

NEWS IN BRIEF

India, Pakistan set for water-sharing talks

India and Pakistan will hold the first meeting in three years of a commission that deals with water rights on the Indus River today, the two sides said yesterday, illustrating a broader resumption of diplomatic ties. The Permanent Indus Commission, set up under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, is set to meet in New Delhi on March 23 to 24, said two Indian officials that deal in bilateral water issues. Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri confirmed the talks will take place. He noted that the Commission is supposed to meet at least once a year under the treaty that governs water usage on the Indus and its tributaries that flow through the two countries.

Biden aides had ties to large tech companies

Top Biden administration officials had previously undisclosed ties to large corporations including tech giants Microsoft Corp, Alphabet's Google and Facebook Inc, financial disclosures by the White House show. According to the filings with the Office of Government Ethics, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan served on an advisory council for Microsoft from 2017 through May of last year. He was paid \$45,000 last year, according to his disclosure, a copy of which was seen by Reuters. Sullivan, who oversees an interagency response to January's cyberattack on Microsoft's Exchange email software, holds between \$50,000 and \$100,000 of stock in both Microsoft and Alphabet and owns between \$15,000 and \$50,000 of Facebook stock, the disclosure shows.

Trump to launch own social media platform: ex-aide



Donald Trump plans to return to social media soon, using "his own platform" after being banned from Twitter and other outlets, a former advisor said Sunday. "I do think that we're going to see president Trump returning to social media in probably about two or three months," Jason Miller told Fox News. "It's going to completely redefine the game, and everybody is going to be waiting and watching to see what exactly president Trump does, but it will be his own platform," said Miller, who held senior posts in both of Trump's presidential campaigns. Trump's provocative use of social media was a defining feature of his presidency, as he drew 88 million followers to Twitter and often used tweets to slam his critics or to announce personnel changes or significant policy shifts.

China detains three tourists for vandalising Great Wall

Three tourists who vandalised China's Great Wall -- one of the country's most popular historic landmarks -- have been detained and fined, officials said yesterday. Two men and a woman were detained Sunday after scrawling their names on the wall with a key, wire and other sharp objects, administrators of the Badaling special tourism zone said in a statement. Around 70 kilometres from Beijing, Badaling is the most popular section of the wall for tourists. The statement did not offer details on the amount they were fined or the length of their detention. Under China's law for protecting cultural relics the fine for carving or scrawling on a historic building is less than 200 yuan (\$31).

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



State Emergency Service personnel load a dentist onto a boat to transport him from the suburb of Windsor to North Richmond across floodwaters, so he can attend to patients unreachable by car, as the state of New South Wales experiences widespread flooding and severe weather, in Sydney, Australia, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN XINJIANG

EU imposes China sanctions

Beijing responds by blacklisting EU individuals, entities

REUTERS, Brussels

The European Union yesterday imposed sanctions on four Chinese officials, including a top security director, for human rights abuses in Xinjiang, the first sanctions against Beijing since an arms embargo in 1989 following the Tiananmen Square crackdown.

Accused of mass detentions of Muslim Uighurs in northwestern China, those targeted with sanctions included Chen Mingguo, the director of the Xinjiang Public Security Bureau. The EU said Chen was responsible for "serious human rights violations."

Beijing also announced sanctions on 10 Europeans including parliamentarians and scholars, as well as four entities, in retaliation against the EU's approval of sanctions over Beijing's crackdown on the Uighur minority.

"This move, based on nothing but lies and disinformation, disregards and distorts facts," said China's foreign ministry in a statement, adding that it was a gross interference in its internal affairs.

In its Official Journal, the EU accused Chen of "arbitrary detentions and degrading treatment inflicted upon Uighurs and people from other Muslim ethnic minorities, as well as systematic violations of their freedom of religion or belief."

Others hit with travel bans and asset freezes were: senior Chinese officials Wang Mingshan and Wang Junzheng, the former head of China's Xinjiang region, Zhu Hailun, and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps Public Security Bureau.

China denies any human rights abuses in Xinjiang and says its camps provide vocational training and are needed to fight extremism, reports Reuters.

While mainly symbolic, the sanctions mark a significant hardening in the EU's policy towards China, which Brussels long regarded as a benign trading partner but now views as a systematic abuser of basic rights and freedoms.

They are also likely to inflame tensions between Brussels and Beijing. The EU had not sanctioned China since it imposed an arms embargo in 1989



following the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy crackdown. The arms embargo is still in place.

All 27 EU governments agreed to the punitive measures, but Hungary's foreign minister, Peter Sijjarto, called them "harmful" and "pointless", reflecting the bloc's divisions on how to deal with China's rise and to protect business interests.

China is the EU's second-largest trading partner after the United States and Beijing is both a big market and a major investor which has courted poorer and central European states.

But the EU, which sees itself as a champion of human rights, is deeply worried about the fate of the Uighurs. Britain, Canada and the United States have also expressed serious concerns.

MEETING WITH ICC PROSECUTOR

Israel confiscates pass of Palestinian FM

REUTERS, Ramallah

Israeli authorities confiscated the VIP border pass of Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki upon his return to the West Bank from a meeting at the International Criminal Court, a Palestinian official said on Sunday.

Ahmed al-Deek, an official at Maliki's office, told Reuters the Israeli move was linked to Maliki's meeting with ICC lead prosecutor Fatou Bensouda at her office in The Hague on Thursday.

Israel's Walla news website cited unnamed Israeli officials who said Maliki's ICC visit was the reason for the revocation of his VIP card, an Israeli-granted pass that enables dozens of senior Palestinian officials to move freely through border crossings.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office declined to comment and the Israeli foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

"This is the Foreign Minister of the State of Palestine. He doesn't represent himself. He represents the State of Palestine, and we regard this as an attack against the State of Palestine," said Deek.

He added that Israeli officers detained and questioned Maliki's aides for 90 minutes at the Israeli-operated border crossing between Jordan and the West Bank.

Deek said that the minister left the crossing without the card. It was not clear when it would be returned to him.

Bensouda announced this month she would formally investigate war crimes in the Palestinian Territories, a move welcomed by the Palestinian Authority and denounced by Israel. On Friday, ICC prosecutors said they have sent Israel and the Palestinians notifications of the opening of a war crimes probe, a move that leaves the parties with one month to seek a deferral.

26.5m Nigerian children lack access to water: Unicef

AFP, Abuja

Nearly one-third of Nigerian children lack access to enough water, the UN children's agency Unicef said yesterday, calling for urgent measures to address the problem.

In a statement marking World Water Day, Unicef said more than 1.42 billion people -- including 450 million children -- are living in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability in the world.

"This means that 1 in 5 children worldwide do not have enough water to meet their everyday needs," it said.

"The figures in Nigeria are particularly worrying, with 26.5 million Nigerian children experiencing high or extremely high water vulnerability -- or 29 percent of Nigerian children," the UN body said.

About 100,000 Nigerian children are said to die annually of water-related diseases.

"The world's water crisis is not coming -- it is here, and children are its biggest

victims," said Peter Hawkins, Unicef's representative in Nigeria.

"When wells dry up, children are the ones missing school to fetch water. When droughts diminish food supplies, children suffer from malnutrition and stunting.

"When floods hit, children fall ill from waterborne illnesses. And when water is not available in Nigerian communities, children cannot wash their hands to fight off diseases," he added.

According to Unicef, over 86 percent of Nigerians lack access to a safely managed drinking water source.

"The problem is compounded by poor drinking water quality and lack of equity in access," it said.

Unicef said despite "some progress" by Nigeria, "there is still much more work to be done in the country to ensure that all Nigerians have access to adequate and quality water and hygiene services."



A man carries a sandbag to erect a makeshift barricade, as security forces staged a crackdown on demonstrations by protesters against the military coup, in Mandalay, Myanmar yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

ESPIONAGE TRIAL FOR SECOND CANADIAN

Beijing-Ottawa relations go into free-fall

AFP, Beijing

The trial for Michael Kovrig, the Canadian detained more than two years ago in China on espionage charges, started yesterday, with relations between Ottawa and Beijing in free-fall.

The hearing comes days after the closed-door trial of another Canadian man, with both detained in apparent retaliation for Canada's arrest on a US extradition warrant of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou.

Yesterday police cordoned off an area outside the Beijing court as Canadian diplomats were denied entry and turned away.

Kovrig, a former diplomat, was detained in 2018 and formally charged last June with spying at the same time as his compatriot, businessman Michael Spavor.

Jim Nickel, the charge d'affaires of the Canadian embassy in Beijing, told reporters that the hearing had started and that access for diplomats "has been denied."

"We're very troubled by the lack of access and lack of transparency in the legal process," he said.

A court official told reporters no entry was allowed because the trial is a national security case.

Representatives of 26 countries had gathered outside the building yesterday, Nickel said, and were "lending their voice" for Kovrig's immediate release.

The US is "deeply concerned at the lack of minimum procedural protections granted the two Canadian citizens", William Klein, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Beijing, told media outside the court.

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ
প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, স্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস প্রতিষ্ঠা
১৩/৩, ৪-এ (৪র্থ তলা) পল্লবী, মিরপুর-১২, ঢাকা-১২১৬
ফোনঃ ০১৭৬৪-১৭৮০৫৫, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৫৮০৭০৪৫৭, ই-মেইলঃ pdofficebsmrmu@gmail.com

Invitation for Tenders

Tender No. BSMRMU Permanent Campus/Establishment-1034/OTM/02 Date: 23 March 2021

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.					
2. Agency	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University.					
3. Procuring entity name	Vice Chancellor, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University Permanent Campus Project.					
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.					
5. Invitation for tender	Works (Sub-Soil Investigation in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University Permanent Campus at Hamidchar Chattogram).					
6. Invitation Ref. No. date	BSMRMU Minute No. 70, 17 March 2021					
KEY INFORMATION						
7. Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM).					
FUNDING INFORMATION						
8. Budget and source of funds	Development Budget, GOB.					
PARTICULAR INFORMATION						
9. Project/programme code	224267					
10. Project/programme name	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University Permanent Campus.					
11. Tender pack No.	PW-01					
12. Tender pack name	Sub-Soil Investigation in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University Permanent Campus at Chattogram.					
13. Tender publication date	23-03-2021					
14. Tender last selling date	(13-04-2021) (during office).					
15. Tender closing date & time	(13-04-2021)					
16. Tender open date & time	(14-04-2021) 1100 hours.					
17. Name & address of the office	Office of the Project Director, BSMRMU, Plot No. 13/3, Sagufta, De Akbar Pallabi, Mirpur-12, Dhaka-1216.					
Selling tender document	Accounts Section, Project Office, BSMRMU.					
Receiving tender document	Project Director's Office, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University Permanent Campus Project.					
Opening tender document	Project Director's Office, BSMRMU.					
18. Place/date/time of pre tender meeting	Not applicable.					
INVITATION FOR TENDERS						
19. Eligibility of tenderer	Pack No.	General experience	Experience of similar works	Average annual turnover	Liquid assets working capital	Other
	01	At least 10 years in the sub-soil investigation works	At least 10 contract of sub soil investigation work up to 40-50m using hydraulic rotary drilling method successfully completed within the last 5 years each with a value of at least Tk 20 lac BDT or No. of boring minimum 400.	Shall be greater than Tk 200 lac BDT over the last 5 years.	Minimum BDT 100 lac or credit facilities.	As mentioned in the tender document
20. Brief description of works and location						
21. Description of the works, price of tender document (Tender security and completion time of works)						
	Pack No.	Description of work	Price of tender document	Tender security	Completion time in days	
	PW-01	Sub-Soil Investigation in BSMRMU Permanent Campus at Chattogram	2,000.00 (cash payment)	Tk 6 lac BDT Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee/Pay Order A/C No. 4420601025167 Account name: BSMRMU Permanent Campus Establishment	60 days	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS						
22. Name of official inviting tender	Captain M Nayeem Golam Muktadir, (H) ndc. psc, BN, Project Director.					
23. Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, BSMRMU, Permanent Campus.					
24. Address of official inviting tender	Office of the Project Director, BSMRMU, Plot No. 13/3, Sagufta, De Akbar Pallabi, Mirpur-12, Dhaka-1216.					
25. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 09666776868, Mob: 01769721033 Email: pdofficebsmrmu@gmail.com					
26. Special instruction	i) VAT & tax will be applicable on the basis of total package value as per SRO No. 213- law/income tax 2019, date: 23 June 2019 (Section 52). ii) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.					
M N G Muktadir Project Director BSMRMU Permanent Campus						

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