

# 'We don't sell people's data'

## Says Facebook CEO

AFP, San Francisco

Facebook co-founder and chief Mark Zuckerberg on Thursday renewed his defence of the social network's business, arguing that targeting ads based on interests was different from selling people's data.

"If we're committed to serving everyone, then we need a service that is affordable to everyone," Zuckerberg said in an opinion piece published in the Wall Street Journal.

"The best way to do that is to offer services for free, which ads enable us to do."

2018 was a horrific year for Facebook, marked by a series of scandals over data protection and privacy and concerns that the leading social network had been manipulated by foreign interests for political purposes.

Despite the scandals, Facebook revenue and user numbers have continued to grow.

Making ads relevant, and less annoying, involves understanding people's interests, according to Zuckerberg.

Facebook uses "signals" such as pages users "like" and what they share about themselves to target advertising.

"Sometimes this means people assume we do things that we don't do," Zuckerberg said of the business of supporting the social network with targeted ads.

"For example, we don't sell people's data, even though it's often reported that we do."

## PM calls for national unity

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new cabinet was formed on January 7. During her 25-minute address, she said her party would work for all citizens irrespective of their party affiliations and views.

Mentioning that parliament would be the centre of all decision-making, she said, "The number of opposition members in the 11th parliament is very few, but we won't measure them by their number. Whatever be [their] number, due and logical proposals, discussions and criticisms by any member will be evaluated properly."

Hasina urged the MPs-elect from the opposition (BNP-led Jatiya Oikyafront) to take oath and join parliament.

About corruption, the PM said she knew that there was discomfort in the society over graft in all sectors. She requested all those involved in corruption to correct themselves.

"Corruption will be eliminated through strict enforcement of laws. We have taken initiatives to uproot corruption from different sectors by expanding the use of information technology."

Putting emphasis on people's participation in the government efforts to check corruption, Hasina said the work to create awareness against corruption would continue, taking assistance from the mass media.

Referring to the successful drives carried out against drug abuse, militancy and terrorism by adopting a "zero tolerance" policy, she said these drives would also go on.

The PM said it was seen that some youths got involved in terrorism and militancy due to either global influence or domestic instigation. "Islam is a religion of peace...there is no room for terrorism in Islam. I urge all the members of society to take a strong stance against drug addiction and militancy."

Regarding the new cabinet, the AL chief said she has formed it with both young and old members. "[We've got] the experience of old and enthusiasm of the youths. With the combination of these two, we're expressing our firm conviction to reach our goals."

She said her party doesn't believe in politics of rhetoric and it implements all its pledges. The party has already implemented most of the pledges it had made prior to 2008 and 2014 elections.

"The biggest responsibility ahead of us is to create jobs for educated youths. We've adopted special plans for their employment. We've set a target to create 1.5 crore jobs in the next five years."

About the election results, Hasina said the AL's massive victory was expected as local and international surveys conducted before the election also gave indications of such results. "You have noticed the survey results of London-based Economic Intelligence Unit and Research and Development Centre."

She said numerous development projects, including some mega ones like the Padma Bridge, of the two previous AL governments attracted voters to cast their votes for the party.

About the Jatiya Oikyafront's defeat in the December 30 election, the PM said various reasons were behind it, including giving nominations to 3-4 people or more in one seat, allegation of nomination trade, selection of weaker candidates, uncertainty over

Selling user data would not only undermine essential trust in the social network, it would go against Facebook's business interests because rivals could use it to compete for advertising, he reasoned.

Facebook also provides users with controls regarding information used for ad targeting and lets them block advertisers, Zuckerberg pointed out.

Criticism of Facebook has included the social network being used as a platform to spread divisive or misleading information, as was the case during the 2016 election that put US President Donald Trump in the White House.

"Clickbait and other junk may drive engagement in the near term, but it would be foolish for us to show this intentionally, because it's not what people want," Zuckerberg wrote.

"Another question is whether we leave harmful or divisive content up because it drives engagement. We don't."

Facebook has been investing in artificial intelligence and adding employees devoted to ferreting out content that violates the social network's rules.

The expense could weigh on its quarterly earnings, due for release next week.

"The only reason bad content remains is because the people and artificial-intelligence systems we use to review it are not perfect -- not because we have an incentive to ignore it," he said.

the selection of the prime minister if the alliance won majority seats in the election, failure to project future plans for the people, countrywide arson attacks and destructive activities "by BNP-Jamaat" from 2013 to 2015 and participation of Jamaat leaders in the polls with BNP's electoral symbol sheaf of paddy.

Hasina said the government wants to establish a peaceful society where there'll be no envy, enmity and conflict, and where people from all religions, creeds and communities will live in peace; and everyone will perform their religious rituals with dignity.

She mentioned that people have given their mandate keeping their trust in her.

"I'm promising you that I will try my best to give you the return for your trust. For that I need support and cooperation from all citizens, irrespective of their party affiliations and views. With your cooperation, Inshallah, we will establish non-communal Golden Bangla free from hunger, poverty and illiteracy as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," the PM said.

State-owned Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television simultaneously broadcasted her address. Private television channels and radio stations also aired the speech.

## Novel trick

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A case was filed with Karnaphuli Police Station.

In another incident on Monday, police recovered 1,663 yaba pills from a coconut shell in Chattogram.

Earlier, drug peddlers were seen carrying yaba pills inside gourds, jackfruits, wall clocks, books, laptops and sugarcane to dodge the law enforcers.

## UN names panel

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US intelligence agencies believe Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered an operation to kill Khashoggi, a critic and Washington Post columnist, and say his body was dismembered and removed to a location still publicly unknown.

Riyadh denies the crown prince had any involvement in the murder.

A Saudi public prosecutor's spokesman said last year that 21 Saudis had been taken into custody over the case, 11 of whom had been indicted and referred to trial. The prosecutor said this month it was seeking the death penalty for five of the 11 indicted suspects.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday that it was time for an international investigation to be launched into the murder of Khashoggi.

There was no word on whether the panel would seek access to Saudi Arabia or whether the kingdom would cooperate. The Saudi diplomatic mission in Geneva did not respond to inquiries.

Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, said in a tweet on Thursday: "Her (Callamard's) probe should lay the groundwork for a much-needed, large-scale UN investigation capable of reviewing all intelligence."

# Modi's ratings at all-time low; Rahul closing in

Reveals survey

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ratings have dropped to their lowest-ever level, but he still leads in popularity before a national election expected in the next few months, an India Today poll showed yesterday.

Modi is facing discontent over lack of jobs for young people and a weak farm economy, and polls have forecast his ruling alliance will fall short of a majority in the election due by May.

The India Today poll, which was conducted from Dec 20 to Jan 8, showed his popularity rating at 46 percent. That's down from 65 percent in January 2017, a little over a month after he announced a nationwide ban of 500- and 1,000-rupee notes.

Nearly 900 million people will be eligible to vote in the election and surveys to predict how they will vote have often gone wrong.

Rahul Gandhi, the main challenger

to Modi and leader of the opposition Congress party, has seen his ratings rise from a low of 10 percent two years ago to his all-time high of 34 percent, 12 percentage points shy of Modi.

The poll interviewed 12,166 voters across 97 parliamentary constituencies out of the total 543 constituencies in India.

In an earlier poll by India Today, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led alliance was forecast to win 237 seats, down from 336. The Congress alliance was expected to take 166 seats, up from 59 won in the 2014 elections.

Modi's popularity began to wane after his sudden move to ban large rupee notes, then imposed tax reforms that hurt small traders and led to several factories closing.

The aftershocks of the two moves were exacerbated by falling commodity prices, which affected the incomes of a largely agrarian society.

## Youth killed

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year. He was an assistant manager of Sarmi Group, a readymade garment factory in Palli Bidyut area, said his friend Mohammad Zinna.

Munir had changed his Facebook profile picture on August 2 last year in support of a widespread protest for safer roads that received global attention following the deaths of two students in Dhaka.

He had also demanded tougher punishment for reckless driving.



Shehabul Munir

"Munir got brain injuries and was taken to the ICU at the hospital. But he died," said Nandita Sarker, a lecturer at the Department of Environment Sciences in Jahangirnagar University, quoting the doctors.

Rezaul Haque, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, told The Daily Star that Munir's relatives filed a case against the driver.

"We have arrested the driver and sent him to the court. We have also seized the vehicle," he said.

## Pranab chosen

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wisdom and intellect have a few parallels. Delighted that he has been conferred the Bharat Ratna," Modi said in a separate Twitter post.

Pranab, who was one of the senior most Congress party leaders for decades, was India's 13th president from 2012 to 2017. He had also held the key portfolios of finance, defence and external affairs ministers under

## Earth's oldest

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moon because it was three times closer to Earth at the time.

The rock contains quartz, feldspar and zircon, which are very common on Earth but not so much on the moon.

An analysis of the rock revealed that it formed at temperatures associated with Earth and in an Earth-like setting combined with oxygen. It crystallised between 4 billion and 4.1 billion years ago, when the Earth was young, about 12.4 miles below the surface.

If it had formed on the moon, it would have reflected different temperature conditions. It would also be highly unusual for a lunar sample, the researchers said. It would have formed deep within the moon in the mantle, where scientists think different rock compositions can be found.

But if the rock formed so far beneath the Earth's surface, how was it jettisoned? The researchers believe that one or more impact events to the planet's surface revealed the rock before it was launched. At the time, Earth would have been experiencing asteroid impacts capable of creating craters that were hundreds of miles wide.

On the lunar surface, the rock mixed with other materials. The new analysis revealed that it may have been impacted and even partially melted 3.9 billion years ago, burying it under the surface and creating a "new" rock -- essentially a time capsule from the early days of the solar system.

Then, 26 million years ago, an asteroid hit the moon and created the Cone Crater, which is 0.2 miles across. This helped toss the rock back to the moon's surface.

So when the Apollo 14 astronauts collected it almost exactly 48 years ago -- between January 31 and February 6, 1971 -- they thought it was an organic sample that would provide information about the moon and its composition.

The international research team that analysed the rock developed techniques to find impact fragments in the moon's soil. David Kring, principal investigator for the Center for Lunar Science and Exploration, challenged his team to find a bit of Earth on the moon. And he believes that more may be found.

"It is an extraordinary find that helps paint a better picture of early Earth and the bombardment that modified our planet during the dawn of life," Kring said in a statement.

The United States has warned that it will begin a six-month withdrawal process from the treaty on February 2, unless Russia withdraws the 9M729 ground-based missile system.

Congress governments.

For Bhupen Hazarika, whose compositions have delighted generations on both sides of Bengal, Modi tweeted: "the songs and music of Shri Bhupen Hazarika are admired by people across generations. From them radiates the message of justice, harmony and brotherhood. He popularised India's musical traditions globally."

"Happy that the Bharat Ratna has been conferred for Dr Bhupen Hazarika," he said.

Bhupen Hazarika, also a recipient of prestigious awards like Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Padmashri and Padmabhushan, was earlier posthumously chosen for Padma Vibhushan, the Indian government's second-highest civilian honour, in 2012. He died in November 2011 at the age of 85.

Nanaji Deshmukh was a founding member of the Janata Party and one of the senior-most BJP members. He also played a crucial role in the social restructuring programme in 500 villages in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. He died in 2010 at the age of 93.

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## Myanmar still forcing

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forcibly deported. On Rohingya relocation to Bhashanchar, Lee said there should be no rush to relocate them.

Asked about relocation of the Rohingyas to other Southeast Asian countries, she said, "I don't think that's a possibility."

About a UN-led safe zone for the Rohingya in Rakhine state, she said such safe zones are not actually safe. She suggested a sustainable solution to the crisis by holding Myanmar accountable.

She said there were instances in the history that refugees were told to stay in safe zones, but then killed together.

PROSECUTE MYANMAR ARMY CHIEF

In an interview with the Reuters in Bangkok, Lee said Myanmar's army chief should be prosecuted for genocide against the Rohingya Muslim minority.