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Careful what you click

Cops tell how 3 suspects made phishing links to blackmail over 200 social media users

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

They have no degrees. Some of them have not even completed primary education. Yet, they learnt how to trick Facebook users into giving them their social media IDs and passwords.

Watching YouTube videos, they learnt to make "phishing links". They send the links to unsuspecting users making it appear as though it was sent by a friend.

The links usually look like invitations to contests and when one clicks on them, a pop-up appears asking the user to login again. The moment the user does that, their data has gone to the hackers.

The hackers, now in control of the users' social media account, blackmail them and extort money from them.

Cyber and Special Crime Division of police's Detective Branch (DB) has disclosed the technique following the arrest of three suspects from Shibchar, Madaripur on September 29.

The arrestees are Obaidur Rahman Nobel, 20, Shamim Sarder, 21, and Sajib Khalifa, 21.

Nobel is a seller of women's purse. He studied up to SSC. Shamim is an electrician and he has studied up to class-IV. Sajib is a tailor and he studied up to class-III, said police.

Over the last two years, the three managed to hack around 2,000 Facebook users, Junaed Alam Sharker, additional deputy commissioner of cyber and special crime division of DB, told The Daily Star.

The ADC said that after taking control of an account, the hackers go through messages and personal address book details. They exploit their victims using personal pictures or videos found in their accounts.

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Encroachers have filled up significant portions of the Gumti river to run their sand trade right next to Meghna-Gumti bridge in Daudkandi, Cumilla. Similarly aggressive encroachment has caused the death of several rivers in the country.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Covax provided shots to be given to 20pc people by Dec

Health minister claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Under the Covax initiative, around 20 percent people of the country will be vaccinated by December this year, said Zahid Maleque, Health and Family Welfare Minister.

He also said that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has agreed to send Covid-19 jabs in phases for 40 percent of the country's population.

"We will get vaccines for 40 percent people of the country under the Covax facilities very soon... Alongside that, we'll continue purchasing vaccines from other sources."

Zahid made the comments following a meeting with the Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general (DG) of the World Health Organization (WHO) Geneva, Switzerland, on October 1.

In the meeting, Tedros has also assured Bangladesh of providing technical support for the manufacturing of Covid-19 vaccines, reads a press release.

"Besides, the WHO DG has assured us

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Election schedule declared

OCTOBER 3, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ANOTHER DEFECTION TO BANGLADESH
The First Secretary of the Pakistani Embassy in Katmandu, Mustafizur Rahman, switched his allegiance to the Bangladesh Government on October 3. Mustafizur Rahman, a 29-year-old Bangalee, who was also head of the chancery, told a news conference at his residence that he had taken this "bold" decision after six months of "the worst mental agony in my life."

He said he had communicated his decision to the Nepalese Prime Minister, KN Bishit, from whom he sought permission to stay on in Nepal as the special envoy of the Bangladesh government till it was liberated, he had also sought the Nepalese government's protection for himself and his family-wife and two children- "from physical, mental or material harm" that may be caused by West Pakistanis living in Nepal.

BY-ELECTIONS SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED
The Pakistan Election Commission today declared polls schedule for by-elections for the 88 seats in the Provincial Assembly of East Pakistan which had been rendered vacant on account of the disqualifications (including one death). The elections were scheduled to be held between December 18, 1971, and January 7, 1972.

ON THE WAR FRONT
Since the beginning of October, raids and ambushes by Mukti Bahini increased in intensity, frequency and ferocity which made enemy forces more nervous.

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Traffickers tricked them

Fears family of one of the 3 missing college girls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of one of the three college girls, who left their Pallabi homes with cash, gold jewelry, and other valuables on Thursday, fears that the girls have been tricked by human traffickers.

Police are yet to trace the three college students, all of them 12th graders and aged around 15.

The mother of one of the missing girls submitted a written complaint with Pallabi Police Station on Friday.

Shah Kamal, assistant commissioner of Pallabi zone, told The Daily Star that they could not trace the missing girls and did not know whether they were inside or outside the country.

"We are securitising their mobile phone call lists and trying to identify their possible connections and

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Great-grandmother keeps Indian martial art alive



AFP, Kerala

Deftly parrying her son with a bamboo cane, Meenakshi Amma belies her 78 years with her prowess at kalar, thought to be India's oldest martial art.

The great-grandmother in Kerala, southern India, has been a driving force in the revival of kalaripayattu, as the ancient practice is also known, and in encouraging girls to take it up.

"I started kalar when I was seven years old. I am 78 now. I am still practising, learning and teaching," the matriarch of the Kadathanad Kalar Sangham school, founded by her late husband in

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More Metro rail cars, locomotives arrive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Eight more cars and four engines of metro rail reached Mongla port around 11:00am yesterday.

Thai-flagged ship MV SPM Bangkok brought the train sets.

The ship is carrying 32 packages for the metro rail, including the train sets, said the ship's local agent Ancient Steamship Company Ltd's General Manager Ohiduzzaman

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 3

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-53 7-30
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

FIRE ON FARMERS 4 held over Thursday's incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Police yesterday arrested four men for their alleged involvement in injuring seven farmers with gunshots at Tulatoli village in Satkania upazila of Chattogram on Thursday.

The arrestees got engaged in an altercation with the farmers over putting dredging materials on agricultural land by the Sangu. The attackers were a Water Development Board (WDB) contractor's men, said complainants.

Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Satkania Police Station, said they arrested the accused during raids in different areas of the upazila yesterday.

The arrestees would be produced before a district court, he added.

Earlier on Friday, a victim named Abdul Malek filed a case against 15 named people, including Ruhullah Chowdhury, brother-in-law of Chattogram-15 (Satkania)

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Hundreds of imported cars remain exposed to the elements sometimes for months on end at the Chattogram Port. While there are some sheds to keep vehicles, but those are almost always beyond capacity. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

COVID HOSPITALISATIONS Merck's pill cuts it by half

AFP, Washington

US pharmaceutical company Merck said it will seek authorization of its oral drug molnupiravir for Covid-19 after a trial showed that the drug can reduce hospitalization by 50 percent.

A simple pill to treat the coronavirus has been sought since the start of the pandemic and Friday's announcement was hailed as a major step towards that goal.

Anthony Fauci, chief medical advisor to President Joe Biden, told reporters: "The data are impressive," and he highlighted that the trial results showed there were no deaths among patients who received the drug compared to eight deaths in the placebo group.

The US has procured 1.7 million courses of molnupiravir should it be greenlighted, with the option to buy more, and global health agency Unitaid said it was working with a partnership called ACT-Accelerator to secure supply for low- and middle-income countries.

Until now, Covid therapeutics such as monoclonal antibodies and Gilead's remdesivir have been administered intravenously.

"It's very exciting to have more options that are easy to deploy," Natalie Dean, a biostatistician at Emory University who specializes in infectious diseases, told AFP.

"You can have something that's similarly effective, but if one is much easier to use, that's going to have a bigger population-level impact."

But experts also stressed that if approved the drug is not a miracle cure and should complement highly effective vaccines, rather than replace them.

In a late stage clinical trial, Merck and its partner Ridgeback Therapeutics evaluated data from around 770

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