



Facebook's global outage creates new poor: The influencer class

STAR ON THE EBB

Facebook's global outage has created a new kind of poor, the influencer class. In the six hours, a huge number of social media influencers have lost money after being unable to promote their products on Facebook's suite of apps, especially Instagram. Some of the big names, who make

anywhere from \$10 per post to even a million dollars for a single post, were also counting big losses after failing to post or promote any of their products for a whopping six hours. "Everyone is talking about how Mark Zuckerberg lost 7 billion dollars during the global outage. No one is looking at us or counting our losses. Because of these few hours of blackout, I now

do not have any money for my already booked trip to Tuscany," says one young influencer not willing to be named after her obvious fall from the riches. "I was supposed to promote some wine from the vineyard where I would get a free stay and would be paid but I lost that window," she added, now inconsolable. Bloomberg's senior reporter has also

weighed in on this phenomenon saying not only has the blackout resulted in Mark Zuckerberg falling down to the 5th spot in the Bloomberg billionaire's index, it has also created something that they have coined the "influencing poor". This is a class of people, who otherwise live a lavish life, but will be deeply affected if social media ceased to exist and would not know how to make

themselves useful or generate income without their "influence". In related news, fashion brands are already working on new lines called Poor Chic. It has also been learnt that Facebook is working on a new algorithm to target influencers with advertisements of cheaper brands as it has picked up words like "discount outlets" and "vouchers" on their phone microphones.

Bombshell reporting shows rich and powerful are corrupt, and nobody cares

BLEEDINGLY OBVIOUS CORRESPONDENT

The Investigative Consortium of International Journalists (ICIJ) recently shocked other journalists by revealing that powerful politicians and top executives around the world have been hiding their money away in offshore shell companies. The ICIJ are however disappointed because this revelation, while grabbing headlines and primetime news coverage around the world, has shocked none of the general public. "Where are the Facebook statuses bemoaning the degradation of the global moral fabric, the unchecked cannibalising effect of rampant capitalism?" an ICIJ journalist who was part of the Pandora investigation asked while talking to this correspondent on condition of anonymity. "And don't tell me Facebook was down for six hours... that is all I am hearing about. "I mean, we went through nearly 12 million documents. Do you understand that number? 12 million documents!!" This correspondent could only respond with silence, contemplating the 400 words he would have to write about this story. "We implicated Tony Blair, Sachin Tendulkar, the King Abdullah II, Shakira... what's wrong with the world?" The ICIJ had previously come up with similar "bombshell" reports -- the Panama Papers and the Paradise Papers. When asked why they were sticking with the letter P for their big bombshells



PHOTO: AFP

that really haven't been bombshells, the journalist hung up. Anyway, back to Pandora's box, this correspondent's supervisor told him that the box was important because it showed how the powerful -- which includes the likes of the Qatari ruling family, the Kenyan president, the Czech prime minister, major donors to UK's ruling party, etc. (zzzzzz) -- have been avoiding paying taxes and hiding their wealth, costing their governments billions and potentially concealing criminal activities. It shows the failure of governments worldwide as politicians tasked with making sure that billionaires pay their

due are themselves stashing cash in tax havens. "It's a big deal!" he said. But a member of the Aam Janata -- who desperately wanted his name to be published but it was too common and does not fit in with the other exotic names in the article -- said, "We already knew this. There is a reason people want to be powerful. I think there are lessons from the pandemic papers we can all take -- if you want to be rich, you have to be corrupt. But that lesson too is one we all know about. "Stop saying obvious things. Next thing you'll tell me is Donald Trump is the president of America."

All international indexes are conspiracies: Minister

SHOAIB AHMED SAYAM

Chapasthan has landed at the bottom of yet another international index, but the country's top officials, like every other time, are not convinced by the report. "A vested quarter is behind all this," said Disinformation Minister Mahmudul Hossainullah Rocky, and all citizens totally believed him and definitely did not groan after hearing the response. The minister said this during a press conference centring the Freedom to Dissent Index, published recently. When asked to identify the vested quarter, Rocky said, "There are so many quarters, man. You expect me to remember all of them? Just know that it's vested." One not-so-bright journalist asked, "Sir, what do you mean by vested? Do they wear vests?" And the official replied, "They might wear vests, but we don't know for sure. These people scheme from the shadows, and shadows indicate darkness, which means it's hard to decipher whether they wear vests in absence of adequate lighting." Other dumb back-and-forths like this took up a major part of the conference. "If these useless indexes, which always put us at the bottom, are so accurate, how come we are developing the country at break-neck speed? Other countries are just jealous of our sexy development," Rocky remarked. When asked whether economic development is all that matters, the minister said, "Like, duh."

"And what's all this about dissent? We allow DNP, the opposition party, to say the stupidest things every day. They should be jailed for their comments, but like good guys, we tolerate their existence," he said. One brave journalist disputed Rocky's remark on the report's accuracy, to which the official replied, "Are you implying that these international organisations know Chapasthan better than us Chapasthanis?" He went on to say that Chapasthan Bureau of Statistics (CBS) produces the best reports on the country, way better than global ones, and revealed that CBS has published an index on how bad international agencies are at making indexes. "The CBS report found that they are really, really bad," Rocky stated. The CBS report gave CBS and its affiliated bodies a full score of 100, that too with stickers of stars and smiley faces, and gave all international agencies negative 100. The minister urged all citizens to only believe CBS for the country's good and their own wellbeing. "If you hear anything bad about us, remember that it's all part of a conspiracy," he said. The brave journalist could not be found after the conference.

Vested quarters are behind everything wrong with the country. I don't know who they are, but they probably wear vests.

