

FACEBOOK ADVERTISING DATA USE

EU, UK launch probe

AFP, Brussels

The EU and the UK launched parallel competition probes yesterday against Facebook, accused of using data from advertisers to unfairly dominate the online classifieds market.

The US social media behemoth sells classified advertising on its Marketplace service, but also gathers data from commercial advertising that may give it an unfair advantage.

Investigators will also probe whether Facebook's single user log-in allows it to unfairly use data gathered across its social media, dating app and advertising platforms.

The cases opened by the European Commission and Britain's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) are separate, but the regulators are working closely together.

"Facebook collects vast troves of data on the activities of users of its social network and beyond," EU vice-president and competition chief Margrethe Vestager said.

"We will look in detail at whether this data gives Facebook an undue competitive advantage in particular on the online classified ads sector, where people buy and sell goods every day, and where Facebook also competes with companies from which it collects data," she said. "In today's digital economy, data should not be used in ways that distort competition."

The formal probe follows a preliminary investigation focused on Facebook's Marketplace classifieds service -- available to most of its three billion users. Companies advertising on Marketplace have to provide data to Facebook which the Commission said led to concerns that the internet giant may distort competition.

The European Commission noted in its statement that former EU member Britain's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) also yesterday opened its own probe into the way Facebook uses data.



University students clean the "Pillar of Shame" statue at the University of Hong Kong on the 32nd anniversary of the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, in Hong Kong, China, yesterday. Police blocked off a Hong Kong park to prevent people gathering to commemorate the anniversary and arrested the planned vigil's organiser.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asean envoys in Myanmar

Envoys from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations arrived in Myanmar for talks with junta leader Min Aung Hlaing, as the coup-stricken nation enters its fifth month of crippling unrest. Myanmar has been in chaos and its economy paralysed since the February coup, with more than 800 people killed in a brutal military crackdown on dissent, according to a local monitoring group. Erywan Pehin Yusof, Brunei's second minister for foreign affairs, and Asean Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi arrived in the capital Naypyidaw late Thursday, a senior Myanmar official told AFP. The envoys were to meet Min Aung Hlaing yesterday. No details of the meeting was released. Asean leaders in April issued a "five-point consensus" statement that called for the "immediate cessation of violence" and a visit to Myanmar by a regional special envoy after meeting Min Aung Hlaing. But the general said in a later television interview that Myanmar was not ready to adopt the plan.

Japan births hit new low

The number of babies born in Japan hit a new record low last year, official data showed, highlighting concern over the pandemic's impact on one of the world's lowest fertility rates. In 2020, the greying country saw 840,832 births, according to data released Thursday by the health and labour ministry. Politicians have expressed concern that the population of the world's third-largest economy is shrinking faster than ever, with couples hesitant to reproduce as the pandemic fuels financial instability and fears over hospital trips. Japan's net decline in population, 531,816, was a record high while the birth rate -- the average number of children a woman has -- declined to 1.34, the data showed.

HK car space sells for \$1.3m

A single car parking space has been sold for a whopping HK\$10 million (\$1.3 million) at a luxury Hong Kong apartment complex, local media reported yesterday. The 12.5 square-metre (135 square-foot) spot is part of a development on The Peak, a swanky area that has attracted some of the city's richest residents since colonial times. Boasting breath-taking views over Victoria Harbour, the hilltop has eye-watering property prices -- including some of the world's most expensive real estate. While Hong Kong's wealthy think nothing of dropping millions of dollars for their homes, millions of the city's residents struggle to afford the rent on shoe-box apartments -- many smaller than the parking space. A 2019 study listed the average property price in Hong Kong at \$1.2 million.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Tribunal hears 'grave' allegations

Witnesses reveal China abuses including torture, gang-rape

AFP, London

A London panel investigating the plight of Uyghurs in China yesterday heard witness testimony of torture and gang rapes, in a process slammed by Beijing as a mendacious smear.

One witness described squalid conditions and brutality in camps in the northwestern Chinese region of Xinjiang, and said one woman had died after undergoing forced sterilisation.

The nine UK-based jurors of the "Uyghur Tribunal", including lawyers and human rights experts, convened the first of two evidence sessions and intend to publish a report in December on whether China is guilty of genocide.

"Allegations made against the PRC (People's Republic of China) are grave," tribunal chair Geoffrey Nice said at the

opening of the first four-day session, explaining they included numerous breaches of the UN declaration on human rights.

The body is not affiliated with any government, and China has refused to participate, branding it a "machine producing lies". It has slapped sanctions on Nice, a former UN war crimes prosecutor, and others involved.

ATROCITIES ON UYGHURS

It was set up at the request of the World Uyghur Congress, the largest group representing exiled Uyghurs, which lobbies the international community to take action against China over alleged abuses in Xinjiang.

Qelbinur Sidik, an ethnic-Uzbek teacher from Xinjiang's capital Urumqi,

said she was ordered by communist party bosses to teach Chinese in two fetid and crowded "re-education" camps, one male and one female, for Uyghurs.

The so-called students were made to wear shackles during hours-long classes, she told the tribunal.

Female prisoners were not only tortured but also raped, sometimes gang-raped, Sidik said.

Forced sterilisation of Uyghur women was common, she said.

Sidik said she was also subjected to forced sterilisation before she was given a visa to visit her daughter in the Netherlands, and fled China.

Rights groups say up to one million Uyghurs and people from other ethnic-Turkic minorities are detained in internment camps in Xinjiang.

Corporate tax deal 'in sight' as G7 meets

AFP, London

Group of Seven finance ministers kicked off talks yesterday, with optimism growing that the world's wealthiest countries will support US-backed plans for a minimum global level of corporate tax.

British finance minister Rishi Sunak was hosting the meet -- held in person after an easing of Covid restrictions and attended by counterparts from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

The talks were preparing the ground for a broader summit of G7 leaders in Cornwall, England starting on June 11, which will include US President Biden who has called for a unified minimum corporate tax rate of 15 percent.

Momentum is building for a minimum level of corporate tax to prevent multinationals like tech giants from playing the system to boost profits.

Corporate tax is one of two pillars in efforts for global fiscal reforms, the other being a "digital tax" to allow countries to tax the profits of multinationals headquartered overseas.

According to a draft communique seen by AFP, the finance chiefs and central bankers of the world's seven richest nations will express "strong support" over a minimum global minimum corporate tax rate. Ministers also plan to commit to "sustain policy support", or stimulus, for "as long as necessary" to nurture economic recovery, while addressing climate change and inequalities in society, according to the document.

Budget blanks out

FROM PAGE 2

and if things don't change they could lose Tk 6,800 crore by December.

Airlines Operator Association of Bangladesh (Aoab) urged the government to waive VAT and tax on jet fuel on domestic routes. Aoab also demanded withdrawal of 15 percent VAT on aeronautical and non-aeronautical charges, and reducing the corporate tax rate from 32.5 percent to 22.5 percent.

"We are surprised to see this budget. There was actually nothing in this budget for the aviation and tourism sector ... nothing on how to save these two worst effect industries," Kamrul Islam, spokesperson of US-Bangla Airlines, said.

Toab demanded stimulus package but the government did not pay heed to their demands.

The finance minister did mention that the government has formulated a standard operating procedure to keep domestic and international tourism going following health safety protocols.

Toab leaders said there was no mention of how and when it would be implemented.

Toab had asked for waiver of their annual trade licence renewal fees during the pandemic. This request too was ignored in the budget.

Talking to this correspondent, Toab President Rafeuzzaman said the government did not pay due focus on the tourism industry.

"Tourism sector is on the verge of collapse ... This sector will not survive without assistance from the government. But we didn't see anything in the budget," he added.

Toab leaders said tourism is now the third largest industry in the world. In 2019, tourism contributed 4.7 percent, or Tk 6,300 crore, to the GDP.

MYSTERIOUS FLYING OBJECTS

US REPORT FAILS TO EXPLAIN MYSTERY

AFP, Washington

There is no evidence that unexplained aerial phenomena spotted in recent years by US military personnel are aliens, an upcoming government report quoted by The New York Times Thursday said, but officials still can't explain the mysterious aircraft.

The newspaper, which cited senior administration officials briefed on the findings of the highly anticipated report, said they were able to confirm the unusual vessels were not the product of secret Pentagon technology.

But the review of more than 120 incidents over the past two decades was unable to explain the mysterious movements of the craft, which include unusual acceleration, direction changes and the ability to rapidly submerge.

And while senior officials told the Times the lack of clear findings means that while there's no evidence of alien



technology behind the phenomena, it's also impossible to rule out.

One official briefed on the report said officials increasingly worry the phenomena could be China or Russia experimenting with newer technology.

The upcoming report -- expected to be released to Congress by June 25 -- will have a classified annex, which will likely fuel speculation that aliens are actually behind the encounters.

The Pentagon last year released videos taken by US Navy pilots showing in-flight encounters with the unusual aircraft.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Noakhali
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Memo No. _____ Dated: _____

e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender has been invited for the following work through e-GP Portal and that will be visible from 03.06.2021 only the person/organization registered by e-GP portal can visit (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for clear observation.

Tender ID No	Package No	Name of works	Last Selling date & Time	Closing/Opening date & Time
584695	Noakhali/PWD/Rev/OTM-153 Police Line.	Supplying and Installation of 400 KVA Electrical Sub-Station for Noakhali, Police Line.	20.06.2021 16:00	21.06.2021 15:00

This is an online tender only where e-Tenders 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 System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md. Kamrul Hassan)
Executive Engineer
Noakhali P.W.D. Division.

GD-1134

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Family Planning
Logistics & Supply Unit
6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Invitation for Tenders (Goods)

1	Ministry/Division	Medical Education & Family Welfare Division
2	Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning
3	Procuring Entity Name	Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management)
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Covered Van Truck (5 Ton)
7	Invitation Ref No	DGFP/L&S-2/Covered Van/2020-21/167/189
8	Date	03/06/2021
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)(NCT)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget
11	Development Partner (if applicable)	International Development Association (IDA)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/ Programme Code (if applicable)	224108300
13	Project/ Programme Name (if applicable)	4 th Health, Population & Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP)
14	Tender Package No.	PSSM/GD-02
15	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Covered Van Truck (5 Ton)
16	Tender Publication Date	04/06/2021
17	Tender Last Selling Date	23/06/2021
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	24/06/2021 12:00 PM
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	24/06/2021 12:30 PM.
20	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address Office of the Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management), Logistics & Supply Unit (5 th floor), Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 Contact No- 01741404804
Selling Tender Document (Others)		
Office of the Additional Director (Drugs & Stores) Central Warehouse, Directorate General of Family Planning, Nandipara (Uttargaon) Trimohoni, Union-Nasirabad, Thana-Khilgaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh.		
Receiving Tender Document		
Room No.-15, Logistics & Supply unit Directorate General of Family Planning		
Opening Tender Document		
6, Kawran bazar, Dhaka-1215		

21	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	The Pre- Tender meeting shall be held at the Conference Room, Room No.-15, Logistics & Supply unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran bazar, Dhaka-1215 Date: 09/06/2021 & Time: 11.00 AM.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	As mentioned in the tender document			
23	Brief Description of Goods	5 nos. Covered Van Truck (5 Ton)			
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Not Applicable			
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Taka 2000/- (Taka two thousand) only, non- refundable. Mode of payment should be made by Treasury Chalan from Bangladesh Bank/ Sonali Bank Code no: 1-7481-0000-2366 in favor of Director General, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Original copy of the Treasury Chalan must be online verification/certified (CTR) by the concerned accounts' office.			
26	Lot No.	Identification of items	Location	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time in Weeks/Months
	Single Lot	5 nos. Covered Van Truck (5 Ton)	Central Warehouse (Rented), Directorate General Of Family Planning, Nandipara (Uttargaon), Union: Nasirabad, Thana:Khilgoan, Dhaka.	BDT. 5,00,000.00 (Taka Five Lakh)	12 weeks from the date of Contract Signing.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Ratna Talukder			
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management)			
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Logistics & Supply Unit (5 th floor), Directorate General of Family Planning 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.			
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. & Fax No:88-02- 55012349 E-mail: dirldsdfp@gmail.com			
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders. If the opening date fails on any office holiday, the first working day will be the last selling date of tender document and the next working day will be the opening date.				

GD-1133

03.06.2021
(Ratna Talukder)
Director (Logistics and Supply) &
Line Director (PSSM-FP)
Directorate General of Family Planning
Telephone:88-02-55012349