

# S Korean websites 'attacked by North'

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's intelligence service believes North Korea or its sympathisers may have staged a major cyber attack that shut down US and South Korean websites, lawmakers were quoted saying yesterday.

The attack late Tuesday hit a total of 25 US and South Korean sites -- some of them official -- with those in South Korea shut down for nearly four hours.

"This is not a simple attack by individuals. The attack appeared to have been elaborately prepared and staged by a certain organisation or state," Seoul's National Intelligence Service (NIS) said in a statement.

Yonhap news agency said the NIS, which has launched an investigation, told parliament's intelligence committee that the communist North or people sympathetic to the isolated state may have been to blame.

"The NIS has been telling committee members that North Korea or a pro-North Korean force might be behind the cyber terror," it quoted one legislator as saying.

The committee, which is briefed in private, was reportedly to receive an official report Thursday from the intelligence service. An NIS spokesman said he could not disclose what information was given to committee members.

In its statement the NIS said US authorities were cooperating to track down those responsible for hijacking 12,000 personal computers in South Korea and 8,000 abroad which were exploited as vehicles for the attacks.

"The sites hit yesterday included 14 US sites including government ones," a spokesman for the Korea Information Security Agency told AFP, refusing to confirm a Yonhap report that the White House website was among those targeted.

In Korea, the defence and foreign ministries, the ruling party, parliament and the US-South Korea combined forces military command were among the 11 entities affected.

South Korea is one of the world's most wired countries, with 95 percent of homes having broadband access, according to a recent US survey.

## Habiganj hostages

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off. As Arab Ali made a bit of delay in complying, Shaheen in anger destroyed a computer in the room, police said.

Arab Ali managed to escape captivity giving Shaheen the excuse of offering Asr prayers around 6:30pm.

When law enforcers asked Shaheen to surrender, since he had no hostages, Shaheen requested 30 minutes time.

Habiganj SP Akkas Uddin Bhuiyan told The Daily Star over cellphone that after the time had expired Shaheen set off bombs and made a run for it. In the balcony, law enforcers shot him several times with shotguns and he was injured in the leg. He also sustained burn injuries from the explosion, the SP added.

The whole thing ended around 7:30pm.

Shaheen who hails from Bahula in Habiganj Sadar was undergoing treatment at a

The regulatory Korea Communications Commission said hackers had caused an attack known as a distributed denial of service (DDoS) by planting viruses in thousands of computers.

"Malicious codes which cause DDoS attacks have infected more than 18,000 personal computers," commission official Hwang Chul-jung told reporters.

Hackers continued to attack some sites Wednesday, he said, adding Internet service providers were distributing a programme to remove the virus.

DDoS attacks involve the sending of huge amounts of data that cause web servers to seize up.

The damage appeared limited.

The defence ministry said the attackers apparently focused on its external network and internal data and secret information remained intact.

Among the private Korean sites infiltrated were a newspaper and two major lenders, Shinhan Bank and Korea Exchange Bank, officials said.

Most sites attacked Tuesday had since returned to normal but some could still not be accessed Wednesday morning.

The Defence Security Command last month reported that the nation's military computer networks were under ever-growing cyber attack, with 95,000 cases reported daily on average.

The command said most were the same as those experienced by ordinary users, but 11 percent were sophisticated attempts to gather intelligence.

The military said last month it would launch a cyber warfare command centre by 2012 to fend off attacks on government and military IT networks from North Korea and other countries.

Experts have said North Korea and China run elite hacker units.

In 2004 hackers based in China used information-stealing viruses to break into the computer systems of Seoul government agencies.

Last year Prime Minister Han Seung-soo warned against what he said were attempts by Chinese and North Korean computer hackers to obtain state secrets.

## Core cell

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"Investigation is going on into the recent garment factory violence and we have already got some information," Hasina added.

She urged factory owners and labourers to remain alert so that none can use them for evil gains. "I personally believe garment labourers were not involved in damaging their own factories from where they earn their livelihoods," Hasina said.

In response to a query of AL lawmaker Brig Gen (ret'd) SK Abu Bakr on forming a parliamentary body to eliminate corruption, the premier said her government is taking steps to ensure that the Anti-Corruption Commission can work independently.

She urged the ACC to examine if there is consistency in people's incomes and expenditures.

Hasina blamed the military rulers of the past for spreading corruption everywhere in the society. "The military dictators, whenever they snatched state power, spread corruption by providing undue facilities to a vested interest quarter of the society," she said.

Hasina said democracy and democratic practice must be continued to fight corruption.

On formation of parliamentary bodies, she said lawmakers have the authority to form parliamentary bodies if they want to probe anything.

In response to a query of Jatiya Party lawmaker Raushan Ershad on women's empowerment, the premier said she has planned to elect the speaker or deputy speaker of parliament herself in the future.

Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, rejected Chief Whip Abdus Shahid's proposal to bring Bangabandhu's graveyard to the capital and build a memorial in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"It is better to let his graveyard be there where he has been lying in eternal peace by the side of his mother," Hasina said.

On AL lawmaker Atiur Rahman's proposal on building a monument to express hatred for the razakars, al-badr and al-shams on a specific day, the prime minister said it is not a matter of one specific day, the Bangalee nation will hate the 1971 collaborators of the Pakistan army forever.

Hasina informed the House that the project to build Swadhinata Stambha in Suhrawardy Udyan will complete as per schedule.

## Dhaka canals

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committee will place its report to the parliamentary body.

Another committee was formed with the officials of land records and survey department, additional deputy commissioners of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Munshiganj to bring navigability in the rivers of Dhaka by freeing them from grabbers.

"We asked director general of land records to take necessary measures to demarcate the canals in the city in next three months to free them from grabbers," AKM Mozammel Huq, chief of the parliamentary body, told The Daily Star after the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He alleged that individuals, Dhaka City Corporation and different government departments grabbed the canals and built structures there, blocking water flow that caused water logging in the capital during the monsoon.

"We will ask the government to have the canals concreted over so that no one can grab them again," the committee chief said about the future plan on their recovery from grabbers to protect the city's canals.

About recovering lands on the riverbanks from grabbers, Mozammel Huq said they asked the land ministry to file cases under the provision of bonafide mistakes in the land law to ensure recovery of the grabbed lands.

He said the officials of the industries ministry and environment department have sought three months time to identify the industries responsible for river and environment pollution.

"They will also measure the amount of waste the industries dump into the rivers causing pollution," Mozammel said.

The parliamentary body earlier asked the industries ministry and environment department to take steps to prevent the industries from dumping waste in the rivers.

## BB governor

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unnecessarily. A mutual understanding between Bangladesh, India and Nepal could pave the way for landlocked Nepal to use the Mongla port, which would ultimately benefit Bangladesh, he said.

In exchange for the facility, Bangladesh could ask Nepal to export power and gas, needed badly for the country's industrial growth, said Rahman.

"We have unfortunately failed to do so until now, depriving a large segment of the poor who could have been benefited from trade opportunities," he said.

The seminar was part of the two-day regional conference jointly organised by South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM) and Commonwealth Secretariat, UK, in collaboration with Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund (BICF) on issues related to regional integration in South Asia.

Dr Mustafa Mujeri, director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), presided over the function.

The BB governor said now South Asia is one of the fastest growing regions in terms of economy but it is essential to increase intra-regional trade, which is about 5 percent of the total trade in the region.

Speakers at the function stressed the need for facilitating foreign direct investment (FDI) to enhance economic activities in the region.

BIDS Research Fellow Nazreen Ahmed said India's overbearing attitude on many bilateral issues, including water sharing, has created a

## Clouds hang

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Cricket Board (WICB) regarding players' contract.

With the WICB clamouring for replacements, it was not clear whether the full-strength team or an alternative second-string side will face the Tigers in the match.

The Test will start at 9pm Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) with TEN Sports beaming the live coverage from the Caribbean.

The tough challenge awaits for the new Bangladesh captain as his side is going to play five-day cricket after five months and especially after the confidence-sapping performance in the ICC World Twenty20 in England.

Batting is the main concern for the Jamie Siddons' young charges but they got some useful batting practice in the second innings of the tour opener's three-day game against West Indies A after a dismal show in the first essay at the Kensington Oval.

And the good news was that the immediate past captain Mohammad Ashraful made some batting practice with a fifty in the first innings ahead of the first Test.

So far Bangladesh has played four Tests against West Indies and earned a creditable draw in the first Test during their first trip to the Caribbean in 2004.

## Mijarul

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Besides the Russian Federation, Quayes was concurrently the ambassador to Belarus, Estonia Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine.

Touhid Hossain formally handed over charge to Quayes at a simple ceremony at the ministry. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni was present at the time.

Quayes, one of the senior diplomats of Bangladesh, joined Foreign Service in 1983. He studied at Dhaka University and Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University. He also attended the National Defence College and holds an MSc degree.

Quayes, who is an additional secretary, was made acting secretary instead of a full secretary because the meeting of the Superior Selection Board for his promotion was not held before this takeover.

He will be promoted soon, which will make him the 24th foreign secretary of the country.

Before joining Bangladesh mission in Russia, Quayes was the high commissioner to the Maldives. He also worked in Bangladesh missions in Tokyo, Geneva and Singapore.

Between 2001 and 2005, he successively headed three separate divisions in the foreign ministry, including the Saarc and Multilateral Economic Affairs divisions.

Quayes is an active member of the Bangladesh chapter of the International Theatre Institute. He was also involved with Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, winner of Magsaysay Award, in establishing the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro.

Quayes is married to Naema Chaudhury Quayes and has two daughters.

sense of mistrust in Bangladesh.

She suggested taking joint initiatives for development of infrastructure and enhancement of intra-regional FDI.

Rashmi Banga, senior economist of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) from India proposed a common investment framework to tap the investment potential of South Asian countries.

She said standardisation, certification and custom rules create obstruction to regional trade and investment.

Prof Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said the measures taken by Vietnam and India to increase their FDI inflow in the last few years need to be studied.

It is still a matter of debate whether Bangladesh would prefer export-related or import substitute FDI, he said.

Speakers also put emphasis on infrastructure development to attract more FDI in Bangladesh as well as other countries in the region.

## War crime trial

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acquittal order of a tribunal.

The bill, likely to be passed today, was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry for scrutiny. The committee will submit its report in the House by 12:00 noon today.

There are provisions for trying members of the armed forces and their auxiliary forces under the 1973 act.

The tribunal should function independently for ensuring fair trial, the bill said.

"A person who is a judge, or qualified to be a judge, or has been a judge of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, may be appointed as a chairman or member of a tribunal," the bill proposed.

The bill also proposed inclusion of a new clause in the definition chapter of the act. The new clause says 'armed forces' means the forces raised and maintained under the army act 1952, the air force act, 1953 or the navy ordinance, 1961.

In defence of amending the act, the law minister said since the present government is determined to hold trial of the 1971 war criminals, it needs to amend the existing act to make it up to date.

He said if the trial is held under the amended act it would be fair, transparent and acceptable to all.

Meanwhile, the House yesterday passed seven bills amending Islamic University Act 2005, Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University Act 1992, Bangladesh Open University Act 1992, Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University Act, 2001, Jagannath University Act, 2005, Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University Act 2006 and Sylhet Agriculture University Act 2006.

With the passage of the bills, the president replaces the prime minister as chancellor of the seven public universities.

## Muggers

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City residents however said the figure would be two to three folds more, as many victims do not report to police fearing legal complexities.

Different law enforcement sources said on an average around 70 to 100 incidents of snatching take place in the capital per day at over 435 crime prone spots, but most of the victims do not report to the police.

City residents said muggers carry firearms and use motor vehicles including motorbikes to commit the crimes, despite deployment of law enforcers and constant police patrol at different intersections across the city.

Against such a backdrop, the police administration sat for a meeting at the police headquarters on Monday to figure out effective strategies for fighting crimes in the capital.

In the meeting, the DMP authorities decided to divide jurisdictions of police stations under their sub-inspectors (SIs), holding them liable for any crime occurring within the areas of the jurisdictions.

DMP sources said from now on SIs will gather information about criminals and crimes, and will conduct drives to catch them as each SI will be provided with two to three constables for conducting raids.

DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque said "An SI will contain crime in his or her assigned area. The SI will also settle long-standing problems existing in the area by holding arbitrations among feuding groups or individuals. Besides, DMP is going to strengthen police patrolling, forming at least three more motorbike patrol teams in each police station. In each patrol team there will be four police personnel with two motor bikes."

## Sohel Taj

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return, but he did not confirm any date," one of the top officials of the home ministry told The Daily Star yesterday.

Azgar Ali Rashid Khan, president of Kapasia upazila unit of Awami League, however said the state minister will return home by July 14. Sohul Taj, son of the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed, was elected a lawmaker for the second time from the constituency.

Prior to leaving for the US, Sohul Taj had reportedly resigned on June 1, out of frustration. The prime minister however did not accept his resignation, and asked him to go on a leave.

In the meantime home minister Sahara Khatun has also been staying in Singapore for treatment since July 2. Sahara suffered hip injuries from a fall in the washroom of her official residence.

Talking to The Daily Star, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder said the home minister will return home by next week as her condition improved.

In absence of the home minister and the state minister for home, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been looking after the crucial ministry's work.

Sources said she might give the charge to a minister for an interim period.

Names of Post and Telecommunications Minister Raziuddin Ahmed Razu, Commerce Minister Faruk Khan, and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs ABM Tajul Islam have been discussed for the charge, sources said. None however officially confirmed it.

## 4 JMB men

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In another incident, Rab-6 arrested two JMB eshars in front of the City College under Khulna sadar Tuesday night.

The arrestees were identified as Abu Musa alias Shibli alias Ali Ahmed, 40, and Abdus Salam, 46, of west Tootpara.

Police quoted the arrestees as saying that they joined the banned outfit JMB in 2003. Sub-inspector Anwar Hossain of Khulna Sadar Police Station said Musa and Salam were placed on a three-day remand for interrogation.

## JCD

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members of JCD must have studentship. New leaders including Tuku and Alim were students about a decade ago and of the newly nominated five leaders, four are married and two have children.

"Citizens of Bangladesh and only students would be considered to be a member of the JCD," section Kha of provision 6 (1) [primary membership] reads.

The draft constitution says the central committee would remain responsible to the national council and would implement all decisions taken by national council committee.

## BB staff

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bundle. Bangladesh Bank governor then directed officials concerned to find the persons responsible and take punitive actions.

Shahida Akhter Momin, cash officer of Bangladesh Bank Motijheel office, was instantly suspended as she had signed the bundle.

Bangladesh Bank officials said as per the central bank's staff regulation, if any counterfeit note is found in a bundle of notes of Bangladesh Bank, the employee who signed the bundle would be suspended and a thorough investigation would be launched to find out the people responsible.

The investigation starts today. An official of Bangladesh Bank said the client drew a wad of Tk 500 notes from Habib Bank and found the counterfeit note while counting the notes. The client informed the bank and the bank told him that the bundle was supplied to them by Bangladesh Bank. Habib Bank officials advised the client to go to Bangladesh Bank with the note and lodge a complaint.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bank informed all banks to check counterfeit notes when taking delivery of notes from the central bank.

Officials and employees of Bangladesh Bank at different levels were surprised at the counterfeit note in a bundle prepared by the central bank.

In an earlier instance, counterfeit notes were found in the vault of the central bank and several staffs were suspended in that connection.

## Troublemakers

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and carrying shields lined up on a main road in Urumqi dividing the city centre from a Uighur district, with columns of soldiers behind them.

The security build-up had an impact with fewer people wielding makeshift weapons taking to the streets, and Urumqi mayor Jerla Isamudin told reporters in the late afternoon that the situation in the city was "under control".

He also warned that anyone found guilty of murder in connection to the unrest would be given the death penalty.

But tensions remained high, with some Han Chinese and Uighurs continuing to arm themselves with sticks, poles, knives and other weapons, leading to confrontations and violence, according to AFP reporters.

In one of two attacks witnessed by AFP reporters, about 20 Han Chinese men armed with wooden bats attacked a Uighur man in central Urumqi.

The beating stopped after about one minute when security forces moved in to disperse the mob, the AFP reporter said, while a local Han Chinese woman said the victim was a Uighur man.

The extent of the man's injuries was unclear, as he was quickly taken away.

In the second incident, a group of Han Chinese saw three Uighurs at an intersection and chased them.

Two of the Uighurs escaped, but a third was caught by some of the crowd and he was assaulted for around 30 seconds, before police took him away. AFP reporters said he had blood on his face after the beating.

In another incident, about 200 Uighurs armed with sticks, pipes and rocks began protesting directly in front of a police

cordon that was dividing their neighbourhood from a Han-populated area, an AFP reporter witnessed.

A smaller group of Uighurs had been trading insults and accusations with Han who were on the other side of the cordon and similarly armed with makeshift weapons.

The crowd of Uighurs grew after a helicopter dropped leaflets blaming Sunday's unrest on exiled Uighur leader Rebiya Kadeer, but they also claimed police had overnight allowed Han Chinese to freely attack Muslim areas.

In a BBC interview on Wednesday, Kadeer blamed Chinese policies for the violent unrest and claimed the death toll from riots was "much higher" than the 156 stated by Beijing.

China's state media said yesterday over 100 people were killed by rioters in unrest erupting three days earlier, providing the first partial breakdown of the death toll.

"More than 100 people killed by rioters have been identified," said Urumqi mayor Jerla Isamudin.

Highlighting the severity of the crisis, the government announced Hu had cut short his trip to Italy for the G8 summit.

"I have never seen a Chinese president shorten a trip abroad before... there is clear concern," said Jean-Pierre Cabestan, professor of political science at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Xinjiang's eight million Uighurs make up nearly half the population of the region, a vast area of deserts and mountains rich in natural resources that borders Central Asia.

The Turkic-speaking people have long complained of repression and discrimination under Chinese rule, but Beijing insists it has brought economic prosperity to the region.

## War memorials

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above any such award.

It said Bangabandhu is the greatest Bengali in the history of the nation and the greatest freedom fighter; he himself is the symbol of the country's independence.

The HC ordered the government to take steps to protect and maintain the historic places at Suhrawardy Udyan where Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his historic speech on March 7 in 1971 and where Pakistani army surrendered on December 16, 1971.

Suhrawardy Udyan also include places where Bangabandhu gave his speech on January 10, 1972, after his return to the country from exile, and where Indira Gandhi, then prime minister of India, greeted Bangabandhu on March 17, 1972.

The HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice M Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed came up with the directives and observations upon a writ petition jointly filed by freedom fighters Maj Gen (Retd) KM Saifullah Bir Uttam and Prof Muntasir Mamun.

The court also asked the government to form a committee within the next three months to identify the important historic places and then remove the structures, if any, from those places at Suhrawardy Udyan.

The committee will include historians, freedom fighters, anthropologists, sector commanders, and the persons who were present at the time when Pakistani army surrendered to the Mukti Bahini, the court said.

The HC ordered to identify and preserve all the historic places and martyrs' killing grounds across the country and to set up monuments there in memory of them, if possible.

The court also urged the

government to accord all the sector commanders with Swadhinata Padak, saying that they fought for the country's independence by staking their lives.

It observed the state is constitutionally bound to protect and maintain the historic important places related to the Liberation War but it is regretful that no governments have taken any step so far to preserve them.

The future generation will not excuse us if we fail to preserve them, it said.

Prof Muntasir Mamun told newsmen the police station, police control room and the Shishu Park constructed at Suhrawardy Udyan will have to be removed to implement the HC directives.

Advocate Manzill Mushtid appeared for the petitioners while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, Additional Attorney General MK Rahman, Deputy Attorney General Mostafa Zaman Islam, senior lawyers advocate AFM Mesbahuddin, advocate Abdul Baset Majumder and barrister Rabia Bhuiyan made arguments supporting the writ petition.

## 45 more cases

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include former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, former lawmaker HBM Iqbal and Sheikh Abdullah, AL religious affairs secretary.

The cases were filed during BNP-led four-party rule, and the last caretaker government's tenure.

The MPP also asked the authorities to send the cases to the district magistrate of Dhaka for his opinion on withdrawal.</