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Binance CryptoExchange Hacked in Largest-Ever Crypto Heist

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On 29 OCT, Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, reported the platform had suffered over $6B USD in losses after hackers gained access to the system. The Binance attack is now the largest crypto heist in history. The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) confirmed on 31 OCT that North Korean hackers were behind the heist and identified them as the advanced persistent threat group (APT) "TraderTraitor."

Binance is a digital currency market-place where users may purchase and store cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin. On 29 OCT, the APT group transferred money out of users' wallets in an attack that lasted less than 30 minutes. The platform reported on 31 OCT that 90 percent of the stolen funds had been recovered, adding that it would be taking additional actions to strengthen platform security in an effort to ensure similar attacks would not recur in the future. Reimbursement to user wallets reportedly came directly from the company's own financial currencies. Authorities are tracking the movement of the stolen funds and advising other digital asset service providers to deny transactions with wallet addresses that are linked to them. United States President Donald Trump announced the same day that the stolen currency had been reimbursed and that his administration would be gathering additional information on North Korea's alleged involvement in the attack.

We can assess with high confidence that it is very likely crypto exchanges will continue to be targets for hacker groups. We can also assess with high confidence that it is very likely crypto exchanges will be compelled to strengthen their cybersecurity systems to protect cryptocurrency assets and user data.

Rapid Support Forces Launch Drone Strikes at Army Strongholds

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On 1 NOV, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) conducted drone strikes on power substations in Al-Dubbah, in Sudan's Northern state, and Abu Hammad, in the River Nile state. The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) hold both cities, which it uses as army strongholds. Both cities hold the largest reported number of operational hospitals left in Sudan. This attack has marked the 15th successful attempt against power substations since early OCT 2026, and has further weakened Sudan's power grid.

The strikes caused power outages across both towns, disrupting electricity, water supplies and business activity. In Al-Dubbah, reports suggested that the substation had burned to the ground; this incident, coupled with a diesel shortage, left residents with no access to generators. The Sudan Doctors Network warned these outages would disrupt medical treatment, affecting blood banks, refrigeration systems for medications, and dialysis centers without access to the generators.

The government of Sudan has filed complaints with the United Nations Security Council and the African Union's Peace and Security Council against Ethiopia, claiming Ethiopian territory is being used by the RSF to launch these aerial attacks against civilian infrastructure. Ethiopia has denied these claims and in retaliation accused the SAF of backing rebels in Ethiopia.

We can assess with high confidence, that it is very likely the RSF has utilized Ethiopian territory to launch drone attacks against civilian targets. We can further assess with high confidence that it is very likely that as power substations continue to be targeted by drones, the humanitarian crisis will worsen as resources become unavailable.



Rising Tensions in the Afghanistan-Pakistan Border Conflict

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On 05 OCT, Russia hosted a delegation from the Afghan Taliban government in Moscow, alongside representatives from China, India, and Pakistan, to discuss rising tensions in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border conflict.

Russia became the first country to recognize the Taliban as the official governing authority of Afghanistan in JUL 2025. Additionally, the Taliban government has established diplomatic ties with China and the United Arab Emirates. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov offered congratulatory remarks to the Taliban's enduring governance and their its to combat extremist groups in the country. Meanwhile, the Pakistani representative, Mohammad Sadiq, noted that terrorism, particularly the relationship between the Taliban regime and extremist groups, was a major threat to Pakistan.

Pakistan has repeatedly urged the Taliban to take verifiable action against extremist groups that operate in Afghanistan, claiming the Taliban allows and encourages groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to operate. Cross-border attacks have escalated since JAN 2026. Pakistani authorities stated that over 2,800 attacks have occurred since JAN and have killed around 300 Pakistani citizens, most residing in the country's northwest and Balochistan province. While the border crisis continues, Russia has emphasized its efforts to bolster humanitarian aid to the millions of people affected.

We can assess with moderate confidence that Russia will likely position itself as a regional mediator while maintaining humanitarian and other ties with the government of Afghanistan. We can also assess with high confidence that a regional alliance between countries such as Russia, China, and Afghanistan will likely augment their geopolitical influence in Asia.

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