

NSA spy scheme targets

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The NSA documents show that as of May 2012 the agency had collected technical information on about 70 percent of the estimated 985 mobile phone networks worldwide.

Other than mentions of operators in Libya, China, and Iran, names of the targeted companies are not disclosed in the documents supplied by Snowden, an ex-NSA contractor now living in Russia. Intercept founding editors Glenn Greenwald and Laura Poitras have been instrumental in helping Snowden leak NSA documents to the public through various media outlets.

The NSA operations collected information in so-called IR.21 documents used by GSMA members to report security weaknesses and details about the encryption used by mobile operators, according to the Snowden documents. The NSA used this information to circumvent encrypted communications, according to the documents.

"NSA collects only those communications that it is authorised by law to

collect in response to valid foreign intelligence and counterintelligence requirements -- regardless of the technical means used by foreign targets, or the means by which those targets attempt to hide their communications," the NSA said in an emailed statement. "Terrorists, weapons proliferators, and other foreign targets often rely on the same means of communication as ordinary people. In order to anticipate and understand evolving threats to our citizens and our allies, NSA works to identify and report on the communications of valid foreign targets."

Since June 2013, documents leaked by Snowden have led to a series of reports on the extent of the NSA's covert spying on Internet and telecom networks worldwide. The documents have also shown that the NSA has hacked into emails of leaders of US allies as well as into networks and equipment of foreign companies including China-based Huawei.

Documents leaked by Snowden last year also show the NSA can capture

GSM traffic that's encrypted with the A5/1 algorithm.

The documents published by The Intercept Saturday follow November reports by Symantec and Kaspersky Labs that malware dubbed Regis, quite possibly developed by the US.

However, the NSA says that it does take into account President Obama's directive to consider privacy when conducting surveillance.

"In January, the president issued Presidential Policy Directive 28, which directs that privacy and civil liberties shall be integral considerations in the planning of US signals intelligence activities," the NSA noted in its emailed statement. "The president also directed that signals intelligence activities take into account the globalisation of trade, investment, and information flows -- and the commitment to an open, interoperable, and secure global Internet. NSA deeply values these principles and takes great care to honour them in the performance of its lawful foreign-intelligence mission."

Meet Indian super hero

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Indian-American filmmaker Ram Devineni, one of its creators, told the BBC the idea for the comic came to him in December 2012 as India erupted in protest against the brutal gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a bus in Delhi.

"I was in Delhi at the time when the protests broke out and I was involved in some of them," he says. "I was talking to a police officer when he said something that I found very surprising. He said 'no good girl walks alone at night.' That's where the idea began. I realised that rape and sexual violence in India was a cultural issue, and that it was backed by patriarchy, misogyny and people's perceptions."

In India's male-dominated society, it is not the rapist but the rape victim who is often treated with scepticism and has to face ridicule and social ostracism.

"I spoke to some gang-rape survivors and they said they were discouraged by their families and communities to seek justice, they were also threatened by the rapists and their families. Even the police didn't take them seriously," says Devineni.

The comic reflects that harsh reality too - when Priya tells her parents about the rape, she's blamed for it and banished from home.

Priya is representative of a generic Indian woman and her aspirations. "She is like every boy or girl who wants

to live his or her dreams. But those dreams are quashed after her rape," says Devineni.

In the book, with some help from Shiva and Parvati - Hinduism's most powerful divine couple - Priya manages to turn her tragedy into an opportunity.

In the end, she rides back into the town on the back of a tiger and vanquishes her adversaries.

Devineni says he chose mythology to put his point across because Hinduism is India's majority religion - more than 80% of the country's 1.2 billion people are Hindu - and its myths and stories are woven into its cultural life.

He convinced street artists and Bollywood poster painters to create murals in the Mumbai area of Dharavi, Asia's biggest slum.

The paintings have "augmented reality features" which allow people to see special animation and movies pop out of the wall art when they scan it with their smart phones.

People anywhere in the world can download a free digital copy of the comic and printed copies in Hindi and English will be available at the Comic Con Mumbai later in December, Devineni says.

"Our target audiences are children starting from 10-12 years to young adults. It's a very critical age in their lives and it's an attempt to start a conversation with them."

In India, where one rape is reported every 21 minutes, the 2012 Delhi gang rape is seen as a game-changer - the brutality of the six men led to days of protests and forced the government to introduce tougher anti-rape laws, including the death penalty for particularly severe sex crimes.

Urvashi Butalia, head of feminist publisher Zubaan Books, says its success or failure will depend "a lot on the story" and also "on how many people it reaches".

She says anything that creates a conversation helps.

"Many of the changes in the world have come from ideas. And it's an interesting idea - you don't get too many female superheroes," she says.

Jasmeen Patheja is the founder of Blank Noise Project which is running a campaign called "I never asked for it" - it meaning rape or sexual assault.

The project creates public installations and an online gallery of garments survivors were wearing when they were sexually abused as part of a campaign on "rejecting and arresting blame".

The biggest change, she says, will be "when people understand that there is no excuse to justify sexual violence, the garments women wear, what time they go out or the place they go to".

"Graphic novels, comics, story books, films - all have immense potential to help," she says.

Bergman pays the fine

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One article was about the indictment order in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee, while two others about the trial of expelled Jamaat member Abul Kalam Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar, in absentia. Both the accused

have been convicted for their wartime crimes.

Bergman questioned the number of Liberation War martyrs in his article on Sayedee.

The court, however, said the criticism made on the issue of martyrs' number in 1971 in his post on

Sayedee's indictment did not constitute any contempt as it did not affect the merit of any of the pending cases with the war crimes tribunals.

But the court has found Bergman guilty of contempt for making offending and scandalous comments in the two other articles.

DCC polls early

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their dissent saying ruling Awami League was not in a position to hold the elections and party-supported candidates might concede defeat.

At this stage, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the discussion and said she also agreed with the idea of holding the long delayed elections. She added the election would take place early next year and directed the LGRD ministry to take necessary measures to that end.

According to the sources, Hasina further said there would be victory and defeat in every election and polls should not be deferred or skipped in fear of defeat.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque echoed the premier saying elections should be held to ease confusion among the public that AL did not like holding DCC polls, add the sources

Political analysts say the government is not interested in holding the DCC polls after its debacle in five city corporation elections in 2013.

The last election to the undivided Dhaka city corporation was held in 2002 with BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka winning the mayoral post.

Though Khoka's tenure ended in May 2007, he continued office until November 29, 2011 when the AL-led grand alliance government split the city corporation into two, with 36 wards in Dhaka South City Corporation and 56 in Dhaka North City Corporation.

The government had claimed the bifurcation would improve services for city dwellers and appointed two government officials to run the two DCCs for six months.

However, three years after the bifurcation, those living in the city say things have only gone worse and they have not seen any benefit of the move. In fact, services have worsened with no public representatives at the city offices, they allege.

The EC had earlier moved to hold the polls but failed to go ahead due to legal complications over demarcation of the wards of the city corporations.

THE PROPOSAL
The LGRD ministry's proposal seeking to amend the Local Government (City Corporation Act), 2009 and have the DCC administrators' tenure extended was sent back for further scrutiny, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters after the meeting.

The proposal said, "It is not possible to adopt long- and mid-term policies by the short-term administrators."

The ministry also proposed that the president promulgate an ordinance to amend the law immediately as parliament was not in session at the moment.

Khoka charged

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The court fixed December 14 to decide whether it will take cognisance of the charges.

According to the case, Khoka, now in the US for treatment, on October 14 last year directed his party leaders and activists to demonstrate with machetes and axes in the capital.

Md Shahidullah Pradhan, sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station, filed the case against Khoka on December 7 that year.

Later, police got permission to interrogate the BNP leader at the jail gate in connection with the case.

The leader (former Dhaka city con-

venor of the then main opposition BNP) gave the instruction to his party men at a joint meeting organised at Bhashani Auditorium.

He said: "If the Awami League carries anything to kill people, we have to face them at any cost. They should not be spared."

On October 21 this year, a Dhaka court issued an arrest warrant against the BNP leader after he failed to appear before it in a case filed in connection with hurling bombs at the EC secretariat. Moreover, trial of a corruption case against Khoka is also going on in his absence.

Yaba trade run

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adding that the DNC has a shortage of manpower to check the menace.

The DNC has only one official for every three lakh people. Besides, the department is seriously lacking adequate instruments and required firearms for its officials.

Additional Director General Amir Hossain said an all out effort was required to stop the curse.

"There is no denying that the abuse of Yaba pills has now become alarming. It is not impossible that Yaba pills will be found at tiny village shops at present," he said. About 50,000 drug related cases are pending in courts for years, he added.

With the emergence of Yaba, there has been a change in the drug trafficking situation in Bangladesh. It is gradually replacing drugs like heroin and Phensedyl, says the DNC report.

According to the report, around \$4000 million is spent annually on drugs and around 80 percent of the drug users are youth. There are around 50 lakh drug abusers in Bangladesh now.

On August 24, police arrested Abdullah Jubayer and his three accomplices and seized Yaba-making machine and 55,000 pieces of the tablet in the capital.

His idea was to reduce the risk of smuggling the pills from Myanmar and maximise profit by locally producing it, according to detectives.

Since its inception in 2004, the Rapid Action Battalion seized around 24 lakh pieces of Yaba pills.

Seizure of Yaba from DU campus Shahbagh police, on information, arrested seven people with 1,250 Yaba tablets in front of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall around 3:30am yesterday.

The detainees are Subrata Kumar Bhoumik, Sanjay Biswas, Md Bachchu,

Shahidul Islam, Kabul Khan, Kazi Shahidul Islam and Md Akbar. They have been supplying Yaba at different points of the city since last four months, police sources said.

They worked for some of the leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League of DU and get paid Tk 1,000 a day for that, according to police sources.

According to the FIR, the arrestees bought Yaba from Mehedi, Wasim, Maksud, Titu, Sumon and others unnamed from room numbers 311, 337, and 338 of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall.

Allegations surfaced that some outsiders had been running the illegal business right under the nose of the university authorities, with some BCL leaders safeguarding them. The DU authorities could not take steps in fear of these BCL leaders, said police sources.

Mainul Hasan, ex-joint secretary of the hall unit, stayed at room number 311 earlier. After he left the room, Wasim, introducing himself as a member of BCL central committee, started staying at the room. BCL's hall unit president Maksud Rana Mithu gave Wasim protection.

Wasim went into hiding since last night. According to hall sources, Mithu stays at room 337. Mithu, however, denied his involvement in the business.

Maksud, a resident of room 338, is the organising secretary of DU BCL unit while Sumon is a student of the university and stays at the same dormitory, according to the acting Proctor Prof Amzad Ali.

The Daily Star could not verify the identities of Titu and Mehedi.

Prof Amzad admitted to having information on Yaba trading in other dormitories. "We will take necessary actions to stop the illegal business," Amzad said.

Bhutan was first

FROM PAGE 5
Third King, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, wished Bangladeshi people success and prayed for the safety of independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the secretary said.

Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering

Tobgay handed over a text of the wireless message to his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on December 6, Shahidul said, adding that Bhutan had sent the message to Bangladesh's then acting president Syed Nazrul Islam.

HC stays Faridpur mayor's suspension, asks about legality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday stayed for six months and issued a rule seeking an explanation in four weeks from the government authorities concerned on the legality of Sunday's suspension of a Faridpur municipality mayor by the local government and rural development ministry over the charges of "unilaterally" increasing taxes and VAT and "misappropriating public money".

Rafique-Ul-Huq, representing Mayor Shaikh Mahtab Ali Methu who filed a writ petition challenging the suspension, reasoned that the government could not issue a show-cause notice and a suspension on the same day as it was in Methu's case.

Some murderers enjoy

FROM PAGE 1
"Our family is in a state of panic. As far as I am concerned some of the convicts were seen in different areas in the capital," Biswajit's elder brother Uttam Das told The Daily Star yesterday.

The family members were satisfied with the verdict but they were never told of any developments in the case, he added.

"We want execution of the killers."

Public Prosecutor SM Rafiqul Islam told this correspondent yesterday that no fresh arrest has been made since the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 on December 18 last year handed down death sentence to eight BCL activists of Jagannath University and life term to 13 others.

He mentioned that those behind bars appealed to the High Court against the verdict. Their plea is now awaiting hearing.

Officer-in-Charge Khalilur Rahman of Sutrapur Police Station, where the murder case was filed, said he was unaware that some of the killers were seen in public.

A number of BCL activists said that some of the convicts have been keeping in touch with the BCL leaders at the university.

However, Shariful Islam and Sirajul Islam, president and general secretary of the BCL unit, denied having any links with the fugitives.

The BCL men who got death penalty are Rafiqul Islam Shakil, Mahfuzur Rahman Nahid, Emdadul Haque Emdad, GM Rasheduzzaman Shaon, Md Saiful Islam, Qayum Mia Tipu, Rajon Talukdar and Noor-e-Alam Limon.

Rajon, the prime accused, and Limon are on the run.

The ones given life imprisonment are AHM Kibria, Saiful Islam Saiful, Golam Mustafa, Alauddin,

Poorest countries 'left behind': climate report

AFP, Lima
Half of nearly \$8 billion in climate finance given to the developing world since 2003 went to just ten countries, and nations most at risk got the short end of the stick, a report said Sunday.

The top recipients were Morocco, Mexico and Brazil, which each got more than \$500 million (406 million euros) of the \$7.6 billion total, according to an analysis of spending over the last decade in 135 countries.

The report of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), a UK think-tank, was released ahead of the second and final week of UN negotiations in Lima for a world pact to curb potentially disastrous global warming.

"Mexico and Brazil are among the top 10 emitters of greenhouse gases, and with Morocco, all have huge renewable energy potential," said a statement.

However, many of the poorest countries were left behind.

"Conflict-affected and fragile states such as Ivory Coast and South Sudan, where it is generally difficult to spend finance, received less than \$350,000 and \$700,000 respectively," said an ODI statement.

"Several middle income countries that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and have significant clean energy potential, such as Namibia, El Salvador and Guatemala, also received less than \$5 million each."

The aid from rich nations is meant to help poor and vulnerable countries adapt to climate change impacts and curb Earth-warming greenhouse gas emissions through a shift away from fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas.

HC questions leasing out reserved forest land to scouts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the government's attempt to lease out reserved forest land in Gazipur to Bangladesh Scouts.

It issued a rule upon the government to explain why its reported move to lease 95.31 acres of reserved forest land at Kouchakuri mouja to the scouts should not be declared illegal.

In the rule, the HC also asked the government to explain why its inaction to protect 8.61 acre of forest land at same area, which was leased out to the Scouts, should not be made illegal.

The HC came up with the rule after hearing a writ petition filed by four Supreme Court lawyers in October.

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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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- ✓ MBBS, BDS or equivalent health-care degree.

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- ✓ Four-year bachelor degree in Humanities, Social & Natural Sciences and Bio-medical Sciences (Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Nursing, Physiotherapy, etc.)
- ✓ Three-year bachelor and one-year master degrees with relevant experience.
- ✓ A two-year nursing degree from any recognized university after duly completed four-year registered nurse program from government recognized institute(s).
- ✓ At least second class in all exams or a minimum CGPA of 2.5 on a 4-point scale.
- ✓ Five years of professional experience in related field.

Job Opportunities

- UN Organizations (WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, FAO, USAID).
- International NGOs (ICDDR, Save the Children, FHI360, etc).
- Research grants opportunity from Johns Hopkins University, Water Aid and Cares.
- USAID fellowship opportunity for EMPH fellows of NSU.

Application Deadline
18 December 2014 (5.00 PM)

Admission Viva-Voce
19 December 2014
(10.00 AM) at NSU Campus

Forms are available for Tk. 1,000 from UCB Bank (Bashundhara Branch), Dhaka. Application forms can also be downloaded from NSU website and can be paid Tk. 1,000 at UCB Bank (Bashundhara Branch).

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