

# SE Asia vulnerable to cyber attack by terrorists

## Security experts say

AP, Kuala Lumpur

Southeast Asia will inevitably face an Internet-based attack by terrorists against key institutions, even though militant groups lack the technical savvy so far, security experts said yesterday.

Developing nations remain especially vulnerable to a cyber assault because they haven't built up defences for their computer, banking and utility systems, said Yean Yoke Heng, deputy director general of the

Kuala Lumpur-based Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Counter-terrorism.

"The threat is real," Yean told reporters at the start of a regional cyber security meeting. "Definitely, we are vulnerable."

... It's not a question of how or what; it's a question of when. So we better get our act together and be prepared for this eventuality."

Regional authorities currently have no specific information about possible threats, which could include the hacking of public networks or the spread of a computer virus, but "it's always good to be one step ahead of this terrorist threat," Yean said.

The five-day conference, which brings together security officials and analysts from Malaysia, the United States, Japan, Cambodia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, will discuss how governments can prevent terrorists from exploiting information technology.

So far, Southeast Asian militant groups such as the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah network have mainly used the Internet to channel propaganda, recruit members, raise funds and coordinate bomb attacks, said Rohan Gunaratna, a Singapore-based militant expert.

"It will take a very long time for Southeast Asian terrorist groups to develop the capability to attack the Internet," Gunaratna said. "For now, groups such as Jemaah Islamiyah are using the

Internet as a medium to create a new generation of radicalised Muslims."

There are more than 1,000 jihadist Web sites in Southeast Asia, Gunaratna said. He said captured Jemaah Islamiyah suspected leader Riduan Isamudin, or Hambali, used the Internet to communicate with operatives involved in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people

in Indonesia. Despite no evidence of an imminent cyber attack, Southeast Asian authorities

should still study how technologically advanced governments in the United States, Europe and Australia are safeguarding digital assets from terrorist exploitation, Gunaratna said.

Malaysia announced earlier this month that it would establish a centre to offer emergency responses to cyber attacks on economic and trading systems of various countries. US software company Symantec Corp. and Russian anti-virus company Kaspersky are expected to be key partners, it said.

## Formation of C'wealth fund in health sector proposed

BSS, Geneva

Bangladesh has proposed formation of a 'Commonwealth Fund' for the Commonwealth-listed developing countries with a view to strengthening the migration process of competent and experienced health workers to the developed countries from the developing nations.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandker Mosharruf Hossain made the proposal at the conference of health ministers of Commonwealth-listed countries at Geneva.

The minister said the percentage of demographic growth is zero in most of the developed countries. In many developed countries, this percentage is yet to be negative.

Dr Hossain said the percentage of demographic growth is quite high in the developing countries and there is a great opportunity for the migration of skilled and experienced health workers to the developed countries from the developing nations.

If the initiative to establish a 'Commonwealth Fund' is taken, it will benefit both the developed and the developing countries, he said.

The health ministers of Commonwealth-listed developing countries, including India and Pakistan, praised the Bangladesh proposal and expressed their support for it.

Dr Hossain is here to attend the 59th World Health Conference. He is leading a four-member delegation of Bangladesh.

## 12 students injured in clash in Rangamati

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

At least twelve students were injured, some of them critically, in clashes between Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), a front organisation of PCJSS (Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity) and Bangalee Chhatra Parishad (BCP), a platform of Bangalee settlers, over forming a new committee at Technical Training Centre (TTC) in the town yesterday.

Of the injured, Sakib, 18, Abdul Kader, 19, and Saiful Islam, 19, were hospitalised. Others were released after first aid.

According to TTC sources, the clashes first erupted when a group of PCP activists beat some Bangalee students at around 10:30am when BCP leaders were engaged in forming a new committee.

In reprisal, BCP activists were locked with PCP men in a fierce clash that lasted for half an hour.

After the clashes, BCP leaders brought out a procession in the town demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to those responsible for the clashes.

They also threatened tougher agitation if their demands are not fulfilled within 24 hours.

Additional police and army were deployed around the TTC to avert any further untoward incident.

## Sramik League men attack BCU leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) were severely injured in an attack by Sramik League activists in the city on Sunday.

The injured were identified as Assistant Secretary Jana Ranjan Roy, Finance Secretary Jillur Rahman Jiku and member Ujjal Roy. They were admitted to general hospital at about 9:00pm.

According to police and eyewitnesses, the attack took place when Chhatra Union leaders were holding a meeting at their party office at 3/1 Old Jessore Road under sadar thana.

Sramik League activists stormed into the office and damaged chairs and tables.

The incident took place when there was no electricity in that area. The attackers also pelted stones at policemen who rushed there to bring the situation under control.

Soon after the incident, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Chhatra Union and Jubo Union jointly brought out a procession to protest the attack.

Police said the attack is a sequel to longstanding dispute over the possession of land on which the BCU office stands.

Shyamol Shingha Roy, a central leader of Krishak League, claims the land as his paternal property.

But Chhatra Union leaders say Shyamol is a land grabber.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Samannay Parishad stages a demonstration at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to press their five-point demand.

# STALEMATE OVER 'CONTROVERSIAL' APPOINTMENTS Removal of Islamic University VC demanded

STAR REPORT

Blaming the vice-chancellor for the present stalemate at the Islamic University (IU), different organisations demanded his immediate resignation.

Bangabandhu Parishad, an organisation of Awami backed teachers-officers, Shapla Forum, a platform of progressive teachers of the university, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) IU unit and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student organisation of ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami, placed their demand holding press conference and bringing processions.

Bangabandhu Parishad and Shapla Forum at a press conference held at Islamic University Teachers Officers Club (IUTOC) at custom's moar area in Kushiata town blamed the vice-chancellor for his failure to run the university.

They demanded immediate removal of the VC, terming him "corrupt and unfit to run the institution."

In a written statement, Dr Rashid Askari, professor and chairman at the department of English, said after coming to power the VC appointed a large number of teachers, officers and staff belonging to particular quarters by violating University Grants Commission (UGC) rules.

The VC also grabbed a huge amount of money through this illegal recruitment.

They also showed a UGC letter instructing the VC not to recruit any teachers-officers or staff without approval of the UGC. But the VC violating the instruction appointed about 200 staff in the university.

Professor M Alauddin, president of Bangabandhu Parishad, Professor Abul Ahsan Choudhury, Prof ANM Rezaul

Karim, Prof Moniruzzaman, Prof Sawkat Jahangir, Prof Ainul Islam, Prof Sahinoor Rahman, Shapla Forum President Saiful Islam and General Secretary Jahangir Alam addressed the conference.

The university is still closed. The VC did not come back to campus since he left

## Saifur seeks people's support

BSS, Moulvibazar

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman said political awareness should be enhanced among the people of the country to keep the present flow of development steady.

He sought strong support from the people for the continued development of the country.

The minister was addressing a function on the occasion of laying foundation stone of Moulvibazar Shilpakala Academy in the district on Sunday. The function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Yunusur Rahman.

The three-story building is being implemented by Public Works Department (PWD) at a cost of Tk. four crore.

on Thursday.

The situation of the university turned worse on Thursday when the VC appointed 88 people including 6 officials and 82 third and fourth class employees, which was complete violation of the UGC guideline.

Moreover, all of the appointees are men of JCD and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student wings of ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami. Of them some having records of being involved in crimes including murder, sources in the university said over telephone yesterday.

But this recruitment sparked anger among the ruling alliances too. Jatyatlabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men were angry as the syndicate failed to fulfil their demand of at least 200 appointments. They went on rampage and launched destructive activities.

In their five days of agitation, they vandalised 23 buses, 2 private cars of the university, offices and residences of teachers-officers and members of the syndicate.

Over the situation, the authorities declared the university close on Monday.

The BCL and ICS brought out separate processions on the campus demanding immediate resignation of the VC Prof. Rafiqul Islam.

## One gets life for killing wife

BSS, Jhenaidah

A court yesterday sentenced a persons to life imprisonment for killing his wife four years ago.

District and Sessions Judge Bimal Chandra Sikder handed down the punishment to Abdul Jabbar, 27, son of Motaleb Mondal of Adarshapara in Jhenaidah town.

The court also fined him Tk 20, 000. If he fails to pay, he will have to suffer two more years in jail.

Two other accused, Wasiuddin and Abdul, were acquitted as charges against them could not be proved.

According to the prosecution, Abdul Jabbar killed his wife with a sharp weapon on March 9, 2002.

APP Moksed Ali appeared for the state while Advocate Zia Uddin defended the convict.

## Child cancer survivors face employment troubles

REUTERS, Washington

People who survived cancer as children were twice as likely to be unemployed than those without a history of childhood cancer, Dutch researchers reported yesterday.

Survivors of brain cancer or other central nervous system tumours were five times more likely to be unemployed, A.G.E.M. de Boer of the Coronel Institute for Occupational Health at Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam and colleagues reported.

Those who survived blood-cell and bone marrow cancers like leukemia also had a slightly higher risk of being unemployed, the researchers reported in Monday's issue of the journal Cancer.

The analysis showed women and Americans were especially vulnerable.

People who survived other types of cancer in childhood had no extra risk of being unemployed, the researchers said.

Most children diagnosed with cancer now survive it - the overall survival beyond five years for pediatric cancer is more than 70 percent.

However, children can face other health problems such as heart disease, infertility, pain and fatigue. De Boer's study added unemployment to this list.

"Interventions aimed at obtaining and maintaining employment are needed, especially for the vulnerable subgroups," the researchers wrote.

Childhood cancer survivors need special strategies to "mitigate the economic impact of surviving cancer and improve the quality of life of survivors," they said.