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FIGHTER JETS TAKE OFF AND LAND ON THE HIGHWAY

Four fighter jets roared in for landing in Switzerland yesterday, not on an airfield but on one of the country's main motorways, in a manoeuvre not attempted in the country in decades. The usual hum of traffic on the A1 highway was replaced by the din of F/A-18s touching down on the carriageway. The so-called Alpha Uno exercise is aimed at making sure the Swiss airforce can keep operating if its bases are hit in the event of a conflict. Measuring just 25 metres across, the four-lane motorway is also narrower than the usual landing strip, and can only be used once the central safety rail has been removed.

AFP

Google faces \$17.4b suit over advertising

UK-BASED ONLINE PUBLISHERS SAY
TECH GIANT CAUSED THEM LOSSES

LONDON

Google parent Alphabet must face a lawsuit worth up to £13.6 billion (\$17.4 billion) for allegedly abusing its dominance in the online advertising market, London's Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) ruled yesterday.

The lawsuit, which seeks damages on behalf of publishers of websites and apps based in the United Kingdom, is the latest case to focus on the search giant's business practices.

Ad Tech Collective Action is bringing the claim on behalf of publishers who say they have suffered losses due to Google's allegedly anti-competitive behaviour.

Google last month urged the CAT to block the case, which it argued was incoherent. The company "strongly rejects the underlying allegations", its lawyers said in court documents.

The CAT said in a written ruling that it would certify the case to proceed towards a trial, which is unlikely to take place before the end of 2025.

The tribunal also emphasised the test for certifying a

case under the UK's collective proceedings regime which is roughly equivalent to the United States' class action regime is relatively low.

Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Anti-competitive conduct

Ad Tech Collective Action's case comes amid ongoing probes by regulators into Google's adtech business, including by Britain's Competition and Markets Authority and the European Commission.

Yesterday's decision is the latest against a tech giant to be given the green light by the CAT, which already this year has certified a \$3.8 billion case against Facebook parent Meta and a nearly \$1 billion case against Apple.

—Reuters

\$3.8b
lawsuit against Meta
certified by Competition
Appeal Tribunal (CAT)

UAE businesses hiring to clear backlogs after April disruption

Overall performance
of private sector
firms stays strong

DUBAI

BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

During the month of May, companies continued to tackle disruptions from April's record flooding event, and this has resulted in the largest-ever increase in backlogs of work, according to a highly-watched survey released yesterday.

The latest S&P Global PMI (Purchasing Managers Index) data-driven report revealed that the "immense pressure on business capacity" is causing construction and manufacturing businesses to rebuild out-

put levels, hire more workers and boost inventories.

Project delays

Since early May, these UAE sectors have been busy adding to their workforce, with some companies doing so at higher than market average incentives, sources say. They are doing so because many of their projects are facing delays, and they want to get back on track at the earliest.

However, even though the

For businesses
affected by the
disruption in April,
recent weeks are also
seeing a steady spike
in cost of operations.

output within the UAE private sector hovered at a 16-month low in May, the overall performance of private sector firms remained strong, with output and new orders rising sharply in the month.

For businesses affected by the disruption in April, recent weeks are also seeing a steady spike in cost of operations. According to S&P Global, "greater input demand and the need to replenish stocks led to an intensification of price pressures".

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global UAE PMI stayed unchanged in May, from April's 55.3, still above its long-run average of 54.4 and comfortably in 50-plus expansionary territory – indicating improvement in operating conditions.

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