



LAHORE ▶ P2
FPCCI chief should be of the Federal Minister status

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Asif for fair probe into firing incident on PTI's long march



I didn't like the way Imran ran drive: Accused

LAHORE: Important facts were revealed as the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Friday interrogated the Wazirabad firing incident accused, Naveed. He listed reasons for his disliking the way Imran Khan wanted to run his political campaign on religious lines.

In a confessional statement, Naveed said Imran Khan quoting the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH) talked of spreading his message. Imran Khan has asked his supporters to spread his message the way Holy Prophet (PBUH) had preached Islam, he added.

He further said this statement of Imran Khan insinuated that he is himself a prophet of the 14th Islamic century. "I did not like that," he added. "Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the

seal of prophethood. The State of Medina was envisioned and built by the Prophet, we did not need another state of Madinah," he made it clear in his statement. "How can Imran talk about the state of Medina? Music was being played from the container at the time of Azaan," he said. The interrogation from the accused revealed that the accused was a drug addict, and he bought 26 bullets along with a pistol for Rs20,000. He bought the pistol from one named Waqas who took it from another person named Faisal Butt, according to police.

Raids were carried out at the houses of Waqas and Faisal Butt in Wazirabad and Sialkot, respectively, but they could not be arrested. The accused first tried to use the roof of a mosque to fire shots at his



LAHORE: PTI workers protest outside the Governor House against attack on Imran Khan.

■ Large-scale protests in other major cities, including Lahore

Arrests made as PTI workers, police clash at Pindi, Karachi

The Business Report

LAHORE: Major cities across country including Karachi, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore and Quetta saw large-scale protests on Friday after an assassination attempt on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran a day ago. PTI supporters blocked streets and chanted slogans in favour of Imran.

In Rawalpindi, protesters occupied Murree Road and Faizabad Interchange. Moreover, they pelted stones at the police at Faizabad Interchange while law enforcement agencies resorted to shelling and baton-charging. Police is also employing the help of drones for shelling. Five miscreants have been arrested. In a tweet, Islamabad Capital Police said "demonstrators are gathered with sticks, slingshots and stones, these protesters may also be armed".

Due to the protest, diversions have been placed on both sides of traffic at Murree Road before Faizabad. Alternatively, commuters are asked to use Islamabad Highway and Stadium Road.

The police requested Rawalpindi administration to stop the protesters from illegal actions. Islamabad Capital Police is busy identifying the miscreants and it will take legal action with the

help of Rawalpindi Police, it said. Young children are also present in the protesters, it said and requested parents to prevent their children from being part of any illegal activities. In Lahore, a large number of PTI supporters are protesting at Shahdara Chowk, Faisal Chowk, Liberty Chowk and Governor House. Traffic in these areas is being diverted to alternate routes. Moreover, operations of the Metro Bus Service in the city have been suspended. PTI supporters are burning tyres outside the Governor's House and some demonstrators tried to break into the building and broke CCTV cameras.

They are also clashing with the law enforcement authorities. In Karachi, a large number of protesters gathered outside Insaf House at Shahrah-e-Faisal. The Karachi Traffic Police asked commuters to avoid traveling on Shahrah-e-Faisal and use alternate routes to avoid hassle and inconvenience.

Protesters tried to enter the red zone but they were stopped by police that fired tear gas shells and baton charged against the demonstrators. Nearly 15 people have been arrested. People are on the way to Metropole to stage a protest. On Friday, Imran held a meeting at Shaukat Khanum hospital in Lahore with senior leaders of the party follow-

ing the firing incident on Thursday during PTI's long march in which he sustained a bullet to his leg. PTI is terming it an assassination attempt.

Earlier on Friday, PTI leader Asad Umar had announced countrywide protest after prayers. "The protests will continue until Imran Khan's demands are met," he tweeted. On Thursday, Imran sustained an injury in Wazirabad, Gujranwala. The firing also resulted in injuries to PTI leader Faisal Javed Khan.

The incident came as PTI's long march entered its seventh day. Imran had planned to spend the whole day in Wazirabad. His march, termed by the political party as 'Haqeeqi Azadi', has looked to build pressure on the coalition-led government to call early elections. The PTI's North Punjab Twitter handle posted a video showing citizens protesting in Faisalabad. PTI leader Fawad Ch said that the top leadership of PTI held a meeting at the Shaukat Khanum hospital where the doctors briefed them about PTI chairman's operation.

"According to the initial reports, there was more than one attacker," Fawad said. He further said that the leadership expressed disappointment at IG Punjab's performance and demanded his immediate replacement.

ECC approves increase in petroleum levy

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has approved the increase of Petroleum Development Levy on Friday. A meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee was held under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

According to sources the increase in Petroleum Development Levy has been approved in the meeting. Approval was given to increase the rate of petroleum development levy on high premium. The increase in the rate of Petroleum Development Levy has been approved on the condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to the sources, it has been approved in the meeting to impose a levy rate of 50 rupees on high octane petrol and a levy of 50 rupees will be imposed on high octane petrol from November 16.

Sources said that the summary regarding imposition of sales tax on petroleum products has been discussed in the meeting. According to sources in the Ministry of Finance, Petroleum Development Levy of Rs 30 was imposed on High Octane. —Online

Centre may take over Governor House's security

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government on Friday considered taking over the responsibility of Punjab Governor House's security, following the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) protest. Sources privy to the matter said that the security of the Punjab Governor House might be handed over to the Rangers or FC personnel.

In this regard, the report has also been summoned from the concerned authorities. After concluding the discussion over the matter with the concerned authorities, the decision will be taken over the deployment of the security of the federal institutions. —DNA

Cabinet approves 300,000 ton of wheat from Russia

ISLAMABAD: In a major progress in Pak-Russia trade relations, the federal cabinet Friday approved the purchase of 300,000 ton of wheat from Russia. According to the official sources, wheat will be bought at the government level at \$372 per ton.

The cabinet approved the October 31 decision of ECC through circulation. It is to be noted here that Russia had offered to provide wheat to Pakistan. The process of importing 300,000 ton of wheat from Russia will be completed by January 15, 2023.

According to sources, the government would import 300,000 MT of specified milling wheat at \$372/MT for the shipment period from November 1 to January 15, 2023. The development comes days after the ECC approved the summary for the purchase of 300,000 MT of wheat from Russia on a G2G basis. —DNA

'Country running out of gas reservoirs'

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for petroleum Musadik Malik cautioned Friday the country was slowly running out of its gas reservoirs, adding that the govt was considering increasing levy on petroleum products.

In his media briefing, the state minister said government's top priority was to provide sufficient gas to household users. "Meters at lowest levels are being installed to check gas provision," he said. The minister said gas would not be provided to consumers without installation of their meters. He said the ration of gas theft at Sui Northern was merely eight percent. Gas meters would be installed at every Town Monitoring System with next half of year, he said. Malik added that the gas provision would be blocked in 'elite' areas to ensure the sufficient supply of LPG. —APP

Negative sentiment, PSX down over 230

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) as the benchmark KSE-100 Index recorded a fall of 0.56%, while volume and value of shares traded declined on Friday. Indices slipped lower and lower throughout the trading session. By the end of the session, the KSE-100 Index closed with a decrease of 234.4 points or 0.56% to close at 41,856.31.

On Thursday, the Index had risen for the fourth successive session to close with an increase of 146.12 points or 0.35% to close at 42,090.71 points. But across-the-board selling pressure was witnessed on Friday as the market was hit by political instability,

after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan was shot in the shin on Thursday when his anti-government protest convoy came under attack in Wazirabad, Gujranwala in what his aides claim was an assassination attempt.

After the initial reaction, a recovery was witnessed at PSX, but it was short-lived after PTI announced countrywide protests would take place on Friday after afternoon prayers.

"The protests will continue until Imran Khan's demands are met," said PTI leader Asad Umar. "The negative reaction was expected following yesterday's development," Sana Tawfik, vice-president research and a senior analyst at Arif Habib Limited (AHL), told media.

I was aware of attack, claims Imran Khan

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: In his first address after the assassination attempt on Thursday, former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said he was aware of the "plot to kill" him.

Addressing the media from Shaukat Khanam hospital in Lahore, where he is currently under treatment, Imran said he had learned about the looming danger beforehand.

"I had already learned that there was a plan in place to kill me somewhere between Wazirabad and Gujrat," Khan said. Explaining the turn of events since his ouster, the PTI chief said the Pakistan Democratic Movement

(PDM) and their handlers believed that his chapter would be closed after toppling his government.

However, when the public came out in large numbers to protest my ouster "through a foreign-funded conspiracy," they got scared. "Since then, the PTI has won 38 out of 39 elections, which proves the point that PTI is the most popular party in the country," he said.

Condition of Imran Khan stable: Murad Ras

The Provincial Minister of Punjab Murad Ras Friday said that condition of PTI chairman Imran has further improved. The Punjab minister was speaking to reporters in Lahore after visiting Imran at Shaukat Khanam Hospital.

Attack on Imran is clear case of religious extremism: Sana

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Friday that attack on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan is a clear case of religious extremism as the culprit has confessed in his leaked video statement.

While addressing the press conference, the minister said that intolerance is being mounted in the country and there is a dire need to curb this menace. "We were facing the issue of religious extremism but now we have come across a new challenge of political extremism," he added. He further said that Imran Khan should change his attitude. He also said that Imran Khan should re-evaluate his security arrangements and made appropriate changes to beef up the level. Sanaullah termed the suspect's second statement as against democracy.

Noting that the Punjab government had moved swiftly to suspend all the of-

ficers of the Gujrat police station, where the suspect was kept in custody and interrogated, he raised questions. "I am wondering how can someone can release such a damaging statement of the suspect." He also asked whether the original statement of the suspect was leaked or deliberately released to the public. He said Imran Khan must make better security if he wishes to continue with his long march, adding that further questions had been raised after a second video of the principle suspect emerged after phones of police staff was confiscated.

While commenting on the leaked video statement of the attacker, he said that making video viral is a dangerous practice. He said that it is matter of concern that FIR of the incident has not been registered so far. He said that perhaps PTI leadership wants to register FIR as per their own wish and desires.

The minister said that no efforts were made by the government to halt the long march, adding that the government is afraid of neither Imran Khan nor long march. He said that Imran Khan is their political rival, not an enemy. "The PTI has levelled the allegations without any proofs. It can be extremely dangerous to viral the videos of the accused," he maintained. The minister said that four people have so far been killed in the long march. "The process of division has been deepened. It will have to consider how to end the attitude of intolerance," he added.

He said that the PTI worker killed in Wazirabad was identified as Moazzam. "The PM has announced financial assistance for the persons killed in the long march," he added. Sanaullah asked why has the Punjab police waited so long to register a FIR about the incident nearly 24 hours after it took place. —APP



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi and ministers offer dua for the early recovery of Imran Khan.

Punjab Cabinet condemn attack on Imran Khan

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi on Friday presided over the Punjab Cabinet meeting in which a condemnation resolution on the firing incident on Imran Khan was unanimously approved.

It was stated in the resolution that the Punjab Cabinet meeting strongly condemned the firing incident on the Chairman PTI Imran Khan during Haqeeqi Azadi march. It was stated in the resolution that Imran Khan as a most popular political leader in all the four provinces of Pakistan holds the position of oneness. It was further stated that assault on Imran Khan tan-

amount to a nefarious action which is meant to sabotage law & order along with unity as well as integrity of the country and the prima facie motive behind this assault is to create unrest and instability in the country.

It was further said in the resolution that Punjab cabinet meeting pay tributes to the sacrifice of the martyred party worker Moazzam Gondal during the Wazirabad firing incident. The Punjab Cabinet pray for the early recovery of all the injured persons including Imran Khan. The Punjab Cabinet reiterates the resolve to bring all the persons directly and indirectly involved in the assault before the court of law. It was further stated in

the resolution that the cabinet meeting pay homage to the sacrifices of the senior journalist Arshad Sharif martyred and Sadaf Naeem martyred.

CM visits Tablighi Ijtema to review arrangements

CM Parvez Elahi visited the international Tablighi ijtema at Raiwind and met with the Ameer of the international Tablighi Jamaat Maulana Nazur-ur-Rahman. He also met with Maulana Ahmad Laat and other scholars, including Maulana Ibrahim, who came from India. Maulana Nazur-ur-Rahman and Maulana Ibrahim prayed for the stability.

● Continued on Back Page