

INTERNATIONAL

TikTok fined 530m euros in EU over data transfer

AFP, Dublin

TikTok was hit with a massive EU fine of 530 million euros (\$600 million) yesterday, accused of sending personal data of Europeans to China and failing to guarantee it was shielded from access by Chinese authorities.

The social media giant, which is also in the crosshairs of US, acknowledged during a probe that it has hosted European data in China, contrary to a previous denial, according to Ireland's data protection watchdog.

One of the largest fines ever imposed by the authority followed a probe into the lawfulness of data transfers by TikTok. In 2023 Ireland's Data Protection Commission (DPC) fined TikTok -- which has 1.5 billion users worldwide -- 345 million euros for breaches of European rules on processing child data.



Members of the Libyan Red Crescent place the body of a deceased migrant in a bag after it was found on the beach in Misrata, Libya, early yesterday. At least six migrant bodies were recovered after washing ashore near Misrata, a Red Crescent volunteer said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

China 'evaluating'

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The tit-for-tat increases stand to make goods trade between the world's two largest economies impossible, analysts say, with import duties beyond about 35 percent potentially wiping out Chinese exporters' profit margins and making American products in China similarly exorbitant.

China has repeatedly denied it is seeking to

negotiate a way out of the tariffs with the United States, appearing instead to be betting that Washington makes the first move.

Trump's decision to single out Beijing for hefty import duties comes at a particularly difficult time for China, which is struggling with deflation due to sluggish economic growth and a prolonged property crisis. Beijing has expressed its

No election

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He further said the state is failing to take responsibility for the families of the martyrs and the injured of the July movement.

Coming down heavily on a section of journalists, the NCP leader said, "Some journalists are questioning whether Sheikh Hasina truly carried out genocide. They claim it hasn't been proven yet. They are not journalists. They are accomplices of the fascist Awami League."

He said the UN reports have clearly stated that the July massacre was carried out at the instruction of Sheikh Hasina and planned by the Awami League.

The NCP leaders also said that while the interim government and political parties seem to be dilly-dallying about banning the Awami League, the people had already given their verdict on August 5 last year.

"We would like to remind the interim government -- you are a government born of a people's uprising. You assumed your advisory roles through the mandate of that uprising. So why are you unable to take action against a party responsible for mass killings? What is holding you back?" asked Akhter Hossen, NCP member secretary.

"The name of the Awami League should be erased from the registration list of political parties and instead listed among terrorist organisations. As long as the July generation lives,

the Awami League will never be allowed to remain relevant in this country. Anyone attempting to rehabilitate the party will face strong resistance from students and the general public."

Also speaking at the event, Senior Joint Member Secretary Dr Tasnim Zara asked, "How much more torture, how many more abductions and killings must take place before a party's registration is cancelled?"

Hasnat Abdullah, chief organiser (south) of the NCP, said, "Dr Muhammad Yunus, we put you in power at the cost of the martyrs' blood. We are not making a request or placing a demand -- we are letting all know a decision: the Awami League must be banned immediately. That has to be done without any ifs, buts, or conditions."

Senior Joint Convener of the NCP Samanta Shermeen said, "In this country, only the families of the martyrs and the wounded have the moral authority to speak on what kind of reform is needed. Today, standing with them, we declare that no election will be allowed before justice is served and reforms are implemented."

Sarjis Alam, chief organiser (North) of the party, said, "The people and youth of this country have declared the Awami League a party of murderers and they would not be allowed to do politics in this country."

NPCBL to finalise power purchase deal

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"finalised," said Md Zahedul Hassan, project director of RNPP and also the managing director of NPCBL.

"Without completing the deal on the maintenance cost of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant with Russia, we are yet to confirm the total cost of the project. Hence, NPCBL is yet to fix the price of electricity from Rooppur project at the moment," he said.

RNPP is being implemented at a cost of \$1.25 billion for the installation of two reactors, each to produce 1200MW. The Russian state nuclear organisation ROSATOM has been implementing the project by using its

technology, while Russia is giving loans to bear 90 percent of the project's cost.

While the production of electricity from RNPP has already been delayed by two years, the incomplete grid line is expected to further delay supply from unit-1.

More than 94 percent of the unit's construction work has been completed, and production is likely to begin by the end of this year, according to project officials.

Citing the Nuclear Act, 2015, Zahedul said the charge of the plant -- entire responsibility and assets -- will be handed over to NPCBL after the completion of the construction.

President Gabriel Boric echoed the call for the "evacuation of the coastline throughout the Magallanes region" on his X account.

Govt plans to hire foreign firms

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Outlining the government's long-term vision, Shafiqul said the combined container handling capacity of ports in and around Chattogram currently stands at 1.27 million TEUs (Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit). The government aims to raise this to 7.86 million TEUs by 2030.

One TEU is based on the volume of a standard 20-foot long intermodal container.

"To transform Bangladesh into an economic hub, port

capacity must be expanded," he said, noting that a comprehensive strategy is being developed, which includes the improvement of the Dhaka-Chattogram highway and related infrastructure.

He assured that only top-tier companies with unblemished reputations will be selected, and the process will be fully transparent.

"The agreements may be executed through open tenders or under a government-to-government (G2G) arrangement."

In response to a question about the establishment of a "humanitarian corridor" with Myanmar, the press secretary said, "I've already spoken on this matter clearly. We would consider a humanitarian corridor only if the United Nations takes the initiative.

"The entire matter would require discussions with both countries -- Myanmar and Bangladesh. The idea of a humanitarian corridor has come up because there is ongoing civil war in that region. I think it's premature. In our view, it's still a long way off."

Earthquake strikes off Chile's southern coast

AFP, Santiago

Chilean authorities issued a tsunami warning for the country's southernmost region yesterday morning, after a major 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck in the Drake Passage, the body of water separating South America and Antarctica.

"A T T E N T I O N ! #SENAPRED, due to the threat of a tsunami, requests the evacuation of the sector of the coastline of the # Magallanes Region," Chile's emergency agency SENAPRED wrote on its social media account.

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Hefazat vows tougher

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Junayed said people from across the country would join Saturday's rally. "Forty two buses are ready to come from Dinajpur, and around four to five thousand people are coming from Barishal by launch," he said.

Mahiuddin Rabbani, Hefazat's central nayeb e amir, said the group would announce an ultimatum at today's rally. "If the cases

against Hefazat leaders and ulamas are not withdrawn and the Women's Affairs Reform Commission is not dissolved, we will declare tougher programmes if necessary," he said.

Central Nayeb-e Amir Sarwar Kamal Azizi warned, "Our demands are clear and must be met. This anti-Islamic commission must be abolished, and we will continue our struggle until it is done."

Minerals deal

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and invest in Ukraine's critical mineral resources.

The agreement "changed significantly" during negotiations, Zelensky said in an address.

"Now it is a truly equal agreement that creates an opportunity for quite significant investment in Ukraine."

"There is no debt in the deal, and a fund -- a recovery fund -- will be created that will invest in Ukraine and earn money here," he added.

Kyiv and Washington planned to sign the agreement in February, but a White House clash between US President Donald Trump and

Zelensky derailed the talks.

Ukraine hopes the deal will pave the way for the United States to give security guarantees as it seeks to safeguard against future Russian attacks following Moscow's invasion.

The agreement still needs to be ratified by Ukraine's parliament.

Trump initially described the arrangement as "money back" for the wartime aid Ukraine received under his predecessor Joe Biden.

Ukraine says the agreement is not linked to any past "debt," however, and US officials stressed that the accord signalled US support for Ukraine.



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