

WikiLeaks dumps Sony hack data

AFP, New York

WikiLeaks published thousands of documents on Thursday from last year's Sony hacking scandal, calling them an insight into the inner workings of a "secretive" firm.

The website said the searchable data dump includes 30,287 documents from the US-based Sony Pictures Entertainment and 173,132 emails to and from more than 2,200 company email addresses.

The same data was released online after hackers attacked Sony Pictures last November and threatened the company over the release of the comedy film "The Interview," which depicts a fictional CIA plot to kill North Korea's leader.

The threats saw Sony cancel the public debut of the movie and led to the resignation of chairperson Amy Pascal. The leaks showed that Pascal had swapped racially insensitive jokes about President Barack Obama over email.

Washington blamed North Korea for the hack.

"Now published in a fully searchable format The Sony Archives offer a rare insight into the inner workings of a large, secretive multinational corporation," WikiLeaks said in a statement.

It said the original release was not searchable and was removed before the public and journalists could scrutinize them.

WikiLeaks described Sony as an influential corporation with ties to the White House, able to impact laws and policies, and with connections to the US military-industrial complex.

"It is newsworthy and at the center of a geo-political conflict," said WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who lives at Ecuador's embassy in London to avoid prosecution for alleged rape in Sweden.

"It belongs in the public domain. WikiLeaks will ensure it stays there," the Australian former hacker said.

Sony condemned the re-release of the data, saying the private information does not belong in the public domain and WikiLeaks is helping the hackers' efforts to harm employees.

"The cyber-attack on Sony Pictures was a malicious criminal act, and we strongly condemn the indexing of stolen employee and other private and privileged information on WikiLeaks," Sony said in a statement.

Ctg RO

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attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, the RO assigned Assistant RO Khورشed Alam as the IO and requested him to submit a report by April 23.

According to rule 6 (14) of the City Corporation Electoral Code of Conduct, 2010, no candidate can use any government transport and no government official or staff can take part in electoral campaign in the city corporation areas after the polls schedule is announced, the notice mentioned.

The notice mentioned that the electoral code of conduct does not allow any government officer or staff to join any campaign in the CCC polls.

It also said if any government officer or staff joins the campaign for or against any candidate, then legal actions will be taken against them.

Notice to CCC

The RO also issued a notice to the Chief Executive Officer of CCC yesterday. Citing newspaper reports, the notice said many CCC staffs are taking part in electoral campaign and pressuring others to work in favour of or against the candidates in the CCC polls.

The notice warned if any CCC officer or staff takes part in any mayoral campaign, then action will be taken against them as per the law.

US for free

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those who are administering them and participating in the elections to uphold their responsibility to ensure they are free, fair, and nonviolent," said Marie Harf, acting spokesperson of the US State Department.

"There could be no room here for violence or intimidation. That's the message we've been sending to the Bangladeshis as they go forward here," she told a daily press briefing in Washington, DC on Thursday.

In reply to questions on the polls, she said the US had encouraged the Bangladesh government and election commission to protect citizens' rights to free expression and association during the campaign, again, to ensure free, fair election on polling day.

"We also expect all parties to follow democratic practices, and really, there could be no room here for violence or intimidation. That's the message we've been sending to the Bangladeshis as they go forward here."

Responding to another question about the arrest of a councillor candidate and the split order on bail of BNP-blessed mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas, she said, "I hadn't seen those reports today. Let me check with our team and see if there's more to say about this."

Former-right-hand man to Saddam 'shot dead'

REUTERS

Ezzat Ibrahim al-Douri, former right-hand man to late Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and a leader of Iraq's Sunni insurgency, has been reported killed by Iraqi forces and Shia militias.

Douri was killed in a military operation, Raed al-Jubouri, the governor of Salahuddin province, told Reuters. The pan-Arab television network al-Arabiya showed images of a dead man who looked like al-Douri.

Baghdad has mistakenly announced al-Douri's death several times before, but this time photos are circulating showing a man with features and red hair like his. Al-Jubouri told Reuters DNA from the body would be tested and results released "very soon".

His killing, if confirmed, would be a big blow to the Sunni insurgency, an alliance of former Baathist officers and Islamic State.

"The mastermind of terrorist operations has been killed and he is Ezzat al-Douri," al-Jubouri told Arabiya TV. "Al-Douri is the biggest mastermind behind all attacks that undermined Iraq. This news will have an impact on the morale of the fighters."

After the 2003 US-led invasion, Douri was ranked sixth on the US military's list of 55 most wanted Iraqis and a \$10 million reward was offered for his capture. Iraqi and US officials accused him of organising and leading the

insurgency that swept Iraq in 2005-07.

He evaded capture during the long US occupation as other Saddam aides were killed or put on trial and sectarian civil war engulfed the country.

Karim al-Nouri, a leader in the Badr organisation and spokesman for Shia militias fighting Islamic State, said his forces had been involved in the operation although they thought the target was the leader of Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

"We received intelligence from our sources that a VIP was in the city of Hawija and we were waiting to ambush him. Based on our intelligence, it was believed that the man was al-Baghdadi, but it turned out to be al-Douri."

"He was the second man after Saddam Hussein and was the coordinator between the Baath party and IS. The body is now taken for identification, but we are certain it is al-Douri," al-Nouri added. Khdhayer Almurshidy, an exiled spokesman for Iraq's former Baath party, said in comments to Iraq's al-Hadath TV that the reports of al-Douri's death were false.

Al-Jubouri however told Reuters that "a group of security forces went and surrounded an area and those terrorists were killed. Three of them were suicide bombers and blew themselves up. Amongst the bodies was Douri's."

He said the operation was carried out in the Hamrin area near al Alam in Salahuddin province. Iraqi forces did not know al-Douri was there beforehand.

Shops of many Bangladeshis

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over the phone.

Bangladeshis were the largest group of victims among other nationals, he added.

In the last several days, foreign nationals including Bangladeshis were coming under attack by local goons.

Bangladeshi embassy in Pretoria, one of the capital cities of SA, did not give any direction to the expatriates in this situation.

The expatriates, however, kept their shops closed and took shelter in safer places in Pretoria.

Bangladeshis, living in fear of further attacks, sought help from the Bangladesh government in this regard, Mizan said.

Around 60,000 to 70,000 Bangladeshi expatriates now live in South Africa. Apart from legal expatriates, a group of Bangladeshis live there illegally, which often causes problems for legal migrants.

About 200 foreigners took refuge at

a police station, and 12 people were arrested over the attacks, reports BBC English Service.

The attacks were carried out despite Thursday's rally against xenophobia in the coastal city of Durban, and condemnation from President Jacob Zuma.

President Zuma condemned the recent xenophobic attacks terming them "shocking".

"No amount of frustration or anger can justify the attacks on foreign nationals and the looting of their shops," he told parliament on Thursday.

At least five people have died in xenophobic attacks in recent weeks.

A crowd began looting shops owned by foreigners in East Johannesburg on Thursday night. A car and a building believed to house foreigners were also set on fire.

Many jobless South Africans accuse foreigners of taking jobs in a country where the unemployment rate is 24 percent, reported BBC.

JU suspends

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JU Vice Chancellor Farzana Islam ordered the suspensions, exercising her special power.

The names of the students were not disclosed.

"Their names will be disclosed only after the investigation is completed," JU Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique told this paper.

However, according to the highly placed source in the JU disciplinary body, one of the suspended students is from Journalism and Media Studies department, two from Chemistry, one from Geography and Environment, one from History, one from Zoology and two from Anthropology.

They all were residents of Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall.

In her written complaint to the university authorities, the victim alleged the BCL men sexually harassed

her and physically assaulted a male friend of hers near Munni Sarani around 7:30pm on Tuesday when they were roaming about the campus and enjoying the Pahela Baishakh celebrations. The attackers also snatched away their cell phones and her purse.

JU teachers and students under the banner of "Shikkhak-Shikkharti Oikya Mancha" yesterday announced that they would form a human chain on the campus today at 11:00am, demanding punishment of the culprits.

Meanwhile, the JU chapter of the BCL, the student front of the ruling Awami League, suspended the eight activists, accused of the sexual assault.

A press release signed by JU BCL President Mahmudur Rahman Jony and General Secretary Razib Ahmed Russel, stated that the decision was taken as their involvement in the incident was proved in primary investigations.

Khaleda to take part

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Alam, the BNP's mayoral candidate in the port city, insiders added.

The cut-off time for the electioneering is April 26 midnight.

"We have assessed that the BNP-backed mayoral candidate in the port city is in a better position than his rival Nasir Uddin of Awami League. That's why we have advised the BNP high-ups that the chairperson need not visit Chittagong," said a top organiser of Adarsha Dhaka Andolan, a consultant group for BNP's electioneering.

One of Khaleda's aides said the BNP chief might take with her the wives of M Ilias Ali, Salahuddin Ahmed and other BNP leaders who went missing in recent times.

Asked about the delay in Khaleda's joining the campaign, an Adarsha Dhaka Andolan leader said it was because of Dhaka South's mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas as "we have been waiting for his bail from High Court".

"But if he [Abbas] does not secure bail by April 25, the BNP chief will campaign in Dhaka South for him taking with his wife and children."

Possibly, Abbas will get bail when

there will be no time left for campaigning, he added.

Afroza Abbas, wife of Mirza Abbas, last night visited Awami League-backed candidate Sayeed Khokon's Bangshal residence during her electioneering in the area. However, Khokon was not home.

Senior BNP leader Hannan Shah, chief campaign coordinator for Abbas, yesterday alleged that the Election Commission is yet to establish a level playing field despite their repeated appeals.

"The Election Commission paid no heed to our allegations that pro-ruling party men have been obstructing our election campaign," he said during a press briefing at the party's Naya Paltan central office.

Eight sub-committees were formed yesterday to carry out electioneering for Abbas and monitor polls activities, Hannan added.

Moudud Ahmed, another senior leader and chief campaign coordinator for Dhaka North's mayoral candidate Tabith Awal, yesterday at a separate press briefing said the city elections will be an acid test for the EC as well as for the government.

Probe on

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the university authorities had decided to file a case.

Vice Chancellor Prof Ruhul Amin said steps would be taken against the killers after investigation.

On Thursday night, two BCL activists were killed in a clash between two rival groups of the university unit of the ruling Awami League's student wing.

The dead are Mohammad Zakaria, a second year BBA student and Mahmudul Hasan Milton, a final year student of Agriculture department.

Police recovered Zakaria's body from the roof of Nur Hossain Hall after the clash while Milton died at the Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital.

The bodies were handed over to their families around 4:30pm after autopsies, police said.

Another student Mohammad Dollar is fighting for his life at Rangpur Medical College Hospital after he suffered stab wounds during Thursday's clash.

The faction of the BCL, who swooped on a cultural programme at the university auditorium, was led by Iftekharul Islam Real and Arun Kanti Roy, president and general secretary of the university unit BCL.

A pall of gloom descended on Zakaria's home as soon as the family heard the news of his death.

Mostaque Ahmed, father of Zakaria, said all his dreams were shattered with his son's death.

"He [Zakaria] said he would take over the responsibility of the family once his education was complete. But everything is gone now," he lamented.

He blamed dirty politics for his son's death.

Zakaria's mother Jannatul Ferdous alleged that Iftekharul Islam Real was responsible for her son's death.

Nothing could soothe Zakaria's sister Meem who had been crying since she heard the news.

Sadekur Rahman, assistant proctor of the HSTU, said the clash was the result of expelled students trying to make a comeback. Arun Kanti Roy, Zahid Hasan and Aditya Dutta were expelled from the university in November last year for helping potential freshmen cheat in the admission test.

No one was arrested in connection with Thursday's incident, said ATM Khalequzzaman, officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Police Station.

A large contingent of police remains deployed on the campus.

Man shot dead

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and fled immediately after shooting the victim there, said Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Bakalia Police Station.

Critically injured Nasir was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival, the police official said.

Police said Nasir was a local criminal and he used to carry out illegal activities in the name of BNP. He could be killed by his rivals over establishing supremacy in the area.

The OC said Nasir stood accused in eight to 10 cases filed with his police station for murder, extortion and arms recovery.

Police were investigating the incident.

Dolphin turns

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While bottlenose dolphins are typically grey, the mammal is completely white - apart from the quirky tendency to turn pink when it is feeling angry, sad or even embarrassed.

The phenomenon results from the animal's thin skin, which means its blood vessels can cause a change in skin tone depending on its emotional state.

Essentially, they blush in the same way as humans.

The rare specimen is believed to be only the second one ever put on display in an aquarium after it was purchased from fishermen last year.

The animal was controversially captured during the annual dolphin hunt in the town of Taiji in January last year.

The quirky colouration meant the fishermen would get more selling it to an aquarium than as meat.

The Taiji hunt was made notorious by the 2009 Oscar-winning documentary "The Cove," which depicted fishermen capturing hundreds of dolphins for aquariums or to be killed for meat.

Japan's Wakayama Prefecture, which includes Taiji, reported that 1,218 dolphins and small whales were captured there in 2011, though it did not specify how many of those captured were killed.

Environmental activists filed a lawsuit against the Taiji Whaling Museum in May 2014, claiming it had refused experts to check on the safety of the elusive dolphin.

But the museum claims the creatures health has been monitored through periodic blood tests, and that they are keeping it 'physically and mentally healthy' for further research.

It was also reported the museum did the animal a favour - albino dolphins are easy prey at sea as they unable to blend in like their grey coloured relatives.

Candidates want more

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They are scared to ask for what is their right. I want to remind them of their rights," said Tabith.

"It is not possible to do anything for the people until we rid the city corporation of corruption."

Tabith said he is keen on releasing the income and expenditures of the corporation to the public every year if he is voted to office.

When asked about stopping crime, he said, "I will try to root out criminal activities through crime mapping if I am voted to office."

Ruling Awami League-backed mayor aspirant Anissul Huq said he wants to turn the city Green. Ensure a healthy atmosphere and safety for people.

He said 80 percent of the problems of the city was known to all. Anissul had engaged 220 volunteers who talked to 74,486 people to collect information about their problems.

He said many candidates were talking about development and were making promises but the question was who would do the job. "Who has the small amount of experience? Who has the reputation of being honest? Whose hair

has gone grey a little? Whom do the people think would do a good job?" he said.

He urged everyone to vote for him so that he could serve the city.

Terming him a successful businessman, voter Kaniz Fatema asked Anissul how he would get the returns on the investment he is making to run for office since businessmen invest to gain profit.

Anissul said everyone spends money in the polls and that he was capable of spending the money for the election.

Earlier, when Anissul entered the hall, mayor aspirant backed by CPB-BSD Abdullha Al Kafi stood up and criticised Anissul loudly for being late.

Most of the candidates reached their venue around 9:00am but Anissul went there two hours later, alleged Kafi.

During his speech, Anissul apologised for being late, and said he could not be on time as he had prior commitments.

Mahi B Chowdhury, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh-backed candidate, said if he was voted to office he would publish annual reports on the DNCC's work.

He too vowed to rid the city corporation of corruption.

Dhaka-Ctg train trip

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platforms, eight footbridges and 13 level crossings had been built. Computerised interlinking signalling system at 11 stations and central traffic control with telecommunications facilities at 12 stations have also been introduced under the project.

Construction of additional three loop, one-shade platforms, triangle train line for moving the engines have also been done along with refurbishing 800 metres of rail lines between the station yard and Pahartali station under the Chittagong Station Yard Remodelling Project.

Around 50 pairs of trains would be able to move after construction of the new station yard. This would increase operational facilities, according to the officials.

Project Director of the two projects SM Liaquat Ali said the projects, costing over Tk 2,000 crore, had been completed on time.

"With the inauguration of the new double line, at least 30 minutes would be saved for Dhaka-Chittagong intercity trains, one hour for local trains and two hours for freight trains as there will be no stoppages at stations for crossings," he

observed.

Ali, also one of the general managers of Bangladesh Railways, said the projects had been implemented by local Max Group. "It is a milestone that a local company has developed the capacity to build rail lines of international standards," he added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is set to inaugurate the new double-line and the remodelled Chittagong station yard via a videoconference with Railways Minister Md Mazibul Hoque at 5:00pm from Gono Bhavan.

The minister along with Director General Md Amzad Hossain and Project Director SM Liaquat Ali would be at Laksham junction.

She would also open the foundation stone for the construction of a 72km Laksham-Akhaura dual-gauge double-line and transformation of the existing line into dual-gauge. This would be done with joint financing by the Asian Development Bank, European Investment Bank and the Government of Bangladesh.

The construction work would begin in October this year and is expected to be finished in four years, SK Chakraborty, general manager and project director, told The Daily Star.

Benetton to pay

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compensation could be used more widely," said Airoldi, adding it was making PwC report publicly available to all stakeholders.

Benetton said the contribution would take its total to \$1.6 million as it also helped the victims via its own support programme in partnership with the Bangladeshi non-governmental organisation BRAC.

The payment follows more than a million people signing a petition on the campaigning website Avaaz urging Benetton to contribute to the compensation fund that was put into place eight months after the disaster.

"Benetton is not giving nearly enough to ease the death and suffering their clothes have caused, but a million people forced them to reverse two years of refusing to pay any compensation," Avaaz's Campaign Director Dalia Hashad said in a statement.

"This sets a precedent for global brands everywhere: when workers die, you cannot walk away. All eyes are now on holdout companies like Carrefour, JC Penney, Walmart, and The Children's Place to step up and fill the funding gap so all victims get what

they need and deserve," she added.

However, PwC has not factored in contributions from other third parties, such as the Bangladesh government and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers Exporters Association, unions and others. This means that, if its mechanism were followed by all brands operating at the Rana Plaza, after payments from other third parties the total fund could significantly exceed \$30 million.

"Based on Benetton's commercial association with Rana Plaza, we believe this is a fair basis to calculate payments to the Rana Plaza Trust Fund as quantified by ILO," said Sudhir Singh Dungarpur, Partner PwC India.

Benetton was one of the first signatories of the Accord on Fire and Building Safety, which has improved factory safety in Bangladesh in the wake of the Rana Plaza disaster.

Now, in addition to applying the Accord globally, the company plans to work with its suppliers to raise workers' living standards.

The Rana Plaza Trust Fund, organised by the ILO, has raised \$21 million to date but needs another \$9 million to meet its compensation commitments.

Living in fear

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The land dispute had been going on for a long time and the administration was trying to resolve it, said Najmul Islam, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Kulaura.

The UNO said, "We sat with them [Khasi families] today [Wednesday] and wanted to give them two acres of land to each of those Khasi families but they wanted legal ownership of that land."

"But it is not possible for us to give them the legal ownership of the land," Najmul said, adding that they would decide on the next course of action regarding the matter soon.

The UNO said the Khasi people of the Jhimai Punjee had been using over 300 acres of land of Jhimai tea estate for a long time. The tea estate was given 672 acres of land in 1937 by the then government but they planted only on some 300 acres, the UNO said.

"We have surveyed and found 59 Khasi families have been living on the leased land of Jhimai tea estate for years without having any legal ownership," he said.

Kamrul Hasan, deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar, told The Daily Star on April 11 that it was khas land

but he did not know whether it was under the district administration or the forest department.

The DC added he initiated talks between the two parties.

Father Joseph Gomes, a Moulvibazar-based central committee member of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), said indigenous people were playing a major role in protecting the environment.

He demanded that harassment of Khasi people be stopped.

Bably Talang, general secretary of KUBORAZ Inter Punjee Development Association of Khasi people, said indigenous people had been living in the small hills for generations and the ownership of the land was their right.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said the betel leaf gardens were the only source of income of the Khasi at Jhimai punjee.

He said the land belonged to Khasi people as per ILO Convention-107, and demanded that a land commission be formed to resolve the land-related problems of the indigenous people.