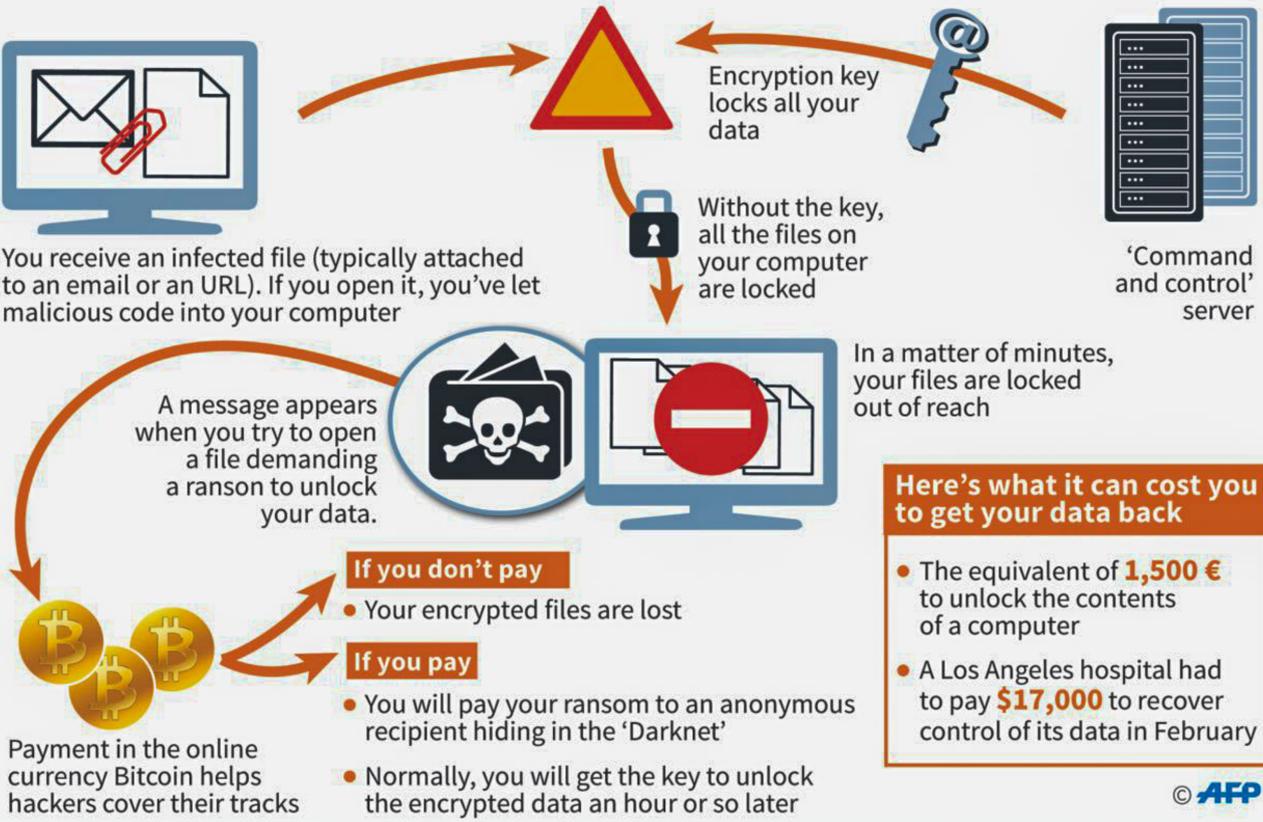


Ransomware: how hackers take your data hostage

Malicious code blocks access to the data in your computer



Experts rush to restore systems

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that they had no information on the country, except some individual cases.

"Our market is dominated by pirated software. However, we are very fortunate that this time nothing serious happened," said Sumon.

About preventing this type of attack, Sumon suggested arranging backups of data and being cautious about opening or receiving files.

Tarique Barkatullah, director of National Data Center at Bangladesh Computer Council, said, "We have checked out all the government websites and other infrastructure and found no issues."

In March Microsoft itself advised its customers about the attack and released a software update for Windows 10, said Barkatullah.

In the wake of the attack, Microsoft said it had taken the "highly unusual step" of releasing a patch for computers running older operating systems including Windows XP, Windows 8 and Windows Server 2003, reports CNN.

Cyber security experts across the globe rushed to restore systems yesterday after an unprecedented global wave of cyberattacks that struck targets ranging from Russia's banks to British hospitals and a French carmaker's factories.

The hunt was on for the culprits behind the assault, which was being described as the biggest cyber ransom attack ever, reports AFP.

State agencies and major companies around the world were left reeling by the attacks which blocked access to files and demanded ransom money, forcing them to shut down their computer systems.

"The recent attack is at an unprecedented level and will require a complex international investigation to identify the culprits," said Europol, Europe's policing agency.

The attacks, which experts said affected dozens of countries, used a technique known as ransomware that locks users' files unless they pay the attackers a designated sum in the virtual Bitcoin currency.

Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at the Helsinki-based cyber security company F-Secure, told AFP that the attack was "the biggest ransomware outbreak in history", saying that 130,000 systems had been affected.

He said Russia and India were hit particularly hard, in large part because the older Windows XP operating software was still widely used in the coun-

tries.

The attacks apparently exploited a flaw exposed in documents leaked from the US National Security Agency (NSA).

French carmaker Renault was forced to stop production at sites in France and Slovenia, saying the measure was aimed at stopping the virus from spreading.

In the United States, package delivery group FedEx acknowledged it had been hit by the malware and said it was "implementing remediation steps as quickly as possible."

Russia's interior ministry said that some of its computers had been hit by a "virus attack" and that efforts were underway to destroy it.

The country's central bank said the banking system was hit, and the railway system also reported attempted breaches.

The central bank's IT attack monitoring centre "detected mass distribution of harmful software" but no "instances of compromise", it said.

Russia's largest bank Sberbank said its systems "detected in time attempts to penetrate bank infrastructure".

Germany's Deutsche Bahn computers were also impacted, with the rail operator reporting that station display panels were affected.

In a statement, computer security group Kaspersky Labs said it was "trying to determine whether it is possible to decrypt data locked in the attack -- with the aim of developing a decryption tool as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, a cyber security researcher told AFP he had accidentally discovered a "kill switch" that could prevent the spread of the ransomware.

The researcher, tweeting as @MalwareTechBlog, said that the discovery was accidental, but that registering a domain name used by the malware stops it from spreading. Computers already affected will not be helped by the solution.

But @MalwareTechBlog warned that the "crisis isn't over" as those behind it "can always change the code and try again".

The malware's name is WCry, but analysts were also using variants such as WannaCry.

Britain's National Cyber Security Centre and its National Crime Agency were looking into the UK incidents, which disrupted care at National Health Service facilities, forcing ambulances to divert and hospitals to postpone operations.

Top primary edn official killed

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said Md Abu Yusuf Mia, officer-in-charge of Fatikchhari Police Station.

Police seized the truck, but its driver fled the scene, he added.

The DG, who came to the city from Mymensingh on Friday night, was heading for Khagrachhari Primary Training Institute (PTI) to attend the concluding ceremony of 26-day Diploma in Primary Education (DPEd) programme, said PTI officials.

Fazlur along with others left the Chittagong Circuit House for Khagrachhari around 6:00am.

The injured are Superintendent of Chittagong PTI Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, his wife Moshfeka Binte Sultana, also Patiya PTI superintendent, PTI staff Haiqul Islam, Doyal Hori Deb and microbus driver Ali Hossain.

CMCH sources said the condition of Rafiqul and Doyal was critical. Doyal was later shifted to the ICU of Max Hospital.

Fazlur, a joint secretary, was a mem-

ber of BCS (administration) cadre of the 1982 (special) batch. He joined the post of NAPE DG on January 19, 2015.

He left behind his wife and a son, a senior ASP at the Rab headquarters said.

His body was scheduled to arrive in the capital last night for a namaj-e-janaza at Baganbari Jame Masjid in Malibagh at 10:00pm.

This morning, the body will be taken to Mymensingh for another namaj-e-janaza before his burial in Gouripur.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: Fazlur's family members and relatives became speechless after hearing the death news.

Born in Bir Pashchimpara village in Gouripur, he grew up in Mymensingh town, family sources said.

Eldest of five brothers and one sister, Fazlur took the helm of the family after the death of his father Abdul Kader, a retired official of Bangladesh Oil Corporation, in 1982.

"He was our guardian and a well-wisher," said the NAPE DG's younger brother Lutfur Rahman Monzu.

"We lost our father 35 years ago, but never faced any trouble as he took care of us with fatherly affection," added Lutfur.

Kenya bus accident kills 19

AFP, Nairobi

At least 19 people were killed in a crash between a bus and two trucks early Saturday in Kenya, police said.

The accident comes just weeks after another collision killed dozens in Kenya, which has notoriously dangerous roads.

"We had a bad accident this morning where we lost 18 people on the spot," police commander Hassan Barua told journalists at the scene.

South Korea's Moon, elected this week on a platform of a moderate approach to North Korea, has said he would be willing to go to Pyongyang under the right circumstances and said dialogue must be used in parallel with sanctions to resolve the problem over North Korea's weapons.

North Korea has conducted five nuclear tests in defiance of UN and US sanctions and is also developing long-range missiles to deliver atomic weapons.

It says it needs such weapons to defend itself against US aggression.

US President Donald Trump warned in an interview with Reuters in late April that a "major, major conflict" with the North was possible, but he would prefer a diplomatic outcome to the dispute over its nuclear and missile programmes.

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Choe was in Norway for so-called Track Two talks with former US government officials, according to Japanese media, the latest in a series of such meetings.

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Woman

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orchard in Khidirpur village of the upazila throughout the night of Friday.

Officer-in-charge of Atghoria Police Station said the victim had "developed a friendship over mobile phone" with Jonab Ali over the last few months.

She then travelled to Pabna from Dinajpur on Friday afternoon at Ali's invitation to meet up, the OC said quoting the victim.

The victim reached Dashuria bus stand in Ishwardi upazila around 4:00pm where Ali received her and then took her to different places in Ishwardi and Atghoria upazila. As evening approached, Ali took the victim to Khidirpur village and introduced her to his friends -- the others accused.

"They lure her into a banana orchard in the village where they gang raped her throughout the night," the OC said.

When the victim's condition turned critical, one of the arrestees tried to take her to Chatmohar Railway Station on a rickshaw van. Police on patrol in the area rescued the victim from Atghoria-Chatmohar road around 5:00am.

"Acting on information from the victim's statement, police arrested the four alleged rapists from different places in the upazila on Saturday," the police officer said.

The arrestees were produced before the senior judicial magistrate court Saturday evening where Jonab Ali, the key accused gave a confessional statement to the court.

"The main accused confessed that the victim came to meet him in Pabna and that he along with his associates raped the victim in the orchard," the OC said quoting Ali's statement.

The victim filed a case with Atghoria Police Station accusing six men including the four arrestees.

The victim's medical examination is likely to be completed today.

N Korea

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efforts to press North Korea and ease tension over its pursuit of nuclear arms.

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NHRC team

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Monday formed the five-member committee to "identify the criminals and ensure their punishment". The committee was asked to submit its report within 15 working days.

The upscale hotel was also raided by Narcotics Control Department amid claims that alcohol was served at the birthday party on March 28. The hotel does not have liquor selling licence.

The arrestees, meanwhile, admitted to interrogators that they were drunk on that night and named several employees of the hotel who provided them with alcohol, said a police officer requesting anonymity.

Talking to reporters, Farzana Ara Rini, executive of internal operations of The Raintree Dhaka, said the security guard frisked the people attending the party as the scanner was not operational at the time. "The hotel was not fully operational then."

Invited to the birthday party of Shafat Ahmed on March 28, two university students went to the Banani hotel around 9:00pm. After the party ended around midnight, Shafat and his friend Halim alias Nayem raped them in two rooms, alleged one of the girl who filed a case with Banani Police Station accusing five young men.

A joint team of police arrested Shafat and another accused Shadman Sakif Thursday night at Sylhet city.

Besides Shafat, Halim and Sakif, the victim accused Shafat's driver Billal and bodyguard Abul Kalam Azad of aiding and abetting.

The girls went to Banani Police Station on May 4, more than a month after the incident. But police registered the case on May 6 after dilly-dallying for two days.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Thursday formed a three-member probe committee led by an additional commissioner (crime) to see whether Banani police was negligent in registering the case.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told reporters at a programme that they were investigating whether the officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station was negligent.

He added that the role of the hotel authority was also being scrutinised.

"We are not trying to hide anything, investigation is underway and action would be taken as per the findings," the minister said.

The victims' family members, meanwhile, requested police to take steps to remove a interview of one of the victims that went viral on social media.

"The partially blurred face of the victim can be recognised easily. Besides, names of the victims were mentioned in the interview. Uploading or sharing such videos is punishable offence under existing law," said a police officer investigating the incident.

Female arrestee

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After the executions of some top JMB leaders, Soheli became a member of the JMB's Majlis-e-Shura, the highest policymaking body of the outfit, with Maulana Saidur Rahman as its chief.

Sumaiya told investigators that Sazzad became a member of JMB with the help of his cousin Monirul Islam, a close associate of terror kingpin Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai.

According to the arrestee, Sazzad became active in "Neo JMB" politics two years ago when Monirul was freed from jail.

On Friday, the five came out of Sazzad's house together. Ashraf and Al Amin wore suicide vests, additional DIG Arif said quoting Sumaiya.

Within seconds, Sazzad carrying a pointed rod ran towards firefighter Matin while his wife Bely with a sickle, daughter Karima with a knife and son Al Amin with a dagger followed Sazzad. Ashraf turned to the east targeting a police official.

A little later, Sumaiya along with her child came out and stood in a cropland.

Hipjur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Godagari Police Station, quoted Sumaiya as saying that the militants had planned to kill at least one cop.

Meanwhile, the Quantum Foundation yesterday buried the five militants in Hetomkhan Graveyard in Rajshahi after police handed over the bodies to the organisation. Earlier, their relatives refused to receive those.

REVISED AUTOPSY REPORT

Enamul Haque, assistant lecturer at the forensic medicine department of Rajshahi Medical College, submitted a revised autopsy report to police yesterday.

According to the report, one of the five militant suspects died of bullet wounds, two of bullet and splinter injuries and two others of blast wounds.

In his previous report on Friday, the physician said all the five died of splinter injuries they received during the raid.

Purbachal New Town

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"We have already installed overhead electricity cables in the project area to supply power to 13,000 plots," he said.

About supply of gas, Raihan said an LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) bank would be set up in each of the 30 sectors to supply bottled LPG to households.

Development of lakes, canals, internal roads, drains and installation of street lamps were underway, the Rajuk official added.

Bangladesh Navy has been tasked with the construction of 62 bridges in the project area. Of them, 30 have already been built and two are under construction.

The project area is linked to the capital by a 300-feet expressway which is connected to the Airport Road via Pragati Sarani intersection.

Ujjwal said many businesses and

government offices, like the headquarters of Fire Service and Civil Defence, would be relocated to Purbachal.

Two police lines and four police stations will be set up at some strategic points in the new town to maintain law and order.

The government has planned to build 142-storey Iconic Tower on 75 acres of land in Purbachal. The building will have an international convention centre and a modern sports complex, among other facilities.

The Rajuk official said once the project is completed, it would facilitate trade and commerce and create jobs.

Around 144 acres of land have been earmarked by Rajuk for forestation. Only 38 percent of the total project area would be used for housing, he told this correspondent.

Besides, 62,000 flats will be built on 90 acres of land for low income people.

Govt to take no fee

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The minister also said the remittance inflow dropped as the income of the expatriates fell in the Middle East countries this year. Besides, many migrant workers are making some savings abroad instead of sending the whole of their income.

Remittance from expatriates is one of the main pillars of Bangladesh economy.

Though manpower export is on the rise, remittance is on the decline. In 2015-16, it went down by 2.52 percent from the previous fiscal year. In the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, it fell by around 17 percent.

Last week, a five-member committee was formed from a high-level meeting held at the finance ministry. It would make recommendations to the government in the next two weeks about how the incentives would be given to the migrants.

Earlier, as per the finance minister's directives, a two-member team of Bangladesh Bank visited several countries, including those in the Middle East, to find out the causes of decrease in remittance inflow.

The team submitted a report to the

finance ministry. It found that expatriates have experienced a fall in their income in the Middle Eastern countries. Besides, they are sending money home through hundi, an unauthorised way of money transaction.

The unofficial exchange rate is much higher than the official rate. The cost of sending money through the official channel is also higher than in hundi.

According to Dilip Ratha, a migration and remittance expert of World Bank, international migrants have to bear high charges of remitting money. The global average cost of sending \$200 remained flat at 7.45 percent in the first quarter of this year.

The rate is significantly higher than the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 3 percent.

Bangladeshis

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Asian countries seeking access to Japan solely for economic reasons.

Campaigners and applicants, however, say that the acceptance process is arduous and that it can be difficult to gain acceptance as a foreigner in Japanese society.