



Islamabad POST

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China's Xi Jinping secures third term as President

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Turkiye's Recep Erdogan fighting for political life

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PPP to contest elections on its own symbol

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Briefs

Justice Muneeb to attend CJs moot in India

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "In line with Pakistan's commitment to SCO, Honorable Justice Muneeb of the Supreme Court of Pakistan will participate in the meeting of Chief Justices of SCO member states being held in India. Justice Muneeb Akhtar will attend the meeting online". It may be mentioned here that the Indian authorities had extended an invitation to the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take part in the Chief Justices conference being hosted by India. According to Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zehra Baloch, Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial will not participate in the CJs Meeting of SCO member countries starting from March 10-12 in India. She said Pakistan is an active member country of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and regularly participates in its activities. Pakistan has always been involved in the organization's affairs.

US supports Pak-India dialogue

DNA

NEW YORK: The United States says it supports constructive dialogue between Pakistan and India to resolve outstanding disputes. During a media briefing at the White House, the spokesperson Ned Price said we support constructive dialogue and we support diplomacy between the two countries. He further said that we are willing to support that process in any way that they deem appropriate, but ultimately these are decisions that Pakistan and India themselves are going to have to make. In reply to a question, Ned Price said the United States is prepared to, as a partner to both countries, support that process in any way that we responsibly can.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday.

- Editor

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Iran, Saudi Arabia to restore ties

Respective diplomatic missions to be reopened after talks in China

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to restore ties and to reopen respective diplomatic missions after talks in China, state media in both countries reported Friday, seven years after relations were severed. Riyadh cut ties with Tehran after Iranian protesters attacked Saudi diplomatic missions in the Islamic republic in 2016 following the Saudi execution of cleric Nimr al-Nimr. "Following talks, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have agreed to resume diplomatic relations and reopen embassies and missions within two months," the official Iranian news agency IRNA said, citing a joint statement. The official Saudi Press Agency also published the statement. Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, had travelled to Beijing on Monday for "intensive negotiations with his Saudi counterpart in China in order to finally resolve the problems between Tehran and Riyadh", IRNA said. Iran and Saudi Arabia support rival sides in several conflict



Pakistan welcomes the development

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday warmly welcomed the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran facilitated by the People's Republic of China. "Pakistan firmly believes that this important diplomatic breakthrough will contribute to peace and stability in the region and beyond", a statement from foreign office read. "We commend the role played by China's visionary leadership in coordinating this historic agreement which reflects the power of constructive engagement and meaningful dialogue. We laud sagacious leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran for this very positive development", it further added. With a history of consistently supporting and coordinating

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Maryam blames Khan, ex-judges for crisis

Alleges that they colluded to oust Nawaz Sharif

DNA

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) senior vice president Maryam Nawaz has blamed former premier Imran Khan and ex-judges for the economic crisis in the country, media reported on Friday. Maryam Nawaz lambasted former judges and Imran Khan once again during his address to the PML-N workers' convention in Faisalabad. She alleged that they colluded to oust former prime minister Nawaz Sharif from PM's Office and that the nation will not forgive them. She said that justice should be served equally to all people. She further criticised that a 'characterless, ineligible and wristwatch thief' was imposed on the Pakistani nation and how can a 'jackal' be a leader of the nation. Maryam claimed that Nawaz Sharif is important for making Pakistan a prosperous and developed state. She said that Punjab people should be aware of their enemy and throw out Imran Khan as he does not work for the people nor allow anyone else to do it.

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Imran Khan will surely be arrested, says Sanaullah

DNA

FAISALABAD: Interior Minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Sanaullah has threatened to arrest Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan once again, media reported on Friday. Rana Sanaullah said that elections do not mean avoiding accountability for Toshakhana thefts and other wrongdoings in the country. He said that Imran Khan will face accountability for everything he did wrong to this country and later he will be arrested too. The interior minister threatened that the PTI chief will be arrested once he gets tired of running. He once again announced that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif

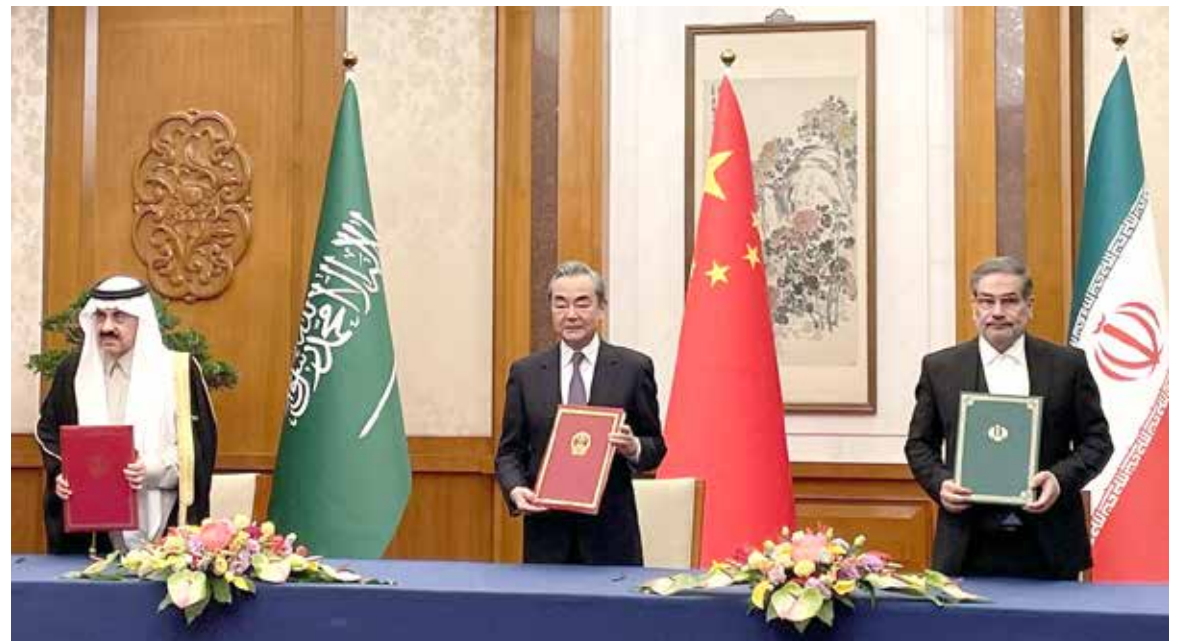
Xi clinches third term as China's president

Prime Minister Shehbaz felicitates President Xi Jinping on his re-election

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Xi Jinping secured a precedent-breaking third term as president of China on Friday during a parliamentary session in which he tightened his control of the world's second-largest economy as it emerges from a COVID slump and diplomatic challenges mount. Nearly 3,000 members of China's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), voted unanimously in the Great Hall of the People for the 69-year-old Xi in an election in which there was no other candidate. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated China's President Xi Jinping on being elected for the position for a third term. "The confidence of the Chinese people and parliament in President Xi Jinping is a recognition of his extraordinary leadership skills," the Prime Minister said in a message of greetings on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan. Shehbaz Sharif said, "President Xi Jinping has become a symbol of China's development and people's prosperity. Under his leadership, China has become the world's top economic power and this journey continues." Domestically, China faces a challenging recovery from three years of Xi's zero-COVID policy, fragile confidence among consumers and businesses and weak demand for China's exports. The economy grew just 3% last year, among its worst performances in decades. During the parliament session the government set a modest growth target for this year of just around 5%. "In his third term,

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BEIJING: Officials of Saudi Arabia and Iran sign the normalization agreement brokered by China. Top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi is also seen on the occasion. - DNA

FM calls for unity to fight Islamophobia

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Friday opened a special high-level meeting to commemorate International Day to Combat Islamophobia, with a fervent call to everyone - from any religion or creed - to stand together in the fight against hatred, bigotry and intolerance. "The observance of this Day serves to reinforce our shared commitment to raise awareness about the insidious phenomenon of Islamophobia, advance mutual respect and understanding, and develop concrete measures to eradicate this contemporary plague," he told delegates in the UN General Assembly Hall, while highlighting that Islam is a religion of moderation, tolerance and pluralism. The meeting is co-convened by the Office of the

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5 terrorists killed in Waziristan IBO

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: At least five terrorists have been killed as security forces carried out intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in North and South Waziristan districts, the military said in a statement on Friday. "Weapons, ammunition and a large quantity of equipment were also recovered from the killed terrorists," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The ISPR further said that the army was determined to

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PTI rivals want to win elections by spreading fear

Imran vows to move against Punjab administration over Lahore incident

ABD RAZA

LAHORE: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan said on Friday that the rivals want to win the elections by spreading fear. While addressing PTI workers and supporters, Imran Khan said that the time has arrived to stand against the rulers. "Everyone should get ready to take part in jihad for real independence." "We are facing restrictions on the election campaign despite the announcement of the election schedule. 80 cases were registered against me. They are trying to spread fear to win the elections." He said that the nation knew about Arshad Sharif's innocence who was backing what is right. "They do such terrible things to a journalist whose conscience cannot be bought," Khan said that a specially-abled child,

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BHC suspends Khan's arrest warrants

DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Friday suspended the non-bailable arrest warrants issued by a judicial magistrate in Quetta for the former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan for a period of two weeks. Justice Zaheeruddin Kakar of the BHC, while suspending the warrants, issued notices to parties to the case.

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ECP warned of Terrorism in KP

Returning officers appointed in Punjab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday was informed that security threats persist in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) due to the banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan's (TTP) presence in the province, media reported citing sources. Meanwhile, The Election Commission of Pakistan on Friday appointed district returning and assistant returning officers for the election in Punjab. As per the notification released

by the ECP, in the 36 districts of Punjab, deputy commissioners have been granted the status of district returning officers. The polls would be held on April 30. According to the TV report, a meeting was held at the ECP headquarters in Islamabad chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja in which the poll organising authority was given a briefing by the chiefs of security agencies regarding the latest law and order situation in KP and Punjab. The meeting was summoned by the Election Commission regarding the preparation for polls in the two provinces in line with the order of the Supreme Court.

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Briefs

Five bids to smuggle 598 flour bags foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police here on Friday foiled five bids to smuggle 598 wheat flour bags. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Pothohar Division police conducted raids in different areas and rounded up four drivers namely Sher Zaman, Hassan Khan, Adnan, Numan and Jan Muhammad and recovered 598 wheat flour bags. He informed that the accused were trying to smuggle wheat flour bags out of the Rawalpindi division. The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and City Police Officer, Rawalpindi were monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district 24/7 to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids, he added. He said, dozens of bids were foiled during the last 10 days and teams recovered thousands of wheat, flour and fine flour (maida) bags from the possession of the arrested accused.—APP

E&P companies deposit over Rs3.1bln for welfare schemes

ISLAMABAD: The Exploration and Production (E&P) companies operating in Sindh province have deposited Rs 3,108.309 million in bank accounts of different oil and gas producing districts during the last five years to carry out welfare schemes, under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. "The companies have collectively deposited Rs3108.309 million in joint bank accounts of DCOs/DCs of different districts of Sindh Province to execute development projects in the surrounding localities of their operational fields for the welfare of local communities on a regular basis," according to an official document available with APP. In line with the Petroleum Concession Agreements (PCAs)/Social Welfare Guidelines issued by the Petroleum Division, the E&P companies are obligated to deposit a certain amount in the joint accounts of the concerned District Coordinator Officers (DCOs) and Deputy Commissioners (DCs). The social welfare projects related to health, education, clean drinking water, and road infrastructure are executed under the supervision of district-level committees, having adequate representation of local parliamentarians. The E&P companies, operating in different parts of the country, have collectively discovered 16 oil and gas reservoirs during the last fiscal year in pursuit of making the country self-reliant in the energy sector. Out of these, ten discoveries were made in the oil and gas fields of Sindh, four in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one each in Balochistan and Punjab.—APP

Culprit involved in girl kidnapping arrested

ISLAMABAD: Residents of Karachi company police station area caught kidnaper who kidnapped minor girl from G-8 Islamabad and handed over to police. Further investigation is underway. According to details applicant said in application that he Fareed-Ullah Khan son of Muhammad Raheem is resident of flat no 10 block A-13 sector G-8. On the date of 04 March 2023 around 8pm a man attempting to kidnap his 4 year old niece Rania daughter of Zahid Iqbal. Residents saw him and on the same time he came out. We have caught him and made a telephone call on emergency no 15. Police arrived and we brought him to police station. It is requested to make legal proceedings and punish him. Karachi Company police station entered a case against accused under case no 23/266 under section 511/363.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of Naval Staff, Pakistan Navy along with Air Vice Marshal Hussain Ahmed Siddiqui President Air War College Institute and faculty members.—DNA

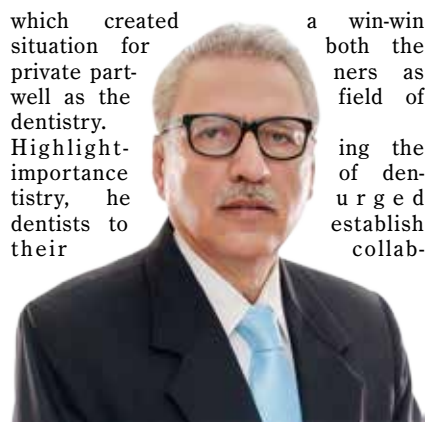
President for focus of dentists on oral hygiene

The president, who earlier also inaugurated the first oral cancer registry, said after oral hygiene, the focus should on the prevention of oral cancer. He advised against the use and sale of betel and other relevant addictive items leading to oral cancer

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said that as curative dentistry had more financial implications, particularly for a developing country like Pakistan, dentists should think out of the box to promote preventive dentistry through public awareness of oral hygiene. The president, addressing the inaugural ceremony of the International Oral Pathology and Aesthetic Dentistry Conference held here, said preventive healthcare was more important as tertiary care was costlier and unaffordable for Pakistan. Urging the participants comprising oral pathologists, dentists, professors and students, he said that regular brushing of teeth provided almost 99% of prevention from oral diseases. He said Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) also taught the frequent use of Miswak as had been evident from around 20 Ahadith. The president, also a renowned dentist, shared the success stories of his career in dentistry which marked massive awareness campaigns on oral health

which created a win-win situation for private partners as well as the dentistry. Highlighting the importance of dentistry, he urged dentists to their education was not as required. They should broaden their narrow focus to help people achieve prevention against oral diseases, he added. He said the professionals would have to change their paradigm for the maximum benefit of the people to pay back the huge financing made by the country on their higher education. The president, who earlier also inaugurated the first oral cancer registry, said after oral hygiene, the focus should on the prevention of oral cancer. He advised against the use and sale of betel and other relevant addictive items leading to oral cancer. The event marked the start of the 2nd International Conference on Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. The Conference is a collaborative event that also includes First International Dental Laser Conference. On the occasion, the president also launched the Pakistan Federation of Laser Dentistry and distributed shields among the organisers and collaborators of the conference. Earlier, in her address, President of Pakistan Society of Oral and Max-

lofacial Pathology (PSOMP) Federal Zone Dr Joharia Azhar said Pakistan was among very few countries where there was no oral cancer registry. She also highlighted the need for body of laser dentistry considering the new trends and innovations in the field. She said the oral cancer registry would help maintain the data of the disease in the country besides establishing collaboration with the partners to broaden the network President PSOMP Nauman Rauf said the conference would help broaden the network of professionals to help them embrace the vision of innovations in the field. Focal Person for Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Naima Ansari highlighted the role being played by women chamber in the promotion of basic health without any gender biases. She said the chamber also gave a special focus on the importance of reproductive health including family planning through the collaboration of businessmen as well as professionals.—DNA



of oral hygiene and recalled the successful oral hygiene campaign run during the COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with all the relevant stakeholders. He said the professional dentists needed to reorient their approach as the quantum of preventive healthcare in

'Digital Education' is the key to women's empowerment

Ms. Sameena Imtiaz, a Development Worker and Program Head at CRSS urged women to come out of victimhood and focus more on the redressal measures

DNA

ISLAMABAD: At a discussion organized by the Institute of Regional Studies in collaboration with the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, QAU on the 'role of women in contemporary times' panelists urged for greater participation of women in the field of digital technology. In her introductory remarks, Ms. Nabila Jaffer, Research Analyst at IRS, emphasized the need for attitude change towards women in Pakistan which she said was necessary for streamlining women's role in the socio-economic development of the country. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President of IRS said that women remained an unquantifiable part of the economy and that trend needed to be reversed. He was of the view that women's empowerment through digital education was the need of the day. Panel moderator, Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Chairperson at the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, QAU, said that in connection with Women's Day, today's discussion under the theme 'Digit All' was important to highlight

the role of women in the digital era. For that, every country needed to play its role in providing an enabling environment for women in their systems, she added. She urged that the laws passed by the government must be implemented in their true spirit so that the long-standing problems of women especially those living in backward areas can be addressed. She suggested that a collaborative framework needed to be promoted as societies could not progress until people from all walks of life work together. Ms. Sameena Imtiaz, a Development Worker and Program Head at CRSS urged women to come out of victimhood and focus more on the redressal measures as there were various hotlines and safety platforms available that women could exploit. She was of the view that education, particularly digital literacy can empower women in a significant way, but for that, we needed to mobilize digital companies for necessary support, she added. Dr. Salma Malik, Asst. Professor at QAU, said that we needed to learn from the Bangladesh model where women started with participation in small economic activities that eventually resulted

in the mushroom growth of small and medium-level women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. She also underscored the importance of inculcating the true Islamic history for change in the mindset, adding that the history was replete with examples of strong and forward-looking women. Dr. Ayesha Siddiqi, Asst. Professor, QAU said that a liability mindset about women was one of the root causes besides the internalization of certain patriarchal ideologies that hindered women's empowerment in our society. To change the decade-old mindset we needed to educate and raise our children in a way that they could build a better society, she added. Ms. Roshan Sheikh, Product Designer, and former Afiniti Techwomen Fellow lamented that the negative image of Pakistani women was more highlighted in the international media than the accomplishment part. She stressed that Pakistani women were more capable than women of many other countries, however, quality education was still hindering their greater participation and role in society, she added. The event was well attended by ambassadors, academicians, practitioners, and students.

Economy being destroyed for political purposes

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said the country's economy has been deliberately destroyed to achieve political goals. Strict legal action should be taken against the so-called experts who paralyzed the country's economy in an attempt to artificially control the value of the dollar, it said. Masses should be taken into confidence about the pending IMF deal instead of keeping the nation in the dark, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW. He said that the capital flight has been happening long before the talent flight from the country. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that almost every notable politician, businessman, and bureaucrat considers it their right to buy lavish properties in other countries and open dollar accounts, which is bleeding the fragile economy white. He said that a former finance minister has revealed that dollars are being smuggled into Afghanistan in large quantities but no one dares to lay hands on these smugglers. Now, apart from Afghanistan, currency smugglers have found the lucrative Iranian market where demand for dollars is high, he added. Pakistan's economy is being destroyed due to the smuggling of dollars, but there is no one to stop these influential smugglers. Dr. Mughal said that earlier most of Iran's dollar needs were met from Iraq, but now the United States and the Central Bank of Iraq have started to stop the trend in which they have been successful up to 80%, which has badly affected the Iranian currency. Urban inflation in Iran has crossed 55 percent and the demand for the dollar has increased greatly which has become an unexpected boon for the smugglers. Currency smugglers having the right connections are busy digging the foundations of the country for profit. If currency smuggling was not stopped and negative policies were not reversed the US dollar will soon reach to the mark of Rs300, the price of petrol and electricity will have to be increased and the interest rates will have to be hiked, he warned.—DNA

Pak-Sino collaboration in PV sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pak-Sino collaboration in Photovoltaic (PV) sector will jointly combat the energy crisis, according to Gwadar Pro on Friday. "In the past five years, the average concentration of PM2.5 in China's prefecture-level and above cities has dropped by 27.5%, and the number of days with heavy pollution has dropped by more than 50%," and "the installed capacity of renewable energy has increased from 650 million kilowatts to more than 1.2 billion kilowatts," cited the government work report released by the ongoing Two Sessions. Beyond doubt, China's energy conservation and carbon reduction have reached a new level. In 2022, the total export value of Chinese PV products (silicon wafers, cells, modules) was approximately USD 51.25 billion, a year-on-year increase of 80.3%. Such dramatic growth means, being a responsible major power, China is promoting green causes around the world as approaching its own carbon neutrality goal.

As Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to the adverse impact of increasingly severe climate change, China's leading solar solutions provider LONGi has long been committed to developing the PV field with local partners to optimizing energy structure in Pakistan. "We signed an MoU with the Government of Pakistan in July 2019 to invest in the construction of a 50 MW solar power plant in the Bahawalpur, Punjab, as our first step," Ali Majid, General Manager, Pakistan, LONGi Solar, told Gwadar pro in an interview.

"As for the current overall production capacity of LONGi's green energy projects invested in Pakistan, total shipments to Pakistan market would reach about 1GW this year. The experience of developing the market in the past few years tells me that in order to boost PV and new energy field, investment and awareness, none can be dispensed with," Majid added. Pakistan should encourage more investments in renewable energy infrastructure to the greatest extent, including government and private investment in large-scale solar farms, as well as smaller rooftop solar installations. "As for awareness, strengthen education around the benefits of green energy, such as public education campaigns and outreach to businesses, communities, and schools," Majid noted. "Beyond that, we can increase investment in research and development of new PV technologies, such as improving the efficiency and performance of solar panels, as well as developing new materials and manufacturing processes."

Intelligent Transport System successfully tested

ISLAMABAD: In a major breakthrough in the field of intelligent transport systems, NHMP has tested a successful proof of concept on the M11 North Sialkot motorway in coordination with the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) and the National Highway Authority (NHA). According to the details issued by NHMP, cameras would be installed every 10 to 15 kilometres which will capture violations by vehicles and then the data will be conveyed to different forums for the efficient collection of fine money. The information of violation will travel to the violator himself if he is an M tag holder while in the second tier, the information will go to the next patrol vehicle that can easily stop the violating vehicle and in the third-tier information will go to our control room. The violation data will also be transmitted to a national repository, where demerit points will be deducted from the licensing crisis, eventually leading to the license cancellation. Toll plazas would also be equipped with sensitive digital equipment which will receive violation information, and drivers will be required to pay fines and taxes separately. Vehicles that do not adhere to the motorway's rules, will be chased and heavy fines would be imposed on them.—APP

NUTECH to play role in the remodeling of disaster management

ISLAMABAD: As part of raising greater user-based, area-specific comprehension of national preparedness and response, amongst all localized communities and responders, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) research branch, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has planned a series of interactive workshops and seminars. In this regard, NIDM organized a two-days Workshop on "Local Needs Gap Analysis and Framework of Recommended National Preparedness and Response" at the National University of Technology (NUTECH), Islamabad from 8-9 March 2023. This workshop aimed at strengthening coordination & collaboration across the disaster management cycle with a focus on disaster risk reduction for combating the vulnerabilities of natural hazards. It also discussed the key identified areas pertaining to the implementation of climate resilience and adaptation in Pakistan by linking up with universities for collaborative R&D to garner global sponsorships for evolving site-specific innovative solutions in all aspects of Disaster Management. This two-day workshop was attended by representatives from academia, local communities, NGOs, local disaster management authority representatives, provincial departments, and NUTECH faculty/students. Addressing the participants at the opening ceremony of the training workshop, Rector NUTECH Lt Gen (Retd) Moazzam Ejaz acknowledged NDMA's role and plan in National Preparedness and Response.—DNA

AI cancer screening lab put into operation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan joint AI medical diagnosis lab in Islamabad has been put into operation, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. The lab, located in the Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital, will provide free cervical cancer screening to 10,000 Pakistani women in its first phase of operation. "It can also be used in the early diagnosis of other high incidence clinical tumors, such as breast cancer, gastric cancer, oral cancer, etc.," said the project lead from Landing Med, a Chinese medical technology com-



pany that provided three cervical cancer screening devices along with 5,000 sets of supporting consumable items to Pakistan last December for the lab construction. Different from traditional clinical procedure where patients have to visit the hospital several times for specimen collection, report analysis, and treatment, the AI-powered lab streamlined the operation by processing the specimen, scanning the slides and uploading them to the 5G cloud platform. Once data upload is com-

plete, a medical team in China can make diagnosis remotely and a report can be generated in about 5 minutes. Up to now, the service has been available to surrounding residents after trial diagnosis for the hospital staff proved efficient and reliable. Cervical cancer has become the third most common cancer in Pakistan after head and neck and breast cancers, and around 64 percent of Pakistani women who have this cancer lose their lives as they only discover the disease when it becomes almost incurable in the third or the fourth stage of cancer.

