

2,000 Georgia websites hit by cyber attacks

AFP, Tbilisi

Some 2,000 websites in Georgia, including those of the president, courts, and media came under a massive cyber attack yesterday, officials and media said.

Georgian President Salome Zurbishvili's website was "attacked by hackers this afternoon," her spokeswoman told AFP.

"Law enforcement agencies are investigating the incident," Sopho Jajanashvili said.

Georgia's Interpress news agency said that the website for Georgia's general jurisdiction courts as well as websites of a number of government agencies, NGOs and media outlets were also hit by cyber attacks yesterday.

Up to 2,000 sites are believed to have been affected.

They displayed a photo of Georgia's exiled former president Mikheil Saakashvili with an inscription "I'll be back!" Interpress said.

Saakashvili lives in a self-imposed exile in Ukraine after his second term as president ended in 2013.

Big yaba haul

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interrogation confessed that he had brought in eight to nine yaba consignments and received Tk 1 for each tablet.

Maj Rabiul said the syndicate used different modes of transport, including road and air, for taking yaba tablets to the capital.

"We would be able to give you more information on the consignments after the arrest of the other members," he said.

He also said a case was filed with Ukhia police station in connection with the recovery. "Rab would investigate the matter."

Asked how yaba smuggling was continuing amid the ongoing anti-narcotics drive, the official said they were trying their best to check the crime. The situation is improving, he claimed.

Just six days ago, Border Guards Bangladesh recovered 4.30 lakh yaba pills in Teknaf.

No one, however, could be arrested.

Police database show 170 people, including 44 Rohingya, were killed in "gunfights" since May 4, the day law enforcers launched a nationwide anti-narcotics drive.

Two of the Rohingyas were women, the data show.

HC fixes Nov 3

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During the hearing on the rule, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the court that depositors had lost a huge amount of money due to corruption and irregularities.

ACC's lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told the court that the government is the authority to decide whether it will form any commission to look into the irregularities in the banking sector.

The ACC cannot be involved in this issue, he argued.

BB's lawyer Barrister Muniruzzaman opposed the writ petition, saying that giving out loans and waiving interest is the matter policy decision of the government and BB and the HC cannot interfere into this issue.

The government and BB have been taking action against corruption and irregularities in the banking sector. So forming a separate commission in this regard will create inconsistency among different authorities, the lawyer argued.

HC asks govt

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labour court concerned for bail in the cases as a free man on his return from abroad, petitioner's lawyer Rokanuddin Mahmud told The Daily Star.

During the hearing of the petition, the lawyer told the HC bench that Prof Yunus would not skip the trial proceedings of the cases.

He said Prof Yunus was not in the country when the cases were filed, and the summons and arrest warrant were issued against him. Therefore, he was not aware of the case proceedings.

Rokanuddin appealed to the court to pass an order on the authorities concerned so that Dr Yunus can appear before the labour court.

Deputy Attorney General Saifuddin Khaled represented the government.

On October 9, a labour court in Dhaka issued an arrest warrant against Prof Yunus in the three cases.

On July 3, Abdus Salam, Shah Alam and Emarul Haque -- former junior officers of Grameen Communications -- lodged the cases against Dr Yunus and two others with the labour court for sacking them in June for their role in forming a trade union at their workplace.

Two other Grameen Communications officials, who were made accused in the cases, are Managing Director Naznin Sultana and Deputy General Manager Khandaker Abu Abedin.

Forgotten torture comes to light

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Even though there were hundreds of eyewitnesses, no one dared say anything about Hasan, who was always flanked by a number of goons. Even the victim's family did not dare file a complaint about the matter.

Only after police intervened last night, did Jashim's wife, Joynob Bibi, file a case with the police station yesterday, accusing Hasan ,30, Nagar, 27, Rubel, 25, and five to seven unnamed men in an attempt to murder case over the incident, police said.

Contacted, Chairman Akteruzzaman did not deny his links to Hasan. "Everyone in this union are my men," he said, adding that he had known of the incident but did not act as no complaints were filed.

He also tried to justify the beating, saying, "Hasan took revenge on Jashim, because he had beaten up Hasan's father in 2000. No one came to help because everyone knew of the matter."

Hasan was arrested early yesterday after a warrant for his arrest in a robbery case filed with Halishahor

police station in Chattogram city reached the local police.

Hasan had also been accused in two other cases -- one for human trafficking and another for theft -- with Pahartoli police station of the same city.

Afterwards, a court placed him on a seven-day remand.

Although Hasan is now behind bars, talk of his misdeeds remain muted. The intimidation he spread is yet to subside.

'HE WOULD KILL US IF WE CRIED FOR HELP'

According to a local who did not want to be named, the video footage only captured the end of the incident, which began in the area's Kanchi Bazar. That is where Hasan began beating up Jashim, before taking him to Hasan's "club" -- where he and his acquaintances would gather -- to torture him.

At no point did anyone intervene, as everyone was afraid of Hasan, he added.

Jashim's family members were forbidden to take him to the hospital after the beating, Joynob Bibi, who initially refused to speak to this

correspondent incase Hasan came to know of it, claimed.

"My husband was suddenly caught and beaten by Hasan and some of his men when he went to Daouri Bazar. On information, I rushed to the spot with my daughters. I found my husband bound by ropes and being beaten. I thought they had killed him," she said.

"Hasan threatened to kill me and my daughters if I went for help. He also threatened that my husband would be beaten till we stopped screaming.

"I treated my husband secretly by calling a village doctor at night," she said.

Hasan's men kept guard around Jashim's house, informed a neighbour wishing not to be named.

Joynob Bibi did not disclose the cause of the beating.

While locals and family members say Jashim was beaten for refusing to deal drugs in the area, Hasan maintains that there was a different reason.

"I tortured Jashim for attacking my father," Hasan told police while in custody.

CSE, IT graduates getting more jobs

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Islamic University of Technology graduates' job placement rate was the highest at 92.4 percent, closely followed by the Buet at 91.1 percent. BRAC University had 87.1 percent and East West University 83.8 percent.

The CSE graduates from Jashore University of Science and Technology had the lowest job placement rate of 57.6 percent, which was said to have been a result of its geographical location.

The other universities surveyed are Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Daffodil International University, Jahangirnagar University and University of Dhaka.

Professor Dr M Kaykobad of the CSE department of Buet, said, based on his own assumption, it was true that graduates of these subjects were getting more jobs, adding, that many Buet students would eventually go abroad for higher studies.

"So, if any local organisation conducted the study, it would be more consistent," he said.

LOW WAGES, OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD

The graduates of IUT had the highest mean salary of Tk 51,938 followed by the Buet, and Dhaka University, with ranges for both above Tk 40,000.

Overall, 89.5 percent of the employed graduates were in the private sector, 6.2 percent in the government sector, 2.9 percent in nongovernment organisations. Another 1.5 percent were self-employed.

On average, graduates who work in the education sector received the highest starting monthly salary at Tk 40,237, followed by those who worked in the software industry at Tk 39,772, financial and insurance activities at Tk 38,986 and IT consultancy at Tk

38,364.

For those not in jobs (22.9%), around half were active job seekers. Many of them were unemployed because of unsatisfactory working conditions, such as low wages.

But the average monthly wage among CSE/IIT graduates (Tk 38,780) was higher than the overall university average (Tk 30,000); one view is that job seekers have high salary expectations after graduating from CSE/IIT programmes.

Around half of the graduates also chose not to look for jobs and continue their education instead. The majority of respondents were graduates of bachelor's programs, and some continued on to a master's degree or other specialised training.

Interestingly, regardless of job placement status, 60% of graduates expressed an interest furthering their education or develop their career abroad.

The quantitative survey was conducted from July 6 2018 to August 16 2018. In total, 2,110 Interviews were conducted over phone. The tracer study focused on people who completed graduation between 2015-2017.

MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

The study recommended that the quality of CSE/IIT programmes require significant revision by introducing more hands on practice in curriculums. Students said that lessons were mostly theoretical. Up-to-date practical skills also needed to be regularly updated.

It said soft skills needed to be designed or integrated in the curriculum and pedagogy to strengthen problem solving and communication skills.

University infrastructure and

faculty need to be developed to meet the industry's growing demand. Additional hard infrastructure, such as computer laboratories and data centers, were also needed to expand access to quality CSE/IIT higher education programmes.

Academic staffers need more industry exposure to provide quality and relevant guidance for students. Students count on teachers not only for research but also for career development.

Universities can strengthen support for startups to increase the number of successful high-tech entrepreneurs.

WOMEN LAGGING BEHIND
Job placement rate for women CSE/IT graduates was 23.6 percentage points below the rate for men.

In addition to family commitments, employers might have been concerned about women's security during recruitment, the study said.

For instance, the employer survey indicated that working location and security issues moderately or greatly influenced recruitment decisions.

Family constraints and commitments were also a great or moderate consideration, which is consistent with female graduates' feedback under the tracer study.

Other factors considered were lack of required vocational or professional skills, maternity leave, dedication to work, high turnover rate, inability or reluctance to take on challenges, and absenteeism.

In the recommendation, it is said access to CSE/IIT programmes, particularly for women, need to be expanded.

Assistance targeted to female students may also be considered as a way to close the gender gap in CSE/IIT enrollment.

67-yr-old

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"I didn't want it, initially."

The hospital said it could not confirm that Tian had conceived naturally as she was already pregnant when it took her as a patient.

The Global Times reported the new baby girl was called "Tianci", meaning "gift from heaven".

The Jinan Times said Tian already had two children, including a son born in 1977, two years before China imposed a one-child policy to control its burgeoning population.

Reports of the birth drew criticism on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform.

"The parents are too selfish," one commenter wrote. "At their advanced age they have no ability to take care of a kid, and the pressure will be on the older siblings."

"Poor child, he's going to start taking care of his elderly parents by the time he's 20," wrote another.

Others wondered if Tian and Huang would be penalised for having more than the current allowance of two children.

In 2016, Beijing relaxed the one-child policy, allowing families to have two.

While Tian's age makes her an outlier, women in China are increasingly delaying childbirth or choosing not to have children after decades of strict family planning policies that have made small families the norm.

The age at which the average Chinese woman has her first child rose from 24.3 years in 2006 to 26.9 years in 2016, according to a report this year by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

While the two-child policy has had a smaller effect on China's birth count than expected, it has prompted more older women to consider having second children.

Around 51 percent of newborns in 2017 were second children, compared to around 40 percent in 2016, the Economist Intelligence Unit report said.

Other women in their 60s and 70s have given birth in recent years, though generally after having fertility treatment.

The China Daily reported in December 2016 that a 64-year-old woman gave birth to a baby boy by Caesarean section after IVF treatment in the country's northeast Jilin province.

EU grants Brexit delay

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Johnson will respond to the EU's delay offer once he has reviewed the details, his spokesman said yesterday.

Two senior EU diplomats confirmed that the written procedure period agreed was 24 hours, effective from the time London accepts the offer of a Brexit delay from October 31 to January 31.

Britain's departure has already been delayed twice -- from March 29 and April 12 -- after Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, failed three times to get her deal ratified by parliament.

With British politics still paralysed over carrying out Brexit 3-1/2 years after a 52%-48% referendum vote in favour of leaving the EU, Johnson is demanding parliament approve an election on December 12 in return for more time to adopt his deal.

But he needs the support of two-thirds, or 434, of the 650 lawmakers for a new election. A House of Commons vote was due later yesterday.

'FLEXENSION'

The EU, forged from the ruins of World War Two as a way to prevent another devastating conflict in Europe, is fatigued by Britain's Brexit crisis but keen not to be held responsible for an economically tumultuous "no-deal" rupture.

French President Emmanuel Macron had been the main hurdle to an extension, arguing there had to be a good reason for a delay and that the British needed to break their own political deadlock. But a source close to Macron said the prospect of an election in Britain had strengthened

significantly.

The source stressed that the third Brexit delay would come with conditions, including a refusal to renegotiate the divorce agreement and giving a green light to other EU countries to meet without Britain to discuss the bloc's future.

An EU diplomat said the hope was that the British would use the postponement wisely. Even though the United Kingdom is set to leave, it will have a legal obligation to nominate a new commissioner for the EU's powerful executive body.

The latest delay plan envisages that Britain could be out on December 1 or January 1 should parliament ratify the agreement in November or December respectively, according to diplomats who deal with Brexit in Brussels.

But in London, there was no consensus on an election which Johnson says is needed to break the deadlock.

Pressure on the opposition Labour Party to agree to a poll was increased by two other parties, the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party, which called for a December 9 election on the condition that Johnson give up his attempt to push his deal through parliament.

Downing Street sources indicated that if their attempt to force an election failed yesterday, then the government could introduce a bill similar to the one proposed by the Liberal Democrats and Scottish National Party -- a vote that would require only a simple majority in the 650-seat parliament.

'I am tired'

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Judge Jesmin Ara Begum.

He was provided a chair very close to the judge after the prosecutors told the court that Ajoy was not fit to stand in the dock.

After the judge recorded his statement, three defence lawyers cross-examined him.

Prof Ajoy told the court that unidentified assailants hacked his son Avijit from behind while he and his wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya were walking out of the Ekushey Boi Mela on the Dhaka University campus around 8:30pm on February 26, 2015.

Bonya was critically injured when she tried to protect her husband, he added.

"Avijit and Bonya were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment where Avijit died after 10:00pm. Bonya was taken to Square Hospital [later]," he said.

Another prosecution witness Masudur Rahman also gave his statement before the court.

Freeze Aziz's accounts

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well-known persons were allowed there," said the official, preferring anonymity.

"There was a bar for the entertainment of the gamblers. Besides, there was an arrangement for home delivery to selected clients in the city's posh areas like Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara."

According to Khurshid Alam, an assistant director of DNC, this was the first time casino equipment was recovered from a residential building.

"Omar Mohammad Bhai, a nephew of Aziz, used to run the casino and the bar."

DNC officials said Omar had fled away using the fire exit minutes before they began their drive.

Yesterday, they filed two cases with Gulshan Police Station against Omar and arrested caretakers of the house -- Nabin Mandal and Meer Md Parvez -- for storing and selling liquor.

A general diary would be filed over

recovery of the casino equipment, the officials said last night.

However, Aziz was not named in the cases as he has been abroad since 2007, they added.

"We will implicate Aziz if we find his involvement after the investigation," Khurshid said.

The officials say they suspect there are more home-based casinos in different areas of the city and that they will continue their drive.

According to them, Aziz is now staying in Thailand with his family. He runs his businesses from there. He never came home since 2007 but his wife and four children came several times.

His wife had left Bangladesh just two days before the drive in Gulshan.

Since September 18, Rab and police have raided different places, including some renowned sporting clubs, and arrested a number of leaders of the ruling party and its affiliated bodies for running illegal casinos.