

Hacking of more DSE computers suspected

STAR REPORT

Although the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) officials have seized a computer with a stolen software, there is widespread apprehension in the stock market that there may be more such hacking.

The SEC officials along with two Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) IT officials on Wednesday seized a computer possessing one of its key market administration and control software called "outside view".

IT officials of the DSE on March 30 saw a log-off error message on their computer screen where no one other than the DSE system administrator had access.

They detected unauthorised entry to a secondary server called "fireball server" through a wide-area network (WAN) connection, which stores valuable data.

Then they informed the DSE authorities about the hacking which had restricted entry to the servers by changing passwords.

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CHT team to hold meetings with govt

UNB, Bandarbans

A four-member team of the CHT Regional Council will hold a series of meetings with the government to expedite the process of full implementation of the CHT Peace Accord.

Led by Goutam Chakma, member of the Regional Council, the team will hold meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, relevant ministers and secretaries.

Other members of the team are KS Mong, Nurul Alam and Zafar Ahmed.

The team will meet CHT Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma today and senior officials of LGRD and forest ministers tomorrow.

It will also meet Home Minister Mohammad Nasim and Convenor

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A 'cure' for load shedding'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country could get rid of load shedding by using some modern devices which would save more than 1000 MW of electricity per day during peak hours, an expert on renewable energy and energy conservation said yesterday.

"Up to Tk 1,500 crore per year could be saved by using Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) and Intelligent Motor Control (IMC)," Fazlur Rahman told a press conference at the Jaitya Press Club.

He said power consumption for lighting purpose in the country during peak hours can be reduced to 450 MW from 600 MW now by using CFL. However, its initial expenditure is more.

He said power consumption by a CFL is 20 watt, a normal fluorescent tube 60 watt and an ordinary bulb 100 watt for a certain period. A CFL lasts 2,000 hours, a normal fluorescent tube 1,800 hours and a normal bulb 800 hours only.

Rahman said use of IMC could save up to 80 per cent of the energy now consumed by normal electric

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INSIDE TODAY Article 4

Strategic significance of Chinese PM's visit to Pakistan

Harun ur Rashid writes from Canberra, Australia

Law and Our Rights 5

Can DNA fingerprinting identify rapists, murderers?

Prayer Timings

May 13

Sun Rises

Sun Sets

6.33 pm

May 14

5-17 am

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Coup brought stability in Pakistan, says Zhu

AP, Islamabad

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji applauded Pakistan's military yesterday saying the 1999 army takeover has brought stability to the country and revived an ailing economy.

"During the last 18 months, a lot of improvement has been made," Zhu told a luncheon of business representatives in Pakistan's federal capital of Islamabad.

Zhu, who arrived in Pakistan on Friday has signed seven memorandums of agreement with Pakistan's army ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf. The agreements were in the railways, energy and mining sectors.

Zhu's visit which ends Monday, when he goes to Nepal, is to focus on trade and business relations with Pakistan, a longtime ally.

"I am confident that under his (Musharraf's) leadership Pakistan's economy will do better in the future," Zhu said.

The military took power in Pakistan in October 1999 throwing out the civilian government of Nawaz Sharif, accusing his administration of relentless corruption and economic mismanagement.

Musharraf promises to hold general elections by October 2002, in keeping with a Supreme Court decision.

Zhu's vote of confidence in Musharraf is considered significant in Pakistan, which has been under pressure from western nations to return quickly to democratic rule.

China also is one of the biggest suppliers of weapons to Pakistan,

but there were no defense deals signed on this trip. However, Zhu said Friday that the two countries would continue their cooperation in the defense field in line with international treaties.

UNI says China appreciated Pakistan's position for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue.

"China will try its utmost and will spare no efforts to bring about and in supporting a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir problem", Zhu said at a joint press conference with Musharraf Friday night.

Zhu described the Kashmir issue

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A group of unscrupulous people has encroached upon the river on the other side of the Buriganga Bridge, setting up tin-shed structures to deal in bricks and sand.

Tax dodgers prefer their money black

Govt may discontinue incentive in next budget

STAR REPORT

A government scheme to allow black money holders whiten their undeclared money has attracted lukewarm response from tax dodgers.

One hundred forty-nine black money holders made use of a government incentive in the last budget to allow whitening of black money by paying 10 per cent tax.

According to National Board of Revenue (NBR) sources, during the July-February period of this fiscal year, these 149 persons who had amassed wealth without paying tax declared that they had Tk 91.10 crore untaxed income.

The large tax payers also whitened Tk 9.65 crore by paying Tk 96.50 lakh tax.

However, the sources said response of the tax dodgers to the 'general amnesty' was not encouraging. "We expected that a huge amount of black money would be

paid 10 per cent income tax, his source of income would not be questioned. This had evoked criticism from some quarters who viewed this as giving moral support to corrupt practices.

NBR sources also said the declared amount of untaxed money rose to Tk 130 crore till April and the NBR received Tk 13 crore income tax.

According to them, the highest amount of black money -- Tk 27.61 crore -- was legalised from tax zone-2 of Dhaka while Tk 10.11 crore was legalised from Rajshahi zone.

The large tax payers also whitened Tk 9.65 crore by paying Tk 96.50 lakh tax.

However, the sources said response of the tax dodgers to the 'general amnesty' was not encouraging. "We expected that a huge amount of black money would be

brought back to the legal channel and that once tax dodgers would expose their untaxed fund, a chunk of it would be invested in the economy," said an NBR official. "Many black money holders do not risk investing because they cannot show any legal income. The response we received is very discouraging."

Against such a dismal disclosure, the NBR is now contemplating discontinuing the incentive in the next budget.

"Although the FBCCI wants the mechanism to continue, we feel that it is of little effect and so we will rather discontinue it," said a NBR official. "The trend shows people are more interested to keep their illegal wealth tucked elsewhere than bring that to light."

Govt wakes up to save Buriganga 'at any cost'

SHEHAB AHMED

A government appointed committee to prepare a coordinated environmental guideline for Dhaka city has finalised its recommendations, suggesting among other things, measures to save the Buriganga at any cost and use of catalytic converters compulsory for all motorised vehicles to keep the air clean.

Two sets of guidelines, one on construction of buildings and the other on protection of environment, were approved by the committee at its meeting on Thursday. State Minister for Forests and Environment Ashiqur Rahman who heads the committee presided.

The recommendations will be placed before the government for approval and enforcement, sources in the committee said.

The guidelines on construction

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2 young men murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered bodies of two young men from a pond at Shyampur in the city yesterday morning.

One of the bodies was identified as Babu, 27, son of Jalal Ahmed while identity of other aged about 25 could not be known immediately.

On receiving information, Shyampur police went to the spot at about 11am and recovered the bodies from WASA pond.

There were marks of stab injuries in different parts of both the bodies.

Shyampur police said unidentified miscreants killed them on Thursday night and threw them in the pond. The reason behind the killings could not be known.

Police, however, suspected that the two were murdered on a sequel to previous enmity.

The bodies were sent to the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

They were expelled from BNP on Thursday for anti-party activities.

They joined BNP in 1996. Before that, they had formed Nationalist Democratic Party during the autocratic rule of HM Ershad.

The two leaders have already

discussed with some rightist politicians and will soon call a meeting of like minded people to float the party.

"If they do not get a positive response at the meeting, they will wait till BNP declares its candidates for the next polls," said a politician maintaining close links with them.

Angry students of Panchagarh Government

120 hurt on violence-marred second day of HSC exams

9,117 examinees, 15 teachers expelled: 100 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 120 people, including five invigilators and a magistrate, were injured in violent incidents at different examination centres across the country on the second day of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations yesterday.

As many as 9,117 examinees and 15 teachers were expelled on charges of adopting unfair means during the English second paper examination. About 100 copy suppliers were also taken into custody.

An examinee assaulted a magistrate upon being expelled at Rokon Uddin Molla Girls' College in Araihazar upazila in Narayanganj. Police arrested Akhilul Hossain Abir following the incident.

Our Correspondent from Rajshahi adds: At least 25 people including a policeman were injured in a clash between the angry mob and police at Mohipur Haji Mohsin College in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat.

Angry students of Panchagarh Government

Women's College assaulted three teachers for not allowing them to cheat. They also tore some 25 answer scripts, ransacked several rooms and damaged furniture.

About 75 persons were injured as students and copy suppliers clashed with police in two HSC examination centres in Sadar and Dimlia upazilla of Nilphamari district.

Police resorted to baton charge and fired 14 rounds of tear gas shell to disperse the troublemakers. Police arrested 53 students from the scene.

Widespread violent incidents were reported from different examination centres, an education board official told The Daily Star last night.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal adds: 16 persons were held on different charges from the Gournadi Pilot Girls High School Centre. A total of 23 examinees were expelled from the same centre during the exams.

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SQ Chowdhury, Zahid plan to float 'Trinamool BNP'

REZAUL KARIM

Expelled BNP leaders Salauddin Qader Chowdhury and Anwar Zahid are now planning to float a new political party styled "Trinamool BN".

They may also contest in the coming general election under the banner of the new party, sources close to them said.

They were expelled from BNP on Thursday for anti-party activities.

They joined BNP in 1996. Before that, they had formed Nationalist Democratic Party during the autocratic rule of HM Ershad.

The two leaders have already

discussed with some rightist politicians and will soon call a meeting of like minded people to float the party.

"If they do not get a positive response at the meeting, they will wait till BNP declares its candidates for the next polls," said a politician maintaining close links with them.

But themselves will not say anything against Khaleda till she speaks against them.

Sources in BNP said the party leadership has instructed party leaders not to say anything against the expelled leaders.

They said SQ Chowdhury has decided to contest in five constituencies in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar in the next general election.

BNP leader Abdullah Al Noman will be one of his contestants.

Our Chittagong Correspondent

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Prospect of SAARC Summit brightens

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The meeting of the SAARC foreign secretaries, scheduled for a June 8 start in Colombo, has raised the prospects of a summit of the heads of states and governments of the seven member-countries later this year, according to diplomatic sources here.

India appears to be shedding its reluctance to sit at the same table with Pakistan, which it has strongly voiced following the October 12, 1999 take-over by General Pervez Musharraf, the sources said.

New Delhi also opposed presence of a military general at the meeting of South Asian heads. However, all that seems to be changing, if indications given by highly placed sources here are to go by.

India's refusal to share the dais with Musharraf led to restrict SAARC activities only to official-level technical committees for the last two years.

What remains to be seen is whether the process to be kick-started by the next month's meeting of SAARC foreign secretaries can be taken to its logical conclusion - the summit.