

No evidence of banks data being hacked: SBP

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has categorically rejected reports of data hacking of most of Pakistani banks and said that it is closely monitoring the current situation to ensure security of the banking system. According to a statement issued on Tuesday night, a number of reports are circulating that the data of most banks has been hacked by the international hackers and it's on sale, however being a regulator of the banks, the SBP has categorically rejected such reports.

"There is no evidence of data hacking nor has this information been provided to state bank by any bank or law enforcement agency", it said and added that except for the incident of October 27th, 2018 in which reportedly the IT security of one of the bank was compromised, no breach has been reported.

SBP said that it has already instructed all banks to take steps to identify and counter any cyber threat to their systems in coordination with international payment schemes.

According to SBP, representatives of payment schemes have also assured that all steps are being taken to help banks in identifying any cyber threat on card systems and have offered additional controls to them.

In addition to the above, some banks are putting in place further precautionary measures while others are confident of the security of their systems and continue to make all card transactions fully available to their customers.

The precautionary measures by some banks, include partial restrictions, such as requiring customers to seek prior approval for use in cross-border transactions, or in a few banks, a total restriction on cross border transactions. However, SBP has been assured by the banks that all these temporary, restrictions would be lifted once appropriate IT security measures are in place.

SBP said that all temporary restrictions pertain only to cross-border transactions and no bank has imposed any restriction on domestic transactions.

SBP said that it is engaged with the international payment schemes, payment operators and banks to monitor the current situation continuously to ensure security of the banking system.

Similarly, Summit Bank, in an announcement, has assured its customers that bank is holding all the customer accounts in complete safety and security. Summit Bank said that it has been operating normally and securely without facing any cyber threats and there has been no Online and Card data breach. In addition, the bank is vigilant in monitoring its online banking services and implementing effective security measures to safeguard it's valuable customers.

RIZWAN BHATTI