

MBS affirms commitment to expedite \$5bn investment package

PM Shehbaz successfully manages both "Den-o-Duniya," performs Umrah and brings \$5 billion investment package

News Desk

MECCA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud here wherein the two countries affirmed their commitment to expediting the first wave of the previously discussed investment package worth \$5 billion.

The bilateral ties and regional as well as global developments of mutual interest, including the worrying situation in Gaza were discussed in the meeting that took place at Al-Safa Palace here on Sunday during Prime Minister Shehbaz's three-day visit to the Kingdom, according to a joint statement issued on Monday. The discussions centered on fortifying the fraternal relations between the two brotherly nations and exploring avenues for enhanced collaboration across various sectors.

Emphasis was laid on the Kingdom's supportive role in Pakistan's economy and the mutual desire to strengthen trade and



investment ties, the statement added. The two countries called for efforts by the international community to halt Israeli military operations in Gaza and mitigate humanitarian impact besides emphasizing the need to advance the peace process. Both sides underscored the imperative for the international community to pressure Israel to cease hostilities, adhere to international law, and facilitate unhindered humanitarian aid access to Gaza.

Two sides discussed the need for advancing the

peace process in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly as well as the Arab Peace Initiative aimed at finding a just and comprehensive solution, to establish an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The two sides stressed the importance of dialogue between Pakistan and India to resolve the outstanding issues between the two countries, especially the Jammu and Kashmir dispute to ensure peace and

stability in the region.

The Crown Prince congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office and expressed warm wishes for his tenure. Prime Minister Shehbaz also conveyed gratitude for the Kingdom's steadfast support and hospitality and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to bolstering bilateral ties and economic cooperation. PM Shehbaz invited the Crown Prince to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at the earliest convenience which he accepted.

PM vows medical access for all

On World Health Day, premier lauds services of people affiliated with sector

By our correspondent

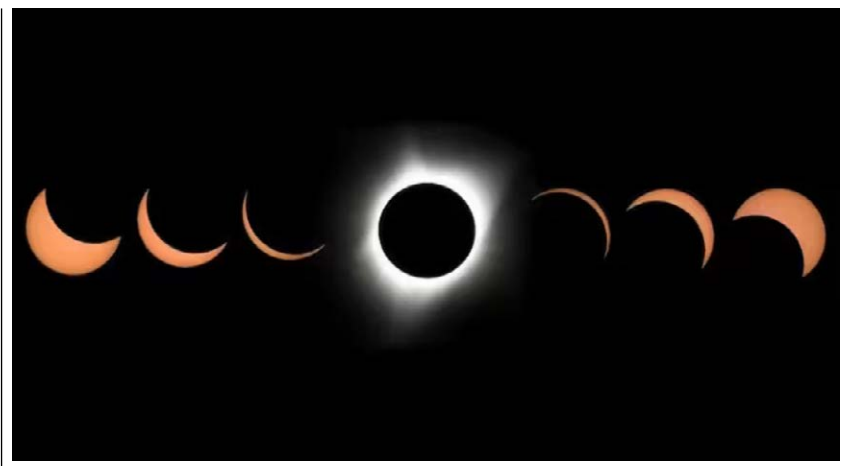
ISLAMABAD: On this year's World Health Day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif renewed his government's commitment to providing medical facilities to the entire population of the country. In his message on the occasion, the premier noted that this year's theme, "My health, my right," aptly encapsulates every citizen's right to quality health services.

"To ensure health for all and fulfill our promise to the nation in the PML-N manifesto, our focus will remain on improving primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare, medical education, preventive healthcare, and governance," he added. "We will collaborate with provincial governments to expand and upgrade health facilities, launch mobile health clinics for enhanced access, revitalize immunization, and improve mental health services."

PM Shehbaz emphasized that the establishment and operationalization of Medical City, Cancer Care Hospital, as well as Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute facilities in each province, remained the government's top priority. "We take pride in launching the Health Card during PML-N's 2013-18 tenure."

"On this World Health Day, I applaud the services of our health professionals, paramedical staff, nurses, and other health workers who selflessly work day and night to provide health services to the nation. Towards our goal of a healthier nation, I reiterate the commitment to transform Pakistan's healthcare sector at all levels to ensure that each and every Pakistani has access to quality healthcare."

Separately, PM Shehbaz has constituted a committee to review climate change governance and mechanisms with the purpose of accessing climate funds. The premier named Climate Change Minister Romina Khurshed Alam and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Executive Director Dr. Abid Suleri as its members, alongside other senior individuals.



Total solar eclipse observed in parts of world

Safety urged as hype builds up; NASA emphasizes safety, while celebs like Lance Bass and Bill Nye can't contain their excitement

News Desk

NEWFOUNDLAND, MEXICO: Prepare for a dramatic event as a total solar eclipse casts its shadow across the continent. The first of its kind since 2017, this eclipse will darken skies over Mexico, the United States, and Canada, according to NASA.

NASA explains that a total solar eclipse happens when the Moon aligns perfectly between the Sun and Earth, temporarily blocking out the Sun's light. Viewers within the eclipse's path will witness a sky that resembles twilight, even in the middle of the day. While eclipses occur in various forms, total solar eclipses are a rare sight in the United States. After this one, you won't see another for the next 20 years! So, it's crucial to be ready for this extraordinary event.

When will it happen?

The celestial show is expected to be visible on April 8, 2024. The last total solar eclipse took place in 2017 making it a nearly seven years gap between the two events. What time does it start? The precise timing depends on your location. Refer to NASA's detailed map for accurate eclipse times in your area. NASA confirms the eclipse will begin in Mexico at 11:07 a.m. PDT and conclude off the coast of Newfoundland at 5:16 NDT.

Where will the eclipse be visible? NASA outlines that the eclipse will first appear over the South Pacific Ocean, then traverse North America through Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The path begins on Mexico's Pacific coast, enters Texas, and then crosses Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York,

Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. It continues northward into Canada through Southern Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia before ending off Newfoundland's Atlantic coast.

NASA offered a resource page listing trusted brands for safe solar viewers and filters. When's the next one? Mark your calendars because the next total solar eclipse visible in the United States won't happen until August 23, 2044, according to NASA. The total solar eclipse will be closely followed by a rare display of the Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks. Known for its long 71-year orbit, it will make a special appearance near Jupiter. While spotting it may require telescopes or extra effort, its presence adds a unique touch to this already rare event.

PTI condemns reference against IHC judge

News Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has strongly condemned the reference filed in the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) against the judge of Islamabad High Court, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani. The misconduct reference against Justice Kayani is part of the government's efforts to intimidate and harass judges, it said.

Following the core committee meeting on Monday, the party issued session declaration, emphasizing that the reference of misconduct against a certain judge after sending threatening letters to honorable judges, who revealed the interference of secret agencies in judicial affairs, is a sign of organized anti-judiciary plan. Taking notice of the incidents of direct and indirect harassment of the judges of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of Pakistan should determine the persons responsible for this organized campaign, it said.

The committee also vehemently condemned the jail administration for preventing Dr Asim from attending the medical check-up of former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan at Adiala Jail. It requested the court to take notice of the obstruction in the medical check-up of former premier and to grant permission to Dr Asim to conduct his medical examination.

President to address joint session on Apr 16

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari is scheduled to address the joint session of the parliament on April 16, to mark the beginning of the parliamentary year, following the general elections. The joint session of the parliament will be held on Tuesday (April 16) at 1600 hours, according to a President House press release.

President Zardari would address the joint session in pursuance of Article 56 (3) of the Constitution which says, "At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the National Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year the President shall address both Houses assembled together and inform the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) of the causes of its summons."

'US not ready to accept Chinese imports to cost own industries'

Yellen refrains from threatening tariffs if Beijing continues state support for EVs, batteries, and green energy goods

News Desk

BEIJING: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned China on Monday that Washington will not accept new industries being decimated by Chinese imports, as she wrapped up four days of meetings to press her case for Beijing to rein in excess industrial capacity.

Yellen told a press conference that US President Joe Biden would not allow a repeat of the "China shock" of the early 2000s, when a flood of Chinese imports destroyed about 2 million American manufacturing jobs. She did not, however, threaten new tariffs or other trade actions should Beijing continue its massive state support for electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, solar panels, and other green energy goods.

Yellen used her second trip to China in nine months to complain that Beijing's overinvestment has built factory capacity far exceeding domestic demand, while fast-growing exports of these products threaten companies in the US and other countries. She said a newly created exchange forum to discuss the excess capacity issue would need time to reach solutions. Yellen drew parallels to the pain felt in the US steel sector in the past.

"We've seen this story before," she told reporters. "Over a decade ago, massive PRC (People's Republic of China) government support led to below-cost Chinese steel that flooded the global market and decimated industries across the world and in the United States." Yellen added, "I've

made it clear that President Biden and I will not accept that reality again." When the global market is flooded with artificially cheap Chinese products, she said, "the viability of American and other foreign firms is put into question."

Yellen said her exchanges with Chinese officials had advanced American interests and that US concerns over excess industrial capacity were shared by Washington's European allies, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, and other emerging markets. China's vice finance minister, Liao Min, told Chinese media that Beijing "has fully responded" to US questions on overcapacity and expressed "grave concern" over restrictions Washington imposes on trade and investment.

Rain, thunderstorm expected in Karachi on April 13 to 14

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has indicated the possibility of thunderstorms accompanied by rain in Karachi on the 13th and 14th of April, Metro Morning reported.

According to a forecast issued by PMD's Early Warning Centre, consecutive western disturbances

will enter the country from the west, with the first series of western winds expected to enter the country on April 10, followed by the second on April 12, persisting until April 15. Under the influence of the second western disturbance, it said, thunderstorms with lightning are likely in Karachi on the 13th and 14th of April. During this period, the port city may also experi-

ence gusty winds and dust storms.

The PMD also forecasted the possibility of heavy winds and rain in other areas of Sindh including Sukkur, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Larkana, Dadu, Qambar Shahdadkot, and Sanghar. It also suggested that most parts of Sindh province are likely to remain warm during the next two to three days, with temperatures possibly

reaching 42 degrees Celsius in some areas and 39 degrees Celsius in others.

In Karachi, temperatures could range from 36 to 38 degrees Celsius over the next three days. Sea breeze may weaken during midday while they are expected to pick up during the evening. However, due to low humidity levels, conditions conducive to a heatwave are not anticipated.

Karachi should be handed over to army to curb street crimes: MQM-P

MQM-P leader Mustafa Kamal says 60 citizens lost their lives due to incompetence of Sindh govt and police

By Nasir Dehli

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan Senior Deputy Convener and MNA Syed Mustafa Kamal on Monday demanded immediate deployment of army personnel to control the rising street crimes in Karachi, Metro Morning reported.

In a statement, MQM-P's Mustafa Kamal stated that due to the incompetence of



the Sindh government and police, 60 citizens have been killed in the port city so far this year. To curb street crime, he demanded, Karachi to be handed over to the military for three months immediately, saying that the Sindh government and police have left Karachi at the mercy of the bandits. In such a deteriorating situation of the city, no one is listening to the pleas of the people of Karachi.

"Today, in Metroville area,

street criminals killed two citizens and looted Rs125 million, which is a great injustice. There is no area or road in Karachi where the lives and property of citizens are safe," former Mayor Karachi said. He added that so far this year, the number of citizens killed in street crimes has reached 60, while the robbers, dacoits, and killers roaming freely, seemingly given free hand to loot and kill innocent Karachiites.

MQM-P senior leader questioned Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, asking, "Who has tied the hands of the police and why the police is not taking action against the dacoits and murderers?" Mustafa Kamal alleged that the Sindh government is not serious about the provision of security to the people. "Karachi should be handed over to the military for three months. MQM-P is ready to cooperate in every

possible way to tackle street criminals," he added. It should be noted that during the blessed month of Ramadan alone, armed individuals have killed 20 citizens in resistance to robberies, while the number of citizens killed this year has reached 58. According to Sindh police statistics, in just one month, 6,780 street crimes were reported in various areas of the provincial capital.

