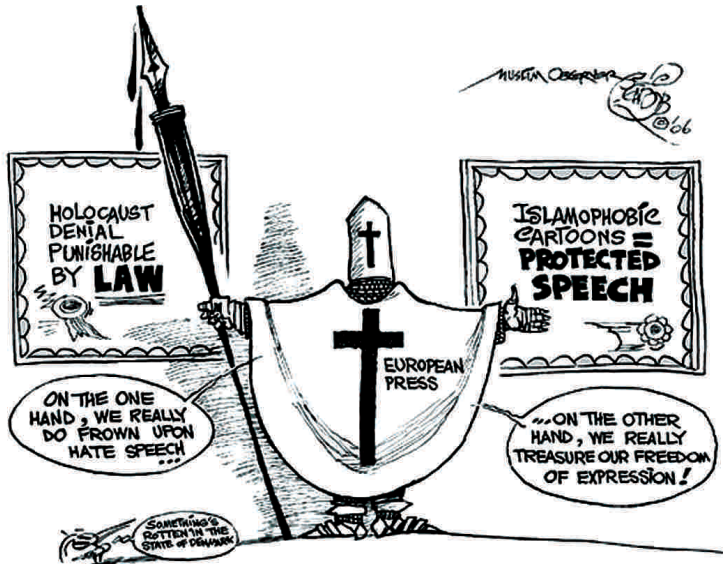


News of the Day



PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF HOLOCAUST DENIAL LAWS

Country	Minimum	Maximum
Austria	6 months	20 years
Belgium	Fine	1 year
Czech Republic	6 months	3 years
France	Fine or 1 month	2 years
Germany	Fine or 1 month	5 years
Israel	1 year	5 years
Italy	3 years	4 years
Lithuania	Fine or 2 years	10 years
Poland	Fine or 3 months	3 years
Romania	6 months	3-5 years
Slovakia	Fine or 1 month	3 years
Switzerland	Fine or 1 year	15 months

free speech indeed!

Foreign Investment Not Creating New Assets or Employment
 Foreign Investment, \$6bn in 2007 (Jan-July), is mostly going into buying of privatized units, stock market, real estate, oil and gas exploration, mobile phone business and purchase of mostly existing banks. Such investments, by and large, represent merely the change of ownership of assets and not the creation of new asset and employment.

Pakistan very proudly ranks at No.12 in The Failed States Index 2007, out of 60 countries in all. India due to its very strong Democracy had never been in this list.

Air pollution kills 22,000 adults and 700 children every year in Pakistan (Jan 1)

Terrorism dogs Pakistan in 2006: Over 900 killed in 657 attacks
 These are the findings of a research study conducted by an independent think-tank, Pak Institute for Peace Studies

299 Cases of Violence Against Women Filed During Hudood Law Abolishment Frenzy Between April 1 and Dec 31, 2006—Gender Crime Cell (GCC). Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) claims 400 such cases.

Pakistan Among World's Most Polluted Countries
 Jul 17: As said by Justice Saleem Akhtar, honorary director general, Sindh Judicial Council.

City's 45% Water Going Waste
 Jul 18: The report was prepared by a study

team of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

Karachi Slipped to 175th on the Quality of Life Index
 The City of Lights is 11 placed behind Lahore and 18 ranks lower than Islamabad out of the total 215 cities evaluated on the basis of 39 key determinants for the most liveable city in the world.

Pakistan is 115th Least Peaceful Country

Piracy costs govt Rs10bn annually
 May 30: The losses to the government on account of intellectual property rights piracy (IPR) come to around Rs10 billion a year as the pirates, through their illegal business, evade taxes, besides bringing a bad name to the country and causing damage to the image of original brands.

JUL 21: STATE OF PAKISTAN'S CHILDREN 2006

Prepared by Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC)

Infant-Maternal Mortality Rate in Pakistan Highest in S. Asia

- 1 child dies every minute
- 10m
- 6.463m
- 25,000
- 4
- 704/637/1008/526/96/41
- 19%

- from EPI disease, diarrhea, and acute respiratory infections
- toiling for livelihoods
- do not go to school
- street-children in Karachi alone
- children are sexually-abused daily
- murdered/sexually-assaulted/kidnapped/physically tortured/torture by police/karo-kari
- are born with low-weight

Share of Islamic Banking is still hovering around 3% of the total Banking sector of the country which shows that IB has little chance to emerge as the parallel banking system in the country.

Comparative Inflation Rates

Pakistan current inflation rate is 7.8 compared with 5% in India, 1.5-2.4% in Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, and Philippines, and 3-4% in China.

Unemployment Rates in Different Provinces

Unemployment rate in Balochistan province is recorded around 33.4% as compared to 26.8% in NWFP, 19.1% in Punjab, and 14.4% in Sindh.

According to the Pakistan Human Rights Commission, a woman is raped every two hours in Pakistan, and in Punjab, a woman is raped every six hours and gang-raped every four days. (San Francisco Chronicle July, 2002)

In Pakistan 42% of women accept violence as part of their fate; 33% feel too helpless to stand up to it; 19% protested and 4% took action against it. (Government study in Punjab 2001).

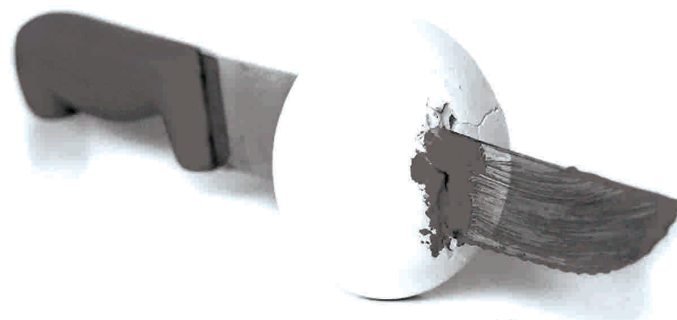
Jul 23: 73% of women workforce in Pakistan is engaged in the agricultural sector (Dr. Mustaghis-ur-Rehman)

About 74% of the population is living below \$2 a day: World Bank

IS ABORTION A WOMAN'S RIGHT? THE RIGHT TO KILL?

Jul 24, INDIA: 30 Bags Containing Skulls & Bones of Aborted Fetuses and Newborn Babies Found. India loses an average of 7,000 girls daily through abortions because of a traditional preference for sons, according to a UNICEF report in 2006. Male female gender ratio is: 927 females for every 1,000 males, far lower than the worldwide average of 1,050 females. Last year, police recovered 25 fetuses.

Jul 28, PAKISTAN: An estimated 980,000 unsafe abortions are carried out in Pakistan every year, which translates to one terminated pregnancy in every six. Every year, 250,000 Pakistani women suffer post-abortion complications out of which 3000 of them die.



Every day hunger kills 6,000 children below age 5 in India

Jul 26: India is home to 57 million (more than a third) of the world's undernourished children.

Jul 27: HIV/AIDs in Pakistan Stands at 3,364 (full-blown 265); in Sindh: 1,841 (full-blown 108): Manager, Dr Arshad Mehmood Khan 'Enhanced HIV/Aids Control Programme'

Housing a Serious Problem in Urban Areas
Jul 29: Tasneem Ahmad Siddiqui, a Social Scientist: 50 per cent of the city's population live in Katchi Abadis and belong to the skilled or unskilled working classes

0.8m Suffer from Cataract in Pakistan
Jul 29: There are 4.5 million visually impaired people in Pakistan with about 800,000 of them suffering from cataract as revealed by Dr. Tayyab Afghani, a senior eye surgeon at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi

Some 250 militants and 60 troops were killed in clashes in Pakistan's tribal areas since the July storming of a radical

mosque in Islamabad

200 Human Smugglers Held During May-Jul 2007

Aug 30: Additional Director Hussain Ashger said that the authority had recovered Rs200m and several passports from these agents.

1.5m Dog Mauling Cases and 2000-5000 Deaths from Rabies are Reported Annually in Pakistan (Aug 31)

3,000 Solid Waste Management Workers Suffer from Hepatitis B & C

LAHORE, Sept 2: "We work under utmost unsanitary conditions that make us vulnerable to fatal diseases. The facilities at the SWM-approved health centres are insufficient. Lack of proper medical cover has resulted in death or permanent disability of several of our colleagues in most cases. There are hardly a few sanitary workers who are in good health after attaining superannuation," claimed a worker. District Officer (SWM) Dr Tufail said most of the 7,500 or so workers serving an estimated population of 8m were in the 40-plus age group who work

round-the-clock to lift around 3,000 tons of the waste generated daily.

74% of Islamabad Water is Contaminated
Sept 3: According to the Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) report, bacterial contamination, a major cause of water-borne diseases, especially diarrhoea, was 65% in 2004, 40% in 2003 and 74% in 2002. Also according to the report, bacterial contamination in Quetta has gone up to 71% in 2006 from 50% in 2002; in Hyderabad to 93% in 2006 from 73% in 2002; and in Gujranwala to 64% in 2006 from 29% in 2002. In Ziarat, in the NWFP, bacterial contamination was a staggering 100% from 2002 to 2006.

125 Died of Hepatitis in 4 Years
DADU, Aug 29: A local doctor says 1,200 out of the total 1,500 inhabitants of Ms Shama's village, Sivo Chandio village of Khairpur Nathan Shah taluka, are hepatitis patients.

THE HIDDEN FAITH OF MOTHER TERESA

The Book: "Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the 'Saint of Calcutta'", released on Sept 4 by Doubleday, collects her thoughts in one place for the first time, inviting a closer review of her life 10 years after her death.

"I have no Faith — I dare not utter the words and thoughts that crowd in my heart — and make me suffer untold agony," she wrote in an undated letter.

In 1956, she wrote: "Such deep longing for God and ... repulsed empty no faith no love no zeal. ... Heaven means nothing pray for me please that I keep smiling at Him in spite of everything."

She wrote in 1959: "What do I labor for? If there be no God — there can be no soul — if there is no Soul then Jesus You also are not true."

"I am told God lives in me -- and yet the reality of darkness and coldness and emptiness is so great that nothing touches my soul," she wrote in one of the letters.

"Where I try to raise my thoughts to heaven, there is such convicting emptiness that those very thoughts return like sharp knives and hurt my very soul. Love -- the word -- it brings nothing," wrote the woman known the world over as the "Messiah of Love!" In another letter, Mother Teresa wrote, "In my soul, I can't tell you how dark it is, how painful, how terrible -- I feel like refusing God."

Mother Teresa's work on behalf of the poor in India and around the world earned her a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She died at the age of 87.



Around 10m female fetuses may have been aborted in India over the past two decades because of ultrasound sex screening and a traditional preference for boys, according to a study published online in The Lancet (PARIS, Jan 9)

50,000 children suffer from eye diseases (report of Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi) (Aug 27)

Afghanistan opium at record high Aug 27: Afghanistan now accounts for more than 93% of the world's opiates. Despite billions of dollars of aid and tens of thousands of international troops, the report says 193,000 hectares of opium poppies are being grown in Afghanistan.

Begging Industry Thriving in Gujranwala Aug 23: An estimated 6,000 people with begging bowls can be seen on city roads, Child Protection Bureau officials revealed.

Economic Cost of Road Accidents over Rs100bn Aug 23: The National Road Safety Secretariat has estimated that the economic cost of road crashes and injuries in the country each year is over Rs100bn or 1.5% of the Gross National Product (GNP).

Sex is Prime Cause of China's HIV Aug 20: China's state media says unsafe sex has, for the first time, become the main means of transmission of HIV/Aids, overtaking intravenous drug use. China estimates that about 650,000 people are

HIV positive. An official report says China saw 70,000 new cases of HIV in 2005 - and almost half were contracted from sexual intercourse.

Rs33bn Loans Written Off in Three years Aug 17: The industrial sector remained the major beneficiary, getting loans amounting to Rs25.82bn written off. Loans to the tune of Rs3.21bn and Rs2.83bn obtained by trading and agricultural sectors were also written off during the period.

600,000 Palestinians in the West Bank Have no Regular Supply of Water (Aug 15)

Cyclone Yemyin caused Rs24bn damage in Balochistan Aug 15: An estimated 2m people were affected in the province by flooding caused by heavy rains after the cyclone struck Sindh and Balochistan coast on June 23. The calamity left 203 dead, 200 missing and some 150,000 displaced.

PIA Suffered an all-time High Loss of Rs12.7bn in 2006-07 (Aug 15)

90 Injured as Unruly Motorcyclists Mar Festivities HYDERABAD, Aug 14: More than 90 people suffered injuries, 5 from stray bullets and the rest in road accidents mainly caused by reckless driving by unruly and underage bikers as the city launched into the 60th Independence Day celebrations just before the clock struck 12:00 and afterwards. US Army Suicides Hit 26-year High

Aug 16: At least 99 American soldiers killed themselves last year, the US army's highest suicide rate in 26 years, according to a new report. The rate of 17.3 suicides per 100,000 soldiers compares with 12.8 in 2005.

Stab-Resistant School Uniforms! A British company is offering to provide stab-proof school uniforms, lined with the same material used by soldiers, to parents worried about knife crime among youngsters. The uniforms, which cost 130 pounds (\$260), have been developed amid growing concern about the number of teenagers who have been stabbed to death. 7 boys aged under 16 have been killed in London eight months into 2007.

100,000 Cellphones Taken Away from Sept 2006 – Jul 2007 (11 months) Aug 12: Karachi tops the list of cell phone snatching/theft with 51,000 cases, followed by Lahore's 6,788, Rawalpindi's 4,243 and Islamabad's 2,632 cases during the period under review.

Railway Losses Rise to Rs14.47bn in 2005-06 Aug 10: Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said that a 15% raise in salaries of the staff had an impact of Rs740m while the increase in pension cost the government Rs578m. The Railways had suffered losses of Rs7.83bn in 2002-2003 which were brought down to 5.79bn in 2003-2004. The losses were further brought down to Rs3.29bn in 2004-2005.

48 Cases of Women Harassment Registered Against Police Officials

Aug 10: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Kamil Ali Agha told the house during the question hour that 48 cases of women harassment had been registered against police officials over the past two years. The house was told that 7025 cases of violence against women had been registered across the country in 2005. The incidence of crime put under the category of 'other violence' had, however, increased from 2214 in 2005 to 6171 in 2006, he said, adding that the number of harassment cases at work place, which stood at 128 in 2005, had gone up to 277 in 2006.

Most Indians Earn Less Than Half a Dollar a Day

Aug 10: 86% of working Indians earn less than Rs20 or half a dollar a day, untouched by the country's blistering economic growth, a government-backed study said. "Only 0.4% of the 395 million unorganized sector workers have access to any form of social security," added the report from the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector. At the same time, the number of Indians with a net asset of at least a million dollars reportedly crossed the 100,000 mark last year.

Air pollution causes the death of more than 22,000 adults and 700 children in Pakistan every year in addition to a loss of Rs 365 billion to the country's economy annually: The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

In Karachi, approximately 325 million gallons per day (MDG) of wastewater is generated. The city has a waste treatment capacity for only 237 MDG if it works to maximum capacity.

Baghdad: 6m People, 117° and no water (Aug 7)

District Nazim Gets 3,000cc Vehicle
Aug 6: The Peshawar district government has purchased a luxury vehicle worth millions of rupees for the nazim, while acquisition of a similar one for the naib nazim is being planned.

Industry Running At 60% of Its Capacity Due to Power Outages

Aug 7: There are power outages in industrial areas ranging from six to eight hours. This means that the industry loses around 180 production hours per month and is presently running at 60% of its capacity. The Site industry needs 25m gallons of water/day but was being supplied with only 5m gallons.

The richest 10% of Muscovites are 41 times richer than the poorest 10% (Aug 10)

Chilling surge in child sex abuse

Aug 14: 815 cases of child sexual abuse were reported during April-June compared to 500 during January-March — an increase of 315 cases in just 90 days. Among the abused children the number of girls was more than double of the boys. In all 1,315 children were reportedly abused. Of them the number of girls was 891 (68%) against 424 boys (32%). The nature of abuse ranged from abduction, rape and sodomy to gang rape and gang sodomy.

The figures for the capital territory of Islamabad, the most literate area of the country, are chilling at 6.15% of the total. Among 555 children abducted, 430 were girls and 125 boys. The majority of the abusers, 66%, were acquaintances of the victims followed by strangers, 18%. More than half of the cases, 56.5%, were reported from Punjab followed by Sindh 32.7%, Islamabad 6.15 %, NWFP 3.5% and Balochistan 1.1%. Rural children seem to be more vulnerable to abuse as some 66% (875) cases were reported from rural areas and 3% (440) from the urban.

1700 Honor Killings from 1997-2003 Reported in Punjab: National Commission on the Status of Women

Aug 12: In the NWFP, around 172 cases of murder and 67 cases of other forms of gender violence were reported. Only 10 convictions have been made in the 141 cases presently disposed of by courts. In Balochistan, 57 cases of murder and 39 related to gender violence were reported, of which 39 cases have been disposed of with 17 convictions and 22 acquittals. In Sindh, 910 honour killings were reported in the same period, of which only 268 cases have been disposed of with 25 convictions and 268 acquittals. 172 cases of honour killing were reported in Punjab in 2003, of which 16 victims were minors, 69 were single women and 61 were married, said the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP).

12,600 Cases Pending Before PHC, Says CJ PESHAWAR, Sep 7: High Court Chief Justice Mr Tariq Pervez Khan said that about 12,600 cases were pending before the court and regretted that if government departments had been working properly, the burden on judiciary would be less today.

As of July 31, 150 cases of sexual assault have been received during the year from all the 24 districts in the province, especially Mardan, Charsadda, Peshawar, Nowshera and Bannu. (Aug 9)

UK Floods to Cost £3bn

Aug 7: The floods, the country's worst for 60 years, led to almost 60,000 claims for damage in both the north and south of England, said the Association of British Insurers.

Floods Affected 6,500 Villages in Sindh, Balochistan: Jatoi

Aug 7: Minister for Water and Power Liaquat Ali Jatoi has said about 6,500 villages and 708,000 acres of land, including over 120,000 acres of under-cultivation area, have been affected by the recent floods in Balochistan and Sindh and by cyclonic activity and flash floods in the NWFP, Northern Areas and Fata.

20% Pregnancies End in Miscarriage

Aug 4: Dr Rozina Sikandar said miscarriage was pregnancy loss prior to 24 weeks gestation, which occurs in 10% to 20% of all pregnancies and may be associated with significant psychological sequel. She said foetal chromosomal abnormality (error in development of baby in uteri) was the commonest cause of early miscarriage.

Over Rs3bn Tax Frauds Detected

Aug 3: Tax frauds of more than Rs3bn committed in financial years 2005 and 2006 have been detected, Minister of State for Finance Omar Ayub Khan. This evasion was reported in 76 companies which either evaded the payment of due taxes on their transactions or committed frauds in the shape of getting undue refund or rebate from the tax department. The minister quoted some major cases, including those involving M/s Dancom Pakistan which had allegedly committed a tax fraud of Rs140m, M/s Early Morning Textile (Rs104m), M/s Bilal Traders (Rs203m), Atlas Honda (Rs118m), M/s Fateh Textile (Rs110m), M/s Pak Arab Fertilisers (Rs116m) and M/s Fateh Yarn (Rs76m).

No Social Security for Daily Wage Workers

Aug 5: Millions of manual laborers like diggers, carpenters, masons, painters, cobblers, construction workers, etc, have no labor rights, social security cover and other facilities industrial workers employed in government or private organizations enjoy. They are generally paid between Rs150 to Rs300 for a day of long, hard work. According to the Development of Analysis Research Team, a consultancy firm, the minimum cost of maintaining a modest living standard required for a family of four and elderly parents living together is at least Rs15,500/ month. The current study calculated the average daily wages for carpenters in 2006 (July-March) is Rs383.6, masons Rs407.6, and manual laborers Rs239.2. Based on these estimates their monthly income (26 working day/month)

turned out to be Rs9,973.6, Rs10,597.6 and Rs6,219.6/month, respectively.

70,000 Schools Without Basic Facilities: Minister

Aug 6: As many as 70,000 schools in the country are without the basic facilities of water, electricity, lavatories and boundary walls. According to the National Education Census, carried out with a Rs185 million aid from the United Nations Development Programme, there are 247,000 schools in the country. This was stated by Minister of State for Education Anisa Zeb Tahirkheli.

44 Women, 158 Men Killed in Sindh in July 2007: Report

Aug 2: At least 44 women and 158 men were killed last month in different parts of Sindh while 24 persons, including 13 women, were killed on the pretext of karokari and 5 were injured, according to a report compiled by the Aurat Foundation, an NGO.

The United States is Paying Around \$100m a Month for the Deployment of 80,000 Pakistani Troops on its Border With Afghanistan Ostensibly for the War on Terrorism, a Key US Official Revealed. (July 14)

Pollution causing 50,000 deaths, Rs356bn loss a year: World Bank

LAHORE, Sep 3: Titled "Pakistan Strategic Country Environmental Assessment", the report identifies the major sources of pollution in cities as two-stroke rickshaws and diesel-run vehicles and consumption of furnace oil with higher levels of sulphur. The report identifies illness and premature mortality caused by air pollution (both indoor and outdoor) as 50% of the total damage cost. Diarrheal diseases and typhoid due to inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene claim 30% and reduced farm productivity because of soil degradation is 20% of the total cost. The report says that waterborne diseases cost Rs114bn. Municipal sewage, industrial effluents and farm runoff are the major sources of pollution.

Children Under 10 Suspected of 3,000 Crimes in 2006

UK, Sep 2: Among the 2,840 crimes committed by suspects too young to be prosecuted were about 1,300 incidents of criminal damage and arson, as well as 66 sexual offences including a number of sexual assaults on children under 13.

Literacy Rate Among Adult Women 25% Less Than Men: ILO

Sep 5: The percentage points of the overall illiteracy between both male and female are 23.3% for males and 46.9% for females. In the adult population, this percentage is

35.9% for males and 64.9% for females, according to the 'Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM),' released by ILO.

Rock Stars More Likely to Live Fast, Die Young: Study

Sep 5: Scientists have penetrated the haze of trashed hotel rooms, coke-fuelled all-night binges and stories of never-ending promiscuity to uncover a cautionary tale for X-factor wannabes. Their conclusion: rock'n'roll seriously damages your health. By comparing the lives — and more importantly, deaths — of rock and pop stars with the rest of the population they have found that in the first 5 years after chart success, the mortality rate of performers shoots up to 3 times that of the rest of us. And living fast as a rock megastar does make you die young — of the 100 performers in the sample who died early, the average age was 42 for North American stars and just 35 for those in Europe.

Cancer Rises Among Pakistani Children

Sep 9: The oncology ward of the National Institute of Child Health (NICH) had recorded 1,200 cases of cancer among children in 2005. This number has now risen to 1,900. It has been found that the causes are not so much genetic but linked to pollution and other environmental hazards, experts say.

Pakistan is Costlier in Food Prices Than India, BD

Sep 10: This is despite the fact that Pakistan had bumper crops, including those of wheat, sugarcane and gram, over the two consecutive years. Food inflation has been a major challenge in Pakistan over the last three years, in some cases, beyond 15%.

India's Economic Changes Giving Rise to Violence

Sep 10: Analysts said violence will only rise further if India's economic transformation frustrates millions of poor, continues to threaten caste relations and leads to deeper state corruption. In 2002, communal riots in Gujarat killed thousands of people, mostly Muslims. The sheer number of recent riots has coincided with a wider angst in India over a possible backlash against an economic boom and growing middle class consumerism that has widened income disparities and shaken traditional social mores.

One Suicide Every 30 Seconds: WHO

Sep 13: Almost 3,000 people commit suicide every day in the world, the World Health Organisation said. The WHO said the global suicide rate was up 60% over the last 50 years with an even more marked increase in the developed world. Suicide is now among the top three causes of death among people between 15 and 34 years old, but most suicide victims are found among the

elderly, those aged 60 and above, it said.

Sale of Fake Medicines Rampant

Sep 12: Pakistan has become a lucrative market worth millions of rupees for import and export of spurious medicines. About 15% to 20% of the drug market in the country constitutes counterfeit life-savings drugs and injections.

8,000 Snake-Bite and 20,000 Dog-Bite Cases in Sindh Every Year

HYDERABAD, Sep 13: The Vice-Chancellor of the Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Professor Dr Noshad Ahmed Shaikh said that some 8,000 cases of snake-bite, especially in Thar, and 20,000 cases of dog-bite are reported annually in Sindh.

Family Meals May Have Lasting Impact on Kids' Diets

Sep 13: Among the more than 1,700 teenagers researchers followed for five years, those who ate the most meals with their families tended to have a more healthful diet in young adulthood. Some past studies have also suggested that when parents and children regularly connect over dinner, children are less likely to take up habits like smoking and drinking. The new findings, which appear in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, suggest that children's diets may also benefit in the long run.

Almost all the News Clips are taken from DAWN Newspaper. ■