

India gets FATF's vice presidency

NEW DELHI, June 19 (PTI)

INDIA was on Friday accorded the vice presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global body that sets standards for combating money laundering and terrorist financing. India, a member of the influential international body since 2010, is occupying this chair for the first time.

Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal was appointed the Vice President of the body at the conclusion of the plenary meeting held in Paris. Aggarwal is a 1994-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of Madhya Pradesh cadre and has served in the past as the head of the Indian delegation to FATF.

“Members approved the Priorities of the FATF under the incoming UK Presidency, and appointed Mr. Vivek Aggarwal of India as the incoming Vice-President of the FATF (July 2026-June 2027),” the FATF said in the statement.

Delegates from more than 200 jurisdictions and observers gathered in Paris during June 17-19 to discuss threats to global financial integrity and security.

Afghanistan claims airstrikes on ISIS sites in Pakistan

KABUL, June 15 (IANS)

AFGHANISTAN'S Ministry of Defence on Friday claimed that it conducted airstrikes against alleged ISIS-linked targets in Pakistan, local media reported.

In a statement issued on Friday, Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence said that its forces carried out overnight airstrikes against what it said were ISIS-linked facilities in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of Pakistan, Afghanistan-based news agency Khaama Press reported.

The Ministry said that the places that were targeted were allegedly being used to plan and coordinate attacks against Afghanistan. According to Afghan officials, some of the deadliest attacks that occurred in Afghanistan in recent years were connected to networks operating in these areas. The Ministry said "important and designated targets" were successfully hit during these airstrikes, Khaama Press reported. It warned that Afghanistan would act decisively against groups that it considers a danger to the country.

"They have been successfully targeted. It is worth remembering that Afghanistan, henceforth, will not tolerate any threat against its security and stability, and by utilising all its capabilities and capacities, will neutralise and eliminate any threat in its infancy," Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence posted on X.

This latest incident comes amid escalating tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan over the past few months, with repeated exchanges of fire and growing concerns over civilian casualties.

Terrorism support networks in J&K dismantled, 2 held

JAMMU, June 19 (PTI)

JAMMU and Kashmir Police have arrested two suspected terror associates in Kishtwar district as part of an ongoing crackdown on anti-national elements and support networks aiding local terrorists, officials said on Friday. With two more arrests, the total number of the arrests in the case has gone up four, they said.

The arrests were made in connection with a case registered at police station Kishtwar. The action forms part of a sustained effort to dismantle terror support structures operating in the Dachan area of Kishtwar district. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishtwar, Naresh Singh, said that following a meticulous investigation, police arrested Tariq Ahmed Gino, a Government employee in the forest department, and Mohammad Iqbal, both residents of Tander in Dachan, for their alleged involvement in facilitating terrorist activities.

The SSP said the duo is suspected of providing support to local terrorists operating in the region. Earlier in the same case, Muneer Ahmed and Mashkoo Ahmed, both residents of Chatroo, were arrested for similar offences. The SSP said the investigation is continuing to identify and apprehend all individuals linked to the network.

MoD inks Rs 425 crore contract for Navy

NEW DELHI, June 19 (PTI)

THE Defence Ministry on Friday signed a Rs 425-crore contract with a leading firm for the acquisition of 12 sets of 1.25 MW marine gas turbine generators, with a minimum of 60 per cent indigenous content, for the Navy, officials said.

The generator serves as a backbone of modern naval combatants for power generation applications that support critical combat systems and advanced weapon and sensors, they said. The project reinforces the government's commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India by creating a robust domestic manufacturing ecosystem, the ministry said. "It would enhance maritime self-reliance in critical strategic technologies and bolster Indian Navy's operational readiness through indigenous production and end-to-end life-cycle support," it said in a statement.

US-Iran talks 'CALLED OFF'



A man holds his daughter's bicycle as he searches for his belongings in the rubble of a shop damaged in an Israeli strike in the southern port city of Tyre, Lebanon on Friday. (R) Displaced people fleeing Israeli strikes sit in traffic on a highway leading to Beirut in the southern port city of Sidon. (AP/PTI)

Talks called off due to intense fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon in which 21 people and four Israel soldiers were killed

Iranian officials didn't travel to Switzerland, insisting that fighting in Lebanon must stop before the talks

US Vice President Vance also cancels trip citing logistical issues

agreement to end the war in Iran. Iranian officials didn't travel as planned to Switzerland, insisting that the fighting in Lebanon must stop before the talks can take place, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing mediation to try to get the talks rescheduled. US Vice President JD Vance also cancelled his trip.

Israel's military struck targets in southern and eastern Lebanon overnight, and Hezbollah reported intense fighting. Lebanon's Health Ministry said at least 21 people were killed, and Israel said four soldiers died.

The conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah is the most precarious part of the Iran deal. Neither Israel nor the militant group signed the agreement - but it is supposed to end their fighting, and Iran has signaled its willingness to risk renewed war

Israel, Hezbollah agree to renew their ceasefire

JERUSALEM, June 19 (AP)

ISRAEL and the Hezbollah militant group agreed on Friday to renew their ceasefire after fighting postponed Iran-US talks in Switzerland, three officials said.

Word of the ceasefire came from two regional officials and a US official. The truce was mediated by Qatar, the US and Iran, the regional officials said.

in the region for the sake of its interests in Lebanon and its most important regional ally.

Mediators are now scrambling to reschedule the meetings,

which were supposed to begin addressing how to restrict Iran's nuclear programme - the core issue over which Israel and the US went to war on February 28.

The US push to quickly begin high-stakes talks with Iran hit a snag just two days after the signing of an agreement that opens a 60-day window for negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme and getting oil traffic moving through the Strait of Hormuz back to prewar levels.

Vice President JD Vance had been prepared to make an overnight flight on Friday to meet with his Iranian counterparts at a mountainside resort in the tiny Swiss village of Obburgen and begin the technical talks.

His staff and a small pack of journalists had even gathered at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington in anticipation of the trip. Meanwhile, dozens of

(Contd on page 3)

LNG tanker 'Disha' docks in Guj

NEW DELHI, June 19 (IANS)

THE LNG tanker 'Disha' has successfully arrived at Dahej Port in Gujarat after crossing the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, delivering a cargo of 62,370 metric tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) following a wait of more than three months.

operated under a consortium led by the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and has been chartered for Petronet LNG Limited. The successful transit of the vessel through the Strait of Hormuz comes at a time when the region has witnessed heightened tensions, raising concerns over the security of key global shipping lanes.



LNG tanker 'Disha' reaches Dahej Port in Ahmedabad. (PTI)

The vessel, which had been stationed in the Gulf region amid heightened geopolitical tensions, completed its voyage and arrived at the Dahej terminal on Friday at around 7:32 am, according to information based on vessel tracking data.

The LNG cargo was loaded at Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG terminal. The tanker is carrying 62,370 metric tonnes of LNG, marking a significant delivery for India's energy supply chain during a sensitive period in global energy markets.

The vessel Disha is being

Sources indicated that the tanker had remained in the Gulf region for over three months before completing its journey. Its safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints for oil and gas shipments, has been viewed as significant for India's energy security.

The Dahej LNG terminal in Bharuch is India's largest liquefied natural gas import hub and plays a crucial role in the country's natural gas distribution network.