, Endocrinology, And Metabolism at the Liaquat National Hospital and the Vice President of the Pakistan Endocrine Society, recently collaborated with Medical News Pakistan to discuss diabetes and its management in the month of Ramadan. There are a few risks associated with fasting when it comes to diabetics, including hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia, diabetic ketoacidosis, and dehydration and thrombosis, noted Dr Ali Asghar.

For this reason, it is crucial for diabetics to consult with their doctor 6 to 8 weeks prior to the start of Ramadan. The physician will then assess whether the patient is eligible to fast or not depending on some factors including the patient's type of diabetes, prescribed medication, individual hypoglycemic risks, complications, comorbidities, individual social and work circumstances, as well as their previous Ramadan experience.
Dr Ali Asghar explained the categorization of diabetes patients as high, moderate, and low-risk patients. Furthermore, he discussed common medications and their dose adjustments during fasting.
Patients are advised to keep their blood glucose levels in check during the first few days of Ramadan, especially so they may assess how they are doing. The target blood glucose level in the month of Ramadan should be between 100 and 200 mg/dL during the fast and between 100 and 180



mg/dL after the fast is broken.
If a patient's blood glucose level falls under 70 mg/dL or increases to greater than 300 mg/dL, he or she is allowed to break their fast as it might threaten their wellbeing. If patients experience any unusual symptoms, they must check their blood sugar levels immediately, Dr Asghar added.
There are three pillars of diabetes treatment, including diet, exercise, and medication. When it comes to diet, it is important to eat foods with a low hypoglycemic index. Patients must focus on taking a high-fiber diet, such as fruits and vegetables. Reduce oil intake and make sure to stay hydrated, Dr Asghar stressed. Patients must also avoid rigorous exercise during fasting, as it increases the risk of hypoglycemia.
You can watch Dr Ali Asghar's talk in the link below.

More than 12,000 operations face delay in Karachi

MN Report
KARACHI - The Sindh Health Department and Karachi Metropolitan Corporation have ignored numerous other lethal diseases while combating the coronavirus as more than 12, 000 elective surgeries have been postponed since the start of the lockdown in the province.

Department informed that around 400 minor and major surgeries were performed each day in Karachi's hospitals. However, only 80 to 100 surgeries are being conducted every day as compared to the past.
An administrative official at the Civil Hospital Karachi noted that about 25 to 30 surgeries are



The delay in treatment and operations has put a score of lives in danger in Karachi. Major Karachi hospitals, including the Civil Hospital Karachi, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Karachi Institute of Heart Diseases, National Institute of Child Health, and others have postponed routine surgeries for an indefinite time period due to the COVID-19 emergency.
Sources at the KMC and the Sindh Health

being done in the hospital as compared to an average of 150 in the past. The number of operations in the JPMC, ASH, and other hospitals have also decreased as compared to routine days.
The ratio of cardiac and pediatric surgeries has also reduced in the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and National Institute of Child Health since March 20, 2020. KMC-run hospitals are also facing a similar situation since the beginning of the coronavirus emergency.

Sindh purchases 200 more ventilators

MN Report

KARACHI - The Sindh government has set up isolation centers in all districts of the province to cope with the emergency in view of the increasing number of positive coronavirus cases. Two isolation centers have been set up in Karachi, namely a 1200-bed isolation center at the Expo Center and a 300-bed isolation center at PAF Museum. Isolation centers have also been set up in Hyderabad with 1100 beds, Thatta with 100 beds, Badin with 150 beds, Dadu with 101 beds, Jamshoro with 220 beds, Mirpurkhas with 150 beds, Umerkot with 150 beds, Mithi with 130 beds, Chhachhro with 100 beds, Shikarpur with 330 beds, Sukkur with 1344 beds, Khairpur with 400 beds, Larkana with 330 beds, Jacobabad with 200 beds, and Qambar with 150 beds. This information was shared in a meeting presided over by Sindh Chief Secretary, Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah, at his office. Senior Member Board of Revenue, Qazi Shahid Pervez, Secretary Health, Zahid Abbasi, Secretary Agriculture, Abdul Rahim Soomro, Secretary Food, Laeq Ahmed, and Secretary Rehabilitation, attended the meeting while commissioners and deputy commissioners participated the meeting via video call. Food Minister, Hari Ram, also attended the meeting on special invitation.

Secretary Health, in his briefing, informed that public sector hospitals of the province currently have 589 ventilators while 200 more ventilators are being purchased. According to him, 469 ventilators were made available in Karachi, and only 120 ventilators are in the rest of the hospitals of the province.



Chief Secretary directed the commissioners of different divisions to monitor the management of ventilators themselves and ensure the availability of the supplies needed at the isolation centers. He also directed the Secretary Health to ensure the availability of Personal Protection Equipment at all the Isolation centers. Mumtaz Shah said that the COVID-19 testing lab capacity had been increased in the province; however, more labs are being established in Sukkur and Shaheed Benazirabad. A lab with a 300 testing capacity would soon be set up in Sukkur, he noted. The meeting also discussed the presence of locust swarms in various districts of Sindh. Chief Secretary directed the

deputy commissioners to devise contingency plans separately for their respective districts and ensure that the staff to ensure plant protection by carrying out fumigation. He suggested the formation of committees at the district and taluka levels and the induction of local farmers as committee members. He informed that all

resources were being utilized for the elimination of locusts, and funds have been sanctioned for vehicles and pesticides. He reported that the federal government had been approached for aerial spraying. The meeting, discussing the

reports of wheat hoarding, decided to conduct the raids at private warehouses, and the wheat so recovered could be handed over to the Food Department and the warehouse could be sealed. Issuing orders of taking strict action against the hoarders, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned officials to complete the wheat procurement target within a week. Food Minister, Hari Ram, also authorized the deputy commissioner to take action against the Food Department officials if they were found to be involved in irregularities. The minister said that he had received reports of wheat hoarding in certain districts. In case of any complaints, the deputy commissioners may contact the Food Secretary.

UPCOMING

EVENTS

2020

This Month

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NATIONAL

May 14

International Congress on Nutrition & Health (ICNH-20), Karachi - Pakistan

December 2-5

34th International Pak ORTHOCON 2020 at Karachi.

2020 HEALTH DAYS CALENDAR



JUNE

- 1 World Milk Day
- 1 International Children Day
- 5 World Environment Day
- 14 World Blood Donor Day
- 19 World Sickle Cell Day
- 26 International Day Against Drug Abuse And Illicit Drug Trafficking

JULY

- 11 World Population Day
- 28 World Hepatitis Day

AUGUST

- 1-7 World Breastfeeding Week

SEPTEMBER

- 9 International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Day
- 20 World Retina Week
- 21 World Alzheimer's Day
- 25 World Pharmacist Day
- 26 World Retina Day
- 29 World Heart Day

OCTOBER

- 8 World Sight Day
- 10 World Mental Health Day
- 12 World Arthritis Day
- 12 World Bone And Joint Week
- 15 World Handwashing Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 17 World Spine Day
- 17 World Trauma Day
- 20 World Osteoporosis Day
- 24 World Polio Day
- 29 World Stroke Day

NOVEMBER

- 1 Lung Cancer Awareness Month
- 9 World Quality Day
- 14 International Diabetes Day
- 17 World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day
- 26 World Anti-Obesity Day

DECEMBER

- 1 World Aids Day
- 3 International Day of Disabled Persons
- 5 World Patient Safety Day

PMA expresses concern over the delay in PMDC approval

MN Report

KARACHI - The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) expressed grave concern over a recent notification forwarded by the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Pakistan. According to this notification, autonomous bodies of different divisions have been approved and notified. Unfortunately, the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council has not been approved as an autonomous body. The PMDC is constitutionally an autonomous regulatory body responsible for regulating medical education and registering medical professionals in the country. The PMA welcomed the formation of an ad-hoc council of the PMDC by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. However, it expressed concerns over the ad-hoc council not being given a time frame to complete its task. We believe that the ad-hoc council has been set up till the appointment/elections of the new council under the PMDC ordinance 1962. Being an ad-hoc setup, the first and last priority of this council is to conduct elections for the new council, as noted by the PMDC

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Coronavirus patient commits suicide at JMPC

MN Report

KARACHI - An under treatment coronavirus patient committed suicide at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre. Sources at the JPMC noted that a 31-year-old coronavirus suspected patient, resident of Landhi Town, was admitted to Isolation Ward on the second floor for the past couple of days. The patient jumped from the third floor of the building in the early hours of the day. As a result, the patient badly injured and rushed to the Emergency Department, where he died. The patient was reported to be mentally upset due to the viral infection and thus committed suicide.



SHCC issues 69 warnings to hospitals for non-compliance

MN Report

KARACHI - The Sindh Healthcare Commission, on the directives of the Supreme Court and the Health Minister Sindh, Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, visited the hospitals of Sindh to ensure that their OPDs are open and providing services to the patients and following the SOPs' required for their safety. The Directorate of Complaint with its inspection team comprising of Director Complaint, Dr Amir Hussain, and Deputy Director Complaint, Dr Lubna Raees, visited the Health Unit Babar Market Korangi. The inspection team met with Medical Superintendent, Saif Ur Reman. The SHCC team, after the completion of physical inspection, went to the DHO office Shah Faisal colony, where they met Dr Ali Asher, DHO, and District Coordinator, Dr Nuzhat. The SHCC team provided a soft and hard copy of the NIH guidelines to the MS and also offered online training of staff at the SHCC. The team also inspected the Saudabad Secondary Care Hospital Malir. The Directorate of Licensing & Accreditation with its inspection team inspected the Sindh Government Hospital Korangi 5, JPMC, Kidney Center, Social Security Hospital Landhi RHC Ghari Yasin. They also inspected 7 Clinics/Labs of District Shikarpur, two isolation centers established by the RBUT Civil Hospital Shikarpur, 7 HCEs of Taluka Khan Pur, District Shikarpur, including RHC. They held a meeting with MS, RHC Khanpur. They also inspected six government

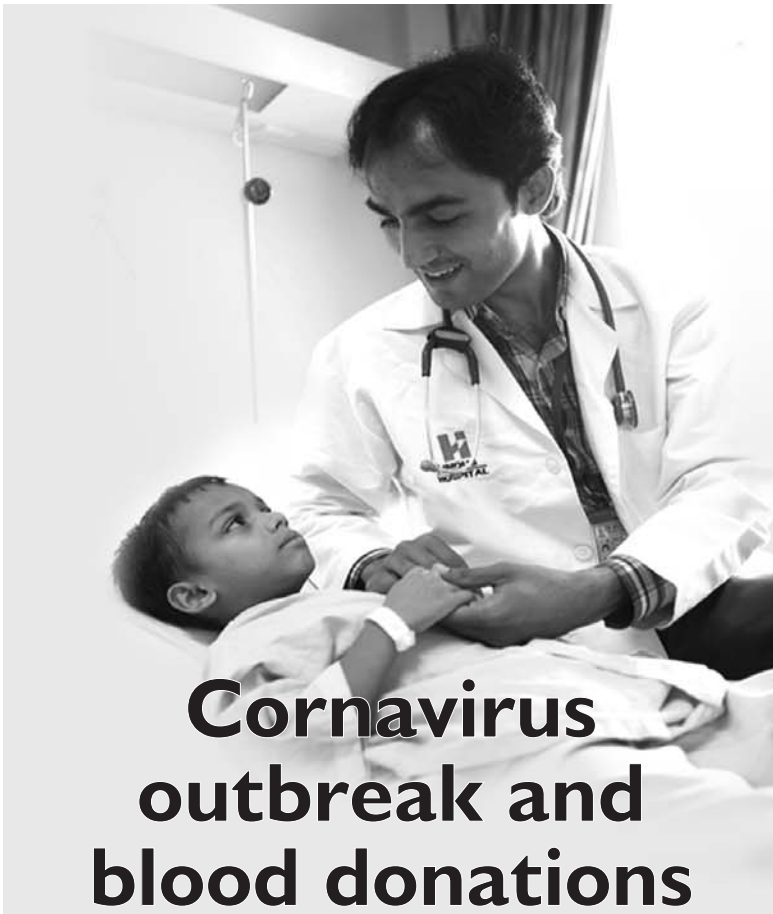
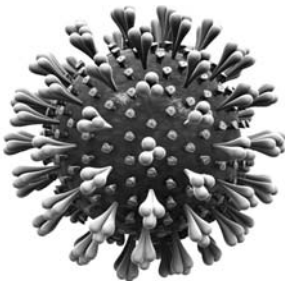
HCEs (Isolation wards & OPD facility) and 3 Private HCEs in District Sukkur. The SHCC team, consisting of Director Anti-Quackery and Director Clinical Governance & Training, visited Sangarh and Shehdadpur to assess the facilities for quarantine and isolation. They identified the Molecular Laboratory at the Shehdadpur Institute Medical Sciences as a COVID-19 testing facility. The SHCC team met with Deputy Commissioner and DHOs of Shedadpur and Hyderabad and took a briefing on COVID-19 patients. The SHCC team also emphasized on awareness regarding precaution, prevention, patient management, and infected waste disposal. The Directorate of Anti-Quackery visited 189 labs/collection points/diagnostic centers in this week and sealed nine clinics. A total of 3516 Healthcare Establishments (HCEs) have been sealed in Sindh to date. 69 warnings were issued for non-compliance this week. The total warnings for non-compliance issued to clinics are 1425 to date. Meanwhile, the Directorate of Clinical Governance & Training developed the SHCC guidelines for general practitioners on how to run clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Directorate issued an advisory for the hospitals as well. The Directorate also finalized the donning and doffing document of SHCC.



Coronavirus cases to peak in May: Azra Pechuho

MN Report

KARACHI - Provincial Minister of Sindh for Health and Population Welfare, Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, fears that coronavirus cases will increase in May, and there is a dire need for implementing a lockdown in the province. Pechuho said that coronavirus cases are likely to peak in May. She said relaxing the lockdown can cause further spread of the viral infection. She informed that the capacity of beds in field hospitals had been increased to 5000 and the number of beds would be raised to 11,000 in the near future. She further informed that the bed capacity in the High Dependency Unit (HDU) would also be increased from 500 to 1000 beds. Similarly, the ICU capacity will also be enhanced from 300 to 600 very soon in the Sindh province. She said that the NDMA had donated two PCR machines as well.



Cornavirus outbreak and blood donations

By Junaid Faizi

Marketing Executive, The Indus Hospital Blood Center

Intro about Coronavirus

The Corona virus outbreak has impacted the world badly and has resulted in a huge number of deaths. Due to its nature of total shut down and stay at home precautions many of the vital challenges have risen due to lack of mobility and activity. One such challenge is the depletion of blood in local blood banks of Pakistan.

Intro about blood donations scenario in Pakistan

Blood donations culture in Pakistan is slowly emerging in metropolitan cities but is quite alien in backward areas of Pakistan. People have a mix set of views regarding blood donation and are usually reluctant to donate blood. Some fear the impact it has is adverse on one's body, some think it's against their beliefs systems, some fear the needle or about blood draw protocols and some have a misconception that if one donates blood the person himself/herself might get infected with any disease.

In Pakistan and in other developing countries where there is a lack of infrastructure for voluntary blood donation and improper blood transfusion facilities, millions of people die just because of the unavailability of blood at hospitals. The irony is that excess blood in individuals is available in the same geographical location but the only problem is people are not willing to share.

The solution for saving precious innocent lives is quite simple and is as follows. Firstly to win trust of the people there must be an established proper systems and protocols accredited by international standards for blood donation practices. In Pakistan organization such as Indus Hospital Blood Center is running such a system where blood donor care is not compromised and proper protocols are followed.

Secondly to mobilize people about how their one donated blood could save 3 lives. In times of COVID19 outbreak more lives are at risk than ever before the challenges to save previously hospitalized patients are immense as people are in Quarantine and blood camps have been canceled across the city. But to save someone's life one must make a calculated step to reach out to the nearest blood bank or a blood camp and donate blood ensuring proper COVID19 precautions are followed, so that innocent children suffering from cancer, thalassemia and other terminally ill patients are saved through the voluntary gesture of an unknown in these tough times.

In the words of Quran

"If you have saved one life, it is as if you have saved the whole of Humanity" Quran 5:32

Experts stress the importance of vaccination in children

MN Report

KARACHI - "Long before the COVID-19 emerged as a global pandemic, Pakistan has been struggling on several other medical fronts such as ensuring optimum rates of immunization against preventable diseases amongst children and the challenge is only becoming more and more demanding in the present times."

Paediatricians reiterated this in the wake of the ongoing World Immunization Week. Immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases is one of the most cost-effective and beneficial public health measures that can be undertaken in order to prevent several communicable viral and bacterial infections including diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), pneumonia, polio, rotavirus diarrhea, rubella, and tetanus.

According to a rough estimate, around 2-3 million lives are saved every year due to the process of immunization, thus making its administration essential for the future of public health. Speaking about the importance of immunization in children, former President Pakistan Paediatric Association (PPA) and President-Elect Asia Pacific Paediatric Association, Dr Iqbal Memon, said, "Vaccines

have played a significant role in eliminating and preventing several serious infectious diseases in children, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality rate to a considerable extent; however, its utilization rate still needs to be increased for an estimated 19.5 million infants worldwide are still missing out on basic vaccines."

"It is important to get your children vaccinated because when you vaccinate a child, you are not only protecting him/her

against the infectious disease, but you are also protecting his/her family and friends, thus helping protect the entire community," he further opined.

Adding to it, Dr Khalid Shafi, General Secretary, PPA, highlighted the efforts of the Pakistan Paediatric Association (PPA), which has made concerted efforts in providing vaccination to children against deadly diseases through Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI).

"The Expanded Program on

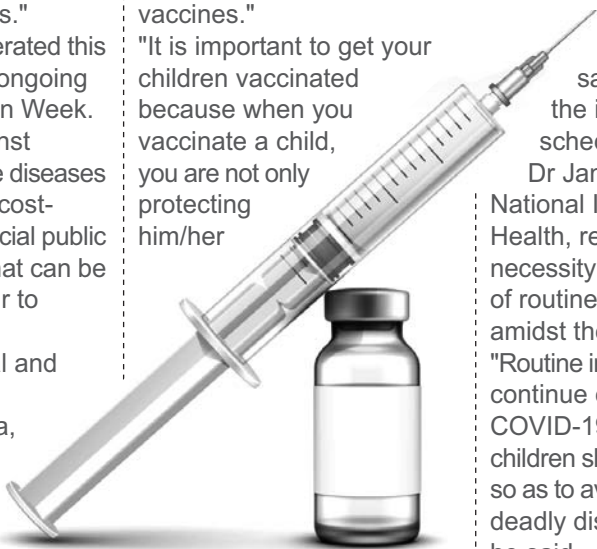
Immunization (EPI) was introduced in 1978 to vaccinate children aged 0-11 months against ten target diseases under which, BCG and polio vaccine is to be given at birth, Rotavirus vaccine at 6 and 10 weeks, pentavalent and pneumococcal vaccine at 6, 10 and 14 weeks of age, and two doses of Measles at nine

months and 15 months of age," he said while explaining the immunization schedule.

Dr Jamal Raza, Director, National Institute of Child Health, remarked on the necessity of the continuation of routine immunization amidst these crucial times. "Routine immunization should continue even during the COVID-19 pandemic, and children should be vaccinated so as to avoid the risk of other deadly disease outbreaks," he said.

"However, proper precautionary measures should be followed by healthcare workers or paediatricians while administering the vaccine to the child, assuring parents that it is safe to continue the routine immunization process during this pandemic," added Dr Jalal Akbar, President-Elect, PPA Sindh.

He also stressed the role of paediatricians to educate the masses about the importance of vaccination to prevent children from deadly diseases.



YDA and PMA hold meeting with Health Minister

MN Report

KARACHI - The Young Doctors Association Sindh and the Pakistan Medical Association Sindh recently held a meeting with Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho at her office. They discussed their demands with Dr Azra Pechuho in detail. Their demands were approved, and the notifications in this regard will be issued shortly.

The YDA Sindh and PMA Sindh postponed their call for strike till May 10 after the Health Minister reassured them.

The doctors demanded the provision of PPEs to all health care professionals as well as the screening of all health care workers. Dr Pechuho approved the request and directed the Health Secretary to write a letter to DHOs for the provision of PPEs to all the doctors working in hospitals.

The health risk allowances equal to their gross salaries will also be given to all health care professionals, including MOs, PGs, HOs, paramedics, and nurses.

She even reversed the decision to deduct the pay of health workers. She also ordered the immediate issuance of the pending salaries of PGs working in Larkana and Sukkur.

Dr Pechuho instructed Secretary Irshad Khokhar to write a detailed letter to the VC of SMBBU via the board of universities to release their salaries at once. Additionally, she ordered the establishment of a separate hospital for infectious diseases in each district of Sindh.



Where is Sindh Healthcare Commission in COVID crises?

By H.Hasan

KARACHI - The Sindh Healthcare Commission was formed to improve the quality of healthcare and eradicate quackery in Sindh. In 2020 when the whole country especially Sindh is fighting pandemic, this so called commission has gone into hibernation.

It was launched in February 2018 and has dealt with the infamous case of Baby Nishwa's death at the Darul Sehat Hospital amicably. Its role was further highlighted when in April 2019, the HIV AIDS outbreak was witnessed in Larkana.

All agencies involved in healthcare took a united stand and assisted the Sindh Government in dealing with the crises. The Sindh Healthcare Commission was one such entity. It sealed almost all quack clinics operating in Larkana, conducted training programs for infection prevention and control, and supported all government functionaries. In fact, the WHO mission's report was consistent with the report of the Sindh Healthcare Commission on the incident. Now, in 2020, when all of Pakistan, including Sindh, is battling the COVID crises, the Sindh Healthcare Commission is missing in action. The reason behind this is allegedly the Board of Commissioners who are administering the Commission. It is also alleged that the Chairperson's primary focus is to get money released for its former directors removed by the previous Board of Commissioners while ensuring that the Commission is run as per her whims and wishes.

In this time of COVID, when the Sindh Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, is taking firm actions to deal with the crises, the Sindh Healthcare Commission appears clueless as the Sindh Health Department is left to deal with the crises. The Board of Commissioners has failed to give proper policy directives in dealing with the pandemic. The COVID Committee formed by the Board of Commissioners, the illegal actions of the Chairperson, and the composition of the Board have been challenged in the Sindh High Court by its Chief Executive Officer.

Head of CHK Cancer Ward tests positive for COVID-19

MN Report

KARACHI - The Head of the Cancer Ward at the Civil Hospital Karachi recently tested positive for the coronavirus.

Medical Superintendent, CHK, Dr Khadim Hussain Qureshi, confirmed that the in-charge of the Oncology Department has contracted the viral infection and is isolated at home for treatment. The doctors, paramedical staff, nurses, and others who worked closely with the patient have been directed for screening. Around one dozen employees, including doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff of the CHK has tested positive for the COVID-19 so far.



Pakistan becomes 29th country ...

Continued from front page

the Centre and the provinces on restoration of public transport and rail and local fights services, these would remain suspended till further decision.

The Centre also urged the provinces to allow overseas Pakistanis coming from different countries to observe self-quarantine as the government has no such facility to accommodate 125,000 expatriates who wanted to return to the homeland. However, this proposal was also rejected by the provinces fearing it would cause the further spread of the deadly coronavirus.

"We are lifting lockdown in phases from Saturday because people like rickshaw and taxi drivers and [those from] working class are in trouble," Mr Khan said at a press briefing after the NCC meeting. He said the decision to lift the lockdown was made in consensus with the governments of four provinces and Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. On the occasion, Minister for Industries Hammad Azhar listed the industries, businesses and shops reopening from Saturday. These include steel and aluminium mills, paint manufacturing units, ceramics, tiles, pipe factories, electrical cables factories and hardware stores. He said all small markets in residential localities will also remain open five days in a week till 5pm.

Highlighting details of the NCC meeting, Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar said six major decisions were taken unanimously: lockdown will be lifted in phases from Saturday; small markets will remain open from Fajr [early morning] to 5pm and no shop will be allowed to open in the night, except medical stores; markets and shops will remain closed for two days in a week so that the personnel of security agencies like police and Rangers deployed to ensure closure of shops at 5pm could take some rest; OPDs in hospitals will also be reopened so that patients of other diseases could get medical treatment; and schools will remain closed till July 15.

PM Khan said the government with limited resources had to keep a balance between preventive measures to curb the spread of coronavirus and running the country's economy by reopening businesses and industries.

However, he urged people to follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) devised by the government for different sectors as Covid-19 was still on the rise in the country and there was a global fear that a second wave of the viral disease could hit the world again.

The prime minister said that in case of a new spike in Covid-19 cases, the government would have no option but to impose another lockdown across the country. He said the government had given the biggest relief package in the country's history to help the poor and daily wage earners who were the worst affected segments of society due to the pandemic and reduced the prices of petroleum products that were lower than any other country in the region.

"The country's economy has been hit hard as we are expecting 35 per cent less tax collection this year as compared to the targeted revenue and exports have also declined," he added.

Many small enterprises, he said, were on the verge of closure due to lockdown restrictions, adding that the government was also receiving requests from owners of restaurants for reopening of their business.

He said the nation was passing through a difficult phase but it had to be thankful to Allah Almighty that the intensity of Covid-19 in Pakistan was low as compared to the United States and European countries.

About opening of OPDs in hospitals, the prime minister said the since all concentrations were focused on coronavirus-related matters, patients of other diseases like tuberculosis and cancer were being ignored.

Children's Health Nutrition ...

Continued from page 02

nutrition go hand in hand. A balanced diet contributes to good immunity because it ensures that a child is getting all the essential nutrients needed by the body, Prof Memon said.

Coming to malnutrition, a child can be undernourished, overnourished, and/or vitamin and mineral deficient. 40% of our children are malnourished in terms of calories and weight; he lamented.

It is crucial for the parents to actively ensure that their child is getting adequate nutrition by developing healthy eating habits from an early age.

You can watch Dr Iqbal Memon's talk on the link provided below.

Sindh Government sanctions Rs30m ...

Continued from page 02

Sindh government, has started.

The Committee decided to write to the FBR for exempting the Coronavirus Emergency Fund from Sales Tax, Income Tax, and Withholding Tax.

Chief Secretary directed for carrying out a transparent audit of all the equipment purchased through the reputed audit firms and ensure proper and transparent delivery onward to the hospitals through the Chief Minister's Inspection Team. He also sought detailed reports in this regard in the next meeting.

AKU introduces COVID-19 course for ...

Continued from page 03

Penultimate and final-year students will also study diagnostic methods as well as how to create treatment plans for patients depending on the severity of the disease.

"This course gives students the chance to understand COVID-19 from a health systems point of view," said Medical College Dean, Dr Adil Haider. "This kind of cutting-edge academic work allows our students to engage in the public health response as learners as they gear up to become tomorrow's frontline healthcare leaders."

More than 462 healthcare ...

Continued from page 04

14 nurses, and 40 paramedics and support staff. Officials said that 98 health professionals had been infected with the

novel coronavirus in Baluchistan, including 59 doctors, four nurses, and 35 paramedics and support staff.

About 42 health professionals have been infected with the COVID-19 in Islamabad, out of which 18 are doctors, 11 are nurses, and 13 are paramedics and support staff.

Eighteen healthcare professionals tested positive for COVID-19 in Gilgit-Baltistan, and four in Azad Jammu Kashmir have tested positive so far, officials informed.

PMA expresses concern over ...

Continued from page 05

ordinance 1962.

It is noted with regret that the elections are not even on the agenda of the ad-hoc council. The ad-hoc council is indulging in all other matters other than elections, which is against the orders of the Honorable Supreme Court.

The PMA also mentioned that the post of president of the council is an honorary post, and the PMDC has paid no earlier president of even the regular council. Under what moral or legal authority is the president of an ad-hoc council being sanctioned pay from the PMDC worth 1 million PKR (according to reliable sources), the PMA questioned.

Governor Sindh Imran Ismail ...

Continued from page 12

virus last month. Both Ghani and Afridi have recovered now. MPA Syed Abdul Rasheed of Sindh Assembly also contracted positive for the virus, as did eight of his family members reportedly.

Doctor from Karachi dies 'after ...

Continued from page 12

crying and blaming the authorities for her husband's death said the Aman Ambulance service initially refused to take the critically sick doctor to any health facility without the assurance of the availability of bed.

She said that when the people from the ambulance service arrived, they took him from one hospital to the other until, in the end, he was dropped back home where he died. "He died at our residence in front of my and our daughters' eyes." An official of the Sindh Rescue and Medical Services said the doctor was taken to the SIUT, but the facility refused to admit him because he did not have his COVID-19 certificate with him.

"The patient was brought back to his residence in Gulshan-e-Iqbal, from where he was taken to the Trimax Hospital, which refused to admit him. He was an employee of that health facility but they refused to treat him, after which he returned home."

Officials of the SIUT, the Indus Hospital and the Ojha Campus (Dow University of Health Sciences) said they were under pressure due to the increasing number of COVID-19 patients, but in cases of extreme emergencies, they could admit any serious patient, especially a doctor who required critical care. "We have 20 beds in the intensive care unit, of which 10 have ventilators," said an official of the Indus Hospital. "These beds remain occupied these days, and whenever any bed is vacated, there are more patients waiting in the emergency." Sindh Health Department officials could not be approached despite repeated attempts to ascertain their version on the availability of beds in the intensive care units at various hospitals of the city.

The Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, the Dr Ruth KM Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, the SIUT, the Ojha Campus, the Indus Hospital and the Aga Khan University Hospital are currently treating COVID-19 patients in the city.

Meanwhile, The Sindh Health Department has constituted a three-member inquiry committee to probe the untimely death of Dr Furqan, a former radiologist at the Karachi Institute of Heart Diseases.

The inquiry committee comprised of Fayyaz Ahmed Abbasi, Special Secretary Health (Chairman), Prof Dr Amjad Siraj, Principal, Dow Medical College, Karachi (Member), and Dr Sikander Memon, CTA (Member/Convener).

The committee will enquire into the circumstances, which resulted in the subject's death. The committee will also investigate whether the SOPs of proper isolation, referral, and telemedicine were being observed properly. The committee will submit its report within the next 24 hours.

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Health experts laud law enforcement agencies

MN Report

KARACHI - Health experts expressed gratitude to the Police Force and Rangers, who are helping doctors on the road every day during their commute to the hospitals and their homes. They are a great help to lady doctors at crowded checkpoints in particular.

"We are also grateful to the support staff

who are working day and night with doctors to help patients and are saving the lives of people. The female doctors involved in the treatment and management of COVID-19 patients are

extremely concerned about the current situation of patients, government policies, and the attitude towards this deadly disease." Addressing a press conference at the Karachi Press Club, Dr Nusrat Shah, Dr Nusrat Iqbal, Dr Farah, and Dr Razia Korejo appreciated the Sindh and Balochistan governments for working wholeheartedly for the prevention of the disease which spread by human contact in different gatherings. The Sindh government took the initiative to impose a lockdown and is determined for its implementation. We wholeheartedly support the Sindh and Balochistan governments for their efforts in the war against COVID-19.

They said our male colleagues conducted a press conference earlier, highlighting the dangers associated with this virus. It is spreading fast because people are not following preventive measures, and the government has failed to implement strict lockdown. All over the world, countries that imposed a strict lockdown from the discovery of the first case in the community are the ones free of the disease or have very few patients.

"It is the government's prime duty to protect its citizens and implement preventive measures everywhere from markets to departmental stores and from playgrounds to religious centers. Every citizen of the country should understand that salvation lies in preventive measures. We should not compromise the safety of our citizens at any cost," they added.

If the government does not impose a strict lockdown, the disease will spread like fire. People will remember those who did not use their knowledge and influence to protect the masses who will face death eventually if preventive measures not followed.

Lady doctors strongly feel that the growth of the economy and industrial development is not as important as human lives. Our poor people will suffer more than anyone in the community, they noted.

Doctors believe that our government and all affording citizens should help the poorest

of the poor in the city's slums and rural areas and provide them with food until the death of the coronavirus. It is time to invest in our poor citizens and not get worried about the economy and industrial growth. It is inhuman and immoral in this critical time that the government is leaving the responsibility of the wellbeing of its citizens on the shoulders of private organizations. The government

must make every effort to provide food and necessities to everyone.

noted that it is very heartbreaking to witness that some of our doctors, nurses, and health workers lost their lives in this battle.

Every day we go to the hospital with the fear of testing positive and dying. Our government should not allow gatherings in the name of religion at mosques, temples, or churches.

They appealed that Pakistan should follow the other Islamic countries and has to be extremely careful during Ramzan and Eid. Taraweeh prayers should be stopped.

Citizens should pray at home. This virus is not going away in a few days or weeks. It is going to be there for a few months, and we should prepare for the worst with the help of scientific knowledge and political



PMA rejects Shahbaz Gill's allegation

MN Report

KARACHI - The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) expressed distress over the statement issued by Shahbaz Gill, who accused doctors of being involved in politics.



Shahbaz Gill further blamed that the press conference was organized on the directives of the Sindh Government. The PMA categorically rejects these blames.

The PMA and some very senior doctors addressed a press conference recently held at the Karachi Press Club to highlight the worsening situation of Pakistan regarding the coronavirus. We gave our honest and professional opinion and requested the government and ulema to review their decision of holding Namaz-e-Juma and Namaz-e-Taraveh in mosques during Ramadan.

We requested them to withdraw this decision because it could contribute to the further spread of the COVID-19. Being medical professionals, we must inform the nation by portraying the actual picture of the situation. We also requested all the stakeholders and the general public to stay at home to avoid acquiring the coronavirus.

Mr Gill's statement is a serious issue. In his speech, he also said that this press conference was only held in Karachi, whereas yesterday, the PMA Lahore also warned the government to take back this decision; otherwise, the COVID-19 spread could exceed our control. We are expressing our concerns as per the PMA's policy. The PMA requested Shahbaz Gill to take back his statement because he hurt the doctors' community at a time when they are fighting against the coronavirus as the frontline soldiers.

WHO Pakistan welcomes South Korea support to country's efforts to combat COVID-19

MN Report

KARACHI - The Government of the Republic of Korea has announced that it will be providing its kind assistance worth USD 300,000 via the World Health Organization in Pakistan to support Pakistan's response to the outbreak and spread of COVID-19. Korean investing companies have also contributed to this cause, with companies such as K-Water, KOEN, and KOICA providing an additional USD 47,000 to Pakistan for COVID-19.

In a meeting with Dr Palitha Mahipala, WHO Representative and Head of Mission in Pakistan; the Ambassador Kwak Sung-kyu stated that "the Government of the Republic of Korea hopes that this assistance will be instrumental in controlling the current spread of the pandemic in Pakistan and further supporting the healthcare sector to cope with rapidly increasing COVID-19 caseload."

COVID-19 case numbers have been increased exponentially across the country in the past few weeks. As of today, Pakistan has reported over 10,513 cases of COVID-19 and a total of 224 deaths. A further increase in cases is anticipated to place an extraordinary burden on existing healthcare facilities in Pakistan and support from countries like South Korea are necessary to strengthen the country's existing response capacity in priority areas such as surveillance, case testing, management of cases as well as communications with the public on effective prevention measures.

The Representative of the World Health Organization in Pakistan, Dr Palitha Mahipala, shared that "the WHO highly appreciates the valuable support made by the Government of the Republic of Korea. Such support will enable the WHO to scale up its response activities to COVID-19 alongside federal and provincial national authorities and counterparts, especially in light of the prospect of an increased caseload in the coming weeks."



Pakistani professor elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of the United Kingdom

MN Report

KARACHI - Professor Zulfiqar Bhutta of the Aga Khan University has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society, the United Kingdom's leading scientific body, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to global child health over three decades. Founded in 1660, the Royal Society, which is dedicated to promoting excellence in science for

the benefit of humanity, has elected 62 scholars from around the world as Fellows and Foreign Members this year. The list includes six Nobel laureates, as well as internationally recognized leaders in industry and science policy. "Election to the Royal Society is an especially rare honor outside of the UK, especially for a paediatrician and global public health scientist, so

I am really humbled," said Prof Bhutta, founding director of AKU's Institute for Global Health and Development. "Since this is a fellowship awarded for lifetime achievements and aggregate contributions over the years, I owe it in no small measure to the hundreds of students and staff members who have worked with me tirelessly over the years; and to my families, my dearest wife



and children and the expanded AKU family." Prof Bhutta is globally recognized for his research breadth and productivity. Widely published, he is the highest-ranking public health researcher in the Muslim world and was recently ranked by Stanford University among the top 0.01 percent of the most highly cited scientists globally. He is quick to emphasize that these contributions are the result of collaboration and teamwork with faculty and researchers in Pakistan, Canada, and across the world.

Prof Bhutta has been a faculty member at the AKU since 1986, and his scientific research has focused on raising living standards in some of the world's most vulnerable populations, including women, newborns and children in low-income countries, marginalized rural areas, and conflict-affected settings. From the outset, he has set his research priorities around pressing national and global issues, particularly amongst underserved populations and in understudied areas of need, initially on childhood diarrhea and malnutrition, and global newborn care. He and his colleagues have focused more recently on gathering evidence around health, including mental health, and nutrition interventions for adolescents and young children in low- and middle-income countries, especially for those living in abject poverty. They are also leading global efforts to investigate and improve

reproductive, maternal, and child health in the Muslim world and conflict settings and humanitarian emergencies. Royal Society President, Venki Ramakrishnan, said: "At this time of global crisis, the importance of scientific thinking, and the medicines, technologies, and insights it delivers, has never been clearer. Our fellows and foreign members are central to the mission of the Royal Society, to use science for the benefit of humanity. "While election to the fellowship is a recognition of exceptional individual contributions to the sciences, it is also a network of expertise that can be drawn on to address issues of societal and global significance." In 2018, Prof Bhutta was also elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the highest scientific body in the USA. Prof Bhutta is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh & London), the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (London), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. The Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the United Kingdom. It is a self-governing fellowship of many of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. Past fellows and foreign members of the Royal Society have included Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Dorothy Hodgkin, and Stephen Hawking.



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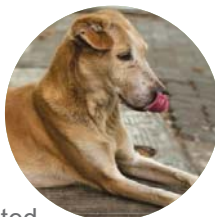
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9-year-old child bitten by rabid dog battles for life



MN Report

KARACHI - A nine-year child from the Larkana district of Sindh is battling for his life at the Indus Hospital Karachi after getting bitten by a rabid dog and developing full-blown rabies.

Muhammad Zeeshan, a resident of Larkana, was bitten by a rabid dog about 20 days ago. He was not given the anti-rabies

vaccine (ARV).

He was taken to the National Institute of Child Health and later shifted to the Indus Hospital Karachi.

Team Lead, Rabies Control Program, Indus Hospital Karachi, Muhammad Aftab Gohar, said more than 3000 dog-bites victims were reported at the Indus Hospital Rabies Prevention Centre this year so far out of which two

died of rabies-related complications.

He confirmed that a third full-blown rabies patient was brought to the hospital where he is currently battling for his life. He explained that rabies is a uniformly fatal disease where the victim dies if not provided with immediate and proper care.

PMA delegation meets with Bilawal Bhutto

MN Report

KARACHI - A delegation of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) recently had a meeting with the Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, at the Bilawal House.

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Minister Health Dr Azra Pechuho also attended the meeting with the PMA delegation comprising of its Secretary-General Dr Qaiser Sajjad, Dr Qazi Wasiq, and Karachi Chapter's President, Dr Sharif Hashmani.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari saluted the doctors of the country for playing their effective role on the frontline and also paid tributes to the paramedics and lower medical staff for fighting vigorously against the coronavirus.



The delegation apprised the PPP Chairman about the problems being faced by the doctors and paramedics in all the four provinces, AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Islamabad.

He said that doctors and paramedical staff are the real heroes, and the nation would never forget their valiant role in protecting lives during the coronavirus attack. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari further said that the PPP understands that the most important opinion regarding the coronavirus rests with doctors. Governments and responsible persons from different sectors should formulate policies in light of views proposed by medical professionals, he noted.

Doctors' representatives meet Dr Arif Alvi

MN Report

KARACHI - A joint delegation of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA), and doctors

from different societies recently met with Dr Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan, at the Governor House in Karachi.

The delegation comprised of Dr S M Qaisar Sajjad, Secretary-General, PMA Centre, Dr Qazi Wasiq, Treasurer, PMA Centre, Dr Sharif Hashmani, President, PMA Karachi, Dr S Tipu Sultan, Ex-President, PMA Centre, Dr Abdul Bari Khan, CEO, the Indus Hospital, Dr Saad Khalid Niaz, Dr Azeemuddin, President, PIMA, Dr Asif Hafeez, Dr Sohail Akhtar, Dr Misbah ul Haq, Dr Shamvil, and Dr Zafar Zaidi. Dr S M Qaisar Sajjad led the delegation.



Doctor from Karachi dies 'after being denied treatment'

MN Report

KARACHI - A retired doctor, Dr Furqan-ul-Haq, who had tested positive for COVID-19 a few days ago, recently died after he was allegedly denied treatment at various public and private hospitals in Karachi.

"He was dying due to shortness of breath after testing positive for the novel coronavirus, but no hospital admitted him," wife of retired practitioner of the Karachi Institute of Heart Diseases (KIHD), told Media. "He was taken to the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation [SIUT], and a private hospital in Azizabad where he used to work, but all of them said they had no beds available. He asked me to take him back home, where he

passed away today."

Dr Haq, the cardiologist who had recently retired from the KIHD and had also been associated with two private health facilities, had tested positive for COVID-19 along with his wife last week.

"He was in self-isolation at our residence in Gulshan-e-Iqbal where his condition deteriorated last night," said the wife, "so he asked me to take him to any specialised hospital, but due to the unavailability of beds, he was turned away by three hospitals."

The death of Dr Haq due to the unavailability of beds at the intensive care units of any health facility in Karachi, as reported by his wife, perturbed most of the people in the city.

Among those are especially the doctors' fraternity, who expressed shock and anger over their colleague's passing away, and demanded that the authorities take stock of the situation and ensure the availability of treatment to people.

A conversation between Dr Haq and one of his acquaintances over the phone during his last moments, in which he can be heard urging the person to use some connections to get him admitted at the Indus Hospital or any other health facility for treatment, also saddened the doctors' fraternity.

The wife of the deceased Dr Haq who was continuously



Governor Sindh Imran Ismail tests positive for COVID-19 again

MN Report

KARACHI - Sindh Governor Imran Ismail again tested positive for coronavirus recently, as the country's infection toll surpassed 24,800.

Governor Ismail had tested positive for the virus on April 27, after which he went into self-isolation. He had also attended several meetings just days before contracting COVID-19.

The governor, in a Twitter post said that against his expectations the test had come positive.

"I got my much awaited retest results today, & against my expectations, tested positive again. I am grateful to all those who prayed for me," he said.

"I'm trained to fight, Allah Almighty has given me strength to fight & I will. Fought many battles alongside Imran Khan a great fighter," he added.

The provincial COVID-19 infected tally stands at 9,093, while the death toll has reached 171 as of today.

Several top-tier politicians have tested positive for the virus including, National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser who became the third PTI leader to contract it. Prior to that, PPP lawmaker Rana Hamir Singh, of Sindh Assembly, tested positive for COVID-19.

PTI's MPA from Mardan, Abdul Salam Afridi, had tested also positive for the novel virus. Apart from that, Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani had contracted the

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