



Karachi

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010

Euro could reach parity with dollar: German economist
B-3

Gates for cuts in defense staff to save \$10b
B-3

Greece could modify EU-IMF deal: minister
B-3



KARACHI: A family visits a stall set up to promote tourism, at a local hotel. —ONLINE PHOTO

Mother's Day observed

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI: People across the country shared their sentiments and express profound love for their mothers on Mother's Day celebrated on Sunday. Mother's Day was celebrated to honour all mothers and express gratitude for the hardships they bear in bringing up a child. Like every year, the day was marked with the old spirit and enthusiasm and public and private organizations as well as schools arranged colourful programmes in connection with the Mother's Day celebrations. Children conveyed good wishes and prayers to their mothers for a happy life in future. Electronic media presented different plays and shows to highlight the importance of the day and recognize the amazing role of the mothers. Mothers are actually the guiding force and are responsible for developing the character and personality of a child.

Moot highlights Pak economy challenges

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI: Asia has the potential of becoming the centre of economic attention. This was stated by the Director and Dean of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi, Dr. Ishrat Husain. He was of the view that the banking sector in the country was passing through a difficult period but the industry in the western hemisphere of the world has shown recovery due to concentration of trained human resource in developed world. An announcement here on Sunday said that Dr. Ishrat Husain was addressing a day-long conference on "Leadership and Management", organised by Pakistan Society for Human Resource Management (PSHRM) here. Speaking on the topic "Current Leadership Challenges," Dr. Ishrat Husain said demographic changes have changed the world economic order and would shift completely towards Asia in the coming future. Resourceful both the natural and the manpower, Asia would become centre of economic attraction," he maintained. Quoting an example of China, he said the single country had established record exports during the ongoing fiscal year. Accompanied by India and Indonesia, the developing economies have shown great results. "Due to limited resources and manpower, the burden is shifting from the west to east," he remarked. Elaborating other challenges faced by the leadership, he said there is no need of business graduate in every company, because there are several companies where the chartered accountants are performing their jobs. Keeping this in view, every company should design its own plan and recruitment criteria, he pointed. He said technological advancement enabled the customer outsourcing companies to reach at the customer's base and with the change in banking, pharmaceutical and other services companies grew rapidly. The change in investment trend from west to Asia has increased the importance of the country in the region, he concluded.

Traffic flowing smoothly on Preedy Street

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KARACHI: The Sindh Chief Secretary, Fazal ur Rehman, has directed authorities concern to ensure smooth flow of traffic on the Preedy Street here. An official announcement on Sunday said that he issued the directive in the wake of public complaints regarding unauthorised parking and trade activities on the footpath. The Chief Secretary directed the Transport Department and the Traffic Police to ensure smooth flow of traffic on the Preedy Street and remove the obstructions and impediments in this regard. He also instructed that a compliance report in this regard should also be submitted in a couple of days.

Medics shortfall continues to plague healthcare efforts

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KARACHI: The menace of absenteeism at healthcare facilities in Sindh has strongly neutralized rise in its budgetary allocation, for health sector, from Rs 24.28 Billion (\$286.647 Million) to Rs.64 Billion (\$752.941 Million) per annum during the last ten years. Dr. Mobina Agboatwala, a senior paediatrician, and researchers sharing her research with APP said there has not been much change in the health indicators during this period. "Besides the leakage in the budgetary allocations, one important reason for these poor indicators is poor health services due to unavailability of health personnel," she said. According to the study, that covered 33 randomly selected health facilities in 10 districts of Sindh, the rate of absenteeism for doctors was 35.7%, for nurses 26.7% and for technicians was 18.9%. The doctors' absenteeism varied from 66% in some remote districts to 42% in the metropolis of Karachi. However, overall absenteeism was higher in rural areas. The absenteeism rate of female doctors was 43.5%, being 47% in rural areas and 40% in urban areas. While for males it was 33.5% overall, being nearly equal in rural and urban areas. This is something directly linked to poor accountability and weak institutional infrastructure. The fact is that under 5 mortality remains at 95/1000, while one woman continues to die due to maternal complications every 20 minutes for past many years establishes that budget allocations are perhaps not very relevant in assessment of quality of services. Even with the revision of budgets to improve the situation, no desired results were achieved which confirms that increased spending alone does not automatically improve results unless it is closely supervised and monitored, she elaborated. "Budget allocations, when used as gauge of the supply of public services, are insufficient interpreter of the actual quality of public services," commented Dr. Mobina while sharing details of her research prepared for Transparency and Accountability Project: The Brooking Institution-WA. According to her one way of the most ineffective spending of public expenditure is the amount allocated for salaries of the staff, which are actually not present at their place of work. If public workers are not present at their postings, the amount allocated in the budget for their salaries does not reach the beneficiaries, reiterated the researcher. Replying to a question, she said objective of the study was to ascertain the fraction of medical professionals absent from their place of posting and the impact of this on the quality of health services as well as the loss to the national exchequer. Absenteeism in schools and hospitals increases in the less fortunate areas, decreasing both quality and quantity of health services. On basis of her research conducted in collaboration with Tariq Nazki, Dr. Mobina Agboatwala said either the sanctioned posts are not filled by the respective staff or absenteeism of the staff is the primary reason for this unavailability.



KARACHI: Young elephants enjoy shower in Safari Park. —ONLINE PHOTO



KARACHI: Shahbaz Ghot Residents stage a protest demonstration in support of their demands outside the Press Club. —ONLINE PHOTO

Tips to evade sunburn

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KARACHI: This summer, you will not have to think twice before slipping into the sun. To avoid sunburn, wear protective clothing, dresses, worrying about the tan, pigmentation or sunburn. Simple summer skin care tips can help retain the glow of skin even in sweltering heat. One should drink lots of water and use sunscreen whenever one goes outdoors. Also, maintaining consistency in going for regular skin treatments is important to keep away from skin disease. Here are simple tips to keep your skin safe from the harsh summer sun: Safe from the sun: Increased sweating in summers means accumulation of increased dirt and grime on the exposed part of the skin. So, it's important to cleanse the skin thoroughly. Wash your face with plain, cool water every few hours. Make toning a part of your nightly skincare routine. It tightens the pores and prevents spots and pimples. In intense heat, one can refresh the skin by applying revitalising tonics. For skin, a broad spectrum sunscreen cream is advisable, one that shields against both UVA (ultraviolet-A) rays and UVB (ultraviolet-B) rays. UVA is considered to be responsible for wrinkles, while UVB for various skin allergies and infections. If on vacation or outdoors, use sunscreen with SPF 30. SPF only measures UVB protection and not UVA; hence one should look for a sunscreen that also provides UVA protection. The product should be re-applied every 3-4 hours, if one stays outdoors for long periods of time. Lips are prone to darkening and pigmentation. Use a lip balm with sunscreen to prevent darkening. For lightening: Your sun tan, mix gram flour (besan) and papaya and rub it off after 10 minutes of application. Keep salicylic pads (cotton pads soaked in salicylic acid) handy for cleaning your face. These help you get rid of excess oil and acne eruption. Drink at least eight glasses of water a day to flush out toxins. Foods rich in Vitamin A aid in protecting the skin from the sun. Foods with abundant Vitamin C help in repairing sun-damaged skin. These vitamins can be found in green leafy vegetables and fruits, including carrots, papaya and black grapes. Mixture of honey, lemon and glycerine can be used to give the skin a fresh look. Cleansing can be followed by application of Aloe Vera gel or potato juice.

Aspirin may ward off pancreas cancer

ONLINE

KARACHI: Aspirin already widely used by people hoping to ward off a heart attack, may also be helpful in preventing pancreatic cancer. In recent years reports of the benefits of aspirin have increased. Because modest reductions in the polyps that can lead to colon cancer. Now, University of Minnesota researchers report an apparent association between taking aspirin and reducing rates of often-deadly pancreatic cancer by as much as 43 percent. "This is an intriguing study, more along the lines of hypothesis generating as opposed to testing," said Dr. Ernest Hawk of the National Cancer Institute, who was not part of the research group. "I think that this sort of activity but I wouldn't consider it definitive at this point," he said. "They will have to work out the risks and benefits." Because aspirin can also have side effects, he said that people may not want to run out and start taking it just on the basis of this study, but added that "researchers may want to run out and do (more) studies." Because aspirin can also have side effects, he said that people may not want to run out and start taking it just on the basis of this study, but added that "researchers may want to run out and do (more) studies." Because aspirin can also have side effects, he said that people may not want to run out and start taking it just on the basis of this study, but added that "researchers may want to run out and do (more) studies."

Karachi University VC sees potential in agricultural sector

ONLINE

KARACHI: Pakistan is blessed with a lot of potential for the agribusness and its judicious utilization can prove to be the key to future development. This was stated by the Vice-Chancellor of Karachi University, Prof. Dr. Pirzada Qasim Raza Siddiqui. He was speaking as a guest at "Agri-business" seminar organised by the Department of Agriculture and Agribusness Management. Prof. Siddiqui pointed out that the vast agricultural resource base which makes this country the fourth largest producer of milk, fifth largest producer of mango and third largest producer of dates. Not only this but Pakistan has the third largest herd of animals as well and as such by developing a competitive and sustainable agribusness sector particularly in high value areas of horticulture, livestock and fisheries we can solve its most critical issues such as rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation, he added. The Vice-Chancellor further stated that the potentials of agribusness in Pakistan includes a domestic market of 160 million people, large untapped potential with possibility of high value addition, a growing global and domestic market for targeted high-value sectors. The Seminar focused on the major challenges and opportunities now facing organisations and food-based organisations, as well as the implications for the societies they serve. The Pro Vice Chancellor of Karachi University, Prof. Dr. Shahana Urooj Kazmi, shed light on the need of upgrading of laboratory services for fisheries, grains, animal products, seeds and nurseries in place. Fisheries is the source of livelihood for 400,000 fishermen of Pakistan and that this market has potential for export as well, she added. Dr. Shahana stated that although Pakistan's agriculture sector has declined as a proportion of GDP over the last 25 years, it still accounts for over 25 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), employs 44 per cent of the workforce and is the main source of foreign exchange earnings. Over the last decade growth in the agricultural sector has been an annual growth rate of 4.4 per cent, she remarked. Dr. Shahana appreciated the efforts put in by Prof. Dr. Saleem Shehzah, Chairperson Department of Agriculture and Agri-business Management, and said that the seminar showcases examples of forward-thinking strategies from a broad range of innovative organisations and experts of the field which would definitely help students in shaping up their careers and future plans. Acting Dean Faculty of Science, Karachi University, Prof. Dr. Darakhshan Haleem, said that within the agriculture industry, agribusness is widely used simply as a convenient portmanteau of agriculture and business, referring to the range of activities and disciplines encompassed by modern food production. Chairmen Department of Agriculture and Agribusness Management, Prof. Dr. Saleem Shehzah, highlighted the objectives of the seminar.