

State-actors likely behind Singapore cyberattack: Experts

AFP | Singapore

State-actors were likely behind Singapore's biggest ever cyberattack to date, security experts say, citing the scale and sophistication of the hack which hit medical data of about a quarter of the population.

The city-state announced Friday that hackers had broken into a government database and stolen the health records of 1.5 million Singaporeans, including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong who was specifically targeted in the "unprecedented" attack.

Singapore's health minister said the strike was "a deliberate, targeted, and well-planned cyberattack and not the work of casual hackers or criminal gangs".

US open to lifting sanctions off Rusal

Reuters | Sao Paulo

The US Treasury is open to removing Russian aluminum producer Rusal from a US sanctions list, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Friday, adding the objective was "not to put Rusal out of business." Mnuchin's comment was the latest indication the Trump administration was trying to aid sanctions-hit Rusal, which has taken a series of steps to try to appease the US government and get the restrictions lifted. The US Treasury in April imposed sanctions against billionaire Oleg Deripaska and the eight companies in which he is a large shareholder, including Rusal, for what it called "malign activities" by Russia.

Aramco's potential SABIC deal likely to affect IPO timing

● Aramco is looking to buy a strategic stake in SABIC, which could boost its market valuation ahead of a planned IPO

Reuters | Riyadh

Saudi Aramco's potential acquisition of a stake in petrochemicals maker SABIC would affect the timeframe of its own planned initial public offering, the firm's chief executive, Amin Nasser, said in a TV interview.

The offering is the centerpiece of an ambitious plan championed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to diversify Saudi Arabia's economy beyond oil, but preparations for the IPO, which could prove the biggest in history, have slowed.

Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television cited Nasser as saying that buying a stake in a petrochemicals company would make the



Preparations for Saudi Aramco IPO, to be the biggest in history, has slowed

state oil giant less vulnerable to price volatility.

"If the deal is completed, with relevant regulations taken into account, it will definitely affect

the timeframe for the partial IPO of Saudi Aramco," he said in a transcript provided by the government media office.

Aramco said on Thursday it

was looking to buy a strategic stake in SABIC, which could boost its market valuation ahead of a planned IPO. When Aramco is ready to list, the IPO timing



If the deal is completed, with relevant regulations taken into account, it will definitely affect the timeframe for the partial IPO of Saudi Aramco

AMIN NASSER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ARAMCO

would be up to the government to decide, Nasser said.

"As I said in previous interviews, when Saudi Aramco is ready, the decision of going ahead with the IPO is for the state to make," he said.

On Thursday, Aramco said it was in "very early-stage discussions" with the kingdom's Public Investment Fund (PIF) to acquire the SABIC stake in a private transaction, and had no plans to acquire any publicly held shares.

Xi ends UAE visit with raft of deals signed

AFP | Dubai

The United Arab Emirates yesterday said it agreed to set up a "comprehensive strategic partnership" with China as President Xi Jinping wrapped up a three-day visit to the Gulf country.

"The UAE and China have agreed to enhance cooperation in all fields to higher levels and forge overall strategic partnerships," the official WAM news agency said.



Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan bids farewell to Xi Jinping, President of China, as he leaves the UAE after a three-day state visit

It said this would "contribute to cementing and intensifying cooperation, boost joint development and prosperity, which is consistent with the common interest of both countries and their peoples". China and the UAE had already signed on Friday a raft of economic agreements and in the run-up to Xi's visit they agreed oil and trade deals.

Xi met UAE Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, ruler of Dubai, and Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan during his visit.

Abu Dhabi was the Chinese president's first stop on a tour which now takes him to Senegal, Rwanda and South Africa.

A joint statement by China and the UAE, published Saturday by WAM, said the two countries were committed to bolster cooperation across the board, including politics, economy, oil, gas and security. There would also be joint military training, the two countries agreed.

Trump ups ante ahead of G20 meet

AFP | Buenos Aires

US President Donald Trump's latest attacks on China and the European Union will shape the discourse on global trade conflicts and competitive devaluation as Group of 20 finance ministers meet in Buenos Aires this weekend.

Trump's protectionist policies that have seen him slap steep tariffs on steel and aluminum, angering allies such as the EU, Canada and Mexico, already looked set to fashion discussions between finance ministers and central bankers from the world's 20 leading economies during two days of meetings. That is even more the case after his latest Twitter outburst on Friday saw him accuse the EU and China of "manipulating their currencies and interest rates lower," while he also took aim at the US Federal Reserve for hiking interest rates, complaining that it eroded "our big competitive edge."

China and the US have no plans for bilateral talks, according to US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who has vowed to "respond to concerns on US trade policies" when he meets with fellow ministers. But China will be a hot topic as Group of Seven ministers hold a one-hour session on the margins of the wider meeting, not least after Trump threatened to crank up punitive tariffs against the country to include the entire \$500 billion in



Donald Trump

goods the US imports from the Asian powerhouse. As well as his steel and aluminum duties, and threats to likewise hit foreign car imports with tariffs, Trump has already slapped China with a 25 percent levy on \$34 billion in goods, with another \$16 billion on the way.

'Very serious'

Other than announcing counter-measures, China has kept relatively quiet over Trump's various threats -- perhaps safe in the knowledge that his tariffs are a drop in the bucket next to their expected \$2.4 trillion exports for 2018. But German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned that the EU was "ready" to respond to the US should more excises be forthcoming, describing current trade tensions as "very serious."

International Monetary Fund chief



Trump has already slapped China with a 25pc levy on \$34 billion in goods, with another \$16 billion on the way

Christine Lagarde, whose press conference will kick off activities on Saturday morning, said earlier this week that increasing trade restrictions pose "the greatest near-term threat" to the world economy, despite projected growth of 3.9 percent through 2019.

She also warned Trump that "the US economy is especially vulnerable" due to "retaliatory measures."

IMF economists say that in a worst case scenario \$430 billion -- a half point -- could be cut off global GDP in 2020 if all tariff threats and retaliation are implemented. Others are also worried about Trump's measures, including India, which alongside China, Brazil, Russia and South Africa make up the five emerging market BRICS countries, all of which are G20 members.

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The Directorate of Purchasing & Supply hereby invites Suppliers / Contractors to the following Public Tenders:

No.	Tender No.	Project Title	Initial Bond (BD)	Document Fees (BD)	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	2018-158-PIP-EPD PR: 10021617	SUPPLY OF ORIGINAL SPARES FOR KSB. BOILER FEED WATER PUMP AT PH-1 AT SPWS	500/-	15/-	28/08/2018 14:00
2	2018-159-PIP-WPD PR: 10021408	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ION CHROMATOGRAPH (IC-ECD) AT RAS ABU JARIJUR RO PLANT	500/-	15/-	28/08/2018 14:00

- Vendors who are eligible and interested to supply/provide the goods/ services/ works specified above are kindly requested to collect the appropriate tender documents from the Purchasing & Supply Directorate (Room no. 21-4) Ground Floor, Electricity & Water Authority, P. O. Box: 5325 - Sitra, from Sunday 22nd July 2018 between 08:00 AM To 13:00 PM after submission of a Cheque for the non-refundable fees specified above, until Thursday 09th August 2018.

- An Initial Bond should be enclosed for the amount specified above or at a rate of 1% of the quotation value whichever of the amount is lesser, provided that no initial bond's value shall be less than BD 100/- . Ensure that the initial bond is in a form of Certified Cheque, Cash, Bank Guarantee or Insurance Policy, valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.

- Quotation should be deposited in the tender box provided at the Tender Submission Office, Purchasing & Supply Directorate (Room no. 21-4) Ground Floor, Electricity & Water Authority- Sitra, before 14:00 on the tender closing date.

- All tenders/Auction should comply with the provisions of the General Tenders Regulations, Nos. 36 & 37 of 2002 and its executive regulations.

- The following conditions should be complied with:

- 1- Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate valid for the current year, and related to the subject tender.
- 2- Form No. (PI-02) is to be filled completely, mentioning the Total Tender Value and Unit Price (accordingly).
- 3- Enclose a copy of Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by Ministry of Labour.
- 4- Ensure to stamp with the official seal on all the original documents and copies there-of, which form part of the offer.

- This advertisement is considered to be a supplementary to the Tender Documents.

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