

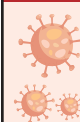
# Medical News

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Independent  
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Karachi

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## CORONAVIRUS IN PAKISTAN

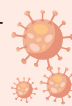


CONFIRMED CASES

**508,824**

REPORTED DEATH

**10,772**



SINDH

**228,949**

PUNJAB

**146,525**

ISLAMABAD

**39,462**

BALOCHISTAN

**18,467**

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

**62,018**

AJK/GB

**8,521 / 4,882**

RECOVERED CASES

**464,950**

\*Stats as of 13 January, 2021 - 08:12am, Provided by  
Ministry of National Health Services Regulations &  
Coordination, Government of Pakistan

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## DOCTORS IN THE LINE OF FIRE

# Foreign medical graduates surround PMC against move to blacklist universities

### MN Report

**ISLAMABAD** - A group of foreign medical graduates surrounded the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) building in Islamabad recently to protest its move to blacklist a number of

foreign universities.

"The future of foreign qualified medical students is at stake because of the decisions being made by the PMC," said one protester at the venue.

The protesters said they fail to understand why these universities have been blacklisted despite being verified by the World Health Organisation.

The flow of traffic on nearby roads was disrupted due to the protest, which escalated as the day progressed. The protesters reportedly hurled stones at the police after which water cannons were used to disperse them. The police also arrested the chairman of Foreign Medical Graduates (FMG) group and some doctors who were among the protesters.

They were later let go, according to the Islamabad deputy commissioner.

Talks were held between the FMG and the PMC, said the deputy commissioner, adding that the PMC has "agreed to accept all valid demands". A second round of talks will take place at 2pm tomorrow. In a late night development, the protesters split into two factions, with one announcing it is calling off the demonstration. The other faction, which continued to protest, also started raising slogans against their colleagues that had chosen to stop demonstrating. "We will not budge from here till our demands are met," shouted the still protesting doctors. Owing to the protest, the Srinagar Highway remained blocked for most part of the day but was later cleared for traffic. The organisers of the protest

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## Cabinet approves purchase of COVID-19 vaccine

### MN Report

**ISLAMABAD** - The federal cabinet recently accorded approval to the Ministry of Health for the purchase of vaccines to aid Pakistan's fight against coronavirus.



The cabinet, which met with Prime Minister, Imran Khan in the chair, was briefed by Special Assistant on Health, Dr Faisal Sultan about the present situation of the pandemic in the country.

The meeting approved the appointment of the Chairman Board of Directors (BOD) of Pakistan Expo Centres Private Limited.

It also approved the constitution of a special committee to adjudicate on the appeals made under Clause 21 of the Trade Organisations Act 2013. The committee would be able to exercise its authority after the completion of amendments in the relevant laws.

The meeting accorded approval for the appointment of members of the Press Council of Pakistan.

In order to improve the quality of exports in the fisheries sector, the cabinet okayed the constitution of the Inspection Committee, which would perform duties of inspection of the Fish Processing Plants to be established in the country.

The Inspection Committee comprises representatives of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, and Pakistan Fisheries Exporters Association.

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# PMC disciplinary body resumes hearing against doctors next week

## MN Report

**ISLAMABAD** - The disciplinary committee of the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) has recently resumed hearings in cases against the health practitioners. In September 2020, government passed the PMC bill from joint session and stopped employees of the Pakistan Medical and dental Council (PMDC) from working. Because of the legislation the disciplinary committee, which hears complaints against the health practitioners, was also dissolved along with the PMDC and PMC started functioning. Spokesperson for the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) Sajid Shah while talking to local media informed that the Disciplinary Committee had

been established and going to resume hearing from next week.

The committee will be chaired by Ali Raza, Vice

There is also another pending case of Zahid Ali Khan who died in Lahore due to negligence of a doctor who now has moved

to Australia. Wife of the deceased Zahid has been running from pillar to post to get justice for her husband. Similarly there is a famous case of

Mohammad Hassan who later died at a private hospital as doctors failed to diagnose the problem. Mashal Hassan, daughter of the deceased, lodged complaints at different platforms due to which matter was reached in the Parliament House and finally Islamabad Health Regulatory Authority has fined the hospital and referred the matter to PMC to take action against the doctor responsible for the negligence.

President, PMC.

Ali Raza said that hearings would resume next week and expressed the hope that people would get justice.

One of the complainants Dr Talal Khurshid, who had been operated upon for his shoulder by an orthopaedic surgeon of Lahore and became disabled, told Dawn that it was unfortunate that he could not get a decision regarding his complaint even after three years of his operation.



## CONDOLENCE

The Publisher, Editor and the staff of Medical News Pakistan express their heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Dr Qazi Irshad Ahmad, Ex-Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Vice Principal, Dow Medical College/ Dr Ruth K M Pfau, Civil Hospital Karachi, Dow University of Health Sciences and pray that God gives his soul an eternal peace and enough courage to the family to bear this irreplaceable loss, Amen!



## Ivermectin is not a miracle drug against COVID-19

**USA** - During a Senate hearing recently, a group of doctors touted alternative COVID-19 treatments, including ivermectin and the anti-malaria medication hydroxychloroquine. Medical experts have cautioned against using either of those drugs to treat COVID-19.



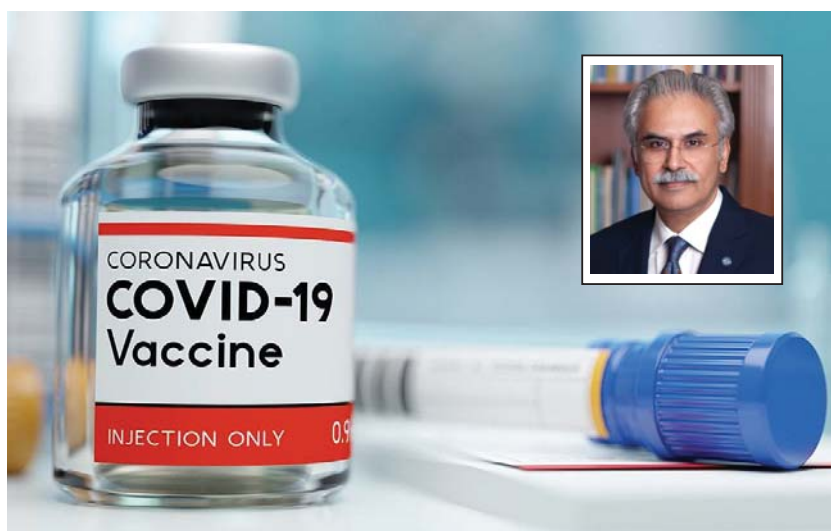
Studies have shown that hydroxychloroquine has no benefit against the coronavirus and can have serious side effects. There is no evidence that ivermectin has been proved a safe or effective treatment against COVID-19. Yet, Dr Pierre Kory, a pulmonary and critical care specialist at Aurora St Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee, described ivermectin as a "wonder drug" with immensely powerful antiviral and anti-inflammatory agents, at the hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Clips of Kory's comments on ivermectin during the hearing were shared widely on social media, with one clip receiving more than 1 million views on YouTube. Ivermectin is approved in the U.S. in tablet form to treat parasitic worms, as well as a

**Continued on Page 08**

## MN Report

**KARACHI** - Dr Zafar Mirza, former Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, has said that the COVID-19 vaccine may be administered to only 20 percent of Pakistan's population when the country would start receiving its supply by the end of the first quarter of 2021; however, he emphasized the need to follow the SOPs strictly. Addressing at a Media Talk at the Karachi Press Club, Dr Mirza said that vaccination is not an alternative to the individual precautions. During the second wave, the general public does not follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the same manner as they followed during the first wave of COVID-19. He emphasized the need that the government has to take fool-proof measures that only deserving people get vaccination on a priority basis, and influential people do not take advantage of it. According

## Only 20% Pakistan population will receive COVID-19 vaccine: Mirza



him, the COVID-19 vaccines would not be available in the private sector during the initial phase. Pakistan is accessing the Global

Alliance for Procurement of Vaccines. At least eight pharmaceutical companies are in the process of manufacturing

coronavirus vaccines, and the Pakistani government is talking to some companies to purchase them. Until the Chinese vaccination is available, this would be available for front-line health workers.

There is a lack of coordination in the government departments and institutions during the second wave, he said, adding that there was an unwritten political consensus during the first wave, but it was missing in the second wave as the opposition's political parties continued holding their rallies despite government's ban. He agreed that the government political parties also held rallies during the Gilgit-Baltistan elections.

He was optimistic that the situation is becoming better, and the second wave is also receding. Deaths are reducing, and it is hoped that the second wave of the coronavirus may decline soon. He cautioned

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# Medical body berates health delivery systems in Pakistan

## MN Report

**KARACHI** - The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) considers 2020 as an unfortunate year not only for Pakistan but for the whole world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pakistan went through so many political and economic problems along with an increasing number of health issues, which have raised the burden of diseases more. Although the PMA has always offered recommendations and placed a charter of demands for the government to implement to improve Pakistan's healthcare system, unfortunately, the state of affairs shows that the voice of the PMA always falls on deaf ears. Nothing has changed in the health sector during the year 2020. Instead of any improvement, things have gone from bad to worse. Since the end of 2019, Pakistan and the whole world has been facing the pandemic, COVID-19. A novel coronavirus outbreak was first observed in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The pandemic reached Pakistan in February 2020, and the first case of COVID-19 was detected on 26th February 2020. It has world widely affected 83,178,070 human beings, and the death toll of COVID-19 has reached 1,814,649, which is increasing day by day. Along with many other countries of the world, we have been facing the second wave of COVID-19. Presently the coronavirus has mutated into the third variety, which was initially detected in South Africa and has reached fifteen countries. The third variety is 60% more contagious and 70% more transmissible. Until today, the total confirmed cases in Pakistan have reached 479,715, and the death toll is 10,105. The PMA was the first to sniff out the difficulties Pakistan is going to face due to the pandemic's spread in the coming days. From the very first day when the coronavirus erupted in China, and the number of death toll just rose to six, the PMA, through a press release on 22-01-2020, came out with the suggestion for the government to take up some urgent steps to avoid the spread of the coronavirus in Pakistan. We also suggested installing scanners at all airports, seaports, and at all border entries to check the suspected cases of the coronavirus. The PMA also issued preventive measures for the public.

Unfortunately, when we asked people to use masks and sanitizer, the prices of these items increased. Similarly, when few medicines, oxygen cylinders, and other medical devices were discussed in the media for treatment, their prices also became much higher. There was no proper guideline for the public to reach hospitals. Many people died on their way to reach the corona designated hospitals. Even doctors died in the same way. Unfortunately, despite our regular warnings regarding the coronavirus, nobody acted upon our advice. Even the public has never followed the preventive measures seriously, and the government also seems to be failed in implementing SOPs. Now the second wave is proving to be more lethal and deadlier as the virus has mutated itself and has become more transmissible and infectious. It has been observed that people are not fully recovering even after being declared negative. The increasing burden of disease of the second wave in the community is proving to be more dangerous for doctors. Till now, 154 doctors have lost their lives due to COVID -19 in Pakistan. During this second wave, which started in November, 45 doctors have lost their lives (Punjab-16, Sindh-14, KPK-13, AJK-02). The situation is very alarming. The government seems to be very careless about the welfare of the families of the deceased doctors. They announced Shuhda Package for these families but never implemented it. The polio infection remains endemic despite over 100 rounds of vaccination being carried out in the past decade. Our polio program has deteriorated; in 2018 polio program seemed to be on the brink of eradicating the wild poliovirus transmission. Unfortunately, during the year 2019, as many as 117 cases were reported in 2020, the tally of polio cases reached 83. Fifteen million people are affected by hepatitis B and C in Pakistan. Thousands of new patients are added every year due to a lack of prevention, testing, treatment resources, poorly screened blood transfusion, improperly sterilized invasive medical devices and unsafe injections. Hepatitis B and C are several times more lethal viral diseases than the coronavirus



infection, resulting in around 300 to 325 deaths daily in Pakistan, while COVID-19 is causing far fewer casualties than viral hepatitis. It is neither terrorism nor natural disasters but the unavailability of safe drinking water, leading to the highest number of deaths in Pakistan. The release of untreated industrial waste, unsafe sewage system, agriculture run-off, and unplanned urbanization has downgraded water quality over the years, especially in the big cities, depriving almost two-thirds of over 200 million Pakistanis of potable water. In Pakistan, it is estimated that 30% of all diseases and 40% of all deaths are due to poor water quality. Diarrhea, a waterborne disease, is reported as the leading cause of death in infants and children in Pakistan, while every fifth citizen suffers from illness and disease caused by the polluted water. The outbreak of XDR-Typhoid cases in Karachi and interior Sindh reached thousands. The number of HIV/AIDS patients in Pakistan currently stands at 183,000. The ratio of the spread of HIV/AIDS cases in Pakistan is at 57 percent, similar to the Philippines, which is very alarming. Out of a large number of estimated positive cases, only 25,000 cases are registered. This shows our poor performance. There is a dire need to increase testing capacity to check HIV/AIDS patients. Different researches have revealed that most of the cancer cases in

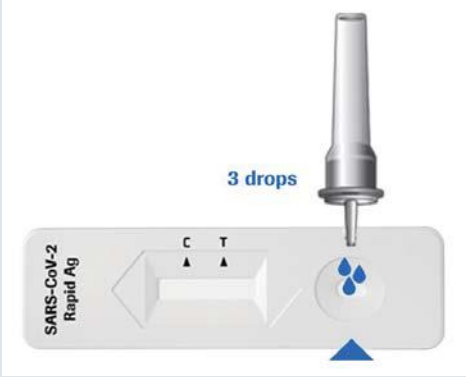
Pakistan (around 60%) were diagnosed in women compared to men. The most common cancer among women is breast cancer, followed by oral and then esophageal cancer, while in men, it is oral cancer. Research indicates that cancer, often a hereditary malady, is also linked to environmental factors and poor dietary habits, as in the case of oral cancer that affects those who regularly consume tobacco products, paan, and betel nut, and naswar. The increasing incidence of cancer in Pakistan has made it the second leading cause of death; every year, around 148,000 new cancer cases are reported in Pakistan. Pakistan ranks first in Asia for most deaths caused by traffic accidents. According to the latest WHO data published in 2018, Road Traffic Accidents Deaths in Pakistan reached 30,046 or 2.42% of total deaths. The World Bank estimates that Pakistan's annual burden of disease due to outdoor air pollution accounts for 22 000 premature adult deaths and 163 432 DALYS lost, while that for indoor pollution accounts for 40 million cases of acute respiratory infections and 28 000 deaths/year. This is the worst situation due to air pollution, but again no significant change has been observed. The PMA has been very vocal on the increasing tendency of aerial firing in our society during

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# Roche Diagnostics introduces rapid antigen test

**MN Report**  
**KARACHI** - Roche Diagnostics Pakistan recently launched a new 99.6% specific SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Test to enable clinicians to make timely decisions for their patients, rather than spend crucial hours waiting for the results of the PCR tests prior to their surgeries or emergency treatments.



A press release said this Rapid Antigen test is part of a new class of quicker screening tools named for the identifying proteins called antigens they detect on the surface of SARS-CoV-2. As a valuable tool that produces results much more quickly than the gold-standard PCR diagnostic assay, Roche's Rapid Antigen test delivers quick results in 15 minutes, thereby helping hospitals manage emergencies, surgeries, and operations on a timely basis. This test also earlier received approval from WHO and CDC, followed by NCOC and Pakistan's Ministry of Health.

While the PCR test remains the gold standard for the diagnosis of COVID-19, its availability, accessibility, and time to results remain a challenge. This is where the Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) can substantially increase the testing capacity. "The second wave of COVID-19 in Pakistan is proving to be deadlier, requiring more efforts on every front. In such an alarming situation, the Rapid Antigen Test could ease the burden on PCR testing. Wherever the PCR test is inaccessible or not available, our 96.5% sensitive test can aid in testing symptomatic as well as asymptomatic patients who have had confirmed exposure to the virus or who work in highly risky environments," said Abdul Qayyum, Country Manager - Roche Diagnostics Pakistan.

"The buffer solution used in the test can disinfect the virus in two minutes, which makes it safe for operators as well," he added.

The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated the value and importance of testing. During this entire time, Roche Diagnostics has been at the forefront in the fight against this global healthcare crisis and has created a comprehensive testing portfolio for this entirely new

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# Low turnout of patients seen at JPMC in 2020

**MN Report**  
**KARACHI** - About 991,208 OPDs, operation theaters, and other services for almost six months owing to the lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic. The statistics further showed that 52,580 patients got admission in various hospital departments in 2020 than



(OPDs) of the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) in 2020 as compared to 1,758,000 patients in 2019. The annual statistics released by the JPMC showed that in 2020, the turnout in OPDs, surgeries, admissions, and deliveries had remained 35 to 45 percent lower than in 2019 due to the closure of 19 pandemic. A total of 387,029 patients with emergency requirements were brought to the Accident & Emergency Department as compared to 539,000 in 2019. About 34,548 women were provided consultation in Gynae/Obs Emergency, while 13,714 deliveries were also performed in 2020. 79,823 in 2019. A total of 21,425 general surgeries were carried out, while 35,599 were conducted in 2019. The JPMC statistics revealed that 4,577 deaths were also recorded in different departments of the institution in 2020 compared to 5,231 deaths in 2019.

# Sindh government children's hospital reopens emergency department

**MN Report**  
**KARACHI** - The administration of Sindh Government Children's Hospital North Nazimabad has reopened the emergency department to cater to emergency patients on the Director Health Services Karachi's directives. Services Karachi has instructed the opening of the emergency department and directed the concerned officials to supply drugs to the hospital's OPD and emergency patients. Dr Mangi said that the OPD and emergency patients are being treated under the standard operating procedure (SOPs). He said that the



Medical Superintendent, Sindh Government Children Hospital, North Nazimabad, Dr Bashir Ahmed Mangi, informed that the hospital's emergency department has reopened, and doctors and nurses have been deputed to deal with children with emergency requirements. He further informed that the hospital's management had requested the provision of life-saving drugs for emergency patients, and the supply of medicines will start soon. The OPDs in morning and evening shifts have also continued as per the schedule, and an average of 300 to 400 children are being provided consultation daily. The Director Health hospital caters to the patients of North Karachi, New Karachi, Orangi Town, Surjani Town, and other neighboring areas. It is pertinent to mention here that the Sindh Government Children's Hospital North Nazimabad is being run by the Poverty Eradication Initiative(PEI) for four years under the public-private partnership . However, the PEI administration had closed the emergency and other services in protest over not releasing the hospital's budget. The salaries of around 400 employees had also not been paid for seven months due to the PEI's financial crises.



MN Report

**KARACHI** - Eight Pakistani nurses and midwives have been honored in the global 2020 100 Outstanding Women Nurses and Midwives. All eight nurses and midwives from Pakistan are faculty or alumni at Aga Khan University's School of Nursing and Midwifery, SONAM. One hundred nurses and midwives from 43 countries have been recognized for their contribution to raising healthcare standards across the globe, especially during these difficult times. These outstanding leaders have been acknowledged by Women in Global Health (WGH), which collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund, Nursing Now, International Council of Nurses, and International Confederation of Midwives on the list. The recognition marks the end of the WHO's yearlong Year of the Nurse and the Midwife 2020 campaign, which recognizes the vital role of nurses and midwives in providing health services and in helping achieve targets under the global sustainable development goals. The School's Dean, Dr Rozina Karmaliani, has been honored under the Board and Management

Eight Pakistanis among the world's top 100 nurses and midwives



category in recognition of her efforts to spearhead improvements in adolescent health, strengthen research capacities, and integrate research into education and practice.

Faculty members Yasmin Parpio and Samina Vertejee have been appreciated under the Community Hero category for their services in community health nursing, while Saima Sachwani is recognized for

her contributions in developing an impactful nursing curriculum under the Human Capital Development category. Nurse-midwife Marina Baig has also been lauded for leveraging mobile health technology to improve maternal health outcomes under the Innovation, Science & Health category. Three SONAM alumni have also been recognized under the Community Hero category. They include Dr Shela Hirani for her efforts to promote, protect and support breastfeeding during the COVID-19 pandemic, Neelam Punjani for her work in improving access to sexual and reproductive health rights, and Sadaf Saleem for her contributions to geriatric nursing. "It is an honor to be acknowledged by the international public health and nursing fraternity," said Dean Karmaliani. "This year has been particularly challenging for healthcare providers, all of whom have shown incredible commitment in their respective roles in responding to the COVID-19 crisis." "It is encouraging to see that our government and healthcare stakeholders in Pakistan are coming together and deliberating on investing in nursing and

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More dengue cases surface in Karachi

MN Report

**KARACHI** - At least 573 dengue cases surfaced across Karachi from 1 to 27 December 2020, out of which 542 were recorded in Karachi alone. The Vector-Borne Diseases Department of the Directorate General Health Services, Sindh registered 573 dengue fever cases in the Sindh province in the month of December, out of which 542 were registered in Karachi and 31 in other districts. In Karachi, District East was on top with 169 dengue cases this month so far, followed by District South, District Central, District Korangi, District West, and District Malir, respectively. The VBD has registered a total of 4,128 dengue cases all over the Sindh province from 1 January to 27 December 2020 in Sindh, out of which 3,918 surfaced in Karachi and 210 in other districts of the province so far. The dengue fever has claimed two lives in Karachi this year to date.

Provincial vaccine coordination cell established in Sindh

MN Report

**KARACHI** - The Sindh Government recently established a Provincial Vaccine Coordination Cell to make the coronavirus's final arrangements (COIVD-19) vaccine. The Provincial Vaccine Coordination Cell has set up on the directives of the Minister for Health Sindh, Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho. The Secretary Health Sindh, Kazim Jatoi, will lead the COVID-19 vaccination arrangements in Sindh. This was decided in a meeting held under the supervision of Minister for Health Sindh, Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho. Secretary Health Sindh, Kazim Jatoi, Parliamentary Health Secretary, Qasim Siraj Somroo, and other officials were also present on this occasion. She informed that the vaccine

would be available in the province in the second week of January in collaboration with the National Vaccine Task Force and the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC).



She informed that an estimated 250,000 vaccine doses are likely to be provided to Sindh, and each person will be administered two doses of the vaccine after a 21-day gap. She further said that healthcare professionals and front line workers would be administered that vaccine in the first phase. Azra Pechuho said that the

front line workers of public and private sector hospitals would be vaccinated in the first phase. She said that the necessary directives have already been issued about compiling the data of healthcare workers performing duties in private hospitals. She said 50 cubicles had been set up in the Expo Centre for vaccination, and around 5000 people would be vaccinated in a day. The vaccination card will also be issued to individuals for traveling purposes after vaccine administration. The tertiary care hospitals of Sindh (excluding Karachi) will be provided the vaccine facility. Elderly people above 60 and suffering from other ailments would be administered the vaccine in the second phase.



# 'Only extraordinary steps can control COVID-19'

**MN Report**

**KARACHI** - The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has recommended the federal and provincial governments to take extraordinary measures to protect people and healthcare professionals from the coronavirus (COVID-19) that has infected and killed more people in the last two months during the second-wave as compared to the first.

These views were shared by the Secretary-General, PMA Centre, Dr S M Qaisar Sajjad, in a press conference held at the PMA House. Treasurer, PMA Centre, Dr Qazi M Wasiq, President, PMA Sindh, Dr Mirza Ali Azhar, and General-Secretary, PMA Karachi, Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro, were also present on occasion. Dr Qaisar Sajjad said that the PMA being a big stakeholder is always vocal on health-related issues and has always given recommendations to present and previous governments to improve health delivery systems and medical education. In Pakistan, we have a lot of problems in the health sector, but today we will highlight the current most important issue that is the second wave of COVID-19 and, more than that, the third variety of COVID-19, which was initially detected in South Africa and has reached fifteen countries of the world.

He said that the PMA is very concerned over the rapid increase of COVID-19 patients throughout the country during this second wave of the pandemic. Unfortunately, the public never followed the SOPs, and the Government has also failed at ensuring the implementation of SOPs. The PMA has been continuously issuing health alerts and suggestions for the Government and preventive measures for the public since 22 January 2020. At that time, the number of deaths in China was just six, and positive corona patients were 3000; the pandemic was then in its initial stages.

"Unfortunately, nobody acted upon our advice. Now, the virus has become lethal, and the third variety of COVID-19 is also proving very dangerous. The third variety is spreading rapidly from South Africa to the UK and has reached almost 15 countries of the world. It is more dangerous because it is also affecting the age group of below fifteen," he added. Dr Qaisar Sajjad informed that the total number of infected cases had reached 140,316 in the second wave during the last seven weeks, and the number of deaths has reached 2,863. The overall integrated tally of positive cases of both waves has reached 473,309, and the number of deaths has reached 9929. The mortality rate and the number of cases are increasing day by day.

President, PMA Sindh, Dr Mirza Ali Azhar, said that this wave is proving to be more lethal and deadlier as the virus has mutated itself and has become more transmissible and more infectious. It has been observed that people

are not fully recovering even after being declared negative. He feared this wave is expected to last longer as

low temperature favors transmission. It is expected that a large number of people might be infected during the winter because people prefer to stay together in one room. They close windows due to which they lack ventilation and chances of infection increases, and those who are already suffering from nose, throat, bronchus, lung diseases, high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus, and cancer are more at risk.

The increasing burden of disease of the second wave in the community is proving to be more dangerous for doctors. Till now, 154 doctors have lost their lives due to COVID-19 in Pakistan. During this second wave, which started in November, 45 doctors have lost their lives (Punjab-16, Sindh-14, KPK-13, AJK-02). The situation is very alarming.

Unfortunately, doctors are not getting proper protection. Doctors are also not taking care of themselves and neglecting their own protection. They are facing a shortage of PPEs. It is very unfortunate that the announcement of the Shuhda Package at the request of the PMA by the Government for the families of shaheed doctors has not been implemented yet, and the aggrieved families are going through a hard time with economic problems. The PMA demanded the Government to protect doctors and implement the Shuhda package immediately.

Treasurer, PMA Centre, Dr Qazi M Wasiq, said that the PMA has observed that the public is not following SOPs, so we request the Government to implement SOPs strictly. We believe that the Federal Government should make a uniform policy with the consultation of all political parties and other stakeholders and make legislation for the implementation of SOPs. In this crisis, the Government and Opposition Parties should leave their political interests and prefer the safety of the public from the coronavirus. The Government should fine heavily or punish the people not following SOPs to keep deterrence as it happens in other countries of the world.

In regards to the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC), General Secretary, PMA Karachi, Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro, said that the PMA has been demanding for the last many years to strengthen the PMDC as a democratic, autonomous, independent and transparent body to regulate medical education in the country but unfortunately in contrast to our

demand, the Government passed the PMC and Medical Tribunal Act, in haste, through a joint session of the parliament on 16 September 2020. Even before passing these acts, the PMA had suggested the Government to take all stakeholders on board and, after proper discussion and consent of all the legislation, should have taken place.

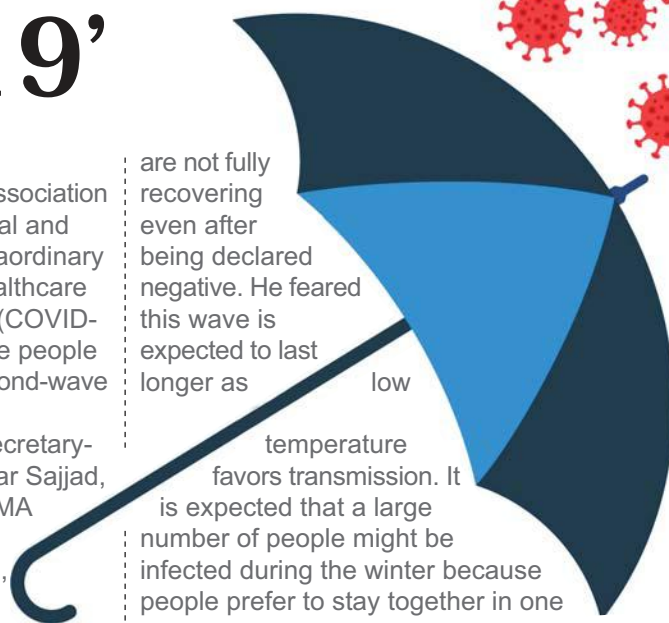
He said now the PMC seems to be a mess under bad governance. Instead of improving, the situation is continuously deteriorating, and doctors and medical students are facing huge problems. Both the medical education and health delivery system is worsening.

After wasting six months of students, the PMC conducted the MDCAT Exam on 29 November 2020, in a very unorganized manner. It was full of flaws. In many cases, names against roll numbers were written wrongly, and many students who appeared in the exam were marked absent. Students and parents are protesting against the exam.

The syllabus of the test was changed, and instead of the previous syllabus, the test was taken from the federal syllabus, which created difficulties for students of all provinces. Due to the faults, the MDCAT result was once removed from the website. It was uploaded again, but unfortunately, instead of improvement, it had reported even more mistakes. This all shows immaturity and inexperience at the PMC.

It is very disappointing that provincial governments are showing their reservations over the results of the MDCAT Test. Due to this mess at the PMC, the Sindh Government has planned to form its own Sindh Medical Commission. Punjab will also form the Punjab Medical Commission. If this happens, it will be a big disaster for medical education in the country.

Dr Shoro said the PMA believes that there should be one regulatory body in the country to regulate medical education, and that should be the PMDC. If there are some faults with the PMDC that should be removed. He demanded the Government to consult provincial governments and all other stakeholders to restore the PMDC. If the Government's attitude does not change, then it will be a disaster, and provinces will have their own bodies.



# JSMU runs COVID awareness campaign for small shops

## MN Report

**KARACHI** - The Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) conducted an awareness campaign titled 'The Small Shop Project' in Karachi to

settings). Vice-Chancellor, Prof S M Tariq Rafi, described the activity as part of the University's outreach program of engaging with communities to help create a

COVID-19 and counseled the general public about the symptoms of COVID-19, such as dry cough, breathing problems, and headache. The students were paired into groups



disseminate information on prevention against COVID-19. The APPNA Institute of Public Health-JSMU led the awareness campaign. The project aimed at persuading the general public to follow preventive measures against COVID-19 based on 3Cs (Closed Spaces, Crowded Places, and Closed Contact

healthy environment. Among the project directors were Prof Lubna Ansari Baig, Dean of the AIPH, Prof Ghazala Usman, Head of the Student Council, Dr Lubna Shaikh, and Dr Hira Tariq, Lecturer at the AIPH. Students from various batches voluntarily joined the project in raising awareness against

for community sessions at public spots. They distributed free masks to passersby, encouraged eatery owners to place handwashing stations at their shops, placed physical distancing decals and stickers on carts, small shops, dispensaries, eateries, public washrooms, and street walls.

# Incinerator machine lies out of order at Lyari Hospital

## MN Report

**KARACHI** - The incinerator machine is lying out of order at the Sindh Government Lyari General Hospital (LGH), Karachi, for several months. The hospital's administration has been unable to get the incinerator machine repaired as yet. The incinerator machine is used for the disposal of medical waste, including disposable syringes, drips, urine, and blood bags, needles, fluids, and other wastage, which are harmful to both the medical staff and the environment if not safely disposed off.

However, the incinerator machine developed a fault several months ago, which has not been repaired as yet. The LGH administration has been disposing of medical waste through private vehicles, which poses serious threats to visiting

patients at the hospital and the environment. An official at the Lyari Hospital said that the hospital generates a large quantity of infected and non-infected medical waste daily, out of which infected medical waste was being disinfected through a sterilizer, but this machine is not working for the past several months. Presently, health-hazardous materials like used disposable syringes, drips, urine or blood bags, needles, fluids, and other used wastage are being transported to an unknown location via private trucks. Medical Superintendent, Lyari General Hospital, Dr Agha Zubair, was not available to make any comments.



# CEO SHCC Syed Baqar Raza visits AKUH

## MN Report

**KARACHI** - Chief Executive Officer, Sindh Healthcare Commission (SHCC), Syed



Baqar Raza Rizvi, attended the recently held National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) video conference meeting. In the meeting, the procedure of the vaccine trial for healthcare workers was discussed. The SHCC has already shared the data of healthcare workers of Sindh HCEs with the NCOC.

In the second phase, an online data feeding portal shall be managed through the health departments of provinces where healthcare establishments can directly update the data of healthcare workers. The corona vaccine is expected to arrive for healthcare workers at the end of this month. Therefore, before the arrival of the vaccine, all data will be compiled province wise.

CEO, SHCC, Syed Baqar Raza Rizvi, and Director, Clinical Governance & Training, SHCC, Syed Ahmed Raza Kazmi, along with Deputy Director, Clinical Governance, Dr Faiza, and Deputy Director, Licensing, Zubair Soomro, held a meeting with the CMO of the AKUH, Asif Belguami, and Advisor, Clinical Risk Management, Dr Khalid Mehmood, to discuss infection prevention and control implementation regarding the second wave of COVID-19.

The CEO emphasized following SOPs in the AKU premises like the main lab, campus, cafeteria, oncology department, etc.

Dr Asif ensured the SHCC that they are following all the advised SOPs and made an open space for people for meals. They informed that the AKU staff is working towards crowd dispersion from the main lab to the sub-labs in other areas of the hospital. The AKUH is helping the government of Sindh in training healthcare workers (HCWs) on infection prevention and control. The SHCC team discussed a collaboration with the AKUH for developing SOPs for testing the new strain of COVID-19, which is highly contagious.

This week, a team of the Directorate of Licensing & Accreditation, SHCC, conducted an inspection of the North Mehran Diagnostic Centre and the BHY Hospital Karachi for checking the COVID-19 testing facility.



Ivermectin is not a miracle ...

Continued from page 02

topical solution to treat external parasites. The drug also is available for animals.

The Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health have said that the drug is not approved for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. According to the FDA, side effects for the drug include skin rash, nausea and vomiting.

Dr Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease expert at Johns Hopkins University, said most of the research around ivermectin at the moment is made up of anecdotes and studies that are not the gold standard in terms of how to use ivermectin.

"We need to get much more data before we can say this is a definitive treatment," he said. "We would like to see more data before I recommend it to my patients."

Kory told local press that he stands by the comments he made at the hearing, saying that he was not trying to promote the drug, but rather, the data around it.

In June, Australian researchers published the findings of a study that found that ivermectin inhibited the replication of SARS-CoV-2 in a laboratory setting, which is not the same as testing the drug on humans or animals. After the study, the FDA released a letter out of concern, warning consumers not to self-medicate with ivermectin products intended for animals. -*Courtesy by Associated Press*

**Only 20% Pakistan population ...**  
*Continued from page 02*

that the UK virus strand, which is said to be more rapid spreading, so people should continue observing SOPs. "It is premature to say whether it is more fatal or not, but we have to wear masks and observe social distancing."

Dr Zafar Mirza said he has arrived in Karachi on a private visit by road. Unfortunately, there is a low rate of SOP implementation in the interior parts of the country. There is a need to increase the SOPs implementation by 70 percent more, he added.

In Pakistan, it is planned that by the first quarter of the new year, vaccines

would be provided to the first line of health workers, doctors, nurses, and paramedics. Then above 60 people will receive COVID-19 vaccination. If the Chinese vaccine is available, it would be available for the general public as well.

Dr Mirza is also an Advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO) on universal public health in Pakistan. According to him, the Government of Pakistan is not providing health services to more than 30 percent of the population. "Until we do not involve the private sector in healthcare, the situation would not be improved," he added.

He said the public-private partnership is needed for universal coverage of health. National Health Card issuance is one of the steps which is provided to people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. In Sindh, this card was provided to people in Tharparkar districts. Disabled and transgenders are also being provided health cards on a priority basis, he added.

He said the WHO has established an important body called the Global Council for Health Financing. This will address the question of why governments are not spending on the health sector, especially in developing countries.

He said it is now an established fact that health is a factor of productivity, and it was essential to invest in human health.

Currently, he pointed out that health is not part of fundamental rights in Pakistan's Constitution. A Constitutional Amendment is required to incorporate the right to health in the Constitution, he added. The National Essential Health Services Package has been devised to priorities health services in the public services, he said.

He said social health insurance for workers is being devised at both federal and provincial levels.

Medical body berates health ...

Continued from page 03

weddings or other celebrations. This practice is an open violation of the law, which often kills innocent people. Unfortunately, this bloody practice has never been stopped, and these horrifying incidents take place

regularly.

The year 2020 will also be remembered as critical for medical education because instead of the opposition of all the stakeholders, the Federal Government established the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC). The stakeholders never accepted it due to its grave defect; they consider it to be disastrous for the medical education and health delivery system in Pakistan.

Now the PMC seems to be a mess and under bad governance. Instead of improving, the situation is continuously deteriorating, and doctors and medical students are facing huge problems. Both the medical education and health delivery system is worsening.

We have been raising our voice for years for doctors and paramedics' security, but our rulers never heard us. So many incidents of violence against healthcare workers took place in 2020 also. The PMA has been advocating for investing more in the prevention of diseases rather than the curative side, but nothing has been done, and as a result, the burden of diseases is increasing day by day. By just providing clean water to all the citizens of Pakistan, we can prevent 60% of diseases. If we eliminate mosquitoes, we can prevent all mosquito-borne diseases, which are 40% of our total burden.

According to WHO recommendations, any country's health budget should at least be 6% of the national GDP. In our case, the health budget, despite repeated the PMA pleas and reminders to the government, has remained less than 1%.

The PMA believes that proper planning, political will, honesty, an increase of health budget and its proper allocation, and above all, the consolidated preventive measure can improve the health delivery system in 2021.

Roche Diagnostics introduces ...

Continued from page 04

disease in a remarkably short period. Earlier, Roche launched a fully automated PCR test with a capacity of around 1,000 tests per day to detect the active infection of SARS-CoV-2.

Tracking the progress of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the population and understanding the antibodies produced then emerged as a priority for which a rapid and lab-based Antibody Test was launched, followed by the recently launched Rapid Antigen Test.

Roche has been manufacturing millions of tests per month to help combat the pandemic and reduce the burden on healthcare systems globally and in Pakistan. With its comprehensive portfolio of reliable and high-quality tests, Roche Diagnostics Pakistan is playing a key role in helping the healthcare system in Pakistan manage different stages and needs of different types of patients affected by COVID-19.

DRAP's mobile app starts ...

Continued from page 12

standards and best practices, through effective management strategies for implementations of regulations and their enforcement throughout the country.

The authority, he said, was adopting the globally harmonized science-based standards for the evaluation, registration and monitoring of safety, quality and efficacy of therapeutic goods. The harmonization of regulatory standards would improve the acceptance of products in international markets, enhance product quality and ultimately promote public health.

115,000 frontline health ...

Continued from page 12

it would be around 115,00 workers who would be vaccinated in the first phase," he added.

He said that the first phase of the COVID-19 vaccination was dedicated for the health workers who were part of this challenge one way or another. In the second phase, he said, senior citizens, and in the third one before the general population to get the shots people with co-morbidities (to be confirmed from previous investigation and prescription) would be vaccinated.

"For instance, an emergency is being set up at Expo Centre where the first phase of vaccination for health workers would be executed, 50 cubicles are being set up where 5,000 individuals would be vaccinated in a single day at the rate of 5,000 people per day and 500 people per hour. It would be 12-hour shifts of six-hour each. In these 12 hours here would be two breaks for lunch and rest."

Every individual, he said, who would be vaccinated would go through different checks and verifications and after the vaccination shots, he or she would be asked to stay for at least two hours at a dedicated place inside the centre before leaving for home.

"This is a national challenge and everyone needs to put his or her contribution. The people here in the process, the government, experts and professionals both from public and private sectors and the volunteers are giving their 100 per cent. Their commitment and ambitions give us believe that we would meet the challenge," Mr Soomro said.

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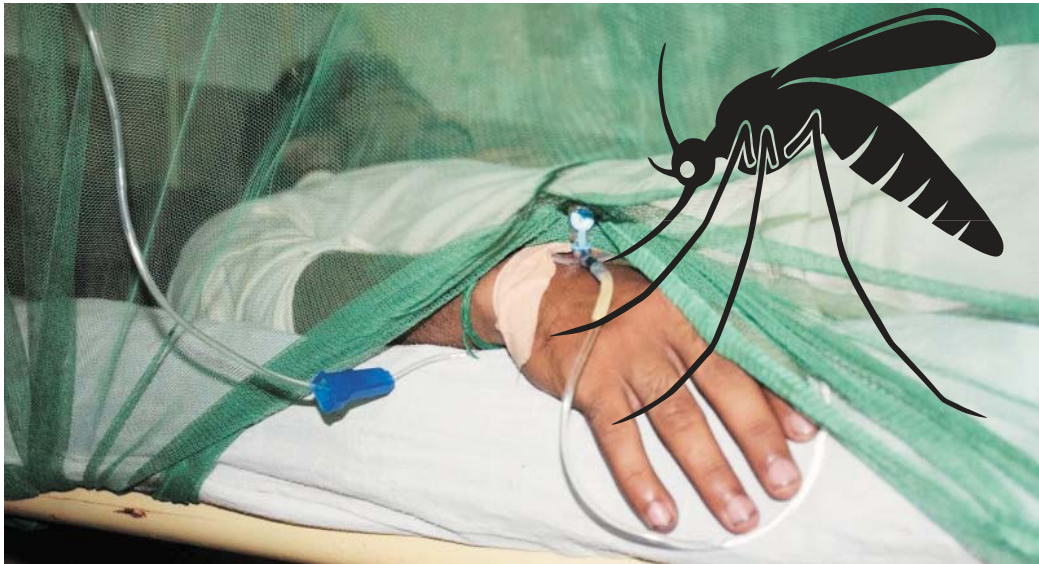
# Sindh recorded 4,318 dengue cases in 2020, including three deaths

**MN Report**

**KARACHI** - As many as 4,318 dengue viral fever cases were recorded across Sindh in 2020, out of which 4,080 were registered in

cases were detected all over the province from 1st January to 31st December 2020, out of which 4,080 were recorded in the Karachi division, 111 in the

792 in District Central, 329 in District Korangi, 220 in District West, 264 in unspecified areas, and 198 in District Malir respectively. Three deaths were also



Karachi alone. Moreover, three people also succumbed to the mosquito-borne disease. The statistics issued by the Vector-Borne Diseases Department of the Directorate General Health Services, Sindh, noted that at least 4,318 dengue fever

Hyderabad division, 55 in the Mirpurkhas division, 34 in the Larkana division, 27 in the Sukkur division and 11 in the Shaheed Benazirabad division. In Karachi, out of a total of 4,080, 1,424 dengue cases surfaced in District East in 2020, 853 in District South,

recorded in Karachi due to dengue fever last year. In 2019, a total of 16,897 dengue cases were detected in the Sindh province, out of which 15,684 surfaced in Karachi and 1,213 in other districts. The dengue fever claimed 46 lives across the Sindh province.



## JPMC received 1,405 COVID-19 patients in 2020

**MN Report**

**KARACHI** - As many as 1,405 Coronavirus (COVID-19) patients have been brought to the COVID-19 Isolation Ward of the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) from 18 March to 31 December 2020, out of which 54 died due to COVID-19 related complications. The JPMC data showed that 22,871 tests were conducted from 18 March to 31 December 2020, out of which 1,405 got admitted to the COVID-19 ward for treatment while 37 are still admitted in the ward. The data further showed that out of the total 1,405 admissions, 983 were male, and 422 were female. About 54 patients died of COVID-19 related complications in the previous year.

### Doctors in the line of fire ...

*Continued from front page*

decided to continue their demonstration limited only to the PMC gate. "If the PMC administration do not agree to our demands by the morning, we will undertake a more stringent course of action," they said. The following varsities have been blacklisted by PMC:

Country Name	Colleges
KYRGYZSTAN	ABC Academy Bishkek
KYRGYZSTAN	Asian Medical Institute
KYRGYZSTAN	Jalal-Abad State Medical University
KYRGYZSTAN	Avicenna Medical University
KYRGYZSTAN	Adam Medical University
KYRGYZSTAN	International Medical University
KYRGYZSTAN	International Medical Institute, International University of Science & Business
KYRGYZSTAN	Jalal-Abad People's Friendship University A. Batirov Medical Faculty
KYRGYZSTAN	Kyrgyz-Uzbek University Medical Faculty
KYRGYZSTAN	Royal Metropolitan Medical University
KYRGYZSTAN	S. Tentshev Asian Medical Institute
KYRGYZSTAN	Salymbekov University Faculty of Medicine
KYRGYZSTAN	Scientific Research Medical Social Institute
KYRGYZSTAN	International Atatürk-Alatoo University Faculty of Medicine
KYRGYZSTAN	International School of Medicine (IUK ISM) (license No: 180000058), Tokmok Campus
UZBEKISTAN	MBBS 5 year program, Tashkent Medical Academy, Ferghana Branch
UZBEKISTAN	MBBS 5 year program, Tashkent Medical Academy, Tashkent
UZBEKISTAN	MBBS 5 year program, Tashkent Medical Academy, Urgench Branch
UZBEKISTAN	MBBS 5 year program, Samarkand State Medical Institute, Samarkand
UZBEKISTAN	MBBS 5 year program, Bukhara State Medical Institute, Bukhara
UZBEKISTAN	MBBS 5 year program, Andijan State Medical Institute, Andijan

### Eight Pakistanis among the ...

*Continued from page 05*

midwifery education, practice, and research. There is no better time than now to acknowledge the critical role of nurses in creating resilient healthcare systems." The nominated women represent several hundreds of thousands of nurses and midwives globally who have been on the frontlines of the pandemic and have shown courage and compassion while working in a variety of clinical and community settings and while training and building the skills of healthcare professionals. By acknowledging these nursing and midwifery leaders, WGH renews its call to WHO member nations to establish and support strategic leadership positions for nurses and midwives in health facilities, involve them in key decisions, support diversity in recruitment strategies, reduce the gender pay gap, and ensure a safe work environment.

### Experts confirm presence of UK's ...

*Continued from page 12*

departments said. The statement added that those samples will also go through another phase of genotyping. "It will take a few more days for another genotyping." Speaking to the local press, department's spokesperson Meeran Yousuf said that all the patients were under treatment at one of the largest private hospitals of the city. "All are in stable condition," Yousuf confirmed.



# Chinese enterprise to set up gene and cell technology research center in Pakistan

## MN Report

**KARACHI** - A Chinese enterprise in collaboration with a Pakistani partner will market its products and set up a gene and cell research and transformation center in Pakistan.

"Initially, Shenyang Biotech and Biomedicine Group will be marketing its products in Pakistan through Dynamic Engineering Automation Group, and later on, they will establish a research laboratory which will ultimately be transformed into a university," said Badar Uz Zaman, Commercial Consular, Pakistan Embassy Beijing.



"The collaboration between the two companies will be materialized very quickly, and we will see the results very soon," he made these

remarks while addressing the cloud signing ceremony for the project held simultaneously in China and Pakistan. Badar Uz Zama remarked

that Shenyong Biotech was a strong company specializing in pathogen detection, biological reagent, and stem cell, while Dynamic Engineering and Automation was in the market for the last 20 years.

"The setting up of the research center and the university will facilitate Pakistani students in their research, and it will also contribute towards Pakistan's economy as well," he added. Pakistan, he informed, had a strong pharmaceutical industry, and currently, around 750 pharmaceutical companies were working in Pakistan, but they are mostly busy manufacturing allopathic medicines.

"We need support from the Chinese side on the vaccine, DNA, and high

technology, and since Liaoning's Provincial Development Reform Commission is supporting this project, we hope to see the materialization of the project very soon," he added.

He observed that there was much room for improvement in medical technology in Pakistan. "China has made important contributions to the world's fight against the pandemic; we both sides are optimistic about the prospects for cooperation in the field of health care," he said.

Acknowledging the support of Biotech during Pakistan's fight against Covid-19, he said it was the first company that contacted Pakistan Embassy Beijing and donated PCR kits.

Chairman Biotech, Prof Yin Xiushan, emphasized that the project could provide technical support for the research and development of various pathogen detection kits and rapid testing equipment and effectively enhance the ability of epidemic prevention and control in Pakistan, which is of great significance.

The cloud conference and signing ceremony were attended by officials from both China and Pakistan, two enterprises, banks, and media.

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## JPMC registered 8,467 dog-bite cases in 2020

### MN Report

**KARACHI** - The Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) recorded 8,467 dog-bite cases in 2020 as compared to 10,886 in 2019.

The JPMC registered 965 dog-bite cases in January, 1,062 in February, 890 in March, 613

in April, 553 in May, 437 in June, 511 in July, 598 in August, 667 in September, 744 in October, 700 in November, and 613 in December.



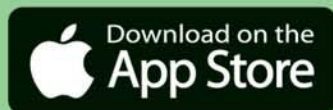




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# DRAP's mobile app starts receiving drug reaction complaints

## MN Report

**ISLAMABAD** - The MED safety mobile application of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan's (DRAP) has started receiving complaints on adverse drug reactions (ADRs) from citizens across the country for taking action. Sharing details of the mobile App with the APP, Director Pharmacy Services DRAP Dr Abdur Rashid recently said in case of any such grievance, the victims could lodge a complaint with DRAP through the app. He said only seven countries had developed such a mobile App so far for the purpose. The World Health Organization (WHO) would directly receive complaints on any matter regarding drugs' adverse reactions. Complainants would receive immediate acknowledgement of receipt of their reports, he added. They could submit reports on adverse reactions even when offline or to view and submit updates to previously submitted reports, Dr Abdur Rashid said. He said there was a watch list of medications to receive personalized news and alert. While using that option one could create a watch list for drugs for receiving specific news. He said on emergency cases, quick action would be taken



and in that regard, standard operating procedures (SOPs) had been developed by the authority. Dr Rashid said there would be a separate reporting form for suspected adverse drug reactions in relation to COVID-19. "ADR reporting is just a touch way and with active participation, citizens can contribute to the cause of safety of medicines in the country." He said all the submitted reports could also be viewed later for adding more information. He said the app was launched on the occasion of Med Safety Week from November 2-8. The process of installing the app (on a mobile phone) was very simple and phase-wise like opening the Playstore (Android) or the App Store, search for Med Safety, tap the Med Safety Icon, tap to 'install' to download the App, open the tap, select a region which is

Pakistan, click continue as a guest or create an account and the last step is report suspected adverse reactions to medicines that had been used. US House OKs \$2,000 stimulus payments to most Americans He advised citizens to keep updated with the safety alerts issued by the National Pharmacovigilance Centre at DRAP. He said that several innovative steps had been taken for maintaining the quality and availability of necessary medicines in the country. He said as a national regulatory body, DRAP ensured access of safe, quality and efficacious therapeutic goods at affordable prices in the country. Dr Rashid said DRAP was on the way to become a world-class regulatory organization at par with international

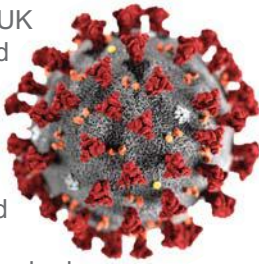
*Continued on Page 08*

# Experts confirm presence of UK's new COVID-19 variant in Pakistan

## MN Report

**ISLAMABAD** - The National Institute of Health (NIH) recently confirmed the presence of the UK COVID-19 variant in two people who had just returned to Pakistan. The B.1.1.7 coronavirus variant was confirmed via whole-genome sequencing following preliminary reports of the prevalence of the virus in some travellers. Since the emergence of the new coronavirus variant in the UK, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination has mandated all inbound passengers from the UK to be tested for SARS-Cov-2 on arrival. The National Command and Control Centre noted that the new strain of the virus has spread to 31 countries so far, besides Pakistan, and spreads faster than the previous strain. However, there is no evidence of increased severity of the illness.

The first cases of the UK variant were confirmed in Pakistan in the province of Sindh, on December 29. The Sindh government confirmed the cases in Karachi among passengers who had returned from Britain in the last 12 days, as the authorities launched a gigantic exercise to trace the patients' contacts. In a statement, the provincial health department said that 12 samples of the UK returnees were taken for genotyping, out of which six persons were positive and the three showed the new variant of the COVID virus in the first phase. "The genotyping shows 95 per cent match of the new variant from the UK," the health



*Continued on Page 09*

# '115,000 frontline health workers to get COVID-19 vaccine in Sindh'

## MN Report

**KARACHI** - The Sindh government have identified some 115,000 frontline health workers across the province who would be inoculated in the first phase of the programme in two major centres,



becoming the first province in the country that had already designed such a strategy to meet the challenge, officials and sources said. The first supply of 250,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses will be received by mid-January. After weeks of hard work and endeavour, they claimed, the health authorities in collaboration with different public and private organisations had already finalised the detailed plan chalking out the strategy with micro details which suggested a mighty task and tiring exercise in the offing for the provincial administration that had already started taking experts, professionals and volunteers on board for the upcoming first test of the long process. An official confided though the health department recently had notified the Provincial Vaccine Administration Coordination Cell (PVACC), it was in the process to design the first COVID-19 vaccination programme in consultation with the experts from both public and private sectors who had documented bit by bit details of the exercise that was now only awaited to get executed once the vaccines were available by the federal government. Mr Qasim, Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) from Tharparkar and parliamentary secretary told that 115,000 health workers who are working as frontlines in COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Soomro has been appointed one of the members of the Provincial Vaccine Administration Cell that would be headed by health secretary Dr Kazim Hussain Jatui. "The process has already begun to register them and the job is expected to be completed within the stipulated time. We are gathering number, establishing database through assistance of managements of health facilities dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in both public and private sectors and our initiative suggest that

*Continued on Page 08*