

Why is Huawei seeking \$1b patent deal with Verizon?

REUTERS, Washington

Huawei is demanding Verizon Communications Inc pay \$1 billion to license the rights to patented technology, signaling a potential shift in the embattled Chinese company's strategy for the US market.

A Huawei executive made the demand in a February letter, a person briefed on the matter told Reuters. The Wall Street Journal first reported on the letter on Wednesday. The fee would cover licensing of more than 230 patents.

Verizon spokesman Rich Young declined to comment "regarding this specific issue because it's a potential legal matter."

However, Young said, "These issues are larger than just Verizon. Given the broader geopolitical context, any issue involving Huawei has implications for our entire industry and also raise national and international concerns."

Huawei did not respond to a request for comment. The following explains why the patent dispute is not unusual and how it could be resolved.

How common is patent licensing?
Patent licensing is very common, particularly in complex industries like telecommunications. As technology has advanced, it has become harder to avoid violating — or "infringing" — patent rights. There are millions of US patents in force, and a typical smartphone implicates hundreds of thousands of them.

Companies like Apple Inc, Nokia Inc and Qualcomm Inc own many thousands of patents issued by governments around the world.

It is not unusual for these firms to try to make money from their massive patent portfolios. Nokia, for example, routinely brings in more than \$1 billion a year from licensing its patents to others.

Large companies like Verizon will try to identify patents they might be violating, said Gaston Kroub, a patent lawyer in New York. But that can be a challenge because so many patents are granted every year, Kroub said.

"Sophisticated companies like Verizon understand that they could be approached by licensors of any stripe at any time," Kroub said. The philosophy of wireless carriers and smartphone companies, Kroub said, can be "let's deal with these claims as they arrive, because we don't know who will knock on our door next."

Tom Cotter, a professor of patent law at the University of Minnesota, said it was possible Huawei executives believe Verizon has been infringing their US patents for some time but for business reasons waited until now to seek compensation.

Patent owners "may not enforce their patents for a period of time, but they can choose to do so whenever they want to," Cotter said. "It happens all the time."

What happens if Verizon does not pay?
Huawei may end up going to a US court and suing Verizon for alleged patent infringement.

While some licensing disputes are resolved without lawsuits, litigation is fairly common. Huawei and Samsung Electronics Co recently settled a global legal battle on confidential terms.

A defendant in a patent case typically argues that it does not actually infringe the asserted patents, or that they were mistakenly issued and should be revoked.

In a lawsuit, a patent owner can ask a judge to block sales of infringing products. While such injunctions are rarely granted in the United States, the threat of one can motivate a defendant to settle with the patent owner.

Legal experts said Huawei is likely prepared to go to court.

"I don't know how you can make a demand of \$1 billion and not be prepared for the answer to be no, at least at first, and for the need to litigate," Kroub said.

Has Huawei been an aggressive enforcer of its patents?

Huawei has long been known for defending itself against US patent infringement claims, rather than bringing them. But that could be changing.



A Huawei company logo is seen at CES (Consumer Electronics Show) Asia 2019 in Shanghai.

REUTERS/FILE



Reshadur Rahman

Tahidul Hossain Chowdhury

Dhaka Bank chairman re-elected

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Reshadur Rahman has recently been re-elected chairman of Dhaka Bank.

The election took place at the bank's 353rd board meeting on June 12, according to a statement.

The bank also elected Tahidul Hossain Chowdhury (Atik) as its new vice chairman.

Rahman is a successful entrepreneur and is associated with a great deal of progressive alliance with several companies. He is the honorary consul general of the Republic of Poland in Bangladesh.

The re-election of Rahman will positively enhance values associated with the bank and propel its continuous journey towards excellence, said the statement.

Chowdhury is one of the sponsor directors of the bank.

He is an eminent business personality having more than three decades of experience in garments, hospitality and pharmaceuticals business, the statement added.

US industrial output rebounds in May

AFP, Washington

US industrial output rebounded in May due to a jump in utilities and recovery in auto production but the trend this year remains sluggish, the Federal Reserve said Friday.

With American manufacturing hurt by the ongoing trade wars and the slowdown in China and other trading partners, the uptick last month may be small comfort.

Total industrial production rose 0.4 percent compared to prior month, double the gain economists expected, but was nullified by the 0.4 percent drop in April, according to the report.

Although output is up two percent compared to May 2018, it has been slipping the so far this year with a cumulative decline of nearly one percent from January to May.

The manufacturing sector especially is feeling the pain, with the 0.2 percent uptick

in May failing to offset the 0.5 percent drop in April, with a decline of 1.5 percent in the first five months of the year.

The report notes that the recovery in production of motor vehicles and parts, which had been falling, was offset by two months of declines in aerospace -- which could reflect continued troubles at Boeing due to the grounding of its 737 MAX aircraft.

Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics notes that a calendar quirk is partly to blame for the big swings in the latest two months but said the pain in manufacturing is real.

"We're under no illusions about the weak underlying trend in the manufacturing output. The sector is suffering badly from both the slowdown in China's business cycle and the trade war, which has made a challenging situation worse," he said in a research note.

Brazil asks for WTO investigation of Indonesia on poultry trade

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

The Brazilian government has formally asked the World Trade Organization (WTO) to open a panel to investigate Indonesian policies on Brazil's poultry exports, the Agriculture Ministry said on Friday.

Brazil won a case against Indonesia at the WTO in 2017, but the South American country argues that the WTO decision was never implemented by Indonesia, which continues to block any chicken imports from Brazilian companies.

Brazil is not allowed to export poultry to Indonesia because it lacks an international sanitary certification that needs to be issued by the Islamic country's government.

In a statement, the Agriculture Ministry said a team of inspectors from Indonesia visited meat processing plants in Brazil last year, but has yet to release any documentation on the inspections. "WTO rules say a country can not delay indefinitely the issuance of the sanitary authorization," the ministry said, adding that the Indonesian government has never identified any reason for not doing so.

Brazil, the world's largest poultry exporter, said its request for a panel will be evaluated by WTO's Dispute Settlement Body in a meeting scheduled for June 24.

Walmart's Flipkart, Indian startup GOQii settle dispute over sharp discounting

REUTERS, New Delhi

Walmart unit Flipkart has settled a legal dispute with an Indian startup that alleged it suffered losses because its products were sharply discounted on the global retailer's website.

GOQii, a seller of smartwatch-type health devices, sued Flipkart last month in a Mumbai court, alleging its devices were discounted by around 70 percent to the retail price, much more than the two sides had agreed. The court had, as an interim measure, ordered device sales to be halted on Flipkart.

In a joint statement on Friday, the companies said the dispute had been resolved and GOQii health devices would again be available on Flipkart. They didn't say how the settlement was reached.

Vishal Gondal, CEO of GOQii, told Reuters the company would withdraw

the case against Flipkart. The e-commerce retailer's "team worked on a resolution benefiting the brand and the customers", Gondal said in the statement.

The legal spat was seen as a test case of the giant retailer's operating strategy in the country.

Small traders and a right-wing group close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party have raised concerns about large e-commerce companies, saying they burn billions of dollars deeply discounting some products to lure customers onto their sites, in the expectation that they will also buy other goods.

GOQii said it signed an agreement last year with a Flipkart unit to sell two of its devices at a price not below 1,999 rupees (\$28.63) and 1,499 rupees. It later found the devices were being sold for 999 rupees and 699 rupees, calling it "unauthorized" discounting.



Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, managing director of Robi, attends the launch of the telecom operator's women-focused digital lifestyle service, Ichchhedana, at its corporate office in Dhaka.

ROBI

Oil rises again on tension fuelled by tanker attacks

AFP, London

Oil prices rose again Friday in reaction to geopolitical tension, building on the previous day's surge sparked by suspected attacks on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman.

The US government blamed Iran for mysterious explosions on the tankers, and there were growing fears that Iran could close the Strait of Hormuz, a major choke point for world oil shipments.

Despite a potentially disastrous standoff between the two foes, oil traders were "not getting carried away", said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA.

Prices jumped by more than four percent at one stage on Thursday as reports of the attacks in the Gulf of Oman flashed onto

traders' screens.

"Oil prices may have spiked following the attacks but they have not risen too much considering the risk that an escalation poses," said Erlam.

"Perhaps this is a sign of how pressured oil prices are to the downside at the moment, with the US pumping at record levels and the global economy slowing."

The International Energy Agency said earlier Friday that tepid growth in demand for oil along with ample supplies from non-OPEC countries will complicate efforts by the cartel and its allies to boost prices.

In its monthly report, the agency cut its forecast for demand growth this year for the second month straight -- and trimmed its second quarter forecast as well.

India's May trade deficit widens to \$15.36b

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's trade deficit widened to \$15.36 billion in May from a year ago, the trade ministry said in a statement on Friday.

Trade deficit stood at \$14.62 billion in May 2018.

Merchandise exports grew nearly 4 percent to \$29.99 billion last month compared with a year earlier, while imports were up 4.3 percent at \$45.35 billion, data showed.

Sugar price rises overnight in port city

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"Soon after being imported, it goes to the hands of the local traders. So, the importers have nothing to do with it."

Some wholesalers who have stockpiled sugar earlier have stopped selling the sweetener after the announcement of the tax hike, said Mir Mohammad Hasan, a wholesale trader of the Khatunganj-Chaktai market in the port city.

"It was also a reason for the sudden rise in sugar price overnight."

Cement in place of plastic raw materials

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According to case documents, 10,200 sacks of cement weighing 50 kilogrammes each were found in the containers. "Jebel Ali Cement" was printed as the brand name on the sacks.

Ziaul Huq, assistant general manager of Pran Group, told The Daily Star, "After the incident, we requested the stakeholders including the supplier, the shipping agent, the customs authorities, the port authorities and the bank to take necessary action. The bank concerned has already stopped payment against the letter of credit."

"The supplier has deceived us by delivering such products and we will take legal action," he added.

M Fakhru Alam, commissioner of the Customs House, said they would conduct an investigation to determine the validity of the importer's claim.

Money whitening scope to foster dishonesty: analysts

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Private investment has been hovering around 22-23 percent for long.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, echoed Khan, saying the government should not extend the money whitening opportunity as it is not fair.

"By promoting whitening of black money you are really going to hurt the compliant taxpayers."

At present, the income tax department does not raise any question about the sources of fund when invested in the purchase or construction of any apartment, flat or building after a certain tax is paid on the sum.

"Somebody who is not paying the

proper tax, which may be over 30 percent, will be investing in an SEZ after paying only 10 percent tax and there will be no tax liability on that investment for the future. This is not right," he added.

The participants at the discussion lauded the move to increase the tax-free turnover for small and medium enterprises and form a Tk 100 crore fund for budding startups.

They also welcomed the initiative to widen the social safety net.

The allocation for the health sector was insufficient at only 4.9 percent of the total budget of Tk 523,190 crore, said Md Shahadat Hossain, a council member of the ICAB.

He also said revenue collection would fall short of target this fiscal year.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Sylhet

www.lged.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. 46.02.9100.000.07.005.18-1955

Date: 13-06-2019

e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No: 70/2018-19

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID No.	Method of tender	Closing date & time
1	SYL/AF-98	Rehabilitation of (a) Lalabazar GC-Bibidol-Jalapur GC (Road. ID-691952001) Ch. 00-6+000 Km (b) Nazirbazar-Hokiarchar GPS (Road. ID. 691953001) Ch. 500-3+650 Km. under Upazila: Dakshin Surma, District: Sylhet (Salvage Amount Tk. 816801.00).	316586	OTM	16/07/19 13:00
2	SYL/AF-96	Rehabilitation of Hetimganj-Chandarpur-Beanibazar Road (Beanibazar Portion) (ID-691172003) (Ch. 4+000-8+440 Km) under Upazila: Beanibazar, District: Sylhet.	329514	OTM	16/07/19 13:00
3	SYL/AF-99	Rehabilitation of a RHD Road Hetimganj Bazar- Dhaka Dakshin GC- Chandarpur-Beanibazar UZ HQ Road Dewan Road (Golapganj Part ID-691382007) Ch. 10+255-16+555 Km. Upazila: Golapganj @ Mokambazar GC - Purukayastha Bazar - Jamitiki-Goshgaon - RHD Kadamtali (Road ID-691382010) Ch. 0+00-12+825 Km. Upazila: Golapganj, (d) Lakhipasha UP- Mokam Bazar- Nimadal-Kotowalpur-Hetimganj Bazar (Road ID-691383009) Ch. 00-4+520 Km. Upazila: Golapganj, Sylhet.	329539	OTM	16/07/19 13:00
4	SYL/AF-28	Rehabilitation of a. Bairagir Bazar GC-Shingher Katch Bazar GC Road (Road ID 691202003) from Ch. 4+600-11+040 Km under Upazila: Biswanath (b) Biswanath Bazar GC-Chaila-Dashghar-Pererabazar GC Road (Road ID 691202005) from Ch. 00+00-5+235 Km under Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	329711	OTM	16/07/19 13:00
5	SYL/AF-100	Rehabilitation of (a) Gowalabazar GC-Khadimpur-Jaganathpur GC Road (Osmaninagar Part) (Road ID 691962008) from Ch. 00-7+650 Km under Upazila: Osmaninagar, (b) Paschim Polianpur UP-Begumpur-Kalnirchar Bazar Road (Road ID 691963002) from Ch. 0+00-10+750 Km under Upazila: Osmaninagar, District: Sylhet.	329741	OTM	16/07/19 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

The tender notice will be available on the website: www.lged.gov.bd

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