

New bug attacks

FROM PAGE 16

The Shellshock bug was discovered in a tool known as Bash that is widely used by the Unix operating system and many of its variants, including Linux open source software and Apple's OSX.

Apple said it was working on a fix for its operating system and added that most users would not be at risk from Shellshock.

Attackers have been spotted creating networks of compromised machines, known as botnets, that were then put to other uses.

One group used their Shellshock botnet to bombard machines run by Akamai with huge amounts of junk data to try to knock them offline. Another group used its botnet to scan for more machines that are vulnerable.

Evidence of the scanning and attacks came from honeypots run by security companies. These are computers that have been set up to look vulnerable but which catch information about attackers.

Jaime Blasco, a researcher at security firm AlienVault, said its honeypot had seen scans and attacks that used Shellshock. The scans simply informed attackers that a server was vulnerable, he wrote, but others attempted to install malware to put that machine under an attacker's control.

The control that Shellshock gave to attackers made it potentially more of a problem than the serious Heartbleed bug discovered in April this year, said security researcher Kasper Lindegaard from Secunia.

"Heartbleed only enabled hackers to extract information," he told tech news site The Register. "Bash enables hackers to execute commands to take over your servers and systems."

The seriousness of the bug has also led governments to act quickly. The UK government said its cybersecurity response team had issued an alert to its agencies and departments giving Shellshock the "highest possible threat ratings".



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talking to her Nepalese counterpart Sushil Koirala at Grand Hyatt hotel in New York on Thursday.

PHOTO: PMO

54 primary schools illegally occupied

FROM PAGE 1

education officers," she told The Daily Star.

In all, there are 295 government primary schools in the city.

Over the past many years, the DPEO submitted similar reports to the deputy commissioner of Dhaka for recovering the school land and classrooms to ensure better learning environment for the students. "But the situation is complicated for some schools, as there are [10] cases pending with the court regarding the occupation."

Teachers and academics say grabbing of school land has been a problem for long, but the government has done little to drive the grabbers out.

Rasheda K Choudhury, former education adviser to a caretaker government, said many such reports had been submitted to the authorities in the past, but nobody took any action.

"And whatever measures the authorities took are stuck in legal complications," she told The Daily Star.

OCCUPANTS ALL AROUND

According to the DPEO report, the Wasa has set up seven water pumps on the premises of as many schools. One of them is on 1,080 square feet of land belonging to Suritola Model Primary School in Old Dhaka.

Surprisingly, the authorities of privately-run Ramna Railway High School hold classes occupying the ground, the first and the third floors of Suritola school.

On the other hand, a kitchen market is thriving on the land of Ramna Railway Govt School.

The Ansar and VDP force has made a camp occupying a room on the ground floor of Hazi Mazharul Haq Primary School under Kotwali Police Station.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found some members of the force made the room their home. Asked, one of them said they had been using the room for quite some time, but did not give any specifics.

Shahnaz Begum, primary education officer of Kotwali thana, said the Ansar had been living in the school for six months. "The schoolkids feel very odd about it."

Slum dwellers have constructed rooms on the eastern side of Khalilur Rahman Govt Primary School in Mirpur. Repeated efforts to evict them have failed.

Another slum has cropped up on the premises of Sher-e-Bangla Govt Primary School, also in Mirpur.

The report says some Biharis (stranded Pakistanis) have constructed

rooms by grabbing 30 decimals of a 36-decimal plot belonging to Shahin Govt Primary School in Mohammadpur.

Similarly, some other Biharis have grabbed around 20 decimals of a 26-decimal plot of Abdul Mannan Govt Primary School in Mirpur.

Grabbers have constructed a tin-roofed house on the land of Brahman Chiron Govt School in Demra. Construction of a multi-storey building is underway on the same land. An influential person has built a five-storey building by grabbing 5 decimals land of MA Alim Govt Primary School in Sutrapur.

Teachers said the occupation was hampering educational activities and depriving the children of the playgrounds.

"Some years ago, our kids used to play on the playground. But now they have lost that opportunity," said a teacher of Brahman school, wishing anonymity.

Rasheda K Choudhury said under the Compulsory Primary Education Act, no one could occupy any government education institution.

Sadly, many government agencies have been occupying school land. "Don't they understand the importance of education?"

The government should take tough

actions and do whatever it takes to remove the legal complexities to free the land, she added.

A PROBLEM WITH NO SOLUTION?

In 1989, the government acquired the land on which privately-run Ramna Railway High School stood near the Osmani Auditorium. Following demonstrations by teachers and students, the government permitted its authorities to temporarily hold classes at Suritola school.

Over the years, the 3rd and the 4th floors of Suritola have gone under the occupation of the Ramna Railway High School, said Abdur Rahman Khan, headteacher of Suritola school, which has around 817 students.

"Our students face many problems due to the occupation. Our school schedule is from 7:30am-2:30pm, and Ramna school starts after 12:00noon. We then have just six rooms left for holding our classes."

And as the start times of the classes are different, teachers and students often get confused over the recess bells of the two schools.

The headteacher said they wrote to the authorities several times to solve the problem, but in vain.

He added they introduced academic programme for class six last year and were hoping to do so for class seven by

the next year. "We need the entire building for giving lessons properly."

The case of FKM Government Primary School is even more deplorable.

Privately-run Bangshal High School authorities started using the classrooms of FKM school in 1988, following a temporary permission by the government.

"But now the school [Bangshal] authorities claim that the school land is a Waqf property and therefore they have the same right like that of the primary school," said Kazi Laila Akhter, headteacher of FKM Govt Primary School, which has around 260 students.

She said the school even filed a case in 2012 in this regard.

"We pay the taxes, not the Bangshal school. They only pay the city corporation taxes," she said, adding that they took classes in two shifts due to classroom shortages.

Contacted, Dhaka DC Tofazzal Hossain Mia said it was the duty of the school authorities, the DPEO and the primary education directorate to resolve the issue. It has been going on for long, and the authorities did not monitor it properly.

"We are working actively, but we cannot conduct drives as there are cases or court injunctions," the DC said.

Another militant held in city

FROM PAGE 1

With this, the number of arrested suspected militants rose to 12 in a week.

The DB claimed that Hafizur was a ring leader of an international militant organisation that recruits Jihadis from across the world. But he was allegedly running his own militant organisation in Bangladesh. They, however, did not disclose the name of the international organisation.

During primary interrogation, Hafizur admitted that he was engaged in collecting members from across the country, especially in Sylhet and Habiganj, for expanding

militant activities, said Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, at a press briefing at DMP media centre.

Hafizur confessed his link with banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) but said he was currently working on his own to create instability in Bangladesh with the help of the international militant group, claimed Monirul. He has been operating militant activities through internet.

The DB, however, did not allow reporters to talk to the arrestee.

Responding to a query, Monirul said, "So far as we know, no one in Bangladesh has any direct link with

the ISIS. But we have information that some people are trying to communicate with the militant group via Bangladeshi expatriates."

Asked whether the arrest of so many militants indicate the re-emergence of militancy in the country, Monirul denied it. He, however, said the local militants were trying to regroup being inspired by the announcement of al-Qaeda chief to open a branch in the sub-continent.

"We also don't have any information on the number of Bangladeshi citizens fighting for ISIS in Syria and Iraq," he replied to another query.

The senior police official informed that a UK citizen of

Bangladeshi origin has come here recently to recruit fighters for ISIS or Islamic State (IS).

Detectives on Wednesday night arrested Asif Adnan and Fazle Elahi Tanzil who were allegedly planning to go to Syria through Turkey with the help of the UK citizen.

DB officials also said they believe several other foreigners might be active in Bangladesh looking for potential ISIS jihadists.

Detectives went after Asif and Tanzil following information obtained from seven JMB men arrested in Ashulia on September 19. Now on remand, the seven include JMB's acting chief Abdullah al-

Tasneem alias Nahid and another leader Sikander Ali Noki.

Asif introduced the UK citizen to Nahid and Noki and they started working together to recruit ISIS fighters across the country, investigators learnt after quizzing them.

They claim Asif and Tanzil are supporters of Ansarullah Bangla Team, an emerging radical militant group nurturing al-Qaeda ideology.

Also on Wednesday, DB arrested three members of the banned outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji) at Rampura. They were working to develop a device to detonate bombs from a distance of around half a kilometre, claimed DB.

Share of loot led to Keraniganj 4-murder

FROM PAGE 1

Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital.

During the press briefing, SP Habibur said Sajju was a member of the same robbery gang which Johnny and Suman belonged.

Sajju was murdered following a dispute over sharing of gold ornaments looted from a jewellery store at Churain Bazar in Nawabganj. Besides, he allegedly had extramarital affairs with Johnny's wife and with one of the four wives of another

Sumon known as Dakat Sumon.

Dakat Sumon, who is currently absconding, also suspected Sajju for the theft of his motorbike.

"All these factors led up to the killings," Habibur Rahman said, on the basis of information gleaned from the arrestees.

According to police, Dakat Suman called Ranji to inquire about Sajju's whereabouts. After that, he along with Johnny, CNG Suman, Nasir and Afsana converged at Sajju's flat in the evening. Nasir and Afsana are also

on the run.

Around 11:30pm, the five confined Ranji and her two children to another room and tied up Sajju's hands and legs before strangling him.

Then the accused took Yaba in that room and brought Ranji into the room, tied her hands and legs, gagged her and strangled her around 2:30am, the police official said.

Later, they killed the two children the same way.

The arrestees were produced before the press at the DMP Media Centre.

Both Johnny and CNG Suman behaved quite normally as if nothing wrong had happened.

Johnny, who claimed to have reached the victim's flat at last, told reporters that upon entering the apartment he found Sajju engaged in a heated brawl with the rest four. "We beat up Sajju before killing him."

Johnny also admitted that it's he who had killed the two children though the others had asked him not to.

United Air resumes flights today

FROM PAGE 1

director following the internal conflict and he was reinstated as the MD of the carrier yesterday.

"All of them have reached a consensus and an agreement was signed among them," Kamrul Islam, deputy general manager of marketing support and public relations of the United Airways, told The Daily Star last night.

"As all the issues have been settled, we will restart our domestic flights from tomorrow," said the airline's flight operations director M Eliah. He on Wednesday evening had announced the suspension of operations following the new board's failure to come up with a plan to keep the company afloat.

Flight operations on international routes would be recommenced upon receiving clearance from the Civil Aviation Authority Bangladesh (Caab) and completing GDS (global distribution system) requirements, he said, adding, "It may take 20 to 30 hours."

told The Daily Star that he could clear United for flights this morning if the airlines asked for permission.

Last night, Mahtabur at the press conference said a misunderstanding grew among them during a board meeting on September 22, which they managed to clear. He said United flights of today would give special priority to passengers whose visas are about to expire.

The crisis at the lone private airlines listed in the stock exchange surfaced after Tasbirul was forced to step down following an internal feud over earnings and expenditures.

He had cited personal reasons for his resignation but other board members had long been trying to get rid of him and make a change in the leadership of the carrier.

the acting chief executive officer.

At yesterday's meeting, Shahinoor was made vice-chairman of the company.

The new leaders could not take any tangible step to assure investors and shareholders as well as the employees that things were under control.

None of them even went to work, sources claimed.

On Tuesday night, some 200 employees including pilots, engineers and ground staff sent letters to their superiors asking they be released from their contracts, which deepened the crisis at United.

The situation became even worse after company executives found nobody to pay for the fuel for flights. The heads of all departments then decided to suspend operations.

Shahinoor Alam, the acting managing director, on Wednesday night wrote to Caab informing it of the airline's intent to suspend operations. The news was not immediately posted on the stock exchange's website and trading server.

The non-disclosure created confusion among thousands of investors and they began dumping United Airways shares. Share prices dropped 7.63 percent on Thursday.

General investors hold 74.37 percent shares of United, while institutional investors 17.19 percent and the sponsors and directors hold 8.44 percent.

The abrupt flight suspensions also created sufferings for the passengers. Some 2,300 to 2,400 inbound and outbound passengers got stranded.

Set up in 2007, the airline has 11 aircraft in its fleet: two Airbus 310s, five MD-83s, three ATR-72s and one Bombardier Dash-8. It was listed at the stock exchange in 2010.

Prior to the suspension, United was operating domestic flights to Chittagong, Sylhet, Jessore, Cox's Bazar, Rajshahi, Saidpur and Ishwardi. On the international routes, it was flying to Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Kathmandu, Kolkata, Jeddah, Bangkok, Muscat and Singapore.

Advance train ticket

FROM PAGE 16

The staff of the counters were too slow in distributing the tickets, alleged Isak Rana, a resident of Jatrabari who had been standing in a line till 12:00 noon from 8:00am.

Yesterday, the rush at the station for the advance tickets was comparatively less than the previous years.

Bangladesh Railway started selling advance tickets for October 1 yesterday and will continue the sale for October 2, 3, 4 and 5 from September 27, 28, 29 and 30 respectively.

In the capital, the advance train tickets are available at Kamalapur Railway Station. But many ticket seekers mistakenly spent hours at some other stations, including Airport station.

Rajib Barua, Reaz Uddin and Jahedul Alam, three students of Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology (Duet), said they did not have information about where the advance tickets were available. They spent more than an hour in a long queue at Airport station only to realise they were at the wrong place.

They said the authorities concerned should take more steps to give detailed information about the sale of advance train tickets.

Around 11,000 tickets will be sold from Kamalapur Railway Station and 18,000 to 20,000 from Chittagong and Sylhet railway stations yesterday, said Tofazzol Hossain, director general of Bangladesh Railway, while talking to reporters yesterday morning.

Like the previous years, a person can buy a maximum of four tickets at a time. Passengers can buy the tickets in advance both online and from the ticket counters at the railway stations.

Bangladesh Railway will provide the passengers with a special train service. Some 130 compartments, 30 locomotives will be added to the existing service to cope with the Eid rush, said an official of the railway.

The special trains will run on Dhaka-Dewanganj Bazar, Dhaka-Parbatipur, Dhaka-Khulna, Dhaka-Chittagong and Chittagong-Chandpur routes, said the official, adding that apart from those special trains, two trains will also run on Bhairab-Sholakiya and Mymensingh-Sholakiya routes in the morning on Eid day.

The special service will start from three days before Eid and will continue till seven days after the festival, he mentioned.

The state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) also began advance bus tickets sale yesterday.

Heartbreak

FROM PAGE 1

run-curtailed affair against Pakistan.

It was a repeat of the final of the Guangzhou Asian Games four years ago where Pakistan had beaten Bangladesh by ten wickets.

Chasing a revised target of 43 from seven overs following rain interruption, Bangladesh looked set for gold at 30 for two after 4.1 overs, but they incredibly lost the next seven wickets for eight runs to fall five short of the winning target.

Rumana Ahmed and Farzana Ahmed were the team's top scorers with 10 each, but none of the other batsmen could reach double figures.

Earlier, Pakistan had made 97 for 6 in 20 overs after winning the toss.

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