

UK, US tie 'indestructible'

Says PM Johnson after his first meeting with Biden

AFP, LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the UK-US relationship as "indestructible" after his first meeting with President Joe Biden ahead of the G7 leaders' summit.

"It's a relationship, you can call it the 'deep and meaningful relationship', whatever you want, the 'indestructible relationship'," Johnson said in a BBC interview broadcast yesterday morning.

"It's a relationship that has endured for a very long time, and has been an important part of peace and prosperity both in Europe and around the world."

During their face-to-face meeting Thursday, the two leaders discussed "about 25 subjects in some detail", including the Brexit-induced disruption in Northern Ireland, he said.

Johnson played down the displeasure of Biden, who is proud of his Irish origins, over London's attempts to reverse the "Northern Ireland Protocol" which seeks to avoid the return of a border with EU member Ireland but which has disrupted trade between the mainland Britain and Northern Ireland.

"Everybody has a massive interest in making sure that we keep the essential symmetry of the Good Friday Agreement," which ended three decades of conflict in the British-ruled province.

"I think we can sort it out," he said.

In his meeting with Biden, Johnson said he also raised the case of British teenager Harry Dunn, who was killed in a road accident caused by the wife of an American diplomat. She quickly left Britain for the United States after the accident, claiming diplomatic immunity.

Biden was "actively engaged in the case", Johnson said.

"As you know, he has his own personal reasons for feeling very deeply about the issue," he said, referring to Biden losing his first wife and one-year-old daughter in a car accident in 1972.

According to Johnson, the difficulty in the case "is that there are limits to what the executive can do with the legal, with the judiciary and the legal system, but both sides are working together."



(L-R) Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, President of the European Council Charles Michel, US President Joe Biden, Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi, France's President Emmanuel Macron, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel pose for the family photo at the start of the G7 summit in Carbis Bay, Cornwall, Britain.

PHOTO: AFP

'A dystopian hellscape'

Amnesty says China's Uyghur abuses 'crimes against humanity'

AFP, London

The repression of hundreds of thousands of China's Uyghur Muslim minority amounts to "crimes against humanity", a report published Thursday by human rights group Amnesty International said.

In a 160-page document that includes testimonies from former detainees in camps in the northwestern Chinese region of Xinjiang, Amnesty detailed what it called "systematic state-organised mass imprisonment, torture and persecution amounting to crimes against humanity".

The report documents what the rights group called "extreme measures" taken by Chinese authorities since 2017 against Uyghurs and people from other ethnic-Turkic minorities.

"The Chinese authorities have created a dystopian hellscape on a staggering scale," Amnesty's secretary general Agnès Callamard said.

"Muslim minorities face crimes against humanity and other serious human rights violations," she added, saying the abuses "should shock the conscience of humanity".

The report documents how, since early 2017, huge numbers of men and women in Xinjiang have been arbitrarily detained.

"They include hundreds of thousands who have been sent to prisons in addition to hundreds of thousands — perhaps even a million or more — who have been sent to internment camps," the report said.

All of the more than 50 former detainees that Amnesty interviewed said they had been detained for conduct such as possessing a religious-themed picture or communicating with someone abroad.

Many detainees described first being taken for



questioning in police stations where they were attached to steel chairs with leg irons and handcuffs.

They said beatings, sleep deprivation and overcrowding were common, and in "extraordinarily regimented" internment camps they had no privacy or autonomy and risked harsh punishments.

"The Chinese government has gone to extraordinary lengths to cover up its violations of international human rights law in Xinjiang," Amnesty charged.

The US government accuses China of waging "genocide" in Xinjiang. Britain has declined to use that designation, but joined the United States and Germany last month in calling on Beijing to end repression of the Uyghur minority.

Beijing has repeatedly denied that abuses take place there, saying they are work camps meant to deter extremism and boost incomes.

"China must immediately dismantle the internment camps, release the people arbitrarily detained in them and in prisons," Callamard said, calling for a UN investigation under international law.

ETHIOPIA'S TIGRAY

Over 30,000 children risk death from famine: UN

AFP, Geneva

Tens of thousands of malnourished children risk dying in hard-to-reach areas of Ethiopia's conflict-racked Tigray region, now hit by famine, the United Nations said yesterday.

"Without humanitarian access to scale up our response, an estimated 30,000 severely malnourished children in those highly inaccessible areas are at high risk of death," UNICEF spokesman James Elder told reporters in Geneva.

He said the UN children's agency was working with other organisations to help address the crisis, but was lacking access to large parts of the region.

"The world cannot permit that to happen," he added.

His comments came a day after the UN said some 350,000 people in Tigray were facing famine, while two million more people were just a step away from those extreme conditions.

"There is famine now in Tigray," UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said Thursday, warning that "every expert you speak to will tell you this is going to get a lot worse".

The UN has said that more than 90 percent of the more than five million people in the Tigray region need emergency food aid, and has urgently appealed for more than \$200 million to scale up its response.

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A Palestinian woman mourns the body of her teenage son at a hospital in Nablus, where he was transported after being injured while taking part in confrontations with Israeli security forces, following a demonstration in the village of Beita, in the occupied West Bank yesterday. A Palestinian teenager died yesterday after the Israeli army shot him during clashes in the West Bank, Palestinian medics and the health ministry said.

PHOTO: AFP

BUS CRASH

20 Muslim pilgrims die in Pakistan

REUTERS, Quetta

A bus crammed with pilgrims coming back from a religious festival crashed in southwest Pakistan yesterday killing at least 20 and leaving 10 others critically injured, officials and a hospital doctor said.

The bus careened off the road into a ditch during the early morning in the Karkh area of Khuzdar district, in Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan.

"The bus was overloaded, and passengers were even traveling on the roof of the bus," a Pakistani security official in the area told Reuters after paramilitary forces and soldiers were sent to help the survivors.

"We have received 20 bodies and over 40 injured in Khuzdar district hospital," Dr. Manzoor Zahir told Reuters, adding that the condition of at least 10 of the injured was serious and the death toll could increase.

Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Bashir Ahmed told Reuters the victims were pilgrims who were returning from attending a religious festival honoring a local Muslim saint, and the victims were from the province of Sindh. Ahmed said all the dead were males.

Traffic and rail accidents are commonplace in Pakistan, partly because of the poor state of roads and track.

At least 56 people were killed on Monday when a passenger train smashed into the derailed carriages of another train in southern Pakistan.

Outcry as Muslim Ilhan Omar likens US, Israel to Taliban

AFP, Washington

US congresswoman Ilhan Omar faced broad condemnation Thursday including from her Democratic Party's leadership after the Muslim lawmaker accused the United States and Israel of "unthinkable atrocities" comparable to those of Hamas and the Taliban.

Omar, who in 2016 became one of the first two Muslim women elected to the US Congress, has antagonized members of her party in the past with comments denounced as anti-Semitic or anti-Israel.

But top Republicans and Democrats alike have seized on her recent criticism of the United States to demand she clarify her remarks, with some calling outright for punishment including being stripped of her House of Representatives committee assignments.

Twelve Jewish House Democrats issued a public letter of disapproval against a member of their own party, writing that "equating the United States and Israel to Hamas and the Taliban is as offensive as it is misguided."

At a House hearing on Monday, Omar -- who was born in Somalia and immigrated

to the United States as a refugee in the mid-1990s -- grilled Secretary of State Antony Blinken over accountability for victims of crimes against humanity.

She then followed up with a tweet that read: "We have seen unthinkable atrocities committed by the US, Hamas, Israel, Afghanistan, and the Taliban."

Amid the firestorm, the six-member House Democratic leadership team headed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a rare public rebuke of a fellow Democrat, even as they acknowledged that criticism of US human rights policy is protected speech.

Top House Republican Kevin McCarthy offered more vehement criticism.

"Rep. Omar's anti-Semitic & anti-American comments are abhorrent," he said.

The 38-year-old Minneapolis congresswoman, who has repeatedly criticized Israel's policies towards Palestinians, pushed back Thursday.

She said her earlier remarks were related to an open case against Israel, the United States, Hamas and the Taliban in the International Criminal Court.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
"Technical Assistance Project for My Village-My Town"
LGED, LGED Bhaban, (Level-08)
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0000.982.18.002.21.52

Dated: 09/06/2021

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI)

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives /Local Government Division		
2. Agency	Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)		
3. Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Technical Assistance Project for 'My Village-My Town'		
4. Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable		
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6. Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of Consulting firm	Consulting firm		
7. Title of Service	Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for conducting of feasibility/ reviewing study on Rural Waste Management		
8. EoI Ref. No.	Memo No. 46.02.0000.982.18.002.21.52		
9. Ref. Date	09/06/2021		
KEY INFORMATION			
10. Procurement Sub-Method	Fixed Budget Selection (FBS)		
FUNDING INFORMATION			
11. Budget and Source of Funds	GOB		
12. Development Partners (if applicable)	Not Applicable		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
13. Project Code (if applicable)	223041300		
14. Project Name	Technical Assistance Project for 'My Village-My Town'		
15. Place of EoI submission	Office of the Project Director, Technical Assistance Project for 'My Village-My Town', LGED Bhaban, Level-8, LGED H/Q, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.		
16. EoI closing date & time	Date	Time	
	29/06/2021	02:00 PM	
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT			
17. Brief Description of Assignment	Study on Rural Waste Management includes the following studies (1-5) covering following assignments (a-g) Study-01 & 02: Feasibility study for adopting project on fecal sludge management and solid waste management in rural areas. Study-03: Develop an innovative business model for village/union based non-bio-degradable waste management Study-04: Develop an innovative business model for effective commercialization of village/union-based bio-degradable waste management Study-05: Develop hat bazar-based management model for bio-degradable/non bio-degradable waste. Assignments in brief a) Review all the past studies, researches and present practices b) Practices of the developing/ developed nations and explore their potential to replicate in Bangladesh c) Selected case studies at Union Level and Growth Center/ Hat Bazar d) Developing effective business models at Union Level and Hat Bazar e) Framework/ guideline development for Union Parishads/ Hat Bazar		
18. Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	The EoIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following a) Registration of Firm b) Age of firm (years in relevant business) c) Availability of key professionals. d) Turnover of the consultant (financial resources) e) Experience of the firm in similar tasks/assignments (examples of past experience-similar nature and/or complexity) f) Experience of the firm in other works (examples of other experience) g) Support Services [Provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures; description of similar assignments; experience in similar conditions; financial resources; Availability of appropriate skills among staff; etc.)]		
19. Other information	(a) Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the PPR-2008. (b) Detailed information may be collected from the undersigned office during office hour.		
20. Association with foreign firm is	Not encouraged.		
21. Project Ref No	Phasing of Service	Location	Indicative start date
MVMT/S-16	-	Selected Upazilas of Bangladesh	30/07/2021
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
22. Name of Official Inviting EoI	Abul Monzur Md. Sadeque		
23. Designation of Official Inviting EoI	Project Director		
24. Address of Official Inviting EoI	Level-8, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207		
25. Contact details of Official Inviting EoI	Telephone: +02-58155292, Cell: +8801678054300; Email: monzursadeque@gmail.com; myvillage.mytown@lged.gov.bd		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EoIs Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below in sealed envelope on or before 29 June 2021 during 2.00 PM with clearly mention package number and name. 			

(Abul Monzur Md. Sadeque)
Project Director
Tel: +02-58155292, +8801678054300
monzursadeque@gmail.com, myvillage.mytown@lged.gov.bd

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