

Major World Leaders Gather For G20 Summit



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and first lady Sophie Gregoire wave on their arrival to the Ministro Pistarini international airport for the G20 Summit, in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018. (AP Photo/Martin Mejia)



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures after he is welcomed by Argentina's Justice Minister German Garavano, right, upon his arrival in Buenos Aires on Thursday. (AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

BUENOS AIRES: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday arrived here to take part in the G20 summit during which he will have several bilateral meetings, including with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"I look forward to meeting leaders from other G20 countries to review the work of G20 in the last 10 years of its existence and chart the ways and means to meet the new and upcoming challenges of the coming decade," Modi said in his pre-departure statement.

Modi will also be part of a trilateral meeting with US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the summit.

In a press briefing at the White House, US National Security Adviser John Bolton has said that Trump's bilateral with Abe "will transform at some point during that meeting into a trilateral meeting" with Prime Minister Modi.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said in New Delhi on Tuesday that a meeting between Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron is also being worked out.

Modi would also meet the United Nations Secretary Gen-

eral, presidents of Argentina and Chile, German Chancellor and the prime ministers of Spain and the Netherlands. During the meeting, Modi is expected to highlight the risks posed by oil price volatility and urge more countries to join the International Solar Alliance.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will be at the summit on Friday that is expected to draw global attention over trade tensions between China and the United States.

The Canadian government is also looking to sign the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement on the summit sidelines, though the Prime Minister's Office hasn't finally confirmed that formality is in the plans.

The government is also open to talking about international security. Earlier this week, Canada and its allies condemned the seizure of three Ukrainian naval vessels near Crimea.

A government official says Canada is very concerned about the situation unfolding in Ukraine specifically, and Russian aggression generally.

The Trudeau government is also expecting the October mur-



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump walk across the tarmac before boarding Air Force One on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. en route to Argentina. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

der of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi to be raised at the G20, given the attendance of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

In Washington, President Donald Trump said he's cancelled a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, citing Russia's seizure of Ukrainian vessels.

Trump tweeted his decision Thursday after departing Washington for in Argentina.

Trump says "based on the fact that the ships and sailors have not been returned to Ukraine from

Russia, I have decided it would be best for all parties concerned to cancel my previously scheduled meeting in Argentina with President Vladimir Putin. I look forward to a meaningful Summit again as soon as this situation is resolved!"

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he wanted leaders of the 20 major economic powers to take stronger leadership and bolder action to tackle critical problems from climate change to inequality at a time the world is facing "a crisis

of confidence."

Before flying to Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the Group of 20 meeting, the U.N. chief told reporters Wednesday it is imperative that countries work together to create a fairer world.

"Those left behind by globalization are losing trust in governments and institutions," he warned.

He said inequality is "pervasive and increasing," trade disputes are escalating, and geopolitical tensions "are adding further pressure to the global economy."

In addition, Guterres said, "We are headed for a world of cataclysm and uncertainty due to climate disruption."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently said time is running out if the world wants to achieve the most ambitious target in the 2015 landmark Paris climate agreement — keeping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). The planet has already warmed about 1 degree Celsius since pre-industrial times and is on course for another 2 to 3 degrees of warming by the end of the century unless drastic action is taken, its report said.

Ford Says He Has No National Political Ambitions

TORONTO: Ontario Premier Doug Ford isn't mulling a run for the prime minister's office.

The Progressive Conservative leader, who has launched repeated attacks on Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government, said Tuesday that he had no national political ambitions and is committed to leading the province.

"I'm zoned in on this province, nothing else," the premier told reporters. "Not federally, nothing but fixing the financial mess that we inherited."

Ford was asked about his political aspirations after he called on Trudeau, ahead of Wednesday's federal fall economic update, to stop a plan to impose a carbon tax on provinces without their own carbon pricing system.

The premier has been working actively to build a national coalition of provincial leaders to fight the carbon tax, recently meeting with Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and Alberta Conservative Leader Jason Kenney to discuss the issue. Ontario has also launched a legal challenge against the tax, which is likely to feature prominently in next year's federal election campaign.

Federal Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer, meanwhile, has faced questions about whether Ford was overshadowing him on matters of importance to the national Conservative cause — inquiries he has shrugged off by saying he and Ford have common goals. The federal minister of intergovernmental affairs has suggested, however, that Ford has significant influence over Scheer.

Ford, who took power in June, said Tuesday that he was open to working with Trudeau as long as the prime minister wanted to work with him.

"I'm not gunning for him," the premier said. "He has his differences, I have mine. At the end of the day we want to do the best thing for Ontario and I think we'll come to a good conclusion here."

Ford struck a decidedly more combative tone over the weekend, when he and Scheer addressed a Progressive Conservative policy convention.

"We're putting the prime minister on notice," Ford said during a speech at the convention. "We've already taken (Former Liberal Premier) Kathleen Wynne's hands out of your pockets. And Justin Trudeau, you're next."

Ontario's interim Liberal leader, John Fraser, said Tuesday that Ford's criticism of the federal government has diverted attention away from addressing the needs of Ontario's health and education systems.

"If he said no, he said no," Fraser said of Ford's political aspirations. "It just took him awhile to say that. The thing is the government needs to focus on building up things for family."

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