

## Europe too reliant on US: Finland PM

REUTERS, Helsinki

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shown that Europe is too reliant on the United States for its own security, Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin said yesterday. Speaking at a think tank in Sydney, Australia, Marin advocated boosting Europe's defence capabilities, including arms production.



"I must be brutally honest with you, Europe isn't strong enough right now. We would be in trouble without the United States," Marin told an audience at the Lowy Institute.

She said Europe should be stronger.

"The US has given a lot of weapons, a lot of financial aid, a lot of humanitarian aid to Ukraine and Europe isn't strong enough yet," Marin said. "We have to make sure that we are building those capabilities when it comes to European defence, European defence industry."



## Macron, Biden vow unity on Ukraine, trade

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron emerged from White House talks Thursday pledging to close ranks in helping Ukraine and pressuring Russia's Vladimir Putin to make peace.

Addressing a joint press conference on the second day of Macron's rare state visit to Washington, both leaders emphasized their desire to forge a powerful transatlantic alliance supporting democracy -- and facing down Russia and China.

On Ukraine, Biden said, "We reaffirm that France and the US together, with all our Nato allies and the European Union and the G7, stand as strong as ever against Russia's brutal war."

The US leader also said that he would be ready to meet with Putin but only "if he is looking for a way to end the war."

At a lavish, late dinner under a glass pavilion on the White House South Lawn, Biden concluded his toast by saying, "Vive la France!" or "long live France."

The occasion had seemed to be at threat of being overshadowed by a dispute over US subsidies for the emerging green technology economy. However, both leaders signaled they had managed at least to defuse the row following one hour and 45 minute talks in the Oval Office in the morning.

The issue revolves around Biden's signature policy, the Inflation Reduction Act or IRA, which is set to pour billions of dollars into environmentally friendly industries, with strong backing for US-based manufacturers.

EU governments have been crying foul, threatening to launch a trade war. Biden stressed that there would be "tweaks" so that European companies were not unfairly treated.

## COVID PROTESTS IN CHINA Relief as major cities ease curbs

REUTERS, Beijing

Further easing of Covid-19 testing requirements and quarantine rules in some Chinese cities was met with a mix of relief and worry yesterday as hundreds of millions await an expected shift in national virus policies after widespread social unrest.

The looser measures were welcomed by workers frustrated by three years of economically damaging curbs but have jolted others who suddenly feel more exposed to a disease authorities had consistently described as deadly until this week.

China's Covid policies have stifled everything from domestic consumption, to factory output and global supply chains, and have inflicted severe mental stress on hundreds of millions of people.

Anger over the world's toughest curbs fuelled dozens of protests in more than 20 cities in recent days in a show of civil disobedience unprecedented in mainland China since President Xi Jinping took power in 2012.

"Finally, we can slowly return to our normal lives," said Lili, 41, who works for a chain of restaurants in Guangzhou that were allowed to reopen on Thursday.

Lockdown interruptions over the last few years resulted in a 30% drop in earnings, she said.

"The public could not stand it any longer, and everyone wished that we could reopen ... The Guangzhou government probably heard what we were asking for and thought it was about time," said Lili.

Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, who oversees Covid efforts, said this week the ability of the virus to cause disease was weakening -- a message that aligns with what health authorities around the world have said.

Some communities now require less frequent testing and are allowing close contacts of infected people to quarantine at home, according to state media, measures expected to be rolled out nationwide in coming days.

## US brands South Asian jihadists as terrorists

AFP, Washington

The United States on Thursday announced it was designating South Asian al-Qaeda and Pakistani Taliban leaders as terrorists, vowing action as alarms grow over Afghanistan. The targeted jihadists including four leaders of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), a regional branch of the jihadist network, including its self-styled "emir" Osama Mehmood. The United States also designated the number two of the Pakistani Taliban, Mufti Hazrat Deroji as a terrorist.

## NORTH KOREA'S ICBM TEST

### US, allies impose new sanctions

REUTERS, Washington

The United States, South Korea, and Japan have imposed sanctions on North Korean officials connected to the country's weapons programs after Pyongyang's latest and largest intercontinental ballistic missile test last month.

The US Treasury Department on Thursday named the individuals as Il Ho, Yu Jin, and Kim Su Gil. South Korea's foreign ministry announced sanctions on seven other individuals and eight entities. Japan also designated three entities and an individual. The latest sanctions follow a Nov. 18 ICBM test by North Korea amid concerns that it may be about to resume nuclear weapons testing.

## Living in the shadow of uncertainty

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they follow a flexible curriculum. However, all the mainstream schools we contacted rejected my daughter because of her condition. The parents of other children often raised stronger objections against her enrolment than the teachers did."

Maisha is now studying in a special school and her parents are saving most of their earnings to buy a flat in the capital and leave a substantial amount for her so that she has shelter and a monthly income when they are gone.

"Maisha is 18 years old and it is quite apparent that she will not be able to raise a family. There are concerns even if we leave property because

there is no shortage of people who will want to grab it when they get a chance. We feel completely helpless thinking about her uncertain future," shared a weeping Arifa.

While Adnan and Arifa are trying their best to secure a future for their daughter, the situation is even more desperate for Lotamoni and Shihab who lost their mother during their early childhood. Both of them have intellectual disabilities.

Their mother, a house staff, died when Lotamoni was 8 and Shihab 5. Their father left them to their maternal grandparents' house and simply vanished without leaving a trace.

Their grandfather Abdul Jalil, aged around 60, said, "I cannot abandon my

grandchildren. They do not have anyone left in this world except me and my wife.

"We get a meagre disability allowance for them from the authorities. I make a living by pulling rickshaws. We could not enrol them in any school as they have disabilities. They are fully dependent. We are extremely worried about how they will survive when I will not be able to work and feed them."

Parents of most children with disabilities share similar concerns.

According to the preliminary report of National Survey on Persons with Disabilities 2021 conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2.80 percent of Bangladesh's total population have at

least one form of disability.

However, according to the World Report on Disability published in 2011 by the World Health Organization and The World Bank, there are around 16 million people, approximately 10 percent of the country's population, with disabilities in Bangladesh.

Both the reports revealed that such a large number of people with disabilities are lagging behind in enjoying basic rights like healthcare, education, food security, and social participation.

Supreme Court lawyer Rejaul Karim Siddiquee, founder of Disability Inclusive Justice and Legal Aid Association, said, "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013 guarantees equal treatment and full inheritance rights for people with disabilities."

The law states that a government committee headed by the Upzila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) will look after the property of the persons with disabilities after their guardian's demise.

The parents can also form a trustee board to look after the property and to ensure that the entitled person is properly benefiting.

There is also the Protection of Persons with Neuro-developmental Disability Trust Act 2013 under which they are entitled to get support and protection from the government.

"However, lack of awareness about these laws and lack of accountability and transparency of the operations of the trustee boards are some of the biggest obstacles to creating a safe future for persons with disabilities. We get numerous complaints about corruption of trustee board members, but very few parents seek legal protection because they are not aware of the 2013 law," said Rejaul.

"Upzila level committees are not very active either. The UNOs have so many tasks that they can pay little attention to this important and legally binding responsibility," he added.

Sarder A Razzak, father of a child with Down Syndrome and president of Down Syndrome Society of Bangladesh, said, "To ensure a secured and independent life for our children, there is no alternative to building a community which will include and respect persons with disabilities. For this purpose, we have been working with siblings

## New York

FROM PAGE 12

around garbage bags.

Legend has it that there are as many rats as humans -- around nine million -- although that figure has been debunked as a myth by a local statistician.

English novelist Charles Dickens complained about the rodents when he visited New York in 1842.

And a rat shot to internet stardom in 2015 when it was filmed walking down the stairs of a subway station with a slice of pizza in its mouth.

City officials have spent millions of dollars trying to cull the rat population over the years, deploying everything from rodent birth control to vermin-proof trash cans.

The city also runs a "Rat Academy," where local residents can learn rodent prevention methods.

The rats continue to run rampant, however.

### BUILDING & LAND RENT/ SALE

(Suitable for Factory/ Hospital/University)

Two Buildings (each 6 Storiied@ 90,000sqft) total 1,80,000sqft. Land 5.50 bigha with Electricity/ Gas/ Water Facility. Both Buildings Accord Approved with Full Compliance. Presently Garments Factory running at Dhaka Road, Vogra before Gazipur Chowrasta. Contact: 01711-525563, Email: dilan@capital-bd.com

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

A Modern well-planned Commercial space of 4414 sqft with two car parking facilities on the 10th floor of a 14th storied Commercial Building named "Green Grandeur" at Plot # 88/1, Kemal Ataturk venue, Barani, Dhaka is available for rent. Please contact: 01730013012; 01730013031. Email: ripon@royalgoldbd.com; cisul.dewan@yahoo.com

### NOTICE REGARDING TERMINATION OF MEDICAL RECORD FILES

This is to inform everyone that Evercare Hospital Dhaka authorities, in the interest of protecting the privacy of all patients and in accordance with internal policy, have been protecting the medical files, documents, and reports of patients. The authorities have decided to terminate the files of patients who have taken treatment from Evercare Hospital Dhaka during the year 2014. That is why we will request patients who have taken treatment from us during that period to collect their necessary records by 07-01-2023. Note that, the medical reports will be stored in the form of data on our computers.



STS Holdings Limited (Evercare Hospital Dhaka)  
Plot-81, Block-E, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka-1229  
PABX + 88 (02) 8431661-5

### Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
Phone: 8181658-61, Website: www.pksf.org.bd

### OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Memo no: 53.23.0000.001.03.135.22.7688 Date: 01 December 2022

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) was established by the Government of Bangladesh for poverty alleviation through employment generation. PKSF authority invites Tender in sealed envelopes from competitive tenderers for "Procurement of Laptops under PACE Project of PKSF" under Package No: PKSF/PAVE/GD-02 of Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises (PACE) Project of PKSF jointly financed by PKSF and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The tender document including specification for "Procurement of Laptops under PACE Project of PKSF" should be submitted in the prescribed 'Tender Document', which can be collected from PKSF during office hours from 04/12/2022 to 21/12/2022 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of BDT. 500/- (BDT. Five Hundred) only in cash.

Tender documents should be submitted at the office of PKSF by 3:00 pm on or before 22/12/2022. Tender documents will be opened at 3:30 pm on 22/12/2022 in presence of the tenderers or their representatives.

Interested suppliers are requested to visit the website: <http://pksf.org.bd> for detail tender notice and instructions regarding the tender procedures.

PKSF reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all the bid documents without showing any reason whatsoever.

AQM Golam Mawla  
Deputy Managing Director

**Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association**  
BGMEA OFFICE BUILDING AT SECTOR -17, BLOCK-H-1, ROAD AVENUE-06, UTTARA (PHASE-III).

## TENDER NOTICE

বাংলাদেশে তৈরি  
"Made in Bangladesh with Pride"

### INVITING TENDER FOR CIVIL AND SANITARY WORKS OF BGMEA HOSPITAL AT MILKVITA ROAD, MIRPUR, DHAKA.

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed Contractors for Civil and Sanitary Works of BGMEA Hospital at Milkvita Road, Mirpur, Dhaka.

**The Tenderers must have following qualification criteria for eligibility to purchase the Tender Documents:-**

- a) The Tenderers must have minimum 04 (four) years of overall experience in the same field.
- b) The Tenderers shall produce the proven documents of executed works during last 03 (three) years out of which at least one certificate of successful completion of Civil and Sanitary Related works shall be of Tk.50.00 lac (Taka Fifty lac) in a single work order at the time of schedule purchase.
- c) The Tenderers must have up to date Trade License, Income Tax clearance certificate, VAT Registration certificate as per prevailing Govt. rules and regulations.
- d) The Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract.
- The Tenderers must visit the site before submission of tender with their own expense.
- The intending Tenderers shall submit their offer in sealed envelope as per instructions of the tender documents. The prescribed tender schedule with Bill of Quantities (BoQ) shall be available in Accounts Section of BGMEA at Tk.7,000/= (Taka Seven thousand) only in cash (non-refundable) during office hours (10 AM to 06 PM) from 04.12.2022 to 11.12.2022.
- Tenders shall be received on 19.12.2022 up to 2:00 PM in the tender box kept in the reception area of BGMEA Complex (3rd floor), House# 7/7A, Block-H-1, Sector-17, Uttara, Dhaka-1230 and shall be opened on the same day at BGMEA Complex, Uttara, Dhaka at 3:00PM in presence of tenderers, if any.
- The Tenderers must submit 2% earnest money of the total tendered amount in favor of "BGMEA" in the form of Pay Order from any scheduled Commercial Bank. Without earnest money the offer shall be treated as non-responsive tender.

**BGMEA Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason (s) whatsoever.**

Secretary General, BGMEA