



# Daily SOON TIMES

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## Zardari, Shehbaz, Sharif condemn assassination attempt on Trump



(Web Desk) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari have condemned the assassination attempt on former US president Donald Trump. The premier in a social media post expressed prayers for Trump's speedy recovery. He said that any form of violence in the political process was condemnable. "Just learnt that former President Trump was shot at an election rally. This is a shocking development. I condemn all violence in politics. Wish the former President swift recovery and good health," the prime minister stated in a post on X, erstwhile Twitter. President Zardari expressed deep shock over the attack on Trump's rally, saying that such violence had no place in politics. In a statement issued by the Presidency, Zardari expressed his best wishes for the speedy recovery of Donald Trump. He also offered heartfelt condolences over the loss of life in the attack.

## PTI MNA Ameer Sultan 'abducted' from Lahore: Asad Qaiser



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Asad Qaiser said the party MNA Ameer Sultan was abducted by unknown men on Sunday. Sultan was elected to the lower house of the parliament from NA-110 in Jhang and was reportedly abducted while he was at his house at Sarwar Road, Lahore. He was abducted by unknown men in Lahore to force him to switch loyalties, the former speaker added. He said the country will fail if it not run according to the constitution as this document sets the purpose of every institution which must be followed. He said the PTI would not back off from its ideological stance and its struggle would continue and the party leaders should be allowed to make the decisions of their own choices.

## Govt mulls NA, Senate session to 'discuss' SC verdict on reserved seats



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: The government is considering convening the Senate and National Assembly sessions to discuss Supreme Court's decision regarding reserved seats for SIC (Sunni Itehad Council). Sources revealed to Media that Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazir Tarar has suggested to convene a session of the parliament in a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. It is learnt that the parliamentarians belonging to the ruling PML-N have been instructed to stay in the capital while a final decision to summon the session will be taken tomorrow (Monday) in a meeting presided over by Navaz Sharif. According to sources, the government "wanted to devise a strategy before going for review appeal against the Supreme Court decision." The Supreme Court had on Friday annulled the decision of the Peshawar High Court and the order of the Election Commission (ECP) regarding reserved seats and ordered to give seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

## CM Punjab Climate Leadership Development Internship program initiated across Punjab

The program is a platform for community service and environment protection.



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE: The Chief Minister Climate Leadership Development Internship program has been initiated across Punjab. The program has been initiated on the instructions of Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz for environment protection under 'My Punjab Smog Free' campaign. CM Maryam Nawaz stressed for collective efforts to mitigate the environmental challenge of smog. Young graduates would perform community service under Smog Free Punjab Initiative. Young graduates 18 to 25 years old who graduated two years ago are eligible for the internship program. Interns will be paid a stipend of Rs. 25000 monthly. Students would be provided a community service certificate by the Environment Protection Department and Punjab Higher Commission. Students can register for the internship program till July 20. The program is a platform for community service and environment protection. Government requested for public support to mitigate the serious issue of smog. The Punjab government has issued directives for reduction of environmental pollution. Plant more trees and avoid burning crops. Avoid plastic use. Reduce the smog emitted from vehicles and factories. Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz highlighted the significance of collective efforts for a clean environment. She emphasised that the Punjab government's initiative would reduce smog this year.

## PM orders committee to reactivate Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the formation of an urgent committee to reactivate the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project. Chairing a meeting at the PM House on Sunday, Sharif reviewed the progress and challenges facing the project. A detailed briefing revealed that power generation was halted on May 2, 2024, following a pressure drop in the head race tunnels. Former federal interior secretary Shahid Khan, leading the investigation, reported significant financial losses due to the closure. The investigation highlighted that a similar issue in 2021 during the PTI regime was ignored, exacerbating the current situation. The project's construction had overlooked crucial geophysical and seismic factors, and adequate concrete lining of the tunnels was not completed.



PM Shehbaz criticised the past negligence and demanded a thorough investigation to identify those responsible. He emphasised the need for immediate completion of the report and strict action against the culprits. The meeting included key ministers and officials, who discussed the technical and administrative lapses that led to the project's failure.

## PTI's Sanam Javaid 'rearrested' yet again after an hour of release

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Sanam Javaid, who has been jailed for months, was rearrested once again just almost an hour after her release following acquittal by an Islamabad court on Sunday in a case registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The social media political activist had walked free earlier today following months of incarceration, but was taken into custody by Islamabad police soon after. It may be noted that Javaid's release has been blocked multiple times as she had been released from a jail in Gujranwala on Saturday as well but the FIA handcuffed her again minutes after her release. The Lahore High Court (LHC) last week cleared the PTI activist of charges in a case linked to the May 9 riots, while



allowing her plea against physical remand granted by an anti-terrorism court. However, the FIA team booked and arrested her in a new case pertaining to the May 9 events, upon her release from prison on Saturday. The FIA Cyber Crime Cell had lodged a case against her for allegedly posting inciting remarks on May 9, urging people to attack the Jinnah House, The News reported. Following her arrest, the FIA team transported Javaid to Islamabad, where she was presented in a district and sessions court for acquisition of remand.

## Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi remanded in NAB custody for eight days in Toshakhana case

The court issued order within 24 hours after arrest of the couple on Saturday afternoon from jail



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: A NAB (National Accountability Bureau) court on Sunday remanded PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in NAB custody for eight days in a fresh Toshakhana case. The court issued order within 24 hours after arrest of the couple on Saturday afternoon from Adiala jail after their release in irregular marriage case. Accountability court judge Muhammad Ali Warraich heard the NAB plea for remand in

Adiala jail after government approved their trial in jail due to "security concern." NAB Deputy Director Mohsin Haroon requested for the physical remand and the judge granted his plea. Counsels for Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi, Chaudhry Zaheer Abbas and Usman Gul, opposed the NAB plea for remand. However, the judge gave them in NAB custody and ordered to produce them on July 22. Advocate Zaheer Abbas later

told media that the NAB had requested a 14-day physical remand but he opposed it pleading that the couple had to attend proceedings in the £190 million reference. The NAB implicated the couple in a fresh case for "keeping and selling illegally" 10 valuable gifts from Toshakhana. According to the NAB report, Imran Khan is accused of taking and selling seven watches, diamonds and gold jewellery unlawfully.

## Ji protests nationwide against inflation, overbilling

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman announced that JI was protesting nationwide against inflation and there would be sit-ins across big and small cities. He also disclosed about the sit-in on July 26 in Islamabad against the huge spike in electricity tariff and taxes. Public mobilisation would continue and the movement was against the anti-people budget. He said the party and public would keep protesting until their demands were not met. Government has to provide relief in the overbilling of electricity and the unfair slab systems. Government is increasing bills on the direction of the IMF. He asserted the elite and cruel government was increasing taxes and petroleum prices.



The movement 'Haq to Awaam ko', which gave rights to the public, was against anti-people measures of the incumbent government, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said. They were warned to take to streets for their rights and move to courts. JI emir invited the public for a peaceful protest and sit-in on July 26. Hafiz Naeemur Rehman considered the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had no ethical credibility and stood after the Supreme Court verdict.

## CONDOLENCE



WE EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND GRIEF OVER THE  
SAD DEMISE OF  
CH QURBAN HUSSAIN

Daily Soon Times



## IPO-Pakistan drive country's economic growth' prosperity

**F**arukh Amil, Chairman IPO-Pakistan, emphasized the critical role of intellectual property in driving economic growth and prosperity. The Chairman IPO - Pakistan has stressed for the critical role of intellectual property in safeguarding national security and driving economic growth during a meeting with Ambassador (Retd) Qazi M Khalilullah, Executive Director, Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS)for, said a press release issued here on Sunday. Chair IPO-Pakistan stressed that a robust intellectual property system is vital for attracting investments, promoting

entrepreneurship, and protecting innovations in strategic technologies. "The effective protection and management of intellectual property is essential for a nation's economic and national security," Farukh Amil said. "It encourages innovation, attracts foreign investment, and helps to build a competitive edge in the global market." He further emphasized that intellectual property protection is critical for the development of strategic industries such as telecommunications, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. The meeting was attended by key officials from CISSS and IPO-Pakistan, including Mr. Aftab

Hussain, Director Research, CISSS, Dr. Saba Sahar, Associate Director, CISSS, Lt Col Azfar Bilal Qureshi TI (M) (Retd), Associate Director Research, CISSS, and Ms. Saima Kanwal, Senior Patent Examiner, IPO-Pakistan. The participants discussed the importance of intellectual property in the knowledge economy and its impact on national security and economic prosperity. Ambassador (R) Qazi M Khalilullah expressed interest in exploring areas of mutual collaboration between CISSS and IPO-Pakistan to strengthen intellectual property regimes and promote research and development in strategic technologies. "This collaboration will

help to identify and protect innovation and intellectual property in strategic sectors, ultimately contributing to the economic growth and national security of Pakistan," Ambassador Khalilullah said. The meeting highlighted the importance of intellectual property in today's knowledge economy and its impact on national security and economic prosperity. The participants agreed to continue exploring opportunities for collaboration and cooperation between CISSS and IPO-Pakistan. The meeting concluded with a commitment to work together to promote intellectual property protection and innovation in Pakistan.

### Domestic Violence ; Causes Consequences, and Solutions



Iqra Ashraf

There are so many causes of domestic violence but some of them are following which need to proper ceremony, such as frustration, any behavioral disability or trauma faced in childhood made usually person abusive or offender, any type of social stress, anxiety, hypertension, extra marital affairs, forced marriages and no compatibility and compromise or understanding between the both partners, and there are many social reasons like unemployment, poverty, distress also responsible for it. Above mentioned factors made a person offender which commit the crime of domestic violence.

In the history of Pakistan till now there are many cases regarding domestic violence has been reported, no doubt actions are taken by authorities but still these cases are actually underreported. As a case in study that the daughter of former diplomat was murdered by his neighbor, Noor mukadam was brutally tortured with knife, raped and then murdered. There are many housewives, girls and women and somehow men are facing the domestic violence. Syeda Sania Zehra bukhari 20-year-old pregnant woman brutally murdered by her husband on property dispute, which is also a wild case of domestic violence or economic violence. This is poor mentality that woman cannot own a personal property. Recently reported case of TV anchor Ayesha Jahanzaib who was brutally beaten by her husband Haris Ali. There are many such other incidents of domestic violence.

Domestic violence leaves so many consequences in the form of anxieties, depression, hypertension, heart diseases or cardiovascular diseases, injuries, obesity, diabetes, sleeping disorders, social isolation, panic attacks, post-traumatic stress

disorder (PTSD), and many other insecurities included in it.

Moreover, as per the Law of Pakistan if the offence is falling under the Pakistan penal code (PPC), then this crime will be punishable as per the PPC. A certain amount of fine will also be imposed on offender which will be paid to the victim as a compensation. On the other side if this is not fall under the PPC then offender punished for imprisonment of maximum three years but not less than six months depending on the intensity of the violence and certain amount of fines are also imposed on offender. Hence, it is documented that laws are there in Pakistan to deal with the domestic violence but to control this gigantic evil there are certain methodologies and improvements are needed, such as electronic, print and even social media should be more vigilant to report these cases to seek authorities' attention for certain measures, certain awareness seminars should be arranged by government to create awareness among the people so they can freely and without of fear can report their cases. The officials should be more fair while dealing with their cases not doing any type of counter demonstration, state have to impose strict check and balance against forced marriages and dowry systems. Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are playing a very effective role in this, so, this is dire need that government have to collaboratively work with these NGOs who are actually working in the above mentioned serious concerns.

In a nutshell, right now Pakistan is dealing with many domestic violence cases but still there is a hope that it can be eradicated by collaborative and collective work on spreading awareness regarding this serious concern.

### Punjab-Marching Towards A Welfare Society (II)



Abdul Rashid Shakhir

Welfare societies boast of their productive education systems and affordable healthcare facilities, besides having dependable arrangements of waste management and environmental protection. They not only protect the interests of general public but also bring special initiatives to respond to the development needs of major driving sectors of economy like youth, business community and farmers. They also ensure equitable socio-economic growth of the marginalized segments of society like the have-nots, low-income groups, differently-abled persons, widows and orphans. A dissection of major achievements of first 100-Days of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif-Led Punjab Government reveals that the Government is treading the right course to ensure welfare of its people in major fields like education, health, waste management, environmental protection, transport and communication, besides taking measures for the development of youth and farmers.

A well thought-out and recently approved Public Schools Reorganization Program (PSRP), elimination of ghost students and rationalization of teachers in schools, outsourcing of some 6000 non-performing schools in Phase-I, reactivation of more than 500 dysfunctional schools, teachers' training, curriculum development, accountability of teachers and continuous monitoring of teaching-learning outcomes in schools, besides a decision to adopt Phase-III of Pakistan National Curriculum 2023 are some of the major interventions of Punjab School Education Department under the visionary leadership of proactive Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the restructuring of school education in Punjab.

A Rs 27-billion CM Punjab Nutrition Program: Free Milk Program is a milestone initiative of the Government to deal with stunting and malnutrition in primary-school children across Punjab, in order to improve their growth and learning outcomes. The Government also intends to not only check school drop-outs but to bring out-of-school children (OOSC) to good schools, besides introducing Early Years Education as an integral part of school education.

Punjab Honorarium Merit Scholarship Program is another key intervention of the government for the promotion of higher education in the province, especially in remote areas. Under the Program, 100% fee of 25000 students doing BS from government and 08 selected private universities will be paid by the Government. 32 Field Hospitals and 200 Clinics on Wheels are providing quality healthcare services at the doorsteps of around 6000 patients across Punjab on daily basis. Responding to the resounding success of this program, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has decided to add 500 more Clinics on Wheels in the fleet, besides extending the the Programme to all cities of Punjab. The provision of free medicines in health centers and hospitals, free home delivery of 02-month medicines to cardiac, cancer, TB and hepatitis patients, revamping &

upgradation of 2500 Basic Health Units (BHUs), 300 Rural Health Centers (RHCs), Telsih Headquarters Hospitals (THQs) and Tertiary Hospitals in the province are no doubt remarkable achievements of the government to improve its healthcare sector.

The construction of first public-sector cancer hospital, Nawaz Sharif Cancer Care Hospital Lahore, Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology Sargodha, the provision of cardiology and cardiac surgery facilities in 08 districts of the province in Phase-I, and in all 36 districts of Punjab in Phase-II are other milestone initiatives of the Government to revolutionize healthcare system in Punjab. The Chief Minister's resolve to provide cancer, cardiology, peds and burns treatment units in all cities before the end of her 05-year term is a commendable resolution. A plan to establish Rescue & Trauma Centers along with ambulance service on Motorways, besides the launch of air ambulance service in the province are testament to the Government's efforts to provide reliable healthcare facilities well in time to the people in distress.

Effective waste management is essential for a clean and healthy environment. Under "Suthra Punjab (Clean Punjab)" Program, sustainable Waste Management companies will start operations in all districts on Public Private Partnership basis, in order to provide credible end-to-end waste disposal solution to the masses. Waste would be collected from door to door and taken to landfill sites for proper disposal. Government's "Zero Waste Mission" on the three days of Eid-ul-Azha was a successful full-dress rehearsal of the Clean Punjab (Suthra Punjab) Program.

The "No to Plastic" campaign, the largest plantation drive in the province, Green Punjab for Pakistan, and a decision to plant trees along both sides of roads in the province are key Government measures to ensure environment-resilient and smog-free Punjab for generations to come. Rapid transportation and easy communication are very much needed for the promotion of economic activities. To achieve this end, the Government is taking various initiatives to provide a state-of-the-art transport system in Punjab. 700 new hybrid and E-buses for all major cities of the province are being procured. The Government is also giving 3000 petrol and e-bikes to students on interest-free easy mode.

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The provision of high speed Wifi service for the modern tech-savvy youth at 200 points across Lahore, with a resolve to extend this service to the entire province, is another landmark initiative of the Government for skill development and promotion of IT-based services in the province. The construction of Pakistan's first IT City, Nawaz Sharif IT City Lahore, and the introduction of new education stream: Middle Tech, Matric Tech and Inter Tech in schools and colleges along with the existing science and arts streams, are other major initiatives of the Government to enhance productivity of its youth to ensure their socio-economic development.

Physical sports offer a constructive way of engagement for youth. The Government has decided to not only rehabilitate & upgrade school grounds to provide students with healthy sports activities but it has also decided to convert these school grounds into community sports grounds for the general public to use them in the evening. It has also decided to develop sports grounds/ UC-level, besides making playgrounds children-friendly, in order to afford people good facilities for healthy engagement. The first-ever Chief Minister Punjab Pink Games 2024 for the female players were held in Lahore in May, in which around 1300 female players from 16 universities of Lahore participated. The Government has plans to start a Punjab League, featuring sports competition across Punjab in which around one million youth of the province will participate.

Agriculture is undoubtedly the backbone of our economy. It contributes 24% to country's \$375-billion GDP, and 37.4% to the 67.25 million employed labor force out of the total labor force of 17.76 million in the country. Given its linkages with other sectors of economy, growth of agriculture is directly proportional to economic growth, employment generation and poverty reduction in the country (Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24). It not only provides raw material to major industries like textile, leather and sugar but also accounts for three fourth of the country's total exports. Punjab has a major share in Pakistan's agriculture sector as it contributes 60% to its agricultural exports. The Government of Punjab, under the proactive and vibrant leadership of its Chief Minister Madam Maryam Nawaz Sharif, is rightly-focused on the growth of its agriculture sector. Not only crops but all other sub-sectors like livestock, fisheries, poultry, forestry and horticulture are being developed. A Rs 400-billion Kissan Package: Chief Minister Punjab Kissan Card Program is a remarkable initiative of the Government, under which a farmer will be given Rs 1.5 lakh loan or crop insurance to purchase quality inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides at subsidized rates, besides a loan at 60-40% ratio (Government will pay 60% and the farmer to pay just 40%) for the purchase of agriculture machinery. It will not only improve productivity of farmers but would also save them from the exploitation of middlemen.

Additionally, a Rs 30-billion Green Tractor Scheme is another major program of the Government to facilitate farmers. Under the scheme, a farmer will pay just 30% of the price of a tractor while the remaining 70% will be paid by the Government. Projects for shrimp farming, productivity of oil seeds, and solarization of agricultural tub wells are some of the other key interventions of the Punjab Government for the development of agriculture in the province.

### Iraq assures best facilities for Pakistani pilgrims



Web Desk  
Iraq has reassured its full cooperation in providing the best facilities to Pakistani pilgrims. This was expressed by Iraq's Ambassador Hamid Abbas Lafta during his meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain, in

Islamabad today. They discussed measures to provide maximum facilities to pilgrims visiting Iraq. They also discussed the permission of free of cost entry visa for Pakistani pilgrims and increasing their quota. Speaking on the occasion, Interior Minister said we aim to provide all possible facilities to the pilgrims. He also requested to double the quota of Pakistani pilgrims this year. The Ambassador provided a list of travel agents who illegally overcharged pilgrims. Mohsin Naqvi assured Iraqi Ambassador of taking action against travel agents who charge illegal fees from pilgrims. During the meeting, it was agreed to quickly finalize the visa waiver agreement on diplomatic and official passports. They also agreed to sign Memorandum of Understandings between Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and the Ministry of Labor of Iraq.







### Gaza officials say 90 Palestinians killed as Israel targets Hamas



**CAIRO/GAZA/JERUSALEM**  
An Israeli airstrike killed at least 90 Palestinians in a designated humanitarian zone in Gaza on Saturday, the enclave's health ministry said, in an attack that Israel said targeted Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif.  
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it remained unclear whether Deif and another Hamas commander had been killed and promised to continue to target Hamas leadership, saying more military pressure on the group would improve chances of a hostage deal, even as three days of ceasefire talks separately halted.



### Senior Hamas official says group withdraws from Gaza truce talks

**PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES:**  
A senior Hamas official told AFP Sunday that the Palestinian militant group has withdrawn from talks on a ceasefire in the Gaza war because of Israeli massacres and its attitude in negotiations.  
Another Hamas official said the group's military leader Mohammed Deif was "fine" and working despite Israel's huge bomb attack on a southern Gaza camp that it said targeted the wanted Hamas commander.  
Gaza's health ministry said the attack left 92 dead.  
Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh told international mediators Qatar and Egypt of the end of the talks on a ceasefire plan first outlined by US President Joe Biden in May, according to the senior official.  
The first phase of the deal would have seen a six-week ceasefire with the exchange of most hostages taken in Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.



## Trump rally shooting: FBI identifies 20-year old Thomas Matthew as 'subject involved'

**The shooter was dead, one rally attendee was killed and two other spectators were injured**

**WASHINGTON:**  
The Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks as the "subject involved" in the attempted assassination, of former President Donald Trump, it said in a statement on Sunday.  
Donald Trump was shot in the car during a Saturday campaign rally, streaking the Republican presidential candidate's blood across his face and prompting his security agents to swarm him, before he emerged and pumped his fist in the air, appearing to mouth the words "Fight! Fight! Fight!"  
The shooter was dead, one rally attendee was killed and two other spectators were injured, the Secret Service said in a statement. The incident was being investigated as an assassination attempt, a source told Reuters.  
Donald Trump, 78, had just started his speech when the shots rang out. He grabbed his right ear with his right hand, then brought his hand down to look at it before dropping to his knees behind the podium before Secret Service agents swarmed and covered him. He emerged about a minute later, his red "Make America Great Again" hat knocked off, and could be heard saying "fight, wait," before agents ushered him into a vehicle.  
"I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear," Trump said on his Truth Social platform following the shooting in Butler, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles (50 km) north of Pittsburgh. "Much bleeding took place."  
The shooter's identity and motive were not immediately clear.  
Leading Republicans and Democrats quickly condemned the violence.

## Biden condemns 'sick' violence after Trump injured in campaign rally shooting

**Web Desk**  
US President Joe Biden led the condemnation after his election rival Donald Trump was wounded in an apparent assassination attempt at a Pennsylvania rally on Saturday, as some Republicans blamed the Biden campaign for the violence.  
Political leaders on both sides of the aisle slammed the attack minutes after the Republican candidate was rushed off stage by the Secret Service with blood running down his face.  
"There's no place in America for this kind of violence. It's sick. It's sick. It's one of the reasons why we have to unite this country... We cannot be like this, we cannot condone this," Biden told reporters in an emergency briefing at his house in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.  
"The idea that there's political violence, or violence in America like this, is just unheard of. It's just not appropriate. Everybody, everybody must condemn it. Everybody," Biden said.  
Vice President Kamala Harris said on X: "We are praying for him, his family, and all those who have been injured and impacted by this senseless shooting."  
Biden's former boss, Barack Obama, echoed his words in a statement, saying there was "absolutely no place for political violence in our democracy."  
"Although we don't yet know exactly what happened, we should all be relieved that former President Trump wasn't seriously hurt, and use this moment to recommit ourselves to civility and respect in our politics," he said on X.  
Former president George W. Bush condemned the "cowardly" attack.  
"Laura and I are grateful that President Trump is safe following the cowardly attack on his life. And we commend the men and women of the Secret Service for their speedy response," the Republican said in a statement.



### North Korea's Kim sacks 'irresponsible' officials over new town project



**SEOUL**  
Reuters  
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has sacked or demoted some senior officials for their "irresponsible" handling of his flagship project to build a new town in the country's north, state media KCNA said on Sunday.  
Kim announced the decision while visiting Samjiyon, where North Korea has been building what it called a "socialist utopia" and "a model of highly-civilised mountain city" with new apartments, hotels, a ski resort and commercial, cultural and medical facilities.  
While praising builders for their achievements so far, Kim said the irresponsibility of senior officials had caused a series of serious deviations including poor construction work and financial losses.  
He singled out Ri Sun Chol, minister of state construction control who was appointed in September, as a "good-for-nothing person" who has never been to the site since December, suspending him and calling for a formal investigation.  
Kim also suspended all members of a construction inspection committee for the project, demoted a riding Worker's Party official responsible for the matter, and vowed to reexamine vice premier and others over their neglect of duty.  
"Going round the newly-built hotels for domestic tourists, he severely pointed out that their construction was carried out at an outdated and backward level," KCNA quoted Kim as saying.  
"Those new buildings have to be remodelled and, consequently, this problem badly affects the general long-term plan for the city development."

## Sports & Showbiz

### Pakistan players all set to feature in SAAF Athletics Championship



**ISLAMABAD**  
Pakistani athletes would feature in the SAAF Junior Athletics Championship and 4th SAAF Athletics Championship to be held in India.  
According to Chairman South Asia Athletics Federation Major Gen (R) Mohammad Akram Sahi, the SAAF Junior Athletics Championship would be held in Chennai, India from September 11, while the 4th SAAF Athletics Championship will take place in Ranchi, India from October 4. He said the men's and women's teams from seven countries are participating in the Junior Athletics Championship.  
The teams include Pakistan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The championship will continue till September 13 and prizes will be distributed among the winning players at the end of the championship.  
He said seven men teams and as many women teams would take part in the SAAF Athletics Championship. The participating teams include Pakistan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The championship will continue till October 6.



### Pakistan contingent to feature in Olympic Games

**ISLAMABAD**  
Sports Desk  
Pakistan would feature participating in the upcoming XXXIII Summer Olympic Games in Paris, France with a contingent of seven athletes competing in Athletics, Shooting, and Swimming.  
The composition of the Pakistan team is as follows: Athletics: Arshad Nadeem - Athlete, Javelin Throw (Qualified), Ms. Faiza Riaz - Athlete, 100m (University Place) - approved by World Athletics; Salman Iqbal Butt - Athlete Support Personnel and Dr. Ali Sher Bajwa - Athlete Support Personnel, said a press release.  
Swimming: Muhammad Ahmed Durran - Athlete, 200m Freestyle (University Place) - approved by World Aquatics; Jehanara Nabi - Athlete, 200m Freestyle (University Place) - approved by World Aquatics and Lt Col (R) Ahmed Ali Khan - Athlete Support Personnel.  
Shooting: Ghulam Mustafa Bashir - Athlete (25m Rapid Fire Pistol) - Qualified; Gulam Joseph - Athlete (10m Air Pistol, 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team) - Qualified; Ms. Kishmala Talat - Athlete (10m Air Pistol, 25m Pistol, 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team) - Qualified; Col. Junaid Ali - Athlete Support Personnel; Genmady Solodovnikov, Athlete Support Personnel.  
The contingent officials include Muhammad Shafiq - Chief de Mission (CDM); Javaid Shamsbad Lodi, Deputy CDM; Ms. Zainab Shaukat - Admin Officer.  
The Special Appointments from IOC certified Personnel and Embassy of Pakistan in France comprise Dr. Syed Meeqat Hussain Rizvi, OLY - Chief Medical Officer; Kasif Jameel - NOC Olympic Attaché (Head of Chancery, Embassy of Pakistan in France); Rizwan Ahmed - Welfare Officer (IOC certified Safeguarding Officer in Sports).  
The athletes and team officials would depart in various groups from July 19 to 24 and will return in different groups after the conclusion of their competitions.  
Arshad Nadeem, Athlete (Athlete) and Ms. Jehanara Nabi, Athlete (Swimming) will represent as flag bearers of Pakistan in the Opening Ceremony on July 26.

### Yashma Gill says no issue to befriend Babar Azam



**KARACHI**  
Lollywood diva Yashma Gill said there would be no issue in it if she becomes the friend of Babar Azam.  
She stated this during an interview with a private news channel where she also called the right-arm batsman as his favourite cricketer. She said Babar represented Pakistan at international platforms and it is a matter of pride.  
Responding to another question, she said she had never received any messages from cricketers.  
When asked if she has friendship with any cricketer, Gill replied: "How can she become a friend of a player since she never met any of them".

### Jaiswal, Gill lead India to 10-wicket win over Zimbabwe



**Web Desk**  
Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal struck a superb 93 from 53 balls to guide India to a 10-wicket win over Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club on Saturday and take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match T20 international series.  
A youthful India missing several regulars won the toss and elected to bowl, restricting their hosts to 152 for 28 in 20 overs before reaching their target with seven deliveries remaining.  
It is the second time India have won a T20 fixture by 10 wickets, the last coming against the same opposition at the same venue in 2016.  
Zimbabwe's Pakistan-born captain Sikandar Raza top-scored in their innings with 46 from 63 balls after the home side made a good start with 63 for the first wicket between openers Wessly Madhevere (25) and Tadvanashu Murumani (32).  
But Zimbabwe lost wickets at regular intervals when they tried to accelerate in the second half of the innings with seamer Khaleel Ahmed (2-32) the pick of the visiting bowling attack.  
The target never looked big enough as Jaiswal and captain Shubman Gill (58 from 39 balls) raced to victory with a succession of eye-catching boundaries. The fifth and final match of the series will be played at the same venue on Sunday.