

Putin discusses ties, BRICS with Modi in phone call

Says foreign minister to attend G20 in Delhi

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed bilateral ties including trade, energy and space cooperation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi by phone, the Kremlin said yesterday.

The two leaders also discussed the planned expansion of the BRICS group of emerging economies - comprising India, Russia, China, Brazil and South Africa - as well as a summit of the G20 club of major economies that New Delhi will host next month, reports Reuters.

Russia has sought to further strengthen already warm ties with India after its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 triggered sweeping Western sanctions on Moscow. India is a major buyer of Russian oil.

"Topical issues of Russian-Indian relations, which are progressively developing in the spirit of a particularly privileged strategic partnership, were considered (in the call)," the Kremlin said in a statement.

The positive dynamics of trade and



economic cooperation was affirmed," it added.

Last week Modi and Putin both took part in the BRICS summit in South Africa, though the Russian leader attended only via video link because of an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant for him over alleged war crimes in Ukraine.

The Kremlin, which strongly denies the ICC allegations, has said Putin will also not attend the G20 gathering in India.

Putin will send Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in his place, a statement from the Indian Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Earlier yesterday, as speculation mounted, Russian envoy to India, Denis Alipov, said a decision on who would

represent his country at G20 Summit would be made shortly.

"This is not my prerogative... I would suggest we wait for the official announcement. As regards his (Putin's) participation in the G20 and what format it will be (and) who is going to represent Russia at the summit... I think such an announcement will be made shortly," he was quoted by news agency PTI.



Palestinian schoolgirls ride a cart to a UN school as classes resume in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. But it is unclear if they will be able to complete the year uninterrupted due to a funding crisis at the United Nations' Palestinian refugee agency.

PHOTO: AFP

Kids entitled to clean environment Says UN committee

AFP, Geneva

All children are entitled to a clean and healthy environment, a UN committee said for the first time yesterday, bolstering young people's arguments for suing authorities over the ravages of climate change.

Issuing a fresh interpretation of an important international rights treaty, the UN watchdog determined that it guarantees children the right to a healthy environment.

And this, it said, means countries are obliged to combat things like pollution and climate change.

"States must ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in order to respect, protect and fulfil children's rights," the Committee on the Rights of the Child said.

"Environmental degradation, including the consequences of the climate crisis, adversely affects the enjoyment of these rights," it said.

AFP, Athens

A monster forest fire that has raged for nine days in the Dadia National Park in northeast Greece, a major European sanctuary for birds of prey, is still spreading, firefighters said yesterday.

"The fire is still out of control," a spokesman for the fire service told AFP, adding that "nearly 500 firefighters backed by 100 vehicles, seven planes and three helicopters are fighting the flames."

The fire is burning across a nearly 10-kilometre (six-mile) front, according to firefighters.

The blaze, which erupted on August 19, is devastating the Evros region near the port city of Alexandroupoli and the border with Turkey, forcing the evacuations of some villages.

Twenty people, 18 of them migrants, have perished in the flames, with the region a regular entry point from neighbouring



Turkey. Two of the dead were children.

On Sunday, the EU's Copernicus climate observatory said on social media that "the burnt area has reached 77,000 hectares (190,000 acres) with 120 active hot spots".

The Dadia forest is part of a Unesco

World Heritage national park, with vegetation so dense that water from hoses often fails to reach flames at ground level, experts say.

Another dangerous fire is also raging on Mount Parnitha near Athens for the sixth straight day, with 270 firefighters on the scene.

"The risks are still high and the fire service remains on a high state of alert," said government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis yesterday.

Greece has been ravaged by numerous fires this summer which the government attributes to climate change.

"It has been the most difficult summer we have faced in terms of climatic conditions, which makes the work of the authorities much more difficult," Marinakis added.

Wildfires have so far burned more than 120,000 hectares across Greece this summer, according to the authorities.



Libyans burn tyres as they protest in Tripoli early yesterday, following an informal meeting between the country's foreign minister and her Israeli counterpart. Libya's prime minister sacked the FM Najla Mangoush in an effort to contain the growing furore over the meeting.

PHOTO: AFP

FUKUSHIMA WATER DISCHARGE

Japan PM slams China over stone-throwing at embassy

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's prime minister urged China to ensure its people "act in a calm and responsible manner" after instances of stones being thrown at diplomatic missions and schools, following the release of wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant.

Last week, China banned all seafood imports from its neighbour as Japan began releasing cooling water from the Fukushima plant in an operation that Tokyo and the United Nations' nuclear watchdog have said is safe.

Since then, Japan has urged its citizens in China to keep a low profile and has increased security around schools and diplomatic missions. Businesses in Japan have meanwhile been swamped with nuisance calls from

Chinese numbers.

"There have been numerous harassment calls believed to originate from China and instances of stones being thrown at the Japanese embassy and Japanese schools. It must be said these are regrettable," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said yesterday.

"We summoned the Chinese ambassador to Japan today and strongly urged him to call on Chinese people to act in a calm and responsible manner," Kishida told reporters.

Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Masataka Okano told the ambassador, Wu Jianghao, that China should properly inform the public "rather than unnecessarily raising people's concerns by providing information that is not based on scientific evidence", the foreign ministry said in a statement.

UK AIR TRAFFIC 'Technical issue' causes delays

REUTERS, London

Britain's National Air Traffic Service (NATS) was forced to restrict the flow of aircraft yesterday due to a technical issue, it said, with passengers stuck in planes on the tarmac and airlines and airports warning of delays and cancellations.

"We are currently experiencing a technical issue and have applied traffic flow restrictions to maintain safety. Engineers are working to find and fix the fault," a spokesperson said, adding that UK airspace was not closed.

Irish air traffic control provider AirNav Ireland said the issue was resulting in "significant delays for flights across Europe that are travelling to, from or through UK airspace".

A spokesperson for Heathrow, the busiest hub in western Europe, said the airport was working with NATS and other airport partners to minimise the impact on passengers.

Earlier Scottish airline Loganair said on social media site X, previously known as Twitter, that there had been a network-wide failure of UK air traffic control computer systems, warning international flights may face delays.

Airports including London Luton and Birmingham said they were working to understand the impact and the timescale in which normal operations could resume.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Ref No. UHC/Bishwa/MSR/tender/notice/2023-2024/640

Date: 28-08-2023

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contact numbers. e-Tender are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. Md. Deluar Hossain, UH&FPO, Upazila Health Complex, Biswanath, Sylhet for the Procurement of:

Tender ID	Name of goods	Tender/proposal last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing/opening date & time
808563	Procurement of Medicine for the FY 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	12-September-2023 16:00	14-September-2023 16:00
809504	Procurement of Medicine Equipment for the FY 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	12-September-2023 16:00	14-September-2023 16:00
809505	Procurement of Gauge, Bandage, Cotton etc. for the FY 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	12-September-2023 16:00	14-September-2023 16:00
808609	Procurement of Linen for the FY 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	12-September-2023 16:00	14-September-2023 16:00
809506	Procurement of Chemical Reagents for the FY 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	12-September-2023 16:00	14-September-2023 16:00
809507	Procurement of Furniture for the FY 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	12-September-2023 16:00	14-September-2023 16:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer. e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

Dr. Md. Deluar Hossain
Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
Biswanath, Sylhet

GD-1306