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OPs promoting the country's positive image abroad

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Not seeking extension, says COAS Bajwa



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PTI to challenge ECP verdict; IK calls meeting

ISLAMABAD: Claiming that none could subtract former prime minister Imran Khan from the country's politics, the party, soon after the disqualification of Imran by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the Toshakana reference for the present National Assembly term on Friday, said it would challenge the decision in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday.

The election commission's four-member bench, in its unanimous decision, had also ordered initiation of criminal action against Imran, who was disqualified under article 63-1 P of the constitution for submitting a false affidavit.

The verdict not only rendered Imran de-seated but he also lost the position of the party chairman. The

PTI leaders, meanwhile, have dubbed the Imran Khan's disqualification by ECP as "a political decision, and not a legal one."

Asad Umar said the PTI refused to accept this decision by ECP which is a PDM institution. "We will challenge the verdict. The minus-Imran dream will never be realized." Soon after the verdict was announced, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry, speaking to the media outside the ECP, asked the public to come out of their homes "for their rights".

He called the ECP's ruling a "slap on the face of 220m people" and said, "Today is the beginning of the revolution". "Not just anyone cannot disqualify Imran Khan. Only the public can do that," the PTI leader said. —DNA

Imran found guilty of corrupt practices, PTI slams ECP after IK's disqualification and PTI workers baton charged outside ECP office

ECP disqualifies Imran in Toshakhana case for 5 years

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: In a major legal victory for the ruling coalition on Friday, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), in a consensus verdict in Toshakhana reference, disqualified former prime minister Imran Khan and ruled that the PTI chairman is no more a member of the National Assembly.

Criminal proceedings will be initiated against the PTI chairman for misdeclaration, the verdict said. The ECP stated that Imran Khan submitted a false affidavit and was found involved in corrupt practices under Article 63(1)(p). Under the said article, a lawmaker is disqualified for the time being from being elected or chosen as a member of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or of a provincial assembly.

The decision was taken unanimously by the ECP's five-member bench but the Punjab member Babar Hassan Bharwana was not present today as he was unwell.

"As a sequel to our abovementioned findings, facts available on record and keeping in view the argument of learned counsel for parties herein, we are of the

considered opinion that the Respondent has become disqualified under Article 63(1)(p) of the Constitution read with Section 137, 167 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017, consequently he ceases to be a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and his seat has become vacant accordingly," the ECP order stated.

"As the respondent has made false statements and incorrect declarations, therefore he has also committed the offence of corrupt practices defined under Sections 167 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017, punishable under Section 174 of the Elections Act, 2017. The office is directed to initiate legal proceedings and to take follow-up action under Section 190(2) of the Elections Act, 2017."

The verdict was announced amid tight security in the Red Zone where at least 1,100 police officials were deployed under the command of a senior superintendent of police to control the law and order situation in the area. The officer was assisted by five superintendents and six deputy superintendents of police.

The ECP had reserved its verdict in the

Toshakhana case on September 19 after arguments were completed from both sides. A five-member bench of the ECP, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, heard the case.

Meanwhile, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarrar said that Khan has been disqualified for "five years" by the Election Commission. Speaking after the ECP ruling in the Toshakhana case, the federal minister said Khan provided "wrong information" to the electoral body.

"The Election Commission showed restraint otherwise a separate action could have been taken against him." He said that Imran Khan's aides are calling the verdict unjust, which is wrong.

Meanwhile, reacting strongly to the party chairman's disqualification, PTI leader Fawad Hussain Chaudhry slammed the ECP and said that the election body's attitude had been the worst. "We never pinned any hopes on it."

"This is a shameful decision. They have disgraced the 220-million-strong nation." Meanwhile, PPP Chairman Bi-

lawal Bhutto-Zardari said: "[Khan], who would spread lies about the alleged corruption of his political opponents, has been caught red-handed."

Moreover, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz demanded Khan to be arrested after he was found guilty of corrupt practices. "Pakistan's first certified liar and certified thief disqualified with irrefutable evidence of theft," the PML-N leader said. She alleged that the husband and wife together looted the national kitty.

In August 2022, National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf sent a reference to the ECP under Articles 62A, 63A, and 223, seeking former prime minister Imran Khan's disqualification in the light of the Toshakhana scam.

The disqualification reference was filed by Ali Gohar Khan, PML-N's Mohsin Nawaz Ranjha, and five others.

The 28-page reference identified 52 gift items of Toshakhana received by the former prime minister Khan, violating the law and rules, taken away at nominal prices and most of the gifts were sold in the market, including

Despite political noise, PSX ends with 0.18pc gain

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) experienced a topsy-turvy ride on the final session of the week and the benchmark index registered a gain of 0.18 percent owing to late value buying.

Moreover, the market remained in anticipation of the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) decision over Pakistan's grey-list status, set to be announced later on Friday. By the end of the session, the KSE-100 Index gained 76.44 points or 0.18 percent to close at 42,213.4.

Investors adopted a cautious approach as trading activity remained subdued during the first half of the trading session. It then fell to the day's low of

41,790.65, losing 346.39 points. On a weekly basis, the benchmark index gained 0.63%.

"Market opened on a negative note in the second half of trading session on news that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has disqualified Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for making 'false statements and incorrect declaration,' triggering protests in various cities," said Topline Securities in a report. "However, value buying came in closing hours of the trade as index managed to close in the green zone," it added.

Capital Stake, in its report, stated that Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) ended last trading session of the week flat.



ISLAMABAD: Ex-Presidents of GCCI Muhammad Shoaib Butt and Iqbal Butt present a cheque for PM Flood Relief Fund to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Rupee breaks losing streak, gains 11 paise

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistan's rupee ended its depreciation run against the US dollar, and registered a minor gain of 0.05 percent in the inter-bank on Friday.

As per the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the rupee closed at 220.84 after appreciating 11 paise. After the minor gain, the rupee has depreciated an overall 1.38% in the last eight sessions. It may be recalled that at the close of business last week, the value of the dollar increased marginally in the interbank market and the dollar rose by 5 paise to close at Rs218.43 paise while in the open market it had risen by Rs4 to close at Rs226.

EC decision is victory of nation: Fazlur Rehman

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F and PDM head Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said earlier they have ousted Imran Khan from power and today he has got him ousted from national politics.

Dubbing the election commission decision against Imran Khan as victory of nation, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said the reaction demonstrated from PTI following the Election Commission decision shows its bewilderment.

He cautioned if PTI leadership and workers made any bid to foment chaos the people will crush them. Nation is not prepared now to be more misled now. Imran plundered the whole world, he said adding he says something else in the morning and something other in the evening. His narrative

changes daily.

Idol of sadaqat, amanat stands smashed: PM

PM Shahbaz Sharif has said election commission has done justice in Toshakana reference and the idol of "sadaqat, amanat" stands smashed now.

In his tweet, PM said nation has seen that the office of PM was made source of personal gains by indulging in corrupt practice. Instead of fighting with law and bringing fasadi jathay, head should be bowed before the law, he added. No one is above law, he remarked.

Imran Khan proved certified thief: PPP

SAPM and PPP spokesperson Faisal Karim Kundi and federal minister

After 4 long years, FATF pulls Pak out of 'grey list'

The Business Report

PARIS: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) — the world's money laundering and terror-financing watchdog — said on Friday that Pakistan has been removed from the grey list and is no longer subject to its increased monitoring process. The Paris-based inter-governmental body had put Pakistan on its grey list of untrustworthy jurisdictions in June 2018 because of "strategic counter-terrorist financing-related deficiencies."

China 'thwarts' Indian move ahead of FATF moot

China has once again thwarted an Indian move in the United Nations to malign Pakistan just days before an important meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The first FATF plenary under the two-year Singapore presidency is taking place on Oct 20-21 in Paris. The financial watchdog is expected to

consider a proposal to move Pakistan from the so-called grey list of potential violators to the whitelist. On Tuesday, India made a move in the United States to blacklist Shahid Mahmood, who had been designated by the US in 2016 as a Lashkar-e-Taiba fundraiser. On Wednesday, India made another move to blacklist Hafiz Talah Saeed, the son of Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed.

China, however, thwarted both moves by putting a hold on the Indian proposals. Highlighting such groups so close to the FATF plenary would have boosted India's efforts to keep Pakistan on the grey list. "These Indian listings relate to moribund organisations and are designed to malign Pakistan and distract attention from India's sponsorship of TTP and BLA terrorism," Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram told Dawn.

Besides supporting terrorist groups in Pakistan, India was also going for Chinese targets to "sabotage CPEC and Pak-

istan-China economic cooperation," Ambassador Akram added. "We're glad China has rejected India's malign moves." In Islamabad, a spokesperson for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs told journalists that such moves were part of a "malevolent campaign" by India, through media leaks. "This is not the first time the Indian media has been fed through official leaks to promote misleading, baseless and fabricated propaganda against Pakistan, just before the official FATF meetings," the spokesperson said.

The statement noted that the FATF and the wider intl community "has repeatedly acknowledged the steps taken by Pakistan." The spokesperson pointed out that despite India's "feverish attempts" to politicise the process and cast doubts on Pakistan's efforts and accomplishments, FATF agreed in June 2022 meeting that Pak had fully completed all substantive and procedural requirements of both its 2018 and 2021 Action Plans.

Fitch downgrades Pak default rating to CCC+ from B-

The Business Report

LONDON: Fitch Ratings on Friday downgraded Pakistan's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'CCC+' from 'B-'. In a statement, the agency said that it does not typically assign outlooks to sovereign nations with a rating of 'CCC+' or below.

Giving rationale behind the downgrade, the agency flagged worsening liquidity and policy risks. "The downgrade reflects further deterioration in Pakistan's external liquidity and funding conditions, and the decline of foreign exchange reserves," Fitch Ratings said. "This is partly a result of widespread floods, which will undermine Pakistan's efforts to rein in twin fiscal and current account deficits." The downgrade "also reflects our view of increased risks of policies potentially undermining Pakistan's International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme and official financial support."

Speaking about foreign exchange reserves, it said that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had about \$7.6 billion till 14 October 2022 which can cover about a month of current external payments.

It also noted that forex reserves had tumbled from over \$20 billion at the end of August 2021. "Falling reserves reflect large, albeit, declining current account deficits (CADs), external debt servicing and earlier foreign exchange interventions by the SBP," he said.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi laying the foundation stone of development schemes in Gujrat.

Punjab Govt to approach SCP for wheat import, says Elahi

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi regretted that Shehbaz Sharif didn't permit the Punjab government, not any private sector, to import wheat for the people when it sought permission from the federal government for the same.

Talking to the media after laying the foundation stone of development schemes in Gujrat, the CM deplored that the person who is calling himself the prime minister should have some knowledge. First Shehbaz Sharif should read my statement and then respond; he suggested and further advised that Shehbaz Sharif should

think before speaking. His job is only limited to talking and he is skilled in frequent lies, the CM maintained. The Punjab govt asked for permission to import wheat from the federal government and Shehbaz did not allow it, he noted. Punjab govt is not the private sector but the Government of Punjab, he emphasised.

The federal government is obstructing the supply of wheat and flour to the common man and it did not help the flood victims either, he mentioned. The federal government should allow us to import wheat, he added. The federal government provided wheat to other provinces, except Punjab. We will take this issue

to the Supreme Court, he announced.

Disqualification of most popular leader is a cruel joke: CM

Punjab CM Ch Parvez Elahi has said that we are with our leader Imran Khan every moment and reject the decision to disqualify Imran Khan.

Reacting to the EC's decision, CM Parvez Elahi asserted that disqualifying the most popular leader of Pakistan is a cruel joke to the nation.

We stand by our leader and will continue to stand, he added. Former federal minister Moonis Elahi expressed his reaction to the decision of the EC and said that disqualifying the most popular leader of Pakistan is a cruel joke to the nation.