

EU fines Meta 797m euros over abusive practices

REUTERS, Brussels

The European Commission yesterday fined Meta Platforms €797.72 million (\$840.24 million) over abusive practices benefiting Facebook Marketplace, it said in a statement, confirming an earlier report by Reuters.

“The European Commission has fined Meta ... for breaching EU antitrust rules by tying its online classified ads service Facebook Marketplace to its personal social network Facebook and by imposing unfair trading conditions on other online classified ads service providers,” the European Commission said.

Meta said it will appeal the decision, but in the meantime, it will comply and will work quickly and constructively to launch a solution which addresses the points raised.

TOXIC SMOG Stricter anti-pollution curbs imposed in New Delhi

NDTV ONLINE

India's New Delhi has enforced tighter rules to control air pollution after the air quality index, or AQI, reached the 'severe' category. All non-essential construction and demolition work are banned, among other actions.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) took the decision to raise the pollution mitigation level to GRAP-3, effective from 8:00 am today.

Primary schools in Delhi will switch to online learning mode from today, Chief Minister Atishi announced in a post on X. She said the online classes for primary school children will continue “until further directions”.

Doctors have cautioned people to stay indoors as much as possible.



A rescuer stands in the courtyard as fire rages inside a UN school-turned-shelter after it was hit in an Israeli strike in the Rimal neighbourhood of Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Destruction in north Gaza widespread

Say displaced Palestinians as rights group warns some may never return

REUTERS, Cairo

Palestinians displaced from northern Gaza said Israeli forces had inflicted widespread destruction on their home districts in their latest six-week-old offensive and a rights group raised concerns Israel might put some areas permanently off-limits.

Jabalia, one of the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, as well as the towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun and nearby villages, were among the first targets of Israel's ground offensive in October 2023 after Hamas members attacked Israel.

Tanks have gone in several more times in what Israel says are necessary operations against Hamas fighters there who still pose a threat. Yesterday, it said its troops had killed dozens of “terrorists” and found a large quantity of weapons.

Former construction contractor

Abu Raed, who was displaced from Jabalia, said Israeli forces were blowing buildings up remotely after booby-trapping them or sending in robots.

Palestinian health ministry officials said Israel's latest airstrikes killed at least 15 people across the enclave, including four at Gaza City's Salahudeen School, which shelters displaced families. At least 43,736 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive on Gaza since Oct 7, 2023.

The Human Rights Watch report was the latest to warn about the dire humanitarian situation.

“Forced displacement has been widespread, and the evidence shows it has been systematic and part of a state policy. Such acts also constitute crimes against humanity,” it said.

It said the displacement “is likely planned to be permanent in the buffer zones and security corridors”.



Sri Lankans vote in parliamentary polls

President expects ‘strong majority’

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's new President Anura Kumara Dissanayake was confident of a victory as polls closed in yesterday's snap legislative elections.

Dissanayake took power in September presidential elections on a promise to combat graft and recover the country's stolen assets, two years after an unprecedented economic meltdown, when then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa was ousted.

Yesterday, the 55-year-old said he expected “a strong majority” in parliament to press ahead with his platform.

“We believe that this is a crucial election that will mark a turning point in Sri Lanka,” Dissanayake told reporters after casting his ballot a polling station in the capital.

“At this election, the NPP expects a mandate for a very strong majority in parliament,” he said referring to the National People's Power coalition in which his JVP, or the People's Liberation Front (JVP) is the main constituent.

The results will be announced today.

Spain's Vanguardia joins The Guardian in leaving X

REUTERS, Madrid

Spanish newspaper La Vanguardia will stop posting on billionaire Elon Musk's X platform and plans to suspend its accounts, saying yesterday the social media network had become an “echo chamber” for disinformation and conspiracy theories.

Spain's fourth most-read newspaper for general news said it would stop posting directly but would allow its journalists to maintain personal accounts.

The editor, Jordi Juan, said he had suspended his own account. X did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The move follows Britain's the Guardian, which also cited racism and conspiracy theories for its exit from the platform on Tuesday.

The Barcelona-based newspaper, which has 1.7 million followers on the platform previously known as Twitter, said X lacked an “effective and reasonable” moderating process since Musk bought it in 2022.

“Since the arrival of Musk to X, this platform has increasingly tolerated toxic and manipulated content thanks to the proliferation of bots,” Juan wrote in an editorial.

“Ideas that violate human rights, such as hatred of ethnic minorities, misogyny, and racism, are part of the viral content distributed on X, where they gain virality and capture more user time to earn more money from advertising,” the paper added in a leader.

Won't negotiate under ‘intimidation’

Iran tells UN nuke chief

AFP, Tehran

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said yesterday that Iran will not negotiate under “intimidation” as he held crunch talks with the UN nuclear chief weeks before US President-elect Donald Trump takes office.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi said achieving “results” in nuclear talks with Iran was vital to avoid a new conflict in the region already inflamed by Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

His visit comes just days after Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said Iran was “more exposed than ever to strikes on its nuclear facilities” giving Israel “the opportunity to achieve our most important goal”.

Grossi said Iranian nuclear installations “should not be attacked” but Trump is expected to give Israel a far freer rein after he takes office in January.

The IAEA chief described his meeting with Araghchi as “indispensable” in a post on X.

IBA

Institute of Business Administration

MBA ADMISSION TEST

Regular Program | Session: 2024-2025

Required Academic Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in any discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 (in a 4.00-point scale) or 2nd class;
- Minimum GPA of 3.00 out of 5.00 (or 2nd division) in both SSC and HSC exams separately.
- Minimum GPA of 2.00 in both O Level and A Level separately. For details, please visit our admission portal.
- No 3rd division/class at SSC/HSC/bachelor's level of education.
- In order to be eligible for the test, an applicant must obtain published official result of his/her bachelor's degree on or before **21 November 2024**. An applicant obtaining his/her result at a date later than this shall be considered as 'disqualified' from the admission process.

- MBA Admission Test (2024-2025) of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka will be held on **Saturday, 30 November 2024, at 10:00 am.**
- The test has two components: Written test and Interview. The written test component evaluates applicant's aptitude in English Language & Communication, Mathematics, and Analytical Ability. An applicant must obtain a minimum qualifying score in each of the above areas to pass the written test. After qualifying in the written test, short listed applicants must appear before an interview board.
- An applicant with a foreign nationality and foreign university degree(s) may be exempted from taking the written test if s/he has a GMAT/GRE score of minimum 75 percentile. However, s/he is required to appear before an interview board.
- For all foreign certificates/degrees (excluding O Level and A Level), equivalence will be determined by the Equivalence Committee of IBA. Without such equivalence, the applicant will not be eligible to apply for the admission test.
- An applicant with a degree from UGC unapproved program of any university is not eligible to apply for the admission test.
- Total application fee is Tk. 2080/- (including online processing fee). The application must be submitted online by **Thursday, 21 November 2024**. For detailed application procedure, please visit: **www.mba.iba-du.edu**
- For further information, please call 01764119001 or 01764119002 between 10:00 am to 06:00 pm on any working day till **Thursday, 21 November 2024**.

Director
Institute of Business Administration
University of Dhaka

GD- 955

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

Purchase & Procurement Department

Plot 16, Block B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara Residential Area, Dhaka 1245
Hotline: 09612 939393, Extention: 1652 and 1653

REVISED TENDER FOR NETWORKING EQUIPMENT (ACTIVE & PASSIVE)

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) invites sealed quotations from the reputed manufacturers/bona-fide dealers/suppliers for supplying, installation, testing & commissioning of active networking equipment along with passive networking and cabling works. The detailed specifications, quantity of the products and other terms & conditions are mentioned in the tender schedule. Interested bidders are requested to purchase tender schedule from the Purchase & Procurement Department (Admin Building, Level 1, Room no. 2031) on cash payment of Tk.2,000/- (non-refundable) to the Finance & Accounts Department between the office hours 9:30 am to 4:00 pm (Sunday through Thursday) till **November 19, 2024**.

The sealed bids (technical and financial) will be submitted by the bidders in two separate envelopes to the Purchase & Procurement Department. The bids will be received up to **November 28, 2024**. The financial bid must accompany an earnest money (2.5% of the quoted amount) in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favor of Independent University, Bangladesh. The university authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason. The IT firms, who purchased the tender documents earlier, will not need to purchase again.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Cumilla

www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.1900.000.07. 427.2024-7121

Date: 13/11/2024

e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No: 27/2024-2025

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/ Proposal ID No.	Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date and Time	Method of Tender
1.	LGED/CUM/VRRP/OL/24-25/W-249	Rehabilitation of Batabaria R& H - Dhambahar R&H via Noagav bazar Road from Ch: 00-1000m (Road ID: 419724009) under Laksham Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1033868	02-Dec 2024 16:00 BST	03-Dec-2024 12:30 BST	LTM
2.	CDWSP/CUM/BURI/W-11	Widening & Strengthening of Burichong UP Office-Rajapur UP Office Road Ch. 00-5900m Road ID No: 419183001 under Burichong Upazila, Cumilla District (Value of Recovered Material Tk= 10,09,490.00).	1035849	17-Dec 2024 16:00 BST	18-Dec-2024 12:30 BST	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Off-line/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 and www.lged.cumilla.gov.bd

(Md. Ziaul Islam Majumder)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Cumilla
Phone: 081-68960
E-mail: xen.cumilla@lged.gov.bd

GD- 956