

Iran-linked hackers shut down UK energy generator for 4 days

Attack Coincided With Hit On US Water Facilities Affecting 12 States

Naomi Canton

London: Hackers allegedly tied to Iran govt shut down a British energy generator for four days last month, in what is believed to be the first cyberattack targeting an energy facility in the UK. The attack came at the same time as a series of cyberattacks on US water facilities that affected 12 states.

It was not a major power station, and there was no threat to Britain's wider electricity grid or loss of power, energy minister Michael Shanks said. "The generator in question is tiny, especially compared to what most of us would class as a 'power plant/station'," Shanks said. "That being said, the generator and govt took the incident seriously."

The UK has thousands of small-scale power-generation sites connected to its grid, many of them gas-fired generators that operate for only a few hours each week. The attack may have been intended as a proof of capability, showing that hackers lin-



Smoke and a fireball rise as Israel struck the area of al-Zawayda, in central Gaza Strip, Sunday. Three people were killed in the attack which Israel claimed was launched after warning the people to evacuate the area

Pak army chief to visit Tehran today

Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir will visit Tehran on Monday to continue efforts to bring peace and security to the region, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said on Sunday, according to a statement by the ministry. Two Pakistani govt sources confirmed Munir's visit. The first source said that Iran and Pakistan were in direct contact. A second source said the talks would also address recent developments in the conflict, including President Trump's threat of tougher sanctions on Iran. "He (Munir) will discuss peace under Islamabad's MoU, Trump's warning and the situation after the Pakistan-Turkey-Saudi Arab Agreement and Houthi issues with Iranian leaders," the source said. REUTERS

ked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps could penetrate UK energy systems and shut down infrastructure, the Telegraph reported.

National Cyber Security Centre has warned of a growing pattern of disruptive cyber activity by state and non-state actors targeting organi-

sations across the UK. "Our energy sector cybersecurity strategy sets out how we are working to enhance cybersecurity," Shanks said. "Later in 2026 our wider energy resilience strategy will go further to secure us against a wide range of risks and ensure our resilience for the future."

New sanctions threatened by 'desperate' US will fail: Tehran

Dubai: Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi dismissed the threat of new US sanctions as a sign of desperation on Sunday and said the expected new measures would fail to defeat Tehran. US treasury secretary Scott Bessent has threatened to impose "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran.

Describing what he said were "repetitive scenarios", Araghchi posted on Telegram: "The fact that they (US leaders) have moved on from military operations to bring up the old plans shows that they are desperate." "We have never been afraid. All of their actions have failed, and this new issue of theirs will fail as well," he said.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian defended the MoU signed in mid-June as the best way for the country to move beyond a situation of "neither war nor peace". "There is not a single provision in this agreement that amounts to capitulation," Pezeshkian said in a speech published by state-run IRNA early Sunday. AGENCIES

Onion prices up, govt to offload buffer stock

Kanda Express To Start Trips From Today

Dipak.Dash
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In its bid to check rising prices of onion across different regions, govt will start offloading its buffer stock. As average price of the key kitchen commodity increased to Rs 42 per kg Saturday, 45% higher than last year and 19% more than last month, Centre will operate from Monday Kanda Express (trains transporting onions) from Nasik to Delhi, Chennai, Kochi and Guwahati, where prices are higher than the national average.

As per consumer affairs department data, the retail price of onion was Rs 65 a kg in Delhi compared with Rs 35 a year back. In Chennai, onion was selling at Rs 58 a kilo as against Rs 33 last year. Onion prices are elevated in parts of Kerala and Assam as well. Retail prices of

Representational photo



Officials said onions will be offered at a lower price in a calibrated manner

sugar also continue to rise; on Saturday, it was going for Rs 62.5 per kg compared with Rs 46 a kilo a month back. In Delhi and Mumbai, retail prices were Rs 65 and Rs 69 a kilo, respectively.

On govt intervention to check onion prices, officials said the kitchen staple will be offered at a lower price in a calibrated manner. They added that there is sufficient stock both with govt and farmers to meet demand in coming months. Food ministry too said there is enough sugar available. Market insiders said reports of a decline of 5-7% in the kharif onion output in Maharashtra, the largest producer among states, have contributed to the rise in prices.

Bangladesh open to joining Saudi-Pak-Turkiye defence pact, say two Ministers

DHAKA, Aug 23 (PTI)

BANGLADESH is open to joining the recently formed defence alliance between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkiye, two junior Ministers have said, while stressing that any decision would be guided by the country's national interests.

Signed in Makkah on August 7, the pact establishes a framework for collective deterrence and stipulates that an armed attack on any one of the three countries would be considered an attack on all three.

"Bangladesh maintains a positive approach towards the possibility of joining an economic or defence framework involving Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkiye, taking into account its own interests and the changing dynamics of the global econo-

my and trade," newly appointed state minister for foreign affairs Humayun Kobir said.

In an interview with the Bangla service of state-run *BSS* on Friday, Kobir said the Government was pursuing a "Bangladesh First" policy and a balanced foreign policy with national interests at its core, which might lead Dhaka to join the defence pact.

He said Bangladesh would also strengthen bilateral ties with Pakistan through normal diplomatic engagement, focusing on trade and people-to-people connectivity.

Another Sate Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shama Obaed Islam, supplemented Kobir's comments, saying Bangladesh's national interest and the interests of its people would determine Dhaka's stance on joining the pact.

Maldives' largest infra project advances with India's support

MALE, Aug 23 (PTI)

THE final bridge segment connecting the Maldivian capital Male with Villingili is and has been officially set in place, marking a major milestone in the India-funded connectivity project. Under the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP), a 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link will be built to connect capital city Male with adjoining islands of Villingili, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

In 2021, a contract was sealed between the Maldives and India for the implementation of an India-funded connectivity project. "A big milestone for the Greater Male Connectivity Project! The final bridge segment connecting Male with Villingili is officially set in place - bringing seamless connectivity between the islands one step

Final segment of Thilamale Bridge installed



closer," India in Maldives posted on X on Saturday.

Former Maldives Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid has also hailed the milestone in the India-funded connectivity project.

"A major milestone for the Greater Male Connectivity

Project today! Honoured to have launched this project during my tenure as Foreign Minister. The Maldives-India friendship is built on trust and shared progress. This link is a symbol of that commitment and of India's support for Maldives' development," Shahid posted on X.

US memorandum is best path out of stalled war: Iran President

DUBAI, Aug 23 (AP)

IRAN'S President defended a memorandum of understanding with the United States as the best way out of a stalled war.

Meanwhile, the new head of the Islamic Republic's top security body warned, in a more forceful tone, of retaliation if neighbouring countries support US threats to further sanction Tehran. Pakistan's army chief planned to travel to Tehran on Monday, Iranian media reported. A Palestinian man said he was beaten by an Israeli settler outside his home, and Israel's military said they were pursuing a stabbing suspect in a sep-

arate attack, the latest violence in the occupied West Bank.

Here's a look at the latest developments in the Iran war and the wider Middle East on Sunday. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian defended a recent memorandum of understanding as the best way for the country to move beyond what he described as a situation of "neither war nor peace."

In a speech, he said members of Iran's Supreme National Security Council believed the memorandum represented the best possible agreement based on what he described as dignity, wisdom and the national interest.

Iran's weaponry, defence equipment production doubles in past 12 months: Tehran

TOKYO, Aug 23 (IANS)

IRAN'S weaponry and defence equipment production has doubled over the past 12 months, a senior official has said.

In an interview with state-run IRIB TV on Friday evening (local time), Iranian Defence Ministry spokesman Reza Talei-Nik said that since the beginning of the war in late February, the country's production of certain strategic military products and equipment had increased more than threefold. The increase was achieved despite the fact that limited parts of Iran's defence indus-

try sections were targeted during the 12-day war with Israel in June last year, said the official.

Becoming stronger is the only way to counter foreign powers seeking to attack Iran's independence, he said.

On February 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities, killing the country's then-Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, military commanders and civilians. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone attacks targeting Israel as well as US bases and assets in the region, reports Xinhua news agency.

India will establish its own space station by 2035: ISRO Chairman

AHMEDABAD, Aug 23 (ANI)

INDIA is working towards establishing its own space station by 2035, with the first module of the proposed Bharatiya Antariksha Station already approved, ISRO Chairman Dr V Narayanan said on Sunday.

Speaking at the third National Space Day celebrations in Ahmedabad, Narayanan highlighted India's growing capabilities in space technology and said the country is now using space-based applications across more than 50 areas directly serving citizens.

"Today, we are celebrating the third National Space Day. The theme is very important: innovation, collaboration, and aspiring for global leadership in the space sector," Narayanan said.

He said India has been steadily expanding its capabilities since launching its space programme 64 years ago.

"India started its space pro-

gramme 64 years ago, and today we are serving the common man in more than 50 areas, including Earth observation, remote sensing, telecommunications, television broadcasting, tele-education, disaster warning and mitigation, ensuring the safety and security of every citizen, navigation, real-time monitoring and tracking," the ISRO chief said.

Narayanan also outlined some of the country's major upcoming space programmes, including the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission and the development of India's own space station.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, many programmes are in the pipeline. We are working on the Gaganyaan programme. We

are also working towards establishing our own space station, the Bharatiya Antariksha Station," he said.

"The first module has already been approved, and we aim to establish the space station by 2035," Narayanan added.

The ISRO chief's remarks came during celebrations marking India's achievements in space exploration and the third National Space Day.

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who also addressed the event, recalled the significance of Chandrayaan-3's historic landing near the Moon's south polar region.

He said National Space Day was announced following the successful Chandrayaan mission and India's achievement of reach-

ing the lunar south pole at the location named Shiv Shakti Point.

"Following the success of the Chandrayaan mission and the announcement by the Prime Minister, India will observe the day it set foot on the Moon's south pole at the 'Shiv Shakti Point' as National Space Day," Shekhawat said.

He said the third National Space Day was being celebrated in Ahmedabad under the aegis of the Space Applications Centre and highlighted the Government's efforts to expand participation in the space sector.

"Under the Prime Minister's leadership, the privatisation of the space science sector has opened doors to immense possibilities for India," Shekhawat said.

He said the expansion of private participation had created new opportunities for India's space industry while also complementing the work being undertaken by ISRO.



Dr V Narayanan

India-Kuwait hold talks to strengthen ties

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 23 (IANS)

INDIAN Ambassador to Kuwait Paramitha Tripathi on Sunday called on the Gulf kingdom's Minister of Commerce and Industry Osama Khaled Abdullah Bodaai and discussed opportunities to further strengthen cooperation in several sectors.

"Ambassador Paramitha Tripathi called on H.E. Mr Osama Khaled Abdullah Bodaai, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the State of Kuwait, today. Discussions were held on the longstanding friendly relations between India and Kuwait and opportunities to further strengthen cooperation in trade, industry and economic sectors, with a focus on food security and supply chain," the Indian Embassy in Kuwait said on X.

Last month, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar called on Kuwait's Prime Minister

Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, thanking him for supporting the Indian community's welfare and well-being while welcoming his vision for stronger and mutually beneficial India-Kuwait cooperation.

The EAM also held a meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

"A pleasure to meet FM Kuwait Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Discussed the impact of Gulf conflict on the region and beyond. Conveyed appreciation for ensuring the well-being of the Indian community. We jointly assessed our cooperation focusing on energy, trade, investments, defence, technology, food security and health domains. Confident that our Strategic Partnership will continue to strengthen in times to come," EAM Jaishankar posted on X after the meeting.

Doval to visit China today; talks with Wang Yi on Tuesday

BEIJING, Aug 23 (PTI)

NATIONAL Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval is scheduled to arrive in Beijing on Monday to take part in the India-China Special Representatives (SR) talks on the boundary issue with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

Doval and Wang are scheduled to hold the 25th round of SR talks on Tuesday, according to official sources.

Both Doval and Wang are the designated SRs for the boundary talks mechanism, which was established in 2003 to comprehensively address the vexed boundary dispute of the India-China border spanning 3,488 km.

While success eluded it in resolving the boundary dispute, officials on both sides regard the structured mechanism as a useful tool in addressing the recurring tensions between the two countries on various fronts.

The upcoming talks assume significance as they are being held ahead of the much-anticipated visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to India to attend the BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12-13.

While there is no official confirmation about Xi's visit, officials on both sides are optimistic about the Chinese leader's participation, which could provide an opportunity for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the summit to discuss initiatives to take forward bilateral ties.

The two leaders met in August last year on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin.

Ahead of Doval-Wang talks in Beijing, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday reiterated that peace and tranquillity along the border areas are prerequisite for good relations with China.

Rajnath Singh lays foundation for 5 projects worth Rs 3,500 cr in WB

■ India capable of becoming global shipbuilding hub: Rajnath at GRSE and Yantra India Ltd event

KOLKATA, Aug 23 (PTI)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday asserted that India is capable of becoming a global shipbuilding hub, taking advantage of a "vacuum" occurring in the industry among the traditional shipbuilding countries. Singh was addressing a gathering here after laying the foundation stone for five expansion projects of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, and Yantra India Ltd.

He also said that rapid developments were taking place in



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with WB Chief Minister Suven- du Adhikari during the virtual foundation stone laying ceremony for 5 projects of the GRSE and Yantra India Ltd in Kolkata. (PTI)

shipbuilding technology.

Traditional manufacturers

were slowly bringing down pro- duction, and India can capture

this opportunity, Singh said.

"India is capable of seizing this opportunity to become a global shipbuilding hub," the Defence Minister said.

The country has a large work- force, steel companies and the will power to adapt to new tech- nologies, said Singh, who was accompanied by Chief Minister Suven- du Adhikari during the foundation-laying ceremony in Kolkata.

Singh said foundation was laid for five projects worth nearly Rs 3,500 crore in the State.

The projects comprise three facilities of GRSE and two of Yantra India.

He also said that the West Bengal Government will take steps to usher in a "new renaiss- ance of development".

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