



Russia should produce previously banned missiles: Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that Russia should start producing short and intermediate-range missiles that were previously banned under a now-defunct arms treaty with the United States.



CM Bugti announces austerity measures to diminish unnecessary expenditures

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Friday said government has decided to adopt austerity measures and diminish unnecessary expenditures to ensure that public money is spent on the welfare of an ordinary man.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on the matters related to Federal Board of Revenue on Friday.



Photo: Online

Pakistan decides to change envoy to US

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to replace Masood Khan and appoint Additional Foreign Secretary (Middle East and SIFC) Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh as envoy to the United States.

Masood Khan has been serving as ambassador to Washington since February 2022. He was nominated for the post by the then prime minister Imran Khan in November 2021.

In another major diplomatic appointment, the government has decided to appoint senior diplomat Asim Iftikhar, who's serving as Pakistan's ambassador in France, as its additional permanent representative to the UN.

He said Iftikhar will, at a suitable time, assume the office of the permanent representative, which is currently held by Munir Akram.

Assumed this position on November 1, 2019. The spokesperson said the appointments were being cogitated for several weeks and the announcement regarding the appointments was a normal procedure.

Zahra Baloch, while commenting on the US House of Representative's resolution, regretted the development, saying Pakistan had resolved to relations based on mutual respect and non-interference with the US.

The US Congress should work for strengthening Pakistan-US relationships, she said adding that Pakistan had apprised America about its serious reservations over the resolution.

"The resolution by the US House of Representatives is an unwarranted interference in Pakistan's internal affairs," she said.

NA regrets US resolution, asserts Pakistan's sovereignty

NA reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to safeguarding, upholding democratic principles as enshrined in Constitution

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly has passed a resolution regretting the resolution passed by the US House of Representatives, stating that Pakistan, as an independent and sovereign country, will not accept any interference in its internal affairs.

The resolution, moved by Shaista Pervaiz Malik, further asserted that the US resolution reflects an incomplete and erroneous understanding of Pakistan's political and electoral processes.

It highlighted that the US resolution fails to acknowledge the



free and enthusiastic exercise of voting rights by millions of Pakistanis in the recently held General

Election. The National Assembly reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment

to safeguarding and upholding democratic principles and norms as enshrined in the Constitution, in line with the aspirations of the people and the vision of the country's founding fathers.

The resolution also brought attention to more pressing issues for the US Congress, such as ongoing acts of genocide in Gaza, gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and state-sanctioned atrocities against minorities, especially Muslims, in India.

The House called upon the US and the international community to take immediate steps to

alleviate the suffering of innocent people in Gaza and IIOJK.

It expressed hope that in the future, the US Congress will play a more constructive role in strengthening Pakistan-US bilateral relations by focusing on avenues of collaboration for the mutual benefit of both countries.

The resolution called upon the government of Pakistan to enhance bilateral cooperation with the United States by improving channels of communication to dispel such misperceptions and work towards harmonious relationships for the progress and prosperity of people of both countries.

Afghan soil being used for terrorism in Pakistan: Asif

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said that the Afghan territory was being used for committing terrorism, bloodshed, and destruction in Pakistan.

Pakistan possessed concrete evidence that its enemies had sanctuaries in Afghanistan and would take counter measures to defend its citizens, he said while speaking in the National Assembly.

The defence minister recounted his visit to Kabul, during which he had conveyed to the Afghan authorities that fostering good relations would be beneficial for both nations.

He urged the opposition not to do politicking on terrorism as it was a matter of national security and honouring the blood



of martyrs.

Khawaja Asif highlighted the adverse impacts of terrorism on the country's economy, alleging that some opposition members had links with the Taliban. Such people had facilitated the return of 6,000 terrorists of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to the country, he added.

The minister stressed the importance of national unity in combating terrorism and protecting Pakistan's sovereignty and security. APP

Journalists' issues to be solved on priority basis: Info Minister

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has assured journalists that problems faced by them will be solved on priority basis.

Talking to newsmen outside Parliament House in Islamabad on Friday, he announced to constitute a committee for protection of rights of journalists.

The Minister said a mechanism will be made and meetings will be held with the provincial governments to investigate the cases regarding the killing of journalists.

He said the government

National Assembly passes Finance Bill, 2024

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly has passed the Finance Bill, 2024 with certain amendments, giving effect to the financial proposals of the federal government for the year beginning on the 1st July 2024.

A motion to this effect was moved by Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Having the total outlay of 18877 billion rupees, the budget focuses on fiscal consolidation.

The gross revenue receipts have been estimated at 17815 billion rupees. These include FBR's revenue collection of 12970 billion rupees and non-tax revenue 4845 billion rupees. The share of provinces in the federal receipts will be 7438 billion rupees.

The growth rate is expected to be 3.6 percent during the next fiscal

PM to personally review ongoing reforms in FBR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has directed to hire the services of talented and professional lawyers to take up various cases related to Federal Board of Revenue, pending at different courts and tribunals. Chairing a meeting to deliberate on the matters related to Federal Board of Revenue in Islamabad today, he further directed to establish Customs Appellate Tribunals along with Inland Revenue Appellate Tribunals for expeditious disposal

of tax related cases. The Prime Minister said he would personally chair the weekly meetings to review ongoing reforms in the FBR and revenue collection. He said the Federal Board of Revenue has a key role in the country's economy. Shehbaz Sharif stressed the need of collective efforts for development of the country. He directed to formulate a comprehensive policy for honoring the officials and officers of FBR, who would show excellent performance.

year. Inflation is expected to be 12 percent, budget deficit 5.9 percent of GDP and primary surplus will be one percent of GDP. The development budget has been set at the historic level of 1500

billion rupees. The budget envisages 25 percent increase in the salaries of government employees from Grade-1 to 16 and 20 percent from Grade-17 to 22.

Continued on Page 8

PTI conflicts deepen

ISLAMABAD: Strife within the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) continues to escalate as Sher Afzal Marwat demanded resignation from Shibli Faraz, saying that the party will only then be freed from the "qabza mafia".

His demand came after Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub stepped down as the PTI Secretary General on Thursday, saying there would be more changes in the party's organisational structure.

"I demand resignation of Shibli Faraz from party positions and as leader of the Opposition in Senate," said Marwat, who has been at loggerheads with Faraz and other party leaders.

In May, Marwat also refused to work with Senator Faraz and Omar, saying they didn't allow him to meet incarcerated PTI founder.

Contempt of court

SC accepts Vawda, Kamal's apologies

Both lawmakers issued unconditional apology after statements

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday accepted the apology tendered by Senator Faisal Vawda and Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) lawmaker Mustafa Kamal and withdrew the contempt of court notice issued to them.

According to the court's order, read by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, both the parliamentarians — Senator Faisal Vawda and Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Mustafa Kamal — have realised that the words they used were inappropriate.

"They have now withdrawn their statement and tendered an unconditional apology to the court," read the order.

Vawda, on Wednesday, tendered an unconditional apology to the apex court in the contempt case, saying that he has left himself on the mercy of the apex court. Kamal had, earlier this month, also sought an unconditional apology for his remarks against the judiciary.

The court further wrote about withdrawing the show-cause notice issued to both politicians in view of their reflection on the matter and tendering of

apology. During the hearing, the chief justice remarked: "In Article 66 — freedom of speech to speak in the parliament — of the Constitution, you can stand up and speak in the parliament."

CJP Isa instructed both politicians to "be careful in the future" when mentioning the judiciary. "We respect you and hope you respect us. Demeaning each other will harm the public," said the chief justice.

CJP told Vawda and Kamal that Article 66 protects lawmakers from speaking in the Parliament and not outside it.

The court's decision comes more than a month after it had issued contempt of court notices to both politicians after they had done hard-hitting press conferences against the judiciary in May, with Vawda saying that no allegations could be levelled without evidence and Kamal sought to establish ethical standards for the judges as justice could "only be bought".

Their statements had come after six Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges wrote a letter to

Continued on Page 8

Pakistan's economy witnesses positive growth

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Different sectors of Pakistan's economy have witnessed positive trajectory during the outgoing fiscal year 2023-24 due to prudent policies of the government.

According to Economic Outlook report

of Finance Division, the agriculture sector witnessed an overall growth of 6.3 percent with strong quarterly growth rates during the fiscal year 2023-24.

The foreign investment during July-May 2023-24 recorded an inflow of 1.2 billion dollars as against 0.5 billion dollars of previous fiscal year.

The total foreign exchange reserves increased to 13.1 billion dollars this month while net federal revenues grew by 51 percent to reach 5627.5 billion rupees against 3715.3 billion rupees last year.

The Consumer Price Index inflation reached its lowest level in 30 months and was recorded at 11.8 percent last month,

showing a significant decline from 38.0 percent in the same month of last year.

Large scale manufacturing sector experienced moderate growth of 0.45 percent during July-April of fiscal year 2023-24, marking an improvement of 8.8 percent as compared to same period of last fiscal year.













