



IS IT CRICKET?

Thoughts after some Bangladesh and India fans crossed the lines

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TAREQUE MASUD FEST

To commemorate the filmmaker, a two-day event begins at Shilpakala

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WAY TO END CRUELTY

Dalai Lama calls for education reforms to put more emphasis on compassion

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BANGLADESH BANK

Dangerously exposed

\$100m heist by hackers raises some serious questions for central bank to answer

INAM AHMED

The recent hacking of the Bangladesh Bank system to steal at least \$100 million reveals the vulnerability of the central bank's IT infrastructure, weak operational architecture and probable insider link.

The heist also puts to question what kind of network architecture and firewall it has in place. Everybody is talking about malware injection into the BB system but nobody is asking how the malware could enter the supposed-to-be most robust and secure system of a central bank in the first place.

Suggestions were made that the problem might lie with the SWIFT or the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication that provides a very secure financial encrypted messaging system through which orders are placed across the globe. The Federal Reserve (Fed) was blamed for allowing the transactions.

However, the Fed has categorically said its system was not compromised. And SWIFT issued a statement on Friday which also indicates that it is not its system rather that of the Bangladesh Bank that is in question.

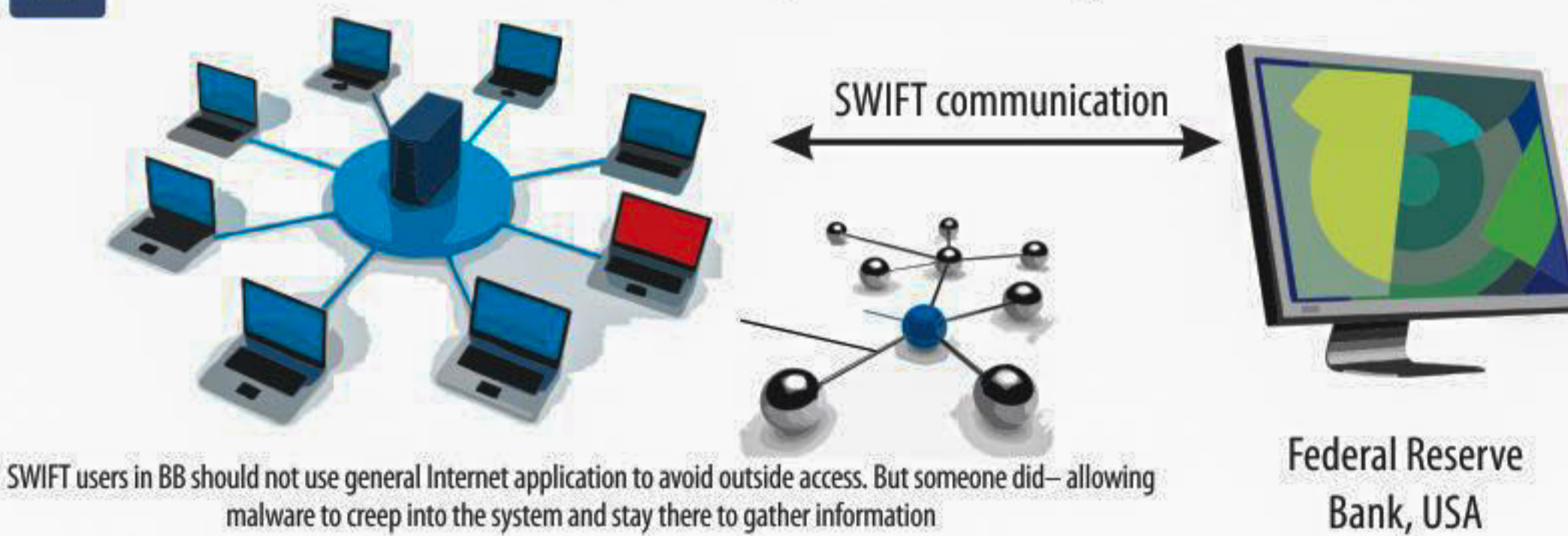
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HACKING BB: POSSIBLE SCENARIOS

1 Did a hacker decode SWIFT communication?



2 How a malware can infect the super-secure BB system?



Upbeat Tigers hope rain stays away

BD play Oman in must-win game today

AL-AMIN from Dharamsala

As it stands at the moment, Bangladesh will go through to the Super 10s of the ICC World Twenty20 by virtue of a better net run-rate if their final qualifying game against Oman at Dharamsala is a washout today. And if we go by the weather forecast, there is a strong possibility of that after two abandoned games on Friday due to heavy rain.

The scheduled day-night match, billed for an 8.00pm BST start, will act as a virtual final, leaving the first game involving the Netherlands and Ireland as a clash only for pride.

However, if it's not a complete washout, Bangladesh will desperately look for a full-length game from the point of view that a curtailed-over game takes the contest of two unequal opponents to a level of equal proportions. And this

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PROBES IN PHILIPPINES

Banker in midst of heist controversy

Offloaded from plane

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maia Santos-Deguito, manager of Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation's (RCBC) Jupiter Street branch in Makati City of the Philippines, is feeling the heat of the allegation of laundering \$81 million stolen from the US account of Bangladesh Bank.

The branch has been at the centre of attention since the case, the biggest in the banking history, became public last week.

Deguito is being investigated by the RCBC head office for alleged violations of the bank's money-laundering and terror financing-prevention programme manual, and for falsification of deposit account opening and other offences listed by RCBC's human resources group in a show-cause memorandum dated March 2.

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Not a worker to be hired by KL

Malaysia goes back on plan to hire 1.5 million Bangladeshis in 3 years

PORIMOL PALMA

Following a series of controversies, Malaysian deputy prime minister yesterday said the initial plan to bring in 1.5 million Bangladeshi workers has been scrapped officially.

Drawing huge criticisms from Malaysian trade unions, NGOs and civil society, Kuala Lumpur had signed a manpower deal with Dhaka on February 18 amid economic downturn and political conflicts in the Southeast Asian country and fear of corruption in the recruitment process.

The deal was called G2G Plus, meaning workers could be recruited both by private agencies and government. Confusions reigned about how the private agents would be selected and what would be the recruitment mode. Migrant rights activists and experts suggested Malaysia regularise undocumented foreign workers before making fresh recruitment.

A day after the deal signing, Malaysia declared it had suspended recruitment of all foreign workers, including Bangladeshis.

The next day, however, Malaysian Human Resources Minister Richard Riot, who had signed the deal with Bangladesh Expatriates' Welfare Minister Nurul Islam in Dhaka, said the agreement would remain unaffected.

Acting secretary Begum Shamsunnahar of the expatriates' ministry echoed the same view, saying Malaysia had not officially communicated its suspension decision to Bangladesh.

She also had told the media that the February 19 declaration of Malaysia was an "eyewash".

But yesterday, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamid said the cabinet has decided to halt the recruitment of new foreign workers into the country.

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BB installing monitoring software

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

To stop any further hacking of its network, Bangladesh Bank is installing monitoring software on all its computers that would instantly alert the IT department of any cyber attack or suspicious activity.

This would also help BB officials monitor whether any malicious software got installed.

The installation of the new software began last week after hackers stole \$101 million last month from a BB account at New York Federal Reserve Bank.

US-based FireEye Inc has provided the BB with the monitoring software through World Informatix, an Indian IT firm.

Following the cyber heist, an investigation by World Informatix found that hackers installed a malware in the BB network, gathered the bank's confidential information and stole the money.

A central bank official said questions have

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