

86pc of internet users admit being duped by fake news



● Fake news appeared to be most prevalent on Facebook, but also appears on YouTube, blogs and Twitter

Ottawa, Canada

Eighty-six percent of internet users have been duped by fake news -- most of it spread on Facebook -- according to a global survey published Tuesday.

Respondents said they want both governments and social media companies to crack down on these activities, which are contributing to a growing distrust of the internet as well as negatively impacting economies and political discourse.

The United States took the lion's share of the blame for spreading fake news, followed by Russia and China, according to the annual Ipsos survey of more than 25,000 internet users in 25 countries.

Fake news appeared to be most prevalent on Facebook, but also appears on YouTube, blogs and Twitter, the pollsters found.

The survey results showed people in Egypt were the most gullible while respondents in Pakistan were the most skeptical.

The results also revealed widespread distrust of social media companies and growing concerns over online privacy and biases baked into algorithms used by internet companies.

The poll -- which relied on both in-person and online interviews -- was conducted between December 21, 2018 and February 10, 2019 on behalf of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

"This year's survey of global attitudes not only underscores the fragility of the internet, but also netizens' growing discomfort with social media and the power these corporations wield over their daily lives," CIGI's Fen Osler Hampson said in a statement.

Sudan rivals agree to new talks

● Sudan has been led by a military council since it toppled autocratic president Omar al-Bashir on April 11

● Protest leaders vowed to name a new ruling body to replace the generals

Khartoum, Sudan

Protest leaders have agreed to end a campaign of civil disobedience launched after a deadly crackdown on demonstrators and to resume talks with Sudan's ruling generals, an Ethiopian mediator said Tuesday.

The apparent breakthrough, which the military rulers had yet to confirm, came as a top US diplomat prepared to embark on a mission to press the generals to halt the crackdown on protesters demanding civilian rule.

Sudan has been led by a military council since it toppled autocratic president Omar al-Bashir on April 11 after months of nationwide protests against his iron-fisted rule of three decades. Following Bashir's removal, protesters camped outside military headquarters in Khartoum for weeks to demand civilian rule, before security and paramilitary forces dispersed them in a June 3 crackdown that



Sudanese vendors sell vegetables in the central market of Khartoum

killed dozens.

The protest movement launched a campaign of civil disobedience on Sunday, and most businesses stayed closed and residents hunkered indoors for the next three days.

It had threatened to pile even more pressure on the generals by releasing a list of members for a new ruling body -- the key point of dispute between the two sides.

But they agreed to end the campaign and return to talks, said an envoy of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

"The Alliance for Freedom and Change agreed to end the civil disobedience (campaign) from today," Mahmoud Drir,

who has been mediating between the two sides since Ahmed visited Khartoum last week.

"Both sides have also agreed to resume talks soon," he told reporters. The protest movement itself said in a statement that it was calling on people "to resume work from Wednesday".

Protest 'a success'

In Khartoum, the protest strike saw most shops and businesses remain closed with some companies extending to the end of the week the Eid al-Fitr holidays marking the end of Ramadan.

"We are now getting used to living with guns as we are see-

ing so many of these men walking into restaurants with their weapons," one resident said as a group of RSF members entered an eatery.

Demonstrators declared their nationwide shutdown a success. "This shows clearly what we can do, and also in a peaceful way," said Ishraga Mohamed.

Protest leaders vowed to name a new ruling body to replace the generals.

"The Alliance for Freedom and Change will reveal its sovereign council and a prime minister in an announcement to be made at a suitable time," the Sudanese Professionals Association, a key member of the umbrella protest movement.

Trump inadvertently reveals more of US-Mexico migrant deal

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump revealed Tuesday that Mexico agreed to take stronger legal action to halt Central American migrants if its initial efforts to stem the flow don't show results in 45 days.

In bright sunshine outside the White House, Trump waved what he said was the text of an agreement Mexican and US officials signed Friday to avert the

application of tariffs on their exports to the United States.

Photographs of the document revealed that Mexico appeared to pledge to enact or enforce certain domestic laws if Washington is not satisfied with the results of its first promised efforts -- deploying 6,000 National Guardsmen to reinforce its southern border and expanding its policy of taking back asylum-seekers as the United States



Mexico is doing a great job at the border, really helping us. They have been working very hard. We're doing very well together. Good relationship

DONALD TRUMP

processes their claims.

If, after 45 days, the US government "determines at its discretion" that the results aren't enough, the document says, "the Government of Mexico will take all necessary steps under domestic law to bring the agreement into force."

The document gives the Mexican government another 45 days to achieve that.

It was not clear what specific



measures the Mexican government would have to take.

Trump waved the ostensible agreement in front of reporters amid questions on whether his

administration really did reach a substantial agreement last week to stem the flow of hundreds of thousands of migrants who pass through Mexico to enter the United States.

The initial deal appeared to repeat previous undertakings the Mexicans have made.

But Trump has repeatedly suggested there is another secret part of the deal that would require more of Mexico.

Emissions rose an 'unsustainable' 2pc in 2018: study

London, United Kingdom

Global carbon emissions grew by 2.0 per cent last year, the highest rate since 2010-2011, a closely-watched review by energy giant BP said Tuesday, calling the trend "unsustainable".

"There is a growing mismatch between societal demands for action on climate change and the actual pace of progress, with energy demand and carbon emissions growing at their fastest rate for years," said BP chief executive Bob Dudley.

"The world is on an unsustainable path," he said.

The BP Statistical Review of World Energy is viewed as an energy industry standard, pooling data on everything from the size of countries' oil reserves to their production of renewable energy and various consumption rates.

India to evacuate 300,000 from cyclone

● Vayu, currently a cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea, is set to intensify and make landfall in Gujarat on Thursday packing winds gusting up to 135 kilometres (85 miles) per hour and heavy rains

Ahmedabad, India

Almost 300,000 people are set to be evacuated in the western Indian state of Gujarat out of the path of a severe cyclonic storm due in two days, authorities said Tuesday.

"The weather department's latest bulletin forecasts that cyclone Vayu will make landfall... early in the morning on June 13," senior state official JN Singh told reporters.

"We have identified 2.91 lakh (291,000) people living in low-lying areas of 10 coastal districts who will be evacuated



Indian residents sit at the sea front as dark clouds gather over Mumbai's skyline

ed by Wednesday afternoon," Singh said after an emergency meeting.

"All schools and colleges in the coastal districts of Saurashtra and Kutch would remain close on June 12 and June 13 as a precautionary measure," he said.

He added that 67 shelter homes have been set up to accommodate the displaced people. Vayu, currently a cyclonic

storm in the Arabian Sea, is set to intensify and make landfall in Gujarat on Thursday packing winds gusting up to 135 kilometres (85 miles) per hour and heavy rains, forecasters say.

It is likely to damage thatched houses, blow away rooftops and metal sheets, disrupt power and communication lines and cause major damage to roads and crops, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Two giraffes killed by lightning in Florida: park

Miami, United States

Two giraffes were killed instantly when they were struck by lightning in the southeastern US state of Florida, the park where they resided said on Tuesday.

"We are deeply saddened to share the passing of two of our giraffe due to a lightning strike," the Lion Country Safari park, which is located north of Miami, said in a Facebook post.

"Lily and Jioni were in the pasture in their habitat when a severe thunderstorm quickly developed six weeks ago. Recent pathology results con-

firm that the giraffe did pass as a result of the lightning and that the manner of their passing was instantaneous," it said.

The park said that the giraffes have access to "numerous shelters in the multi-acre habitat."

But "if they don't choose to seek shelter, there isn't a lot we can do to encourage them to," park spokesperson Haley Passer told the local WPTV channel.

With the death of the two giraffes, a male and a female, there are 18 remaining in the park.



Representative picture