

## X takes down accounts, posts linked to farmers' protests

Say Indian media

REUTERS, New Delhi

Social media platform X said yesterday it took down certain accounts and posts following an order by the Indian government, which local media reports say are linked to ongoing protests by farmers demanding higher prices for crops.

The platform did not provide details of the removals but said the move amounts to curtailing freedom of expression.

The action puts the spotlight again on the struggles faced by foreign technology giants operating in India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, which has often criticized Google, Facebook and Twitter for not doing enough to tackle what it calls fake or "anti-India" content.



Relatives mourn next to the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes at Abu Yousef Al-Najjar hospital in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Houthi order shipping ban

Missiles set ship aflame off Yemen

REUTERS, Dubai

Yemen's Houthis yesterday sent shippers and insurers formal notice of what they termed a ban on vessels linked to Israel, the US and Britain from sailing in surrounding seas, seeking to reinforce their military campaign in support of Palestinians.

The move to prohibit such ships from Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian sea came as UK maritime agencies said a missile attack set ablaze a cargo vessel off Yemen coast.

Iran-aligned Houthi militants have launched repeated drone and missile strikes in the Red Sea.

## Brazil slams UNSC 'paralysis' on Gaza, Ukraine at G20 meeting

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Brazil criticized the "paralysis" of the UN Security Council on the offensives in Gaza and Ukraine as it opened a G20 meeting Wednesday where the international community's deep divisions were on display.

The outlook is bleak for progress on the thorny agenda of conflicts and crises gripping the planet as foreign ministers from the world's biggest economies gather in Rio de Janeiro for the Group of 20's first high-level meeting of the year.

Opening the two-day meeting, which featured US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Brazil's top diplomat, Mauro Vieira, said the explosion of global conflicts shows international institutions like the United Nations are not working.

"Multilateral institutions are not properly equipped to deal with the current challenges, as has been demonstrated by the Security

Council's unacceptable paralysis on the ongoing conflicts" in Gaza and Ukraine, Vieira said, adding the situation was costing "innocent lives."

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell for his part warned multilateralism "is in crisis."

**Int'l community's deep divisions were on display at the meeting**

The Security Council has failed to act on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, held in check by Russian veto power, and has struggled to find a response to the offensive in Gaza, with Israel's ally the United States using its veto to block calls for a ceasefire, most recently Tuesday.

Brazil, which took over the rotating G20 presidency from India in December, has voiced hopes the group could be a forum to

make progress on such questions.

But that likely took a hit when Lula ignited a diplomatic firestorm Sunday by accusing Israel of "genocide," comparing its military campaign in the Gaza Strip to the Holocaust.

The comments drew outrage in Israel, which declared him persona non grata, and could overshadow any bid to de-escalate the conflict via the G20.

Blinken, who met Lula Wednesday in Brasilia before heading to the G20, "made clear we disagree with (his) comments," a senior State Department official told journalists.

The secretary of state and Brazilian leader had a "frank exchange" in their more than 90-minute meeting at the presidential palace.

More than four months after the Gaza offensive started, there is little sign of progress toward peace. The outlook is similarly grim on Russia's war in Ukraine, which also has G20 members divided as the second anniversary of President Vladimir Putin's invasion approaches.

## Russia claims gains in eastern Ukraine

UK announces new sanctions against Moscow

AFP, Kyiv

Russia yesterday claimed that its forces had advanced further in east Ukraine, putting Kyiv on the defensive days before the two-year anniversary of the war. Ukraine has faced intense pressure on its eastern front in recent months as it grapples with ammunition shortages and hold-ups to much-needed Western military aid. The Russian defence ministry said yesterday it captured Pobeda, a small village about five kilometres (three miles) west of Donetsk city on the front line. "On the Donetsk front, units of the 'Southern' group of troops liberated the village of Pobeda and improved their position along the front line," it said. The capture, if confirmed, would mark another step westwards for Moscow, which last week seized the former Ukrainian stronghold of Avdiivka after months of battle. Ukraine said in a briefing later yesterday that it was "holding back enemy forces" in Pobeda, but did not explicitly refute Moscow's claim. Meanwhile, the UK announced more than 50 new sanctions against Russia to mark the second anniversary of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which falls this weekend. The United Nations rights chief said yesterday Russia's war in Ukraine has exacted a terrible human cost and inflicted suffering on millions.

## CANCER CONCERNS

### Ban on cotton candy spreading across India

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Some of India's states have banned candy floss and others are preparing to over concerns that an artificial dye used for colouring the popular sweet has a cancer-causing substance. Tamil Nadu in southern India banned the sale of the sweet last week after lab tests revealed it contains Rhodamine-B, a cancer-causing substance. Puducherry, a union territory, also banned the famous children's treat while other states are preparing to conduct their tests on the candy popular with children. Tamil Nadu's health minister Ma Subramanian said last week that the lab tests revealed the presence of Rhodamine-B, present in an industrial dye added to the candy as an artificial colouring agent.



A drone view shows rescue workers at the site where a container ship hit Lixinsha bridge, plunging vehicles into the waters, in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, China yesterday. Five people were killed as four vehicles and an electric motorbike fell off the bridge, CCTV said. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Chinese firm hacked foreign govts, activists, data leak shows

AFP, Beijing

A Chinese tech security firm was able to breach foreign governments, infiltrate social media accounts and hack personal computers, a massive data leak analysed by experts this week revealed.

The trove of documents from I-Soon, a private company that competed for Chinese government contracts, shows that its hackers compromised more than a dozen governments, according to cybersecurity firms SentinelLabs and Malwarebytes.

I-Soon also breached "democracy organisations" in China's semi-autonomous city of Hong Kong, universities and the Nato military alliance, SentinelLabs researchers

wrote in a blog post Wednesday.

The leaked data, the contents of which AFP was unable to immediately verify, was posted last week on the online software repository GitHub by an unknown individual.

"The leak provides some of the most concrete details seen publicly to date, revealing maturing nature of China's cyber espionage ecosystem," SentinelLabs analysts said.

I-Soon was able to breach government offices in India, Thailand, Vietnam and South Korea, among others, Malwarebytes said in a separate post on Wednesday.

I-Soon's website was not available yesterday morning, though an internet archive snapshot of the site from Tuesday says it is based

in Shanghai, with subsidiaries and offices in Beijing, Sichuan, Jiangsu and Zhejiang. The firm did not reply to a request for comment.

Asked by AFP yesterday about whether Beijing contracted hackers, China's foreign ministry said it was "not aware" of the case.

"As a principle, China firmly opposes all forms of cyberattacks and cracks down on them in accordance with law," spokesperson Mao Ning said. The leak contains hundreds of files showing chatlogs, presentations and lists of targets.

AFP found what appeared to be lists of Thai and UK government departments among the leaks, as well as screenshots of attempts to log into an individual's Facebook account.



**Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Chattogram City Corporation**  
Tigerpass, Chattogram  
[www.ccc.gov.bd](http://www.ccc.gov.bd)

Memo no: 46.11.1600.002.31.99.24.085

Date: 20.02.2024

**E-Tender notice –DRIIDAR/2023-24/12**

"Different Roads and Important Infrastructural Development including Airport Road under Chattogram City Corporation."

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works:

Package/ Lot No.	Tender ID	Identification of Lot	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W37/L1/A	954449	Development of Old D.T road with drain & footpath at 29 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W34/L2/B	954450	Development of Fairing center at 26 no ward	20- Mar-2024 12.00	20- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W38/L2/C	954451	Development of Strand road with drain at 30 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2022-23/CCC/W30/L4	954452	Development of a) remaining part of Batali road with drain, b) Enayet bazar Mohila college road, c) Jubilee road and d) JC Guha road at 22 no. enayet bazar ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W37/L1/C	954453	Development of strand road, Parvati Fakirpara road with drain at 29 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2022-23/CCC/W45/L1/D	954454	Development of college road with rcc drain at 37 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2022-23/CCC/W17/L2/A	954455	Development of Jayantika R/A to Asian highway connecting main road at 9 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2022-23/CCC/W17/L2/C	954456	Development of Joyontika housing 3,4,5 no branch roads at 9 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W34/L4/B	954457	Construction of rail line side drain at 26 no ward	20- Mar-2024 12.00	20- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2022-23/CCC/W17/L1/B	954458	Development of chorar par road and retaining wall adjacent to Nandan housing at 9 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2022-23/CCC/W3/L2	954459	Construction of bridge over Mohesh khal at 26 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W22/L-1/B	954460	Development of CDA Avenue road (West side of GEC mor to tigerpass mor) at 14 no ward	20- Mar-2024 12.00	20- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W4/L-1	954461	Construction of culvert charpara khal , Fulchoripara hafaz mobarak kinder garden school , Maizpara and pendur bari at 41 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W12/L-2/B	954462	Development of Abdul hamid road, Moulavi para, Abdul mannan road, somser para, Fazil ahmed Hazi obaidur rahman sowdagor old bari road, Maizpara, Odur para Kala mia master bari road, Maizpara Aurongo shah road, Moulana abu sufian by lane road, North chandgaon, Ejarot ullah shah & bacha miamistri bari road and Kashem ali road at 4 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W7/L2	954463	Development of Lalkhanbazar to Bahaddarhat CDA avenue road (Forest gate to GEC mor) at 8 no ward	25- Mar-2024 12.00	25- Mar-2024 14.00
DRIIDAR/2023-24/CCC/W06/L-2/B	944764	Development of Airport road ( Cement crossing to dry dock, Boat club to airport, Butterfly to Tunnel) at 41 no ward (Ch 7200 m to 9000 m)	20- Mar-2024 12.00	20- Mar-2024 14.00

**The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders.**

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and offline hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank branches up to particular date and time specified on the tender notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

C.C.C/P.R.D-124/23-24(9) x4)

GD- 305

Tasmiah Tahseen  
Executive Engineer (P&D)  
Chattogram City Corporation.