

Iran says foils cyberattack targeting internet providers

AFP, Tehran

Iran repelled a cyberattack yesterday that disrupted the country's internet services for an hour, a telecommunications ministry official said.

"At 11:44 (0814 GMT) a distributed denial-of-service attack disrupted the internet services of some mobile and fixed operators for an hour," tweeted Sajad Bonabi.

A DDoS attack involves overwhelming a target's servers by making a massive number of junk requests.

"Connections have returned to normal following the intervention of Defja shield," Bonabi added, referring to Iran's so-called digital fortress against cyberattacks.

He did not elaborate on the source of the attack.

Bonabi is a board member at the ministry's Telecommunications Infrastructure Company, the sole provider of the country's telecommunications infrastructure.

Internet monitor NetBlocks confirmed Saturday's outage and said it was "consistent with a targeted disruption and no technical faults are evident at the present time".

Thai soldier kills

FROM PAGE 16

There the gunman used weapons stolen from the army arsenal to bring carnage to a town centre, walking into the Terminal 21 mall.

He "used a machine gun and shot innocent victims resulting in many injured and dead," police spokesman Krissana Pattanacharoen said.

Jakrapanth's motive remains unclear.

But he throughout the day he posted images of himself and wrote several posts on his Facebook page as the attack unfolded including "should I surrender?" and "no one can escape death".

In one Facebook video -- since deleted -- the assailant, wearing an army helmet, filmed from an open jeep saying, "I'm tired... I can't pull my finger anymore" and making a trigger symbol with his hand.

There were also photos of a man in a ski mask holding up a pistol.

A Facebook spokesperson said "we have removed the gunman's accounts from our services and will work around the clock to remove any violating content related to this attack as soon as we become aware of it".

A witness who was inside the mall before the attack told AFP the shopping centre was thronging with shoppers on a long weekend.

"There were loads of people at the mall today," a 32-year-old from the city said, requesting anonymity.

"I was pretty shocked when I found out because I just left the mall not long before."

Street lights below the shopping centre were switched off as army and police units sealed off the Terminal 21 mall.

The city - better known as Korat - is home to one of Thailand's largest barracks in a country where the military is enmeshed in politics and society.

Thailand has one of the highest rates of gun ownership in the world.

Several shootings at courthouses late last year renewed concern about gun violence in the Southeast Asian country.

In another high-profile case, a two-year-old boy was among three people killed in Thailand when a masked gunman robbed a jewellery shop last month.

Late last year two lawyers were shot dead by a clerk at a court in the east of the country during a hearing over a land dispute.

Man brutally

FROM PAGE 16

Bhuiyan, superintendent of police (SP) in Bogura, while briefing reporters at a press conference at his office yesterday.

Police arrested Rupali Begum, 25, and her father Abdur Rahman, 50, from the same village in this connection.

During the primary investigation, police found that Rupali, who is married to an expat Bangladeshi, and Selim were in a relationship for the last one and a half years.

At one point, Selim started forcing her to marry him. But as Rupali rejected the proposal, Selim threatened to leak some of their intimate footage.

Being perplexed, Rupali shared everything with her father and they devised a plot to kill Selim.

On the night of the incident, Rupali told Selim over phone that she was ready to marry him and asked him to meet her at a remote paddy field.

As Selim reached the spot, Rupali's father Rahman and his associates killed him and set the body on fire so that it could not be recognised, the SP said.

The victim's father, Kafir Uddin, filed a case with Dupchanchia Police Station on February 5 accusing five people.

Police are trying to arrest the rest of the perpetrators, said the SP.

Tk 1,400cr saved as mega project

FROM PAGE 16

complete the project on time," he told The Daily Star.

Problems involving land acquisition are the main reason most mega projects are delayed, Ashraful said, adding that delay in managing fund for mega projects in many cases cause three to four years to go by forcing the authorities to redesign the project.

In this project, project authority had to acquire only a little amount land and the project area was quite specific and not drawn out over a vast area, he added.

Asked whether this is a rare instance of a mega project's completing on time, all the while saving a huge amount of money, Ashraful agreed. "IT'S A BIG RELIEF"

Before the construction of the three new bridges, the otherwise dual carriageway between the port city and the capital shrunk to a single carriageway at the Meghna and Gumti bridges. Though the old Kanchpur bridge is technically a dual carriageway, its width is not adequate.

Given this situation, traffic often crawls to a halt as vehicles approach the bridges. The situation worsens ahead of Eid and during weekends as more vehicles get on the highway.

Travelers and truckers can find themselves stuck on the 192km highway -- the busiest in the country



The completed new Meghna bridge on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway.

PHOTO: FILE

-- for up to 10 to 12 hours, way more than the expected five hours.

But the situation changed after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the new Kanchpur bridge in March and Meghna and Gumti bridges in May last year. This resulted in traffic jam free roads, even during the Eid.

Repair work on the three old bridges have been completed on January 3 this year and has already been opened for public, Nuruzzaman said, adding that it took some time to hand over the

bridges to accommodate schedules of the guests.

"Dhaka-Chattogram journey is quite comfortable now," Nabit Yeasir, an employee of a private firm in Dhaka, said. Hailing from Chattogram, he is a frequent traveler on the highway.

"I always faced huge traffic jams at Kanchpur and several other places on my way to Chattogram. But things have changed now," he told this newspaper.

Around 85 to 90 percent export and import are done via Chattogram port, but traffic congestion caused by the narrow bridges resulted in losses for businesses, MS Shekil Chowdhury, former senior vice president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) said.

"Construction of the new bridges give us big relief," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Exit polls predict huge AAP victory

FROM PAGE 16

outside New Delhi polling stations amid heavy security as a weeks-old protest by women against a new citizenship law took centrestage.

In an often vitriolic election campaign, Modi and other BJP leaders had slammed opponents of the law who deem it anti-Muslim.

The BJP had been seeking to oust Kejriwal, the capital's chief minister whose party took a record 67 of 70 Delhi assembly seats in 2015. BJP won 3.

While Kejriwal focused on local issues including the heavily subsidised electricity, water and healthcare he introduced, BJP leaders sought to turn the vote into a referendum on the women's protest.

Hundreds have been blocking a main road through Shaheen Bagh district since December 15 in protest against legislation that offers a fast-track to Indian nationality for persecuted religious minorities from

neighbouring countries but excludes Muslims.

On the eve of the elections, the BJP sent out messages telling people to vote for the party if they wanted an end to the Shaheen Bagh demonstration.

With the BJP on the back foot after failing in recent state elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, analysts said the Delhi result will be a key test of opinion on national issues.

Near the women's protest site, food company senior executive Maroof Ahmad said the "BJP has only two agendas -- Shaheen Bagh and Pakistan. They have nothing else to talk about."

"GDP is falling, the economy is in a mess and they are only bothered about temples and mosques," he added.

But others lined up behind the prime minister.

In the affluent Jangpura neighbourhood, flower garlands and balloons decorated the polling station as financial consultant Vinod Kumar came to vote.

"I am not biased towards any political party but I don't endorse the Shaheen Bagh protest. Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru believed in and supported the citizenship law," he said referring to India's revered independence leaders.

Thousands of extra security officers were on duty for the election with a large contingent at five polling stations near the Shaheen Bagh protest.

Women's safety has increasingly become an issue in Delhi since a 2012 gang rape murder made international headlines.

In a bid to persuade more females to vote, authorities set up dozens of women-only "pink polling booths" across the capital.

"I still don't feel safe in Delhi, a lot more must be done," said Shweta Laxmi.

More than 14 million people were eligible to take part in yesterday's vote. The results will be announced Tuesday.

World's biggest 3D printed

FROM PAGE 16

construction debris, cement, gypsum, and other compounds.

The 3D printing material is roughly 50 percent lighter than conventional concrete and substantially more durable.

The 3D printer outlined the walls with layers of the material a few inches thick, then slowly built upward, until the walls were at full height.

When the walls were completed, human construction crews took over, installing the roof, cutting out spaces for windows, and filling the walls in with insulation.

With structures under 500 square feet, builders can set the 3D printer

on a pre-set track and let it run on its own, but in Dubai the builders had to set up a large crane to move the 3D printer as it built up the structure.

For the Dubai Municipality, the project is just the beginning of what it hopes will be a long commitment to 3D printed buildings.

City officials say they want 25 percent of all new construction to be 3D printed buildings by 2030.

According to city estimates, moving to 3D printing will reduce the labor necessary for building construction by 70 percent and cut construction costs by 90 percent.

'Construction 3D printing technology is only at the early stages

of development,' Apis Cor CEO Nikita Cheniuntai said, in a statement on the company website.

"We do extensive R&D work to make the technology available for mass use. We are thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with Dubai Municipality."

The project gave us unique knowledge and invaluable experience that will help us improve our technology and develop a new version of our 3D printer."

The company says its next projects will be built in Louisiana and California, and it's also working to develop an affordable 500 square-foot house that can be 3D-printed in 24 hours.



An Iraqi youth poses for a picture with tyres in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, yesterday. Iraq's top Shia cleric on Friday criticised security forces for not doing more to prevent attacks on anti-government demonstrators, as new figures showed nearly 550 people have been killed since October.

PHOTO: AFP

BNP threatens

FROM PAGE 1

He claimed that the government has kept Khaleda in jail in "false and fabricated cases out of political vengeance".

"She is too sick to walk. She needs others' help to move while her diabetes is not under control. Her arthritic problem has deteriorated and she can't eat properly. She has lost 6-7 pounds in weight," the BNP leader said.

He alleged that the government has been in power without the people's mandate as it does not believe in democracy and the rule of law. "This is not a government of the people as it usurped power using the state machinery by destroying democracy, which was the main spirit of the Liberation War."

About the recently-held Dhaka city polls, Fakhrul said none can be called a mayor after securing only 15 percent of votes. "They even couldn't get the required number of votes by indulging in rigging through machines."

Stating that an election cannot be acceptable in which less than 50 percent votes is cast, the BNP leader urged the Election Commission to arrange fresh elections to the two Dhaka city corporations after cancelling the February 1 election results.

He accused the government of failing to run the country and urged it to step down to pave the way for holding a fresh election under a non-partisan administration.

Addressing the programme, BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said the government had sent Khaleda to jail ahead of the 11th parliamentary polls to hang on to power by force. "Khaleda Zia has been in jail only for political reasons."

He said the government has long been "snatching the results of elections as it has no accountability to the people".

The BNP leader said the people have expressed no-confidence in the government and the EC with their very thin presence at the polling centers during the February 1 polls.

Mosharraf also said the city polls proved that the electronic voting system was not suitable for a credible election. "It has also been proved again that no election can be held in a free and fair manner under the current government."

He said Khaleda must be freed from jail to restore democracy and the people's rights, including the right to vote. He urged all to get ready to organise a "mass upsurge" to have Khaleda freed."

Another BNP standing committee member, Moudud Ahmed, said though Khaleda's lawyers worked hard to free her through the legal process, they failed to do so.

"Now there is no alternative to launching a movement to free Khaleda Zia. The people of Bangladesh had established their rights through struggles on different occasions in the past, and they will do the same in future as well."

BNP standing committee members Mirza Abbas, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, and Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, among others, also addressed the programme.

Khaleda has been behind bars since February 8, 2018 when she was convicted by a special court in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. Later that year, she was found guilty in another graft case.

However, her party claims that both cases are politically motivated.

The BNP chief, now facing about 36 cases, has been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University since April 1 last year.

Take to the streets

FROM PAGE 16

He claimed that all had to tolerate farce which came in the form of elections. "Unelected people usurped power and continue to run the country. People will not accept that. They should get united and snatch their rights."

"A government should be formed through a true, free, and fair election. The government should be formed by the party getting the majority in that election."

"Only raising the demand for the government's resignation would not be enough, it has to be brought down from power. People who are the owner of the country should act as the true owner."

The Jatiya Oikyafront top leader said that if people are deprived of freedom, they become victims of corruption and looting. "None can give autocracy an institutional shape. Those who had tried to do that [in the past] faced dire consequences," he added.

Talking on Khaleda's release, he said, "48 years after the country's independence, the words 'political prisoners sound strange. It is unimaginable that we have to demand her release and hold meetings in this regard."

Speaking at the meeting, BNP standing committee member Abdul Moyeen Khan too urged all to wage a united movement to oust the government.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President ASM Abdur Rab said the government "must release Khaleda if it wanted to leave power peacefully".

Oikyafront leader and Gonoshasthaya Kendra trustee Zafurullah Chowdhury opined that it would not be wise to take part in any election unless Khaleda was freed.

Among others, Nagorik Oikya Convenor Mahmudur Rahman Manna and Gonoforum's Executive President Subrata Chowdhury also spoke at the programme yesterday.

Girl gang-raped

FROM PAGE 16

intersection.

The men then tied her brother to a nearby tree and forced her to climb onto a parked truck and raped her, they added.

The auto-rickshaw puller, meanwhile, rushed to Tongi Police Station and told officers what had happened, police said.

A team of police then went to the spot and rescued the girl and her brother.

Her father filed a case accusing the suspects hours later.

In Bogura's Dupchanchia upazila, police yesterday arrested a man on charges of raping his daughter-in-law multiple times over the last five

months, reports our correspondent in the district.

The 40-year-old suspect, a village quack, is accused of raping the 19-year-old woman, who was married to his son eight months ago, said Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Dupchanchia Police Station.

According to a case filed by her husband, the suspect used to tell the woman every time he raped her that he was possessed by a genie.

He also threatened to kill her if she told anyone about it.

After being raped again on Tuesday, the woman told her husband what had been going on. The husband filed the case yesterday.

Launch war on poverty

FROM PAGE 16

cooperation: 1. They shouldn't allow any consideration to stand in the way of taking up their posts to put the wheels of industry into motion, 2. Workers must exert themselves to maximise production, 3. They must regard industrial assets and stocks as part of national wealth and assume responsibility to protect them and 4. For now, the workers should continue to accept existing wages and other benefits.

Bangabandhu assures the workers that a plan is being prepared whereby measures of nationalisation would be combined with new arrangements to ensure workers' participation in the management of industries.

BANGABANDHU MOVES TO HIS OWN HOUSE

Bangabandhu today moves into his own house in Dhanmondi road no 32 in the capital, for the first time since March 25 last year.

TROOPS PULL-OUT IN FULL SWING

The withdrawal of Indian troops from Bangladesh is in full swing. More than 8,000 troops have pulled out from Cumilla, Dinajpur and Jessore in the past two days.

FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL NATIONS

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus

Samad Azad declares that Bangladesh is now a reality above all contentions and the country is ready to have friendly relations with other countries. Referring to the US, he says, "We are even ready to extend our friendship to those countries which have not supported our liberation struggle, if these countries are willing to maintain a friendship."

NURUL AMIN, GOLAM AZAM, HAMIDUL, SABUR AND 11 OTHERS SUMMONED

Nurul Amin, Hamidul Huq Chowdhury, Khan A Sabur, Golam Azam and 11 persons who have been absconding to avoid appearance for an inquiry under the Bangladesh Collaborators Special Tribunal Order, 1972, have been directed to appear before their respective sub-divisional magistrates on or before 3pm on February 22, 1972, according to a government announcement.

The handout says that the properties standing in the names of these individuals or in the names of their banamanders have also been attached under the Collaborators Order.

Sources: February 10, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Daily Ittefaq, Azad, Morning News, The Bangladesh Observer and Purbodesh.