

FEATURES STORIES

Zuckerberg: Facebook is in 'arms race' with Russia



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has told US senators his company is in a constant battle with Russian operators seeking to exploit the social network. "This is an arms race. They're going to keep getting better," he said. Mr Zuckerberg was answering questions in the wake of the Cambridge Analytica data collection scandal. He also revealed Robert Mueller, the special counsel investigating

alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election, had interviewed Facebook staff. Mr Zuckerberg said he has not been among those interviewed by Mr Mueller's office. But he added: "Our work with the special counsel is confidential and I want to make sure that in an open session I'm not revealing something that's confidential". In February, Mr Mueller's office charged 13 Russians with interference in the 2016 election, along with three Russian companies. One was the Internet Research Agency, sometimes referred to as a "Russian troll farm", which the indictment said had a "strategic goal to sow discord in the US political system". Mr Zuckerberg said the company was now developing new tools to identify fake accounts. "There are people in Russia whose job it is to try to exploit our systems and other internet systems and other systems as well. We need to invest in getting better at this too." The Facebook CEO was appearing in front of a joint session of several US senate committees, after it was revealed in recent weeks that about 87 million people had their profile information accessed by marketing firm Cambridge Analytica. By the first break in proceedings, Facebook's share price had risen by almost 5%, as markets reacted favourably to Mr Zuckerberg's performance. **What is the Cambridge Analytica scandal about?** The company is best known for its association with Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign, and has claimed it played "an integral part" in Mr Trump's victory. But it says none of the data involved in the recent scandal was used to help the Trump campaign. The news that a personality quiz developed by an academic, Aleksandr Kogan, had collected data not just from the people who used it but also from their Facebook friends was revealed by newspaper investigations. Mr Kogan then sold the data to Cambridge Analytica. Both companies lay the blame on Mr Kogan. Facebook says that although users gave permission to Mr Kogan's app to collect their information, selling it on was against the terms of service. Cambridge Analytica, meanwhile, claims it did not know the information had been obtained improperly. During Mr Zuckerberg's appearance, the firm tweeted it was "advising" news media - through its lawyers - about coverage. Both companies also say they moved to have the data deleted once they learned of the problem in 2015. Hours ahead of the congressional hearing, Facebook also revealed that private messages from some 1,500 users were included in the data collection. *BBC*

Australia 'shocked' by 2,400 sheep deaths on export ship

The Australian government says it will investigate how thousands of sheep died on a live export ship last year. About 2,400 animals succumbed to heat stress while travelling from Perth to three nations in the Middle East in August, according to the government. One minister said he was "shocked and deeply disturbed" after seeing footage supplied by an animal rights group. On Friday, Canberra threatened to block an upcoming shipment if welfare requirements were not met. The deaths in August comprised 3.76% of the 63,800 sheep



on board the ship, almost twice the percentage that requires formal investigation, the government said. It said the animals had endured extreme heat on the voyage to Qatar, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates. Agriculture Minister David Littleproud said the industry must be conducted "properly and sustainably". "This is the livelihoods of Australian farmers that are on that ship," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Mr Littleproud did not give details about the footage, which had been provided by Animals Australia. Although acknowledging the trade's importance to farmers, Mr Littleproud said whistleblowers should be supported to come forward "so we can nail those who do the wrong thing". Animal rights groups in Australia have previously called for the suspension of live exports due to welfare concerns. In 2011, Australia suspended its live trade to Indonesia for six months after a TV documentary showed graphic footage of animals being mistreated. Block threat The government said it would block another shipment of 65,000 sheep, due to leave Perth on Monday, if the exporter fails to meet animal welfare measures. They include reducing the number of livestock by at least 15%, travelling with an independent observer, and providing images for each day of the journey. The Australian Livestock Exporters Council, an industry body, said it was committed to improving animal welfare. According to the body, nearly 12,400 of 1.74 million sheep died during exports last year - a mortality rate of 0.71%. "The range of livestock mortalities... is trending down, but our industry is determined to achieve better outcomes," the group said in a statement. *BBC*

Lufthansa cancels 800 flights amid strike action



Lufthansa has been forced to cancel 800 flights on Tuesday as the spring of discontent among Europe's workers spreads to Germany. The airline has axed half of its 1,600 scheduled flights, affecting 90,000 passengers. Workers are staging the walkout ahead of pay talks, following similar action in France. Air France is expected to face further disruption on Tuesday after industrial action at the weekend. Lufthansa told passengers whose flights had not been cancelled to allow more time to travel and get to airports earlier. The walk-out does not

involve Lufthansa's own staff but public sector workers such as ground handlers at Frankfurt, Munich, Cologne and Bremen airports. The trade union Verdi said the strikes were intended to "increase pressure" on public sector employers ahead of wage talks. However, Lufthansa said it "cannot comprehend Verdi's threat to carry out such a massive strike". "It is completely unacceptable for the union to impose this conflict on uninvolved passengers," said Bettina Volkens, Lufthansa's head of human resources. "Lufthansa is not a part of this collective bargaining conflict, but unfortunately our customers and our company are being affected by the consequences of this dispute." She added: "Politicians and legislators must define clear rules for strikes and industrial actions." Lufthansa said normal services would resume on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Air France said that it will operate 75% of its flights on Tuesday after grounding one third of services on Saturday. Unions representing airline staff are demanding a 6% pay rise from the company, which is offering a 1% increase. Rail travel in France is also under pressure amid ongoing strikes by SNCF staff in response to labour reforms under President Emmanuel Macron. *BBC*

From

"Comedians For three days after death, hair and fingernails continue to grow but phone calls

Quote taper off.

Book"

Johnny Carson

HOROSCOPE - MAY 2018

ARIES: BIRTHDAYS FROM 21 MARCH to 20 APRIL

General Highlights: For Aries, May 2018 may prove to be quite an attractive, unforgettable period that will be characterized by the total support of your heavenly patrons. The point is that Sun usually acts as Aries sign's exultant; giving it strength, and now it will turn into one of the dominant stars ruling over the heavenly bend. A similar scenario will take place with Eris, which usually plays the opposite role of acting against Aries (because this planet is in general responsible for "exultation"). In general, May's overall energy dynamics will definitely support your sign, but you will also have to try hard in order to find the perfect balance between personal issues and working moments. Do not let yourself down, but do not let yourself be overly pessimistic - these feelings might not be truly meant for you but rather influenced by Mars's unfavorable position. This planet usually helps the Aries sign, but now will try to be as annoying as possible.



TAURUS: FROM 21 APRIL to 21 MAY

General Highlights: For Taurus representatives, who are particularly favored by Venus and Moon at this stage, May 2018 will be a very, very critical time but in a positive context. Now, you definitely should not be afraid of strong emotions, any changes should be welcomed, even - and perhaps especially - if you are not ready for them. This is a good time, which will show to others, and more importantly to yourself, what you are really capable of. On the other hand, responsibility can scare you, and you could end up crouching under a table, but then don't be surprised by the outcome. Decide for yourself what you really want, whether it is a transition to a new position, an increase in income, new relationships, or an opportunity to keep everything as it is (which will lead to literally nothing in the end). This month, strong emotions will apply some pressure on you, and you are the one to decide how this pressure will affect you, how you will perceive it, and what future you will see for yourself and for the people around you.



GEMINI: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 MAY to 21 JUNE

General Highlights: In the usual position, Eris is responsible for the decline of the zodiacal sign of Gemini, which is not a good thing, but rather, a bad one, because instead of helping, Eris will be trying its best to hurt Gemini, by trying to ruin all their plans. But, in May 2018 this interesting planet will change its traditional preferences and will play on your side. Eris will be joined by the "heavenly leader" of the water element, Mercury, as well as by Gemini's main patron, Ceres. As a result, the second spring month can become quite meaningful for you, especially if you try and allow yourself to accept change. To some extent this period will also test you because you will have to adapt to new conditions. Usually Gemini does not "suffer" from excessive conservatism, but now the changes happening in the surrounding reality can be really meaningful, and some of them can even shock you (not necessarily in a negative way).



CANCER: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 JUNE to 23 JULY

General Highlights: For Cancer, May 2018 will be a significant time, at least in the sense that your sign will have a chance to change everything. And when we say everything, we mean everything. You can, of course, apply some half-measures, but the results will be proportional. In general, the positions of your exalting planet, Jupiter, and the main heavenly patron of your sign, the Moon, will be strong and stable enough so that you have everything you need. Now it is possible and even recommended to look back as often as possible, assessing what has already been done and what was intended to be done but never worked out. Do not neglect the opportunity to return back to some painful or sensitive experiences. If fate repeatedly brings you back to what has already been done, it means that you are doing something wrong over and over again. You are probably making the same mistakes betting on the wrong things.



LEO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 JULY to 23 AUGUST

General Highlights: At the end of spring, Leos will acquire a couple of strong patrons. It will not only be their traditional heavenly helper, Pluto, but also Uranus, who usually tends to be against Leos. This does not mean that in May 2018 all of the circumstances will be on your side, but the advantages of this period are obvious. At the beginning of the period you will have to find a balance between various spheres: between personal relationships and work life; between the wishes of leadership and your own aspirations; and, between family dilemmas and your peace of mind. But, you have to make sure that you don't upset the balance if you don't want to end up with anything happening at all. In May, you really will have to make strong-willed decisions, but it will not be as difficult as it might seem from the outside. At least you will have the proper motivation, which can either arise itself, or you can push forward deliberately, finally allowing yourself to leave behind the hated office chair.



VIRGO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 AUGUST to 23 SEPTEMBER

General Highlights: In May 2018, Moon will act as the main "celestial leader" of Earth elements, but will also be joined by traditional Virgo's patron Mercury, promising a lot of interesting things for your sign. First of all, it should be noted that it is logical to put the emphasis on the sphere of feelings and emotions. Even at work you will have to rely more on some feelings, although here the situation can be extremely unpredictable. Nevertheless, it will be enough to keep yourself together. Although, it won't be the easiest thing to do because in a lot of situations the circumstances will be acting against you. Nothing significant - just some of your plans will have to be postponed. Also, Virgos are recommended to treat their current situation in the most thoughtful way possible. For example, if you are deciding whether you need your current relationships, or to what extent you can make your partner happy, you will have to make a choice in response to this question.



LIBRA: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 SEPTEMBER to 23 OCTOBER

General Highlights: Being under the influence of Saturn in May 2018, Libras need to get the hold of themselves in order to prevent some critical mistake from being made while they were planning something. The fact is that at this life stage everything will be not as harmonious as it may seem; in fact, everything is different. Your "heavenly leader" will now be Mercury, so try to focus on the working direction, where you have to make some very responsible decisions. In the field of personal relationships, it is realistic to either leave everything as it is, or allow the situation to develop independently. It is not necessary to actively interfere in the course of things, although in a certain situation doing so can allow you to help other people to see everything better. Nevertheless, right now your sign doesn't need to be on a mission of helping everyone around you. Think about yourself, think carefully before actually starting to waste time and energy on something.



SCORPIO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 OCTOBER to 22 NOVEMBER

General Highlights: For Scorpios, May 2018 will be an extra-successful period. First, their main patron Uranus will occupy a particularly confident position, and his beneficial influence will be indisputable. Secondly, Mercury is the "heavenly leader" of the water element, and this is another plus for the Scorpios, who sometimes can't control their emotions. By the way, it is now worth putting special emphasis on self-control. Many situations will be resolved in an ambiguous manner: uncertainty may settle in you, because not all your actions will lead to concrete results that are visible right here and now. That's why you should not give way to panic, depression, or any other negative emotions. Otherwise, you can simply lose all of your potential, which will be at very high levels now. Of course, you will have to fight for a place under the Sun, but it is definitely worth it, and there can be no doubt about it. The stars recommend playing only familiar games and only on the fields which you yourself choose.



SAGITTARIUS: BIRTHDAYS FROM 23 NOVEMBER to 23 DECEMBER

General Highlights: Sagittarius, who represents the element of Fire, will not have a "heavenly leader" this month, which could become an additional source of vitality and luck. On the other hand, Eris (the planet-ruler of your sign) will occupy a dominant position in the heavenly vault in May 2018, and this will surely affect you. You will have everything you need to keep moving forward, but do not push your luck. No matter how good the situation is, do not forget to look around. It is very important now, because Mercury (your main antagonist) will not be strong enough to attack you openly, but can come up with some covert dirty tricks while you are busy with your own affairs. Do not be afraid: this situation is simply a probability that can only become a reality as a result of your own inattention. Do not be driven away by some overly intense emotions; even if you really want to use some strong vocabulary, it is better to restrain yourself.



CAPRICORN: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 DECEMBER to 20 JANUARY

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AQUARIUS: BIRTHDAYS 21 JANUARY to 19 FEBRUARY

General Highlights: In May 2018 Aquarius representatives can achieve something only at work, while in the sphere of personal relations there is a high possibility of nothing happening at all. It is important that in addition to the Sun, which is usually responsible for your sign's descent but now will turn into your major ally, Mercury, the "heavenly leader" of the air element, will also help you. That is why a majority of favorable circumstances will be focused in your financial sphere. Strictly speaking, this is unlikely to cause any difficulties; you will just know that now it makes no sense to concentrate a lot of strength, attention and nerves on those directions that are unlikely to be promising. Don't act in an overly frivolous manner, even though the circumstances seem to allow you to behave in this manner. It is necessary to focus on the most important things without losing your focus. Or, later, even the most insignificant deviations from the plan can damage your projects. In general, this is a good time, almost ideal, for completing all the current tasks and identifying new milestones.



PISCES: BIRTHDAYS: 20 FEBRUARY to 20 MARCH

General Highlights: Being naturally protected by Venus, Pisces will find themselves in a favorable position from any point of view in May 2018. There are no outstanding situations to be experienced in the near future, but there will be many interesting things going on, and in general, the period promises to be very troublesome. In the field of personal relationships, some unexpected progress might be made, and you probably will be able to greatly help out someone close to you. And, this not particularly bright event will repeatedly pay you back. In financial terms, it is better to avoid any large expenditures, but you can invest in new projects without fear of losing those investments. At this stage you will have the opportunity to plan everything out (or almost everything) in advance, practically eliminating all uncertainties and overly-alarming situations. The main thing here is to avoid over-thinking.



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