

PM unlikely to attend G7 summit in Canada

NEW DELHI, June 2 (PTI)

FOR the first time in six years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unlikely to attend the upcoming G7 summit to be held in Canada's Alberta province, people familiar with the matter said on Monday. Canada is hosting the summit from June 15 to 17 that is expected to deliberate on pressing challenges facing the globe including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia.

It is learnt that Ottawa is yet to send an invitation to the Indian prime minister for the summit, but Modi, in any way, would have skipped it as such a visit would have required a lot of groundwork considering the current state of ties between the two sides, said the people cited above.

The India-Canada relations hit rock bottom following then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in 2023 of a potential Indian link to the killing of pro-Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

However, Liberal Party leader Mark Carney's victory in the parliamentary election in April triggered hopes for reset of the relationship.

The assessment in New Delhi has been that there was no clear indication yet from the new Government in Canada to address India's concerns over activities of the pro-Khalistani elements in that country.

Moreover, there has been no significant forward movement by New Delhi and Canada to restore each other's high commissioners.

In October last year, India recalled its High Commissioner and five other diplomats after Ottawa attempted to link them to the Nijjar case.

India also expelled an equal number of Canadian diplomats. "For a prime ministerial visit, we needed to carry out a lot of groundwork considering the State of bilateral relations," explained one of the people.

Above all, security is a major issue, said another person aware of India-Canada ties. In the last few months, the security officials of India and Canada resumed contacts and both sides were looking at the possibility of appointing new high commissioners.

The exit of Trudeau was seen as an opportunity to improve bilateral ties.

Karol Nawrocki is Poland's President

WARSAW, June 2 (AP)

CONSERVATIVE Karol Nawrocki won Poland's weekend presidential runoff election, according to the final vote count on Monday.

Nawrocki won 50.89% of votes in a very tight race against liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, who received 49.11%.

The close race had the country on edge since a first round two weeks earlier and through the night into Monday, revealing deep divisions in the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union.

An early exit poll released Sunday evening suggested Trzaskowski was headed to victory before updated polling began to reverse the picture hours later. The outcome indicates that Poland can be expected to take a more nationalist path under its new leader, who was backed by US President Donald Trump. Most day-to-day power in the Polish political system rests with a prime minister chosen by the parliament. However, the president's role is not merely ceremonial. The office holds the power to influence foreign policy and to veto legislation.

Nawrocki will succeed Andrzej Duda, a conservative whose second and final term ends on Aug 6. Prime Minister Donald Tusk came to power in late 2023 at the end of a coalition Government that spans a broad ideological divide — so broad that it hasn't been able to fulfill certain of Tusk's electoral promises, such as loosening the restrictive abortion law.

But Duda's veto power has been another obstacle. It has prevented Tusk from fulfilling promises to reverse laws that politicized the court system in a way that the European Union declared to be undemocratic.

Now it appears Tusk will have no way to fulfill those promises, which he had made both to voters and to the EU.

India to get remaining S-400 missile systems by 2026, says Russia

NEW DELHI, June 2 (PTI)

RUSSIA is committed to delivering the remaining units of the S-400 air defence system to India by 2025-2026, the country's Deputy Chief of Mission in India, Roman Babushkin, said on Monday, highlighting that the



system performed "very efficiently" during the recent India-Pakistan tensions.

Babushkin also hinted at expanding bilateral cooperation with India in air defence and anti-drone systems. "We heard

that the S-400 performed very efficiently during the recent clashes between India and Pakistan. We have a long history of collaboration. The air defence systems, according to what we are experiencing, the situation in Europe and here, this is one of the promising topics of our partnership in defence preparation in general," Babushkin said.

Babushkin confirmed that the contract for the remaining two S-400 units is on track, with deliveries expected to be completed by 2025-26, in line with publicly announced timelines.

India signed a USD 5.43 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for five squadrons of the S-400 Triumf missile system, a State-of-the-art air defence platform capable of engaging multiple aerial threats at long ranges.

Three squadrons have already been delivered.

Pak despatches high-level delegations to US, Russia

■ By Sajjad Hussain

ISLAMABAD, June 2 (PTI)

A HIGH-LEVEL Pakistani delegation, comprising three former Foreign Ministers, is travelling to the US as part of Islamabad's global diplomatic push to seek support following its recent conflict with India.

The Pakistani team will be in the US around the same time an Indian parliamentary delegation led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor is visiting the US to highlight India's policy of zero-tolerance to terrorism and expose Pakistan's support to terrorist groups. On PM Shehbaz Sharif's directive, a high-level multi-party delegation will visit New York, Washington DC, London and

Brussels from June 2," the Foreign Office (FO) said on Monday. The nine-member delegation is led by the Pakistan People's Party Chairman and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The move comes after India sent seven multi-party delegations to 33 global capitals as part of its diplomatic outreach following the terrorist attack.

Another delegation, led by Special Assistant to PM, Syed Tariq Fatemi, will visit Moscow from June 2. The details of its composition were not shared. The two delegations would engage in a series of meetings with the leadership of international bodies, public office holders, senior officials, parliamentarians, think tanks, media and diaspora.

INS Darshak visits Vietnam to boost **HYDROGRAPHIC TIES**

NEW DELHI, June 2 (ANI)

IN LINE with the MAHASAGAR vision of India, the Indian Navy's hydrography vessel INS Darshak visited Ho Chi Minh City to strengthen India-Vietnam hydrographic cooperation, the Indian Navy said in a tweet on Monday.

This visit is part of ongoing efforts to enhance bilateral maritime ties and cooperation between India and Vietnam, reinforcing the strategic partnership in the Indo-Pacific region.

During the visit, Capt C Praveen Thomas, Commanding Officer, and Col S Muthukrishnan, Defence Attache, paid homage to Vietnam's founding father by laying a wreath at the statue of Ho Chi Minh. INS Darshak hosted officers from the Vietnam People's Navy, Vietnam Border Guard, senior Vietnamese



Government delegates, and members of the Indian diaspora onboard.

The vessel showcased its hydrographic survey capabilities, which aid regional maritime safety and nautical charting. Professional discussions took place during technical demon-

strations, and a friendly volleyball match fostered camaraderie between the crews of both navies.

A cultural deck reception was held, where the Consul General and Captain of the ship welcomed dignitaries, including Senior Captain Trieu Thanh Tung and Le Van Dieng.

'India, Paraguay stand united against terrorism'

NEW DELHI, June 2 (PTI)

INDIA and Paraguay stand united in the fight against terrorism and there is immense possibility to work unitedly to combat shared challenges such as cybercrime and drug trafficking, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

Modi made the remarks at delegation-level talks with Paraguayan President Santiago Pena Palacios.

Pena arrived in Delhi this morning on a three-day visit to India to explore ways to expand overall cooperation.

It is his first visit to India and only the second trip by a president of the South American country.

Paraguay is an important trading partner for India in the Latin American region. Several Indian companies in the automobile and pharmaceuticals sectors have their presence in Paraguay. "We see new oppor-

tunities for cooperation in areas such as digital technology, critical minerals, energy, agriculture, healthcare, defence, railways, space and overall economic partnership," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also referred to New Delhi's preferential trade arrangement with South American trading bloc MERCOSUR. "We can work

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Paraguay Santiago Pena Palacios during a meeting at the Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on Monday.

(PTI)