

Cyber insurance premiums rocket



For representation purpose only

Washington

A rash of hacking attacks on US companies over the past two years has prompted insurers to massively increase cyber premiums for some companies, leaving firms that are perceived to be a high risk scrambling for cover.

On top of rate hikes, insurers are raising deductibles and in some cases limiting the amount of coverage to \$100 million, leaving many potentially exposed to big losses from hacks that can cost more than twice that. "Some companies

are struggling to find the money to buy the coverage they want," said Tom Reagan, a cyber insurance executive with Marsh & McLennan Co's (MMC.N) Marsh broker unit.

The price of cyber coverage - which helps cover costs like forensic investigations, credit monitoring, legal fees and settlements - varies widely, depending on the strength of a company's security. But the overall trend is sharply up.

Retailers and health insurers have been especially hard hit by

the squeeze after high-profile breaches at Home Depot Inc (HD.N), Target Corp (TGT.N), Anthem Inc (ANTM.N) and Premera Blue Cross.

Health insurers who suffered hacks are facing the most extreme increases, with some premiums tripling at renewal time, said Bob Wice, a leader of Beazley Plc's (BEZG.L) cyber insurance practice.

Average rates for retailers surged 32 per cent in the first half of this year, after staying flat in 2014, according to previously unreported figures

from Marsh. The spate of hacks is potentially good and bad for insurers.

It means they have to pay out more in claims, but it also highlights the importance of buying insurance and gives them a reason to jack rates up.

As more companies realize the importance of having coverage, and insurers move in to meet that demand, the cyber insurance market is set to triple to about \$7.5 billion over the next five years, according to a recent study by consulting firm PwC. (Reuters)

Russian firm receives prepayment of \$234 million from Kiev

Gazprom resumes supplies to Ukraine

Moscow

Gazprom yesterday resumed gas supplies to Ukraine after receiving prepayment of \$234 million from Kiev, assuaging European fears about a new energy crisis ahead of the winter heating season.

The resumption of gas supplies comes as fighting in

the east has largely died down, fuelling hopes that the conflict that has claimed more than 8,000 lives can be resolved.

"Gazprom began supplying gas to Ukraine at 10:00am (0700 GMT) today," Gazprom chief Alexei Miller said in a statement.

Moscow received \$234 million of the \$500m expected

from Kiev, Miller said, adding that Ukraine had requested the delivery of 114m cubic meters per day, the maximum volume of gas that could be delivered by Gazprom.

Ukraine's state gas pipeline operator Ukrtransgas declined to immediately comment yesterday but the firm said last week that Kiev was ready

The resumption of gas supplies comes as fighting in the east has largely died down

to purchase two billion cubic meters of natural gas from Russia in October.

Moscow late last month agreed to resume gas supplies to Ukraine after reportedly offering Kiev a rebate, ending months of talks overshadowed by the crisis in eastern Ukraine and fears for Europe's energy security.

Russian energy minister had said that the price offered was competitive with those for the gas supplied to countries neighbouring Ukraine.

The resumption of deliveries could help Kiev accumulate 17 billion cubic meters of natural gas by Oct.21, the "absolute minimum for the security of gas transit to Europe," said analysts from VTB Capital bank. (AFP)



Representative picture

Citi official at SCW conference

DT News Network
Manama

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), yesterday announced industry veteran Dr. Mahnaz Safa as a speaker for the upcoming "Women in the Financial and Banking Sector Conference" to be held on November 30 at Four Seasons Hotel, Bahrain Bay under the patronage of HRH Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and Supreme Council for Women Chairwoman.

Dr. Safa is a senior London-



Dr. Mahnaz Safa

based banker with more than two decades of top tier global banking experience. She is currently a Managing Director at Citigroup where she advises the bank's investment banking clients on corporate finance.

New GM for @bahrain

DT News Network
Manama

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat) announced the appointment of Benjo Vanlaarhoven as General Manager for @bahrain.



Benjo Vanlaarhoven

@bahrain, the first destination management company in the Kingdom, will be focusing on incoming holiday packages, excursion in the Kingdom and MICE (Meetings, Incentives Conferences and Events).

Benjo has over 20 years of experience in the travel industry. Prior to joining @bahrain, he held different managerial positions globally and in the region within the fields of corporate travel, leisure travel, and MICE travel (Meeting Incentives, Conferences, and Events).

Fit to buy Aster DM Healthcare buys Saudi's Sanad hospital

Mumbai

In one of the largest healthcare deals in West Asia, Dubai-based Indian billionaire Dr Azad Moopen has acquired majority stake in Sanad hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for Rs1,600 crore. Aster DM Healthcare,

Moopen's company, bought the additional 57 per cent from a Saudi partner to up total stake to 97pc. In December 2011, the company had acquired 40pc in the hospital.

The deal closed after the necessary clearances from Saudi Arabian General

Investment Authority (SAGIA), the body that takes foreign investment related decisions in the kingdom, came through in September.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia allows 100pc foreign investment in hospitals, provided a player can prove

that he will bring in capital and expertise. That offered a perfect opportunity for us to enter a big market where two-third of the nearly 30 million population is local, unlike other Gulf countries where expats form a bulk of the population," said Moopen. With the latest

acquisition, Rs 4,200-crore Aster's footprint in West Asia now extends to all six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Jordan. The healthcare company has five green field projects underway in GCC countries. (ToI)



A view of Sanad Hospital