

Hackers bugged BB system in Jan

TIMELINE

MaY 15, 2015

A money laundering syndicate opens four US dollar bank accounts with the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) with an initial deposit of \$500 each. The accounts were untouched until Feb 4, 2016.

FeB 4, 2016

Some \$81 million from BB account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was transferred to the 4 RCBC accounts

FeB 5 to 13

The funds were converted into pesos in various tranches to the bank accounts of Chinese national Weikang Xu, Eastern Hawaii Leisure Co and Bloomberry Hotels Inc (Solaira Resorts).

Installed malware to know transactions procedure for stealing money, even 'destroyed evidence' on Bangladesh side

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Hackers installed malicious software into the Bangladesh Bank system in January, which helped them gain knowledge of the central bank's working methods before stealing some \$101 million.

The forensic investigation by the BB, launched soon after the February 4 digital heist, detected the presence of the malware, said finance ministry and BB officials.

The malware is so powerful that it could gather information about the BB operations on international payment and fund transfers.

The malware is even believed to have destroyed evidence on the Bangladesh side of the hacking, a BB official said, requesting anonymity citing the ongoing investigation.

It is not yet clear how the malware was installed into the BB system or where the hackers were when they sent the transfer orders to the New York Federal Reserve Bank, from where the money was stolen.

Malware is an umbrella term used to refer to a variety of forms of hostile or invasive software, including computer viruses, worms, trojan horses, ransomware, spyware, adware, scareware and other malicious programmes.

The malware installed in the BB system copied the information on how payment order was made in recent months and sent the information to the hackers.

Using the information, the hackers chose an opportune moment and stole credentials for payment transfers and then ordered transfers out of the

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Wounded Tigers take on Ireland



AL-AMIN from Dharamsala

An injury-plagued Bangladesh, confronted with the stigma of suspect bowling actions, will go into their second ICC World T20 qualifier against Ireland at Dharamsala Cricket Stadium today. The match will start at 8 pm BST.

While a win will almost guarantee Bangladesh a place in the World Cup proper, the job in hand against a team, considered the kings of the associates, is

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Biman stands to lose most

The carrier hit hard by suspension of direct cargo to UK; British aviation security experts meet Bangladesh officials Sunday

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Biman will lose business of around Tk 100 crore a year if the ban on direct cargo from Dhaka to the UK continued.

There could be more bad news for the carrier as the UK might ban direct passenger flights from Dhaka as well, if Bangladesh failed to start meeting some international security requirements by March 31, said officials in the civil aviation ministry.

On Wednesday, the UK government imposed the ban citing poor cargo security measures at Shahjalal International Airport.

Biman is the only carrier that operates Dhaka-London direct flights. The carrier has four flights a week and until Wednesday it carried cargo on those flights.

Amid fear of further bans, the minister and secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism have decided to work at the Shahjalal International Airport for a certain period of time of every day until March 31 for quick implementation of a plan agreed by Bangladesh and the UK.

The move comes after British Prime Minister David Cameron wrote to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday hinting at the probable ban on direct passenger flights after March 31.

A top official of Biman told The Daily Star, "Biman earns between Tk 40 to Tk 50 lakh carrying cargo in each flight... Biman will lose around Tk 100

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PM may write to Cameron for lifting air cargo ban

REZAUL KARIM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to write back shortly to her British counterpart David Cameron and request him to withdraw the ban on direct air cargo from Dhaka to London.

The UK has imposed the ban, saying Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport failed to meet some international security requirements.

In a letter to Hasina on Tuesday, Cameron called for a visible improvement of airport security by March 31 to avoid further measures like banning of direct Biman flights from Dhaka to London.

Highly placed sources said the civil aviation ministry has already started preparing a reply to the British PM's letter to assure him of massive changes in regard to security of the airport in the next three weeks.

Hasina may also seek extension of time for

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