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‘TTP, Jandullah plan to target embassies, Shia clerics’

By Asad Kharal

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LAHORE: Reports issued by the country’s intelligence agencies have revealed that the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the Jandullah group and banned local militant outfits plan to target foreigners, embassies, Shia clerics and imambargahs in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Okara and Karachi, daily Aaj Kal learned on Sunday.

According to sources, the agencies have also warned of attacks on Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leaders at the party’s public meetings, district police lines, office of the divisional police officer (DPO). The TTP has tasked Abu Adil Mujahid to carry out the potential attacks, they added.

Another intelligence report revealed that extremists have trained a suicide bomber identified as Khayal Shah to carry out attacks on high-value targets and a vehicle has been rigged with 80 kilogrammes of explosives to be used in an attack. The report goes on to warn that a motorcycle owned by the Punjab Police Special Branch has also been stolen and it is feared that it might be used in a terrorist attack.

Another report revealed that a specific group of banned militant outfits have planned to carry out suicide attacks on the district police lines and the DPO’s office in Okara. It went on to state that extremist might carry out target-killing incidents in Punjab to the target killing of MQM leader Raza Haider in Karachi.

The reports highlight the TTP's plans to carry out large-scale attacks in Karachi, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore and other big cities of Punjab during the month of Ramazan. Furthermore, the Punjab Home Department has issued a circular to the provincial inspector general, urging security to be beefed up in the province in light of the terrorists' reported plans of carrying out target killing in Punjab. After receiving the agencies' reports, police and other law enforcement agencies have directed security to be immediately put on red alert across the country to prevent extremists' from carrying out their nefarious designs.