

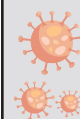
Medical News

Pakistan's First
Independent
Medical Periodical from
Karachi

Vol. 53 No. 11 / November 15-30, 2020

Published Fortnightly | Reg. No. ID. MC-153 | ISSN 1728-1520 | Controlled Circulation

CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN



CONFIRMED CASES

400,482

REPORTED DEATH

7,942



SINDH

174,350

PUNJAB

119,578

ISLAMABAD

30,406

BALUCHISTAN

17,187

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

47,370

GB/AJK

4,658 / 6,933

RECOVERED CASES

343,286

*Stats as of 01 December, 2020 - 07:35am, Provided by
Ministry of National Health Services Regulations &
Coordination, Government of Pakistan

Inside

► Dow Hospital staff
stages protest

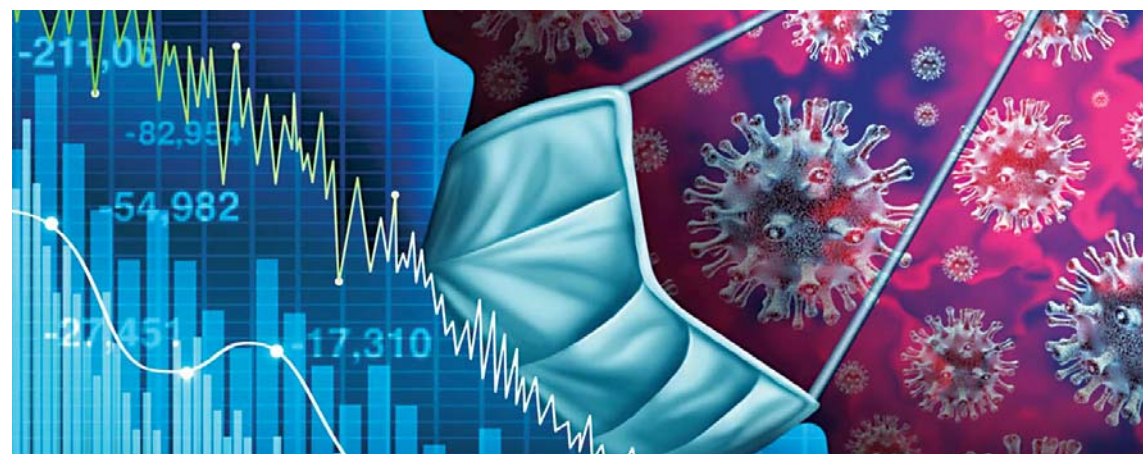
03

► Experts document
case of reinfection of ...

07

► Iconic landmarks,
monuments go ...

12



Pakistan witnesses highest positivity ratio since COVID-19 outbreak

MN Report

KARACHI - The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) recently informed that the positivity ratio reached 7.46pc which has been attributed as highest since the start of the pandemic in Pakistan.

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was also informed during its meeting that due to the high positivity ratio, hospitalisation has doubled over the last two weeks.

The meeting was chaired Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar and was attended by Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood, with provincial representatives joining via video link.

The meeting was also informed about the positivity ratio in individual federating units, with the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) having the highest COVID-19 positivity rate at 11.45pc, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at 9.85pc, Sindh at 9.63pc, Islamabad at 8.09pc, Balochistan at 7.73pc, Gilgit-

Baltistan at 5.23pc and Punjab having the lowest positivity rate in the country at 3.95pc.

According to the data collected, the number of positive cases have increased across the country, with the highest increase recorded in various cities including Rawalpindi, Multan, Lahore and Faisalabad in Punjab; Karachi and Hyderabad in Sindh; Peshawar, Abbottabad and Swat in KP; Mirpur in AJK; Gilgit and Islamabad, the NCOC observed. The forum was also informed that the daily average of deaths due to the virus stood at 35 during the preceding week. An increase in the number of infections at educational institutes across the country was also reported. The rate in educational institutions rose from 1.8 to 3.3pc during the last week - an increase of 82pc. It was observed that of all the COVID-19 cases in educational

Continued on Page 08

Court issues notice to PMC over new MDCAT date

MN Report

KARACHI - The Sindh High Court (SHC) recently issued a notice to Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) on the announcement of the date of the Medical and Dental Admission Test (MDCAT) 2020.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Arshad Hussain Khan heard an application seeking contempt proceedings against the commission for not complying with the high court's decision in a case pertaining to the MDCAT.



Earlier, the commission had announced that it would conduct MDCAT on November 29 "upon compliance" with the SHC verdict. But petitioner's lawyer Mohammad Jibran Nasir argued that by announcing a new date for the test without issuing a syllabus approved by the academic board, PMC had committed contempt of court. On 23 November, the bench approved the application and issued a notice to PMC seeking a response in November 24 hearing. Cancelling the November 15 MDCAT exam, the SHC had underlined in its order that since the National Medical & Dental Academic Board had not been formed under the Pakistan Medical Commission Act, 2020, the "MDCAT cannot be conducted". According to the court ruling, the Board will have "the powers to formulate the examination structure and standards for the MDCAT for

Continued on Page 08

Editorial Board

Founder: Ayaz Mahmood

Publisher: M Hassan Mahmood

Chief Executive: Syed Hashim Hasan

Online Editor: Haseeb Uddin

Assistant Editor: Dr Muattar Hanif

Honorary Advisor: Dr Sulman Akhtar

Manager Production
& Coordination: M Irfan Ali

Advertising Manager
SM Shakil (0300-2559344)

Business Executives
Khawaja Akhlaq Ahmed
(0342-2393917)

Haroon Rashid
(Islamabad: 0300-9710774)

Designing & Layout
Sh M Sadiq Ali

/MedicalNewsPk

/MedicalNewsPk

medicalnewspk.com

Tel: 021-35833172
021-35872289

PMA Sindh meets Health Minister to discuss perpetual problems of doctors

MN Report

KARACHI - A delegation of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Sindh recently met with the Health Minister of Sindh, Azra Fazal Pechuho, to discuss the perpetual problems of doctors of Sindh and paramedical staffs. Delegates including Dr Mirza Ali Azhar, President, Dr Rafiqul Hassan Khan, General Secretary, Dr Vasdev and Dr Bashir Khaskheli, VP I and II, and Dr Aslam Narejo, J.S. I accompanied the minister along with the Secretary of Health. The issues of doctors and paramedics were discussed at length in a cordial atmosphere. It was agreed that strikes, agitation, and closure of health facilities are not acceptable for the

benefit of patients. The issue of those contract doctors of 1995, regularized in 2003, was discussed. It was demanded that their service period should be considered from 1995 onwards.

The incidences of violence with doctors and health care providers was discussed. The Sindh government agreed to make a policy in this regard and was also advised to write a letter to the Chief Justice of Sindh.

Regarding the SHCC, the delegate was assured that after the completion of the process of appointing high officials, a big role would be given to the PMA Sindh. The matter has been sent to the law ministry. The posting and promotions of the doctors of Sindh will be

on merit and according to seniority without delay, including the doctors serving as specialist cadre. The formation of the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) was rejected in the meeting and agreed that the PMA Sindh would become the co-competitors in the case already in the court of law on behalf of the Sindh government. The PMA also demanded a comprehensive health policy for the province of Sindh and extended cooperation in this regard.



Ziauddin University to hold its first multidisciplinary, international virtual conference

MN Report

KARACHI - The Faculty of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Ziauddin University, is holding its first multidisciplinary two-day international virtual conference "Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity: Synergies and Challenges in the Wake of COVID-19" in collaboration with the National Academy of Higher Education, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad on November 13th & 14th 2020.

Prof Iqbal Choudhary appointed as UNESCO Chairholder

MN Report

KARACHI - Renowned Pakistani Scientist and Director of the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Prof Dr Iqbal Choudhary, has been appointed the UNESCO Chairholder of the newly established UNESCO Chair on Medicinal and Bio-Organic Natural Product Chemistry.

ICCBS Spokesman said that the Director-General UNESCO approved this appointment in Paris. The spokesman said that this is the first international UNESCO Chair in the University of Karachi, and only the 4th in the entire country, adding that this would help Pakistan

become a center of excellence in this important area of research, especially to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNESCO Chair is a huge honor for Pakistan and is a recognition of Prof Choudhary's work in the research and development of medicinal and bioorganic natural product chemistry. As a chair holder, Prof Choudhary will promote research, training, information, and documentation on natural medicinal and bio-organic

product chemistry.

Prof Choudhary is also serving COMSTECH as Coordinator-General. He is among the most prominent scientists of Pakistan, recognized for his original contributions in the fields of natural products and bioorganic chemistry.



He received the prestigious title of "Distinguished National Professor" from the Higher Education Commission in 2004 and Meritorious Professor by the University of Karachi in 2013. He is a member and fellow of many prestigious societies, including Fellow of The Academy of Sciences for the

Developing World, Islamic Academy of Sciences, and Chemical Society of Pakistan.

Ms Patricia McPhillips, the Director and Representative of UNESCO in Pakistan, Vice-Chancellor University of Karachi Prof. Dr Khalid Mehmood Iraqi, and Prof Atta-ur Rahman, ICCBS Patron-in-chief and Chairman of Prime Minister's Task Force on Science and Technology congratulated Prof. Choudhary Choudhary for his achievement.



Dr. Nida Hussain, Pro Chancellor, ZU; Prof. Dr. Shaheen Sardar Ali, Rector, National Academy of Higher Education, HEC; Prof. Dr. Pirzda Qasim, VC, Ziauddin University; and Dr. Fauzia Shamim, Dean, FLAHS, addressing at the First Multidisciplinary Two-Day International Virtual Conference.

The conference will be broadcasted live on Facebook. The purpose of this conference is to bring together the varied expertise and interests of academia and representatives of key sectors such as business, health, and media at one platform in order to discuss, debate, and dialogue on social issues that are particularly relevant in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program includes keynote and plenary speakers, invited talks by luminaries from the USA, UK, Canada, Qatar, Costa Rica, Brazil, India, and Pakistan. A wide range of topics will be covered in various formats, including paper presentations, multidisciplinary plenary sessions, and panel discussions.

PMC setups new medical and dental academic board

MN Report
ISLAMABAD - According to a recent notification, the ministry of National Health Services (NHS) had constituted a 17-member National Medical and Dental Academic Board (NMDAB). The board would look into the standard of education being followed by the undergraduate/post-graduate medical and dental institutions across the country. It is pertinent to mention here that President Dr Arif Alvi had earlier promulgated an ordinance dissolving the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council and establishing the PMC. The notification stated, "In exercise of powers conferred by subsection (1) of section 10 of Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) Act 2020, the Prime Minister of Pakistan is pleased to appoint the following members of National Medical and Dental Academic Board for a period of three years with immediate effect."
o Mr Tariq Banuri, Chairman Higher Education Commission or his nominee (Ex-Officio)
• Prof. Zafar Ullah Chaudhry, President of College of

Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan (Ex-Officio)
• Maj. Gen(R) Prof. Jawad Khaliq Ansari, Principal Army Medical College (Ex-Officio)
• Prof. Aamer Zaman Khan, Vice-Chancellor, Fatimah Jinnah Medical University, Lahore (Punjab Public Nominee)

Neurosurgery, CPSP (KPK Private Nominee)
• Prof. Tanvir Khaliq, Vice-Chancellor, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, Islamabad (Federal Public Nominee)
• Brig. Dr Tahir Aziz Ahmed SI (M) Retd, Shifa International Hospital & Medical College, Islamabad (Federal Private Nominee)
• Prof. Amer Bilal, Professor and Head of Department of Thoracic Surgery, Postgraduate Medical, Institute, Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar (Clinical)
• Dr Adil Hussain Haider, Dean Agha Khan University Medical College, Karachi (Clinical)
• Dr Arif Tajammul, Principal, Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore (Clinical)
• Prof. Dr Raafea Tafweez Kuraishi, Chairperson Doctoral Program Coordination Committee, King Edward Medical University, Lahore (Basic Sciences)
• Prof. Naveen Mubarak Faridi, Liaquat National Hospital & Medical College, Karachi (Basic Sciences)
• Prof. Ambreen Afzal Ehsan (Dental)
• Dr Saqib Riaz Qazi (Dental)



• Prof. Dr Ghulam Rassol, Dean/Head of Psychiatry Department, Bolan University of Medical and Health Science, Quetta (Balochistan Public Nominee)
• Dr Mahmud Aurangzeb, Dean, Khyber Medical College, Peshawar and CEO, Khyber Teaching Hospital & Khyber College of Dentistry, Peshawar (KPK Public Nominee)
• Prof. Abdul Majeed Chaudhry, Principal, Lahore Medical and Dental College, Lahore (Punjab Private Nominee)
• Prof. Muhammad Tariq Khan (FRCS), Chairman, Alliance Healthcare (Pvt)Ltd, Dean

Dow Hospital staff stages protest

MN Report
KARACHI - The employees of the Dow Hospital Ojha Campus under the banner of the Joint Action Committee staged a protest demonstration outside the Karachi Press Club in favor of their demands. A large number of doctors, nurses, paramedics, and other staff participated in the protest. The protesters said that the Dow Hospital administration had not paid heed to resolve doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff's genuine demands. The employees under the banner of the Joint Action Committee presented a charter of demands to the management in writing, but no concrete step has been taken to resolve these issues. The protesters demanded Chief Minister Sindh and other high-ups of the Sindh government to resolve the staff's genuine demands on an urgent basis; otherwise, the employees will enlarge the protest.



77 more quack-run clinics sealed in Sindh

MN Report
KARACHI - The Anti-Quackery Directorate of Sindh Healthcare Commission (SHCC) has conducted 153 field visits in Karachi and other divisions of the province and sealed 77 clinics run by quacks in a week.

The anti-quackery teams of the SHCC have carried out field visits in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Mirpurkhas divisions in the Sindh province so far. Director, Directorate Anti Quackery, held a meeting with Justice (Rtd) Majida Rizvi at the Sindh Human Rights Commission. In the meeting, it was decided to hold a joint session in Karachi for awareness about the existence of quacks in Sindh and develop a strategy to curb their activities. Similarly, the Sindh Healthcare Commission's Directorate of Licensing & Accreditation conducted an awareness session for the registration procedure of healthcare establishments in the Mirpurkhas Division. In the session, CEO, SHCC, Syed Baqar Raza Rizvi, and

Director, Licensing & Accreditation, Dr Mehtab Akhtar, gave their speeches. Director, Directorate Licensing & Accreditation, gave a presentation describing the procedure and prerequisites of registration and licensing. They discussed the issues faced during registration and licensing. Commissioner Mirpurkhas, Abdul Waheed Shiekh, was also present at the event and addressed the audience describing the SHCC's role in maintaining the quality of healthcare services in Sindh. In the end, provisional licenses were distributed to HCEs. The Directorate has issued 484 provisional licenses to various HCEs in Sindh to date.



Authentik
Buy the Real Thing!

SAY NO TO QUACKERY

VISIT PMDC REGISTERED DOCTORS ONLY

DOWNLOAD AND VERIFY YOUR DOCTOR

SCAN QR CODE

Authentik
Buy the Real Thing!

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play



Contaminated water raises stink in Civil Hospital

MN Report
KARACHI - The underground water reservoirs and overhead tanks of government-run hospitals are not being cleaned regularly; therefore, visiting and admitted patients had been compelled to drink contaminated in this health facility. An official of Sindh's largest tertiary care hospital, well known as the Dr Ruth Pfau



Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK), noted that this health facility's underground water reservoirs were not being maintained or cleaned regularly by the hospital's administration. The visiting and admitted patients have been compelled to drink health-hazardous polluted water. He said more than 6,000 patients from Karachi, interior Sindh, and Baluchistan provinces visit different hospital OPDs every day. The visiting patients and their attendants have been compelled to drink polluted water of the underground water reservoir, while some patients and their attendants used mineral water to avoid water-borne diseases. This contaminated water was also supplied to various departments of the hospital and staff colony. The official said that contaminated and polluted consumption could develop water-borne diseases among patients and their attendants. He said people are compelled to purchase mineral water from medical stores for daily consummation. Similarly, the overhead tanks and underground reservoirs of the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, Jinnah Hospital Karachi, and other district hospitals were also not being maintained or cleaned for the past several months due to the slackness of the heads of healthcare centers. Additional Medical Superintendent, Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, Dr Ismail Memon, chlorination of water is the Infectious Diseases Department's responsibility, and they are regularly cleaning the water tanks.

PMA demands uniform policy against COVID-19 in Pakistan

MN Report
KARACHI - The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has been raising its voice from day one for taking preventive measures to control the coronavirus (COVID-19), but unfortunately, the standard operating procedure (SOPs)

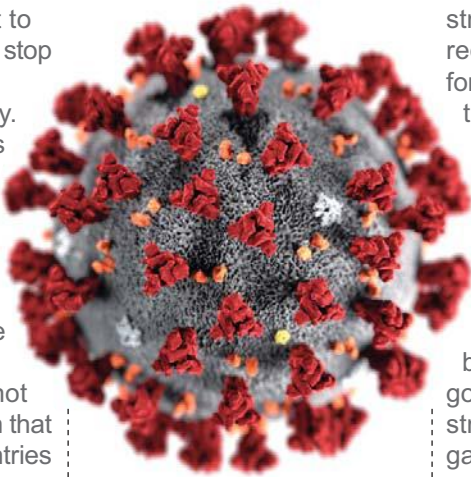
taking place, have contributed to the spread of the epidemic drastically. Large numbers of doctors and paramedics have also been infected with the coronavirus and are in quarantine because they are performing their duties without PPEs. Moreover, they

fewer corona tests, there should be at least 25000 tests conducted daily in each province, as we have already demanded. The testing capacity should be increased and should be done free of cost all over Pakistan, and the government should pay private labs.



have not been implemented. Secretary-General, Dr S M Qaisar Sajjad, Pakistan Medical Association (Centre), said that the PMA had warned the government to take appropriate steps to stop the spread of the coronavirus in the country. Unfortunately, the SOPs are not being implemented strictly. We should remain thankful to God for his special blessings that we remained safe during the first wave of the coronavirus, and it did not face the horrible situation that was faced by many countries of the world. "Now we are facing the second wave of the virus, which is more lethal than the first one. It has been observed that the infected patients are presenting with more serious symptoms, and more deaths are being reported due to sheer negligence on the patients' part. We regretfully say that even after this much severity, the public is not adopting preventive measures strictly. The government seems to have failed in implementing strict SOPs in every field of life," he added. He lamented that the way large political and religious gatherings are continuously

are not following SOPs properly. The government has failed to provide PPEs to healthcare workers. If the



situation worsens, most healthcare workers will be unable to treat patients as they will be in quarantine. Dr Qaisar Sajjad said that the burden of disease at corona designated hospitals is increasing day by day; almost 90 to 95 percent of the beds have been occupied. The number of positive corona cases and deaths is on the rising. If the government does not tackle the situation properly, then more doctors and paramedics will be affected, and we can face a shortage of doctors in hospitals. He informed that although the government is conducting

"The PMA believes that if the number of cases rises with the same speed, then the government will have no choice except to impose a strict lockdown. We again request the government to form a uniform policy against the coronavirus and implement it sternly across Pakistan. The government should also bring laws to fine and punish people who are not following SOPs." He said that the PMA believes that the government should impose strict SOPs at large gatherings, and if the government cannot implement SOPs, then these gatherings should be banned. The government and the public should understand that the vaccine against the coronavirus will not be available for the next 6 to 12 months. Till then, the only available vaccine for the coronavirus should be used, and that is a mask. We request all to wear a mask whenever they go out in public. He demanded the government to provide PPEs to all healthcare workers immediately to protect their lives and increase facilities in hospitals for corona patients' management.

People must believe in science rather than fiction, says VC

MN Report
KARACHI - Vice-Chancellor, University of Karachi, Prof Dr Khalid Mehmood Iraqi, said that people must believe in science rather than fiction or imagination. This step to organizing such a useful short course on "Management Disaster Management in Mass Fatality Cases" on the Supreme Court's recommendation is

country's pace of progress should be accelerated. When a disaster results in mass fatalities, its management becomes more complicated and sensitive, he said, adding that in such cases, rescue workers, law enforcement agencies, medico-legal officers, humanitarian, organizations and forensic DNA laboratories have to work in close coordination to

also essential as disaster preparedness can save lives. The International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) is one of the finest centers in the fields of chemical, biochemical, and biomedical sciences, he stated. Amir Khursheed said that major disasters require collaboration between different government



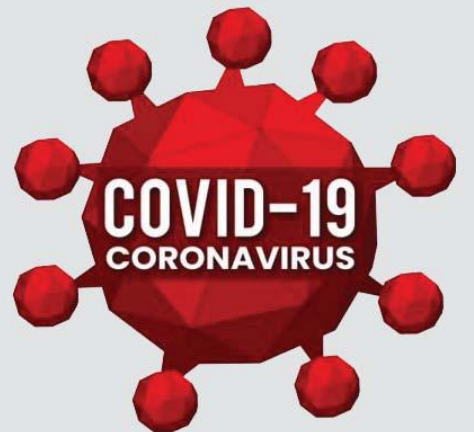
highly appreciable, as the country needs professionalism in every sector, he said. He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the short course on "Management Disaster Management in Mass Fatality Cases," mutually organized by the Sindh Forensic DNA and Serology Laboratory (SFDL), International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, and the International Red Cross Committee (IRCC) held at the Prof Dr Salimuzzaman Siddiqui Auditorium. Acting Secretary, Home Department, Amir Khursheed, Prof Dr Iqbal Choudhary, Director of the ICCBS-University of Karachi, and Coordinator-General, COMSTECH, Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, In-Charge SFDL, and Dr Humaira Jahan, also expressed their views on the occasion. Prof Iraqi said that Pakistan needed skilled people as the

identify and handover bodies of victims to the grieving families. Prof Iraqi praised the excellence of the ICCBS-University of Karachi and highlighted this center's national services at all times of need. Prof Dr Iqbal Choudhary thanked the Supreme Court's Monitoring Judge, Anti-Terrorism Courts, Justice Faisal Arab, for encouraging organizing first time such an important training session that will help the participants to improve their understanding of the functioning of DNA lab, sampling, coding, tagging, reporting, and interpretation of DNA reports. He said the SFDL has also organized several training programs for police, medico-legal officers, and prosecutors. The importance of training people or workers is indispensable for any country or any organization, he observed, adding that training in disaster management was

agencies and humanitarian organizations. Therefore, disaster management is multi-dimensional, involving diverse branches of knowledge and technical skills, he said. "Today's event provides a unique opportunity for the police, medico-legal, and forensic departments to improve coordination to better prepare for any future calamity," he observed. Earlier, Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan welcomed the participants in the course and said that the SFDL was a state-of-the-art, purpose-built laboratory that delivers an excellent forensic DNA analysis that supports provincial and federal law enforcement agencies. Since its establishment, the laboratory has provided high-quality reports in more than 1300 cases, including PIA plane crash and Nooriabad van accident cases, he mentioned. In the end, Dr Humaira Jahan presented a vote of thanks.

'Coronavirus may affect 70 percent of the population'

MN Report
KARACHI - Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, Mohammad Ali Jinnah University, Karachi (MAJU), Prof Dr Kamran Azim, said that now we have to get in the habit of living with the coronavirus like other viral diseases like influenza, so we should not be complacent about the complete eradication of the coronavirus.



He said that in February this year, Mark Lipstich, a Professor of Epidemiology at the Harvard University in the United States, revealed that the coronavirus disease could attack 70% of the world's population. Similarly, an article published in the leading British newspaper, The Guardian, in February also claimed that 60% of the world's population could be infected with the coronavirus. He shared these views while talking at the MAJU faculty program. He also dismissed the impression that a large number of deaths were being reported as a result of the coronavirus infection. In fact, the death rate resulting from the coronavirus infection was less than 1%, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), while the number of deaths resulting from diseases such as typhoid and dengue was approximately 50%. Dr Kamran said that in the current situation, it is important to use sanitizer regularly and to wear masks compulsorily in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease.

Sindh hospitals face a shortage of PPEs

MN Report

KARACHI - Vice-President, Young Doctors Association (YDA), Sindh, Dr Waris Ali Jakhrani, recently noted that the lives of doctors, nurses, and



paramedic staff is at risk in the province due to a short supply of personal protection equipment (PPEs) in health facilities across the province.

Dr Waris Jakhrani said that doctors and other medical staff are working on the front line in the war against COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic in Pakistan. Their lives are at risk due to the shortage of PPEs and injections used in corona patients' treatment. He informed that corona cases and their related deaths had increased in the Sindh province, particularly in Karachi; therefore, the concerned authorities should ensure the provision of safety kits and drugs used to treat corona patients in corona treatment centers.

Dr Jakhrani said so many doctors and other medical staff had fallen prey to the deadly virus because of the unavailability of PPEs in health facilities. He requested the concerned provincial authorities to provide PPEs to protect doctors, nurses, and paramedics.

He demanded the high ups of the Sindh government to ensure the supply of PPEs in tertiary care hospitals, district health quarters, health facilities, and corona treatment centers on an urgent basis.

207 more dengue cases emerge in a week

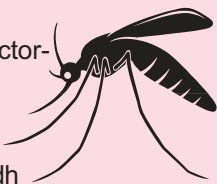
MN Report

KARACHI - The Vector-Borne Diseases Department of the Directorate General Health Services Sindh has registered 223 dengue fever cases across the Sindh province in a week, out of which 207 were recorded in Karachi and 16 in other districts of the province.

The VBD has registered 2,826 dengue cases all over the Sindh province since the start of the year in Sindh, out of which 2669 surfaced in Karachi and 157 in other districts of the province so far.

In Karachi, District East topped the list with 192 dengue cases in November, followed by District South with 149

Continued on Page 08



'Medical waste may act as a vehicle in an AIDS-affected area'



MN Report

KARACHI - Director General, Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Naeem Ahmad Mughal, presided over an environmental review session for the installation and operation of four incinerators for the disposal of medical waste in an environmentally friendly manner in various hospitals of Larkana district. In the meeting of experts after examining the environmental impact of the four incinerators, it was decided that environmental approval for their installation and operation would be given in due course of time, keeping in view of the public opinions taken earlier on them.

It is to be noted that the Sindh Government is taking all-out measures to prevent the further spread of AIDS in Larkana, which was spreading on a limited scale over there in the recent past. Safe disposal of hospital waste eliminates the risk of the spread of any infectious diseases, including AIDS; therefore, the plan for the installation and operation of subject incinerators in various hospitals of the referred district is being speedily examined to assess their environmental implications.

With the financial support of the World Health Organization and the managerial supervision of the Department of Health, Government of Sindh, one incinerator with the capacity of 50 kg per hour of medical waste will be installed at Sheikh Zayed Women's

Hospital, Larkana, while one each of the capacity of 20 kg of waste per hour will be installed at Taluka Hospital Rato Dero and Rural Hospital Nodero. In addition, the place of the installation of the fourth incinerator with a capacity of 10 kg of medical waste per hour will be decided by the Health Department.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Spokesperson to the Government of Sindh and Advisor to the Chief Minister on Law, Environment, Climate Change, and Coastal Development, has already directed SEPA to conduct an environmental review of all such projects directly related to the public interest on a priority basis. They should be approved without delay while fulfilling their necessary environmental requirements. It may be recalled that in the recent past, several cases of AIDS were reported in Larkana. Out of 30,000 tests conducted between April and June last year, AIDS was found in 876 people, of whom 82% were children under 15 years of age. There were guesstimates that the spread of AIDS in the city could also be due to unsafe medical practices, including the reuse of used syringes and drips for treatment, as well as the presence of the quacks (unauthorized medical practitioners) in the area. During the expert review meeting, DG SEPA Naeem Ahmad Mughal asked various questions from the WHO and Health Department representatives regarding the

installation of the incinerators and their subsequent operations in the context of their environmental safety. Dr Sara Salman, WHO head in Sindh, told the meeting that her organization was working with the Health Department Sindh to prevent the spread of AIDS in Larkana and to improve the healthcare system in hospitals, especially to ensure safe disposal of medical waste. The WHO is also financing the medical waste disposal machines, and in this regard, an agreement has been signed with a company called Madeline Technologies for the installation of the said machines in all three hospitals in the Larkana district. During the meeting, the issues related to the amount of smoke coming out of the chimneys of these incinerators once they are installed and possible side effects while disposing of medical waste, the method of disposal of incinerated waste's ash, provision of the necessary training to their handlers and operators and temporary storage of the waste before disposal were critically examined. Subsequently, DG SEPA urged the WHO to continue administrative oversight and financial support for the supply, installation, and subsequent operation of the machines beyond their three-year contract period. He also assured that SEPA would provide all possible assistance in environmental matters till the completion of the projects.

Continued on Page 08

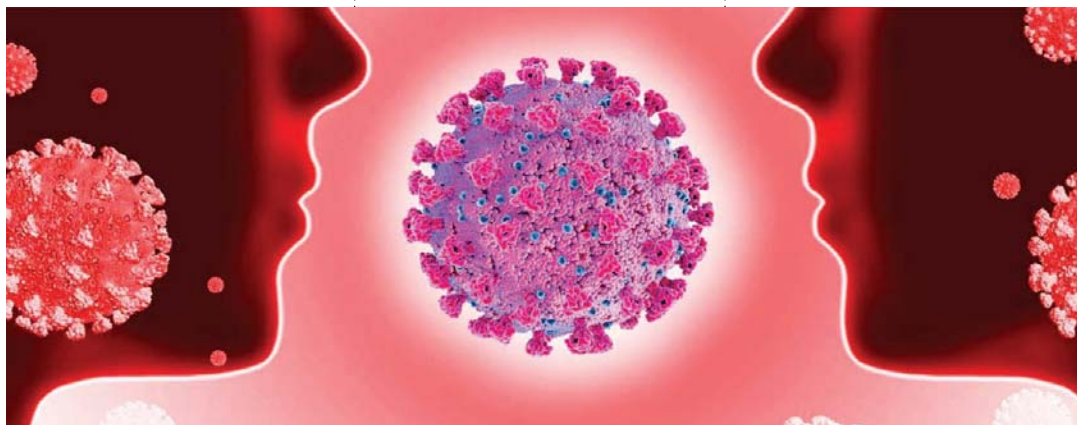
Experts document case of reinfection of SARS-CoV-2 in Pakistan

By Dr Sarmad Syed

ABBOTTABAD - After the tremendous efforts of the government and public came to fruition in getting the first wave of COVID-19 under control, the people of Pakistan

was initially infected and tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 on 6th June 2020. He tested negative for the virus, and positive for its antibodies following recovery after fifteen days. After 133 days of

Patients are presenting with prolonged symptoms, persistent low oxygen saturation, atypical chest X-ray findings and are still diagnosed positive for SARS-CoV-2. On the contrary,



threw caution in the wind and start going about their lives as they did in the pre-COVID era. Infectious disease experts warned about the recurrent infection to SARS-CoV-2 and urged the public to wear face masks and follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Now, a case report published by Dr Zia-ul-Haq and his team, in the December 2020 edition of the Journal of Ayub Medical College, has presented the first documented case of reinfection of SARS-CoV-2 in the second wave of COVID-19 in Pakistan. The article describes a 41-year-old health care worker with no known immune deficiencies, who

recovery, the patient again became symptomatic. On 1st November 2020, the patient tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 for a second time.

The case report confirms that, although the patient had developed anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies after the first infection, he still got reinfected. This is an eye-opener for the public, who until now, considered themselves immune to reinfection by the. The leading KPK pulmonologists, Head of Pulmonology Department, Prof. Dr Zafar Iqbal and Asst. Prof. Dr Anila Basit from LRH Peshawar, had this to say, "Compared to what we saw in the first wave, it seems the virus has now mutated.

sometimes clinically and radiologically, all features point towards a case of COVID-19, but their PCR result is repeatedly negative. Before the pandemic, patients dying of H1N1 had similar clinical and radiological findings. Now, due to pandemic, the H1N1 swab test is not done or ignored which is why sometimes we consider adding ostelmevir in management."

The experts confirm current precautions with the following message for the public, "the only way to stay safe now, is to carefully follow all SOP's, wear facemasks at all times, frequently wash and sanitize your hands and avoid social gatherings at all costs."

CHK extends HDU and ICU facility from 88 to 173

MN Report

ABBOTTABAD - After the tremendous efforts of the government and public came to fruition in getting the first wave of COVID-19 under control, the people of Pakistan threw caution in the wind and start going about their lives as they did in the pre-COVID era. Infectious disease experts warned about the recurrent infection to SARS-CoV-2 and urged the public to wear face masks and follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).



Now, a case report published by Dr Zia-ul-Haq and his team, in the December 2020 edition of the Journal of Ayub Medical College, has presented the first documented case of reinfection of SARS-CoV-2 in the second wave of COVID-19 in Pakistan. The article describes a 41-year-old health care worker with no known immune deficiencies, who was initially infected and tested

Continued on Page 08

SHCC conducts training sessions for hakims and homeopaths in Karachi

MN Report

KARACHI - The Directorate of Clinical Governance Sindh Healthcare Commission (SHCC), in collaboration with the Federation of Sindh Homeopathic Associations (FSHA), arranged its first training session on minimal service delivery standards for homeopathic healthcare establishments at the Pakistan Central Homeopathic Medical College, Nazimabad.



The event was attended by more than 250 registered homeopath doctors of the Karachi Division. SHCC, CEO, Syed Baqar Raza Rizvi, elaborated the functions and current activities of the Commission in his speech. Director, Clinical Governance & Trainings, Dr Ahmed Raza Kazmi, advised the participants to proceed for the provisional license soon after the training session. He also discouraged beyond scope practices.

Deputy Directors Dr Faiza and Dr Zainab of the SHCC answered the queries. The FSHA members Prof Ikhtlaq, Dr Tayyab, Dr Zaheer, Dr Aslam Khan (Member of Council for Homeopath), Dr Bokhari, and Dr Imran, in their speeches, gave a message to all the participants for ethical practice. Similarly, the Directorate of Clinical Governance & Training also organized training sessions for hakims at DHA Karachi. The training was provided on minimum service delivery standards of Tibbe- e- Unani.

40 Hakims registered with the SHCC participated in the training. Deputy Director Trainings, SHCC, Dr Zainab Hasan, and Assistant Director, Tibb, Ms Reema Dildar, introduced the functions and mandate of the SHCC and gave the training on minimum Tibb standards. On the other hand, the Directorate of Anti-Quackery visited 141 clinics this week and sealed 48 quack clinics, while a total of 3885 have been sealed across the province to date. The warnings issued to HCEs for non-compliance to date are 2173. Twenty warnings were issued this week alone. The team has visited a total of 7851 HCEs in Sindh so far.

The Directorate of Complaints registered a total of 152 complaints so far, out of

Continued on Page 08

Pakistan witnesses highest ...

Continued from front page

institutions, 19pc were recorded among students. The Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) on Monday decided to close all educational institutions from November 26 to December 24 and conduct online classes during the time period as the number case continue to increase. The meeting, presided by the federal education minister, decided that during the time period of closure, schools will remain open but students will remain at home. The forum, however, allowed schools to call students for one or two days during the week but said the final policy in this regard will be at the discretion of provincial education departments. It was also announced that winter break will be from December 25 to January 10.

Court issues notice to PMC ...

Continued from front page

approval of the Council". The SHC further criticised a notification issued October 23, 2020, by the PMC regarding the syllabus, in which it said candidates would have the option to mark any questions they believed were beyond the syllabus in an objection form to be provided at the examination centre, saying it "created uncertainty and gross confusion and perplexity in the minds of all applicants" and terming it "unreasonable and nonstandard". "This is quite a unique idea that every applicant will be provided objection form at the time of entering into the examination hall, so first he should be obliged to do audit exercise as to how many questions are out of his syllabus. "Much time of the candidate would be lapsed and consumed to go through the entire question paper as an examiner and then filling the

objection forms. "No further mechanism has been provided in the above announcement as to how and when the students appearing in the MDCAT will come to know whether objections raised by them were considered and the question considered by them to be outside the identified syllabus have been removed from scoring or not."

207 more dengue cases ...

Continued from page 06

cases and District Central cases in 86. The turnout of dengue cases was low in District Korangi, District Malir, and District West, respectively. A death due to dengue fever was also reported in Karachi this year so far. Vector control activities have continued in high-risk Union Councils of Gulshan-e-Iqbal, North Nazimabad, Saddar, Defence, and Gulberg areas of the city.

Medical waste may act ...

Continued from page 06

It should be noted that under Section 17 of the Sindh Environmental Protection Act 2014, all development projects implemented in Sindh, including the construction of buildings and installation of machines, must be approved by SEPA after conducting their environmental impact assessment (EIA). On receiving the comments/opinions of stakeholders through public hearings and media, a committee of experts constituted by SEPA, after a detailed environmental review of the project under consideration, decides whether to give it final approval or refer back for necessary alterations.

CHK extends HDU and ICU ...

Continued from page 07

positive for SARS-CoV-2 on 6th June 2020. He tested negative for the virus, and positive for its antibodies following recovery after

fifteen days. After 133 days of recovery, the patient again became symptomatic. On 1st November 2020, the patient tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 for a second time. The case report confirms that, although the patient had developed anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies after the first infection, he still got reinfected. This is an eye-opener for the public, who until now, considered themselves immune to reinfection by the. The leading KPK pulmonologists, Head of Pulmonology Department, Prof. Dr Zafar Iqbal and Asst. Prof. Dr Anila Basit from LRH Peshawar, had this to say, "Compared to what we saw in the first wave, it seems the virus has now mutated. Patients are presenting with prolonged symptoms, persistent low oxygen saturation, atypical chest X-ray findings and are still diagnosed positive for SARS-CoV-2. On the contrary, sometimes clinically and radiologically, all features point towards a case of COVID-19, but their PCR result is repeatedly negative. Before the pandemic, patients dying of H1N1 had similar clinical and radiological findings. Now, due to pandemic, the H1N1 swab test is not done or ignored which is why sometimes we consider adding ostelmevir in management."

The experts confirm current precautions with the following message for the public, " the only way to stay safe now, is to carefully follow all SOP's, wear facemasks at all times, frequently wash and sanitize your hands and avoid social gatherings at all costs."

SHCC conducts training ...

Continued from page 07

which 111 complaints have been disposed of, 33 complaints are under processing, while 8 are sub-judice.

The Directorate of Licensing & Accreditation, SHCC, received 40 new applications for registration this week. The total number of registration applications reached 11,363 to date. Certificates were issued to 47 HCEs this week, bringing the total number of registration certificates issued to 9,992 HCEs.

Iconic landmarks, monumentts ...

Continued from page 12

level will help us deliver a better world in which every child can realize their dreams and live a safe, carefree life," said Ms Rabiya Javeri Agha, Secretary, Ministry for Human Rights. World Children's Day also marks a commitment to listen to the voices of children, adolescents, and young people as they demand to be heard on issues that matter to them and ask to be part of the solution. Children must be included in decisions that affect their future, especially as this year brought forth new challenges related to the COVID-19 crisis. "While millions of girls and boys in Pakistan have seen their lives improve, millions of others continue to grapple with poverty, inequality, and lack of access to the essential services," said Ms Aida Girma, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. "The COVID-19 crisis is a child rights crisis. We must work together to avert a lost generation as the global pandemic threatens to cause irreversible harm to children's education, nutrition, and well-being. This includes making sure that every child and adolescent can continue to access the essential services that are their rights so they can survive, stay healthy, learn, and fulfill their potential. UNICEF staff are on the ground doing everything they can to help children and communities respond to, and recover from, the pandemic. We will continue to support the Government so that no child in Pakistan is left behind," Ms Girma added.

NICVD denies report published ...

Continued from page 12

purpose. We only attend to COVID-19 patients with active cardiac problems, and our results in managing these patients are excellent. The administration does not think that any doctor or hospital administrator in the world will risk exposing their staff or patients to COVID-19. He said Dr Pervaiz Chaudhry's contract had expired; therefore, Dr Asad Bilal Awan, the senior-most surgeon in the department, has been given the acting charge.

Disclaimer

Contents of Medical News do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher, editor and the members of the editorial advisory board. The publisher and the editor bear no responsibility/liability whatsoever for any damage resulting from the use of the contents herein.

Karachi

Mehmood Centre, BC-11, Block-9, Clifton-5, Karachi

Tel: 021-3587 2289, 3583 4932, 3583 3172

Fax: 92-21 35836940

Email: irfan@medicalnewsgroup.com.pk

mkt.dn@medicalnewsgroup.com.pk

Lahore

1485 C-5/4 Allauddin Road, Cantt.

Tel: 042-3667 6296

Islamabad

House no. 128, Street-11 sector E/17

Tel: 051-210 6747

Subscribe to

Leader in Medical Journalism since 1968

The National Medical Newspaper

Medical News

Pakistan's First Independent Medical Periodical from Karachi

Pakistan's first independent Medical periodical from Karachi

Yes I want to subscribe to Medical News for 1 year (24 Issues).

Rates

By Courier Outside Pakistan

Rs. 3000/- US \$ 150

I wish to pay in the following way (tick appropriate box)

1- Bank Transfer Net of all bank charges to: Medical News (Pvt.) Ltd. Account No. 01016031 (United Bank Ltd, Clifton Branch (949) Karachi.

2- I am sending in the name of Medical News (Pvt) Ltd. Karachi.

☐ Pay Order

☐ Bank Draft

☐ Money Order

Personal Details (Please write in Block Letter)

Name

Address

City

Country

Tel: (Res.)

Tel: (Off.)

Fax:

Mobile:

Email:

Profession:

If working company name:

Renewal

Attention Renewing Subscription

Please fill in your subscription number.

Return to:

When complete either mail, email or fax your details to one of the following contact points:

The Circulation Department Medical News (Pvt.) Ltd.

Karachi: Mehmood Centre, BC-11, Block-9, Clifton-5, Karachi

Tel: 021-35872289, 35834932, 35833172

Fax: 92-21 35836940

Email: mkt.dn@medicalnewsgroup.com.pk

irfan@medicalnewsgroup.com.pk

08 MEDICAL NEWS / November 15-30, 2020

'Pakistan is facing an acute shortage of diabetes specialists'

MN Report

KARACHI - Pakistan has too few diabetes specialists to treat the nearly 19.4 million people suffering from the disease, said experts at a seminar at the Aga Khan University held to announce the launch of a six-month certificate course in diabetes that seeks to expand access to the knowledge and skills needed to treat and manage the disease.

According to the Pakistan Endocrine Society, the country has only one specialist, also known as an endocrinologist, for every 200,000 diabetes patients. Similar shortfalls in training and awareness of diabetes are present at all levels of our healthcare system, speakers added. The current deficits in managing the illness, which has no symptoms, mean that many patients often seek care when they are suffering from advanced complications from

the disease.

The new course is part of a collaboration between the University, the British Medical Journal, and the Royal College of Physicians (London) to help doctors across Pakistan improve their theoretical and practical knowledge of the disease. It will include modules covering managing diabetes, its complications, lifestyle and obesity management, inpatient diabetes control, and how to handle comorbidities in diabetes. The course is open to all registered healthcare professionals who hold an MBBS degree.

Diabetes not only reduces the quality of life of patients but also puts them at risk of a range of complications such as heart attack, stroke, kidney problems, nerve damage, serious eye problems, and even disability. As high as 60

percent of non-traumatic lower-limb amputations in Pakistan occur in patients with diabetes.

"To reduce the burden of complications of diabetes, physicians have to be well-equipped with the knowledge to confidently diagnose the disease and refer for tertiary care in the case of a complication or inability to achieve good control of diabetes," said Prof Najmul Islam, Chair, Section of Endocrinology, Department of Medicine at AKU, and course director of the diabetes certificate course. "The course will offer the most updated and evidence-based knowledge to manage patients."

Experts at the seminar shared that

Pakistan's healthcare professionals often lack the expertise to manage the disease, adding that short courses can bridge the gap and equip clinicians to manage the high burden of diabetes in the country.

The model of improving knowledge through educational courses to control and treat diabetes has proven to be effective worldwide. Studies in the United Kingdom have shown that diabetes education in healthcare professionals can reduce the amputation rate, a condition that can develop in both type 1 and type 2 patients.

The course is set to begin in January 2021.



Clinical trials of Anti-COVID-19 C-IVIG show promising results

MN Report

KARACHI - Important development has been observed in the preparation of a drug for the treatment of COVID-19 in Pakistan. Clinical trials of the anti-COVID-19 intravenous immunoglobulin (C-IVIG) developed by the Dow University of Health Sciences show promising results. The C-IVIG has shown a 100% recovery rate in severe patients and more than 60% recovery rate in critical patients admitted in the ICU or on ventilators. More than 50% of the recovered patients being discharged from the hospital within five days.

The DUHS conducted preclinical trials of the C-IVIG in early April, after which the Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan approved the clinical trial on fast-track. The production of C-IVIG and its clinical trial is sponsored by the DUHS with the support of the HEC, while the efforts put forward by DRAP are also commendable since the approved trials have been successful in saving numerous human lives. Dr Shaukat Ali and his team, under the supervision of Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dr Saeed Quraishy, started the IVIG production project.

Dr Shaukat Ali told the media representatives that this C-IVIG is prepared by chemically purifying plasma of recovered COVID-19 patients, which is why it is requested that



these recovered individuals donate their plasma. The Sindh Blood Transfusion Authority has already permitted the DUHS to collect convalescent plasma; however, due to a decrease in convalescent plasma donations and a climb in COVID-19 cases, the required amount of IVIG cannot be prepared. Dr Shaukat Ali also explained that the patients infused with C-IVIG were 60 years on average, and most suffered from diabetes, hypertension, and cardiac diseases. The success of C-IVIG in these high-risk patients

is very encouraging and leaves no doubt about the affectivity of this treatment.

The C-IVIG clinical trial started in June and has gained speed due to the recent rise in COVID-19 patients; however, a larger quantity of convalescent plasma is required to prepare this drug in larger quantity and cater to more patients nationwide.

Dr Shaukat Ali explained that COVID-19 is usually life-threatening due to three reasons: firstly, the virus attacks and damages the lungs of the patient, secondly the immune system of patients are overwhelmed by an uncontrollable cytokine storm induced by the virus, and thirdly the secondary bacterial infections cause sepsis in critical patients. When infused in COVID-19 patients, the C-IVIG neutralizes the virus and stabilizes the immune system, while the antibodies in C-IVIG stops the secondary bacterial infection. The team behind C-IVIG led by Dr Shaukat Ali and supervised by Dr Saeed Quraishy, includes Syed Muneeb Uddin, Mir Rashid Ali, Fatima Anjum, Dr Sheikh Muhammad Muhaymin, Dr Farah, Ayesha Ali, Mujtaba Khan, Elisha Shalim, Tehreem Mushtaq, Faisal Shahab, Abdul Samad Khan, and Iqra Ahmed. The clinical team includes Dr Shobha Luxmi of the Dow University Hospital and Dr Muneeba Sayeed of the Sindh Infectious Disease Hospital.

PRCS organises awareness session on COVID-19 for journalists

MN Report

KARACHI - The Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC) Sindh branch organized an awareness session on COVID-19 prevention and Emergency First Aid exclusively for Journalists at Training Institute, Hilal-e-Ahmer House, Karachi. The training was attended by more than 25 journalists, including cameramen, health & crime reporters, where they were communicated on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and save lives in emergencies. Addressing the closing ceremony of the awareness session, Chairman PRCS-Sindh, Shahnaz S Hamid, said that the PRCS is highly committed to providing

basic health and First Aid facilities to maximum people of the country to deal with emergencies, hence for, a series of training/workshops are being organized at national and regional levels.

She emphasized that first aid training is very important for media practitioners, whether they are in the field or at home. She highlighted the importance of the subject and said that not only



Dear Doctors and Chemist
Yes! *Zafa has done it again...*
Pakistan's Most Economical Montelukast

accidents, bomb blasts, and other emergencies are frequent, but nowadays, the spread of COVID-19 is also a cause for concern. Generally, journalists are the first to arrive at the scene after an accident. Journalists usually cover accidents or crowded events where any untoward incident can be expected at any time, and now they will face another difficulty as they are likely to be affected by COVID-19. These awareness sessions contribute imperatively in educating journalists about the basic techniques of first aid and the prevention of COVID-19, as a result of which they can save many lives while protecting their own lives, she added. Chairman also urged the journalists to join hands with the Pakistan Red Crescent and voluntarily serve to alleviate the weaker segment of society's sufferings. Provincial Secretary PRCS Sindh, Kanwar Waseem, appreciated all the journalists for attending this important session. He further said that the PRC teams have been working tirelessly to play a significant role in the ongoing national efforts to overcome the spread of the COVID-19 in the country through a robust synergized response.

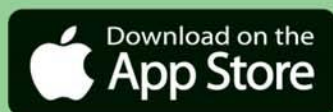
He uttered that when the coronavirus epidemic was on the rise in Sindh, the Pakistan Red Crescent had fulfilled its promise to provide a free COVID-19 testing facility in Karachi, especially for those who could not afford the cost of the COVID-19 test. The PRCS also arranged a free COVID-19 test facility in various educational institutes in Karachi, provided PPE kits to many government hospitals across the country, distributed ration and cash grants to those who were directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19 and lockdown. Muhammad Aftab Madani, Media and Communication Officer, PRCS Sindh, requested journalists to spare some time to attend the lucrative session on prevention of COVID-19 and also learn the basics of Emergency First Aid. The closing ceremony concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participants.



FEATURES

- End to end serialization & track & trace solution.
- DRAP SRO 470 compliant.
- Effective supply chain control & business intelligent.

Download App:



3rd Floor, Mehmood Center, BC-11, Block-9, Clifton, Karachi - Pakistan.

Iconic landmarks, monuments go blue in support of children's rights across Pakistan

MN Report
KARACHI - More than 25 buildings across Pakistan turn blue as the country celebrates World Children's Day - a global day of action for children, by children, to raise awareness on the need to help millions of them realize their rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). To celebrate this momentous day, the Federal Ministry of Human Rights and UNICEF turned more than 25 iconic landmarks and monuments blue in Islamabad and Pakistan's four provinces on the evening of 20 November, as a symbol of their commitment to children's rights. It was the third year in a row that buildings in the country and across the globe were lit up to call for a world in which the vision of the Convention of the Rights of



the Child becomes a reality for every child. "Tonight, iconic buildings will be lit up blue in Pakistan and all around the world to celebrate World Children's Day and demonstrate our solidarity with children. This is also a reminder of the Government's strong commitment to defend children's rights and to ensure that they are safe and protected against abuse. We will continue to work to make sure that our children, who are our assets and the future of our nation, can live in a safe, enabling environment," said Dr Shireen Mazari, Federal Minister for Human Rights. "World Children's Day is an opportunity to remind ourselves and the world how important it is to cherish, protect, and empower our children. Government work and partnerships at every

Continued on Page 08

PRICES INCREASE, QUALITY DECREASE

DRAP recalls substandard drugs

MN Report
KARACHI - Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) recently issued a notification to recall all the stocks of several medicines posing safety risk to patients. The drugs were termed as 'sub-standard' by the regulatory authority. An official document released by DRAP read that manufacturers should alert their sales officers/suppliers/ distributors to issue instructions to the pharmacies/hospitals, point of sales/purchase/use for the return of suspected stocks of product in question. "Furthermore, you are directed to submit a compliance report of recall to this division within seven (07) days positively," the notification read. The medicines recalled due to contamination of glass particles are the following:

S No.	Generic Name	Drug Name	Manufacturer
1	Ibuprofen 200mg/5ml	Torfen Suspension	Kaizen Pharmaceuticals. (Pvt.) Ltd, Karachi
2	diclofenac potassium	Caflam 50mg	GSK Consumer Healthcare Pakistan Limited, Jamshoro
3	Azithromycine	Azomax 500mg FCT	GSK Consumer Healthcare Pakistan Limited, Jamshoro
4	Paracetamol	Parapals Infusion 100ml	Inventor Phama, Karachi.
5	Oxiphin	Oxiphin 19 Injection	Kannel Pharmaceuticals, Islamabad

Earlier, The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, has increased the prices of medicines from 22 to 35 percent yet again within span of one month.

CM Murad tests positive for coronavirus

MN Report
KARACHI - Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah was recently diagnosed as COVID-19 positive and went into home isolation.



In a statement issued here from CM House, the chief minister said that earlier, he felt light fever, therefore, he got his PCR test done which detected him as COVID-19 positive. He said that he had isolated himself in his home, adding that sometimes he was feeling light fever, otherwise with the grace of God he did not have serious symptoms. Meanwhile, in another statement, he said that as many as four more patients of coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 2,751 and 848 new cases emerged when 11,596 samples were tested raising the tally to 156,528. Currently, the chief minister said, as many as 10,525 patients were under treatment, of the 10,020 in-home isolation, six at isolation centres and 499 at different hospitals. He added that the condition of 376 patients was stated to be critical, including 37 shifted to ventilators. The chief minister said that out of 848 new cases, 592 were detected in Karachi, including 264 in East, 152 in South, 76 in Central, 43 in Korangi, 31 in Malir and 26 in West. He said that Hyderabad had 81 cases, Jamshoro 29, Sukkur and Thatta 13 each, Shaheed Benazirabad and Dadu 11 each, Tando Allahyar nine, Shikarpur and Tando Mohammad Khan seven each, Qambar, Larkana and Matiari five each, Jacobabad and Naushahro Feroze four each, Badin and Ghotki three each, Kashmore two, and Mirpurkhas and Tharparkar had one case each.

NICVD denies report published in the newspaper

MN Report
KARACHI - The National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases' (NICVD) administration has denied the report published in a newspaper regarding the Cardiac Surgery Department's former head, Dr Pervaiz Chaudhry.



Spokesperson, NICVD, clarified that the NICVD has a record of being very sensitive regarding COVID-19 patients. We ensure that COVID-19 does not spread among patients and staff members at the NICVD. Proper protocols are implemented for this

Continued on Page 08