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BSRM wins the prestigious 22ND DHL-THE DAILY STAR BANGLADESH BUSINESS AWARD as the Enterprise of the Year

BSRM building a safer nation

DHAKA METRO RAIL PROJECT

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SHAH CEMENT



JULY UPRISING

The garage of compassion

2 doctors set up makeshift clinic, saved over 100 lives in 2 days

NILIMA JAHAN

On July 18, Dhanmondi-27 had become one of the flashpoints when protesters took to the streets to enforce the "complete shutdown" called by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

As violent clashes broke out between the demonstrators and police, who were backed by the then ruling party activists, the roads and alleyways had turned into a warzone, resulting in deaths and myriad injuries.

However, many of those wounded were too afraid to seek medical help.

Cops were stationed in front of a number of hospitals, causing a fear of arrest in anyone who sought treatment. Many were overwhelmed with patients while others refused to provide treatment. Some charged exorbitant fees.

Amid the bloody violence, two young doctors – Dr Worthy Jukhrif and Dr Hritisha Aktar Mitheen – stood out through their sheer sense of duty.

Not only did they open their doors to the wounded, they converted their building's garage on Satmasjid Road into a makeshift clinic.

Other residents provided ample support with supplies – bandages,

antiseptics, orsoline, mineral water, and even dry biscuits.

In two days, Worthy and Mitheen treated over 100 injured people – turning the garage into a sanctuary for those who had nowhere else to turn.

DUTY TO THE PEOPLE

Around 2:00pm on July 18, as clashes went on, tear gas clouded the streets and nearby alleys, while rubber bullets were strewn almost everywhere.

"For the first time in my life, I heard the sound of bullets. Something I had only seen or heard on television was now frighteningly close," remembered Worthy, who is an OT assistant at Ibn Sina Hospital and also works as a health show presenter on a private television channel.

From her balcony, she saw injured students huddled below – bloodstains on their clothes, terror in their eyes.

"I knew I couldn't just stand by." She rushed downstairs, where fellow residents – including Dr Mitheen, a former medical officer at Labaid Specialised Hospital – had also gathered.

"Humanity is what I acted upon. I couldn't hold myself back," said Mitheen.

Residents of the building quickly



Dr Worthy



Dr Mitheen

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India batter Nitish Kumar Reddy smashes one during his blazing 34-ball 74 against Bangladesh in the second T20I at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi yesterday. India posted 221 for nine before Bangladesh limped to 135 for nine, succumbing to an 86-run defeat and a 2-0 loss in the three-match series.

PHOTO: AFP

Shakib wants countrymen by his side in Test swansong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on Wednesday urged his countrymen to stay by his side during his final Test, which is likely to be against South Africa later this month on home soil.

"As you know, I am going to play my last match very soon. From the beginning of my cricket career to becoming today's Shakib Al Hasan, you have driven my journey," the 37-year-old's post from his official Facebook page read.

"The entire story of my



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SOUTHERN LEBANON BORDER Hezbollah pushes Israeli troops back

Israel renews bombing of Beirut's southern suburbs

REUTERS, Beirut

Hezbollah said yesterday its fighters had pushed back advancing Israeli troops in clashes along the length of the border, a day after Israel said it had killed two successors to the Lebanese movement's slain leader.

The Iran-backed group said it had fired several rocket salvos at Israeli troops near the village of Labbounch in the western part of the border area, close to the Mediterranean coast, and had managed to push

them back.

Israeli air defences intercepted two projectiles fired from Lebanon, setting off sirens around Caesarea, south of Haifa. Israeli ambulance workers said two people were killed in strikes on Kiryat Shmona near the border and at least six were wounded in Haifa.

Israel also renewed bombing of Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold, and said it had killed a figure responsible for budgeting and logistics for

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RSF urges Yunus to repeal CSA, ICT Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reporters Without Borders has urged Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus to repeal the cybersecurity and information and communication technology (ICT) acts, which have been widely criticised for stifling press freedom.

In a letter on October

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Ex-minister Mannan gets bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sunamganj court yesterday granted bail to former planning minister MA Mannan in a case filed over attacks on protesters in the district during the student-led mass uprising.

District and Sessions Judge Md Hemayet Uddin passed the order on Tk 20,000 bond, considering the former Sunamganj-3 lawmaker's age and health.

Mannan's lawyer Abdul Hamid confirmed it and said the former minister is seriously ill.

"We filed the bail petition on Tuesday and the court today [Wednesday] granted him bail, given his health condition."

Earlier in the day, the judge left the courtroom after lawyers created chaos over the bail hearing.

Ratan Tata passes away

STAR REPORT

India's top industrialist and Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata died in a hospital in Mumbai last night, the company said.

He was 87.

"It is with a profound sense of loss that we bid farewell to Mr Ratan Naval Tata, a truly uncommon leader whose immeasurable contributions have shaped not only the Tata Group but also the very fabric of our nation," said a press statement by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran.

Ratan was admitted to Breach Candy Hospital for age-related ailments.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tributes to the industrialist, describing him as a visionary business leader, compassionate soul and an extraordinary human being.

"One of the most unique aspects of Shri Ratan Tata Ji was his passion towards dreaming big and giving back. He was at the forefront of championing causes like education, healthcare, sanitation, animal welfare to name a few," Modi said on X.



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MOB KILLING OF RENU One to die, 4 to serve life term

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to death and four others, including a woman, to life imprisonment in connection with the killing of Taslima Begum Renu by a mob in the capital's Badda in July 2019.

The man who got the capital punishment is Ibrahim alias Hridoy Mollah, while those sentenced to life are Abul Kalam Azad, Kamal Hossain, Asadul Islam, and Hriya Begum Moyna.

The court also fined the four Tk 1 lakh each, in



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Joy, Palak sued for selling NID information

15 to 20 unidentified people also accused in case under CSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed yesterday against Sajeb Wazed Joy, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's son and ICT adviser, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, former state minister for ICT, and 17 others over selling citizens' National ID (NID) information.

Another 15 to 20 unnamed individuals were also accused in the case filed by one Enamul Haque with Kafrul Police Station under the Cyber Security Act.

Joy, Palak and the others were also accused of embezzling around Tk 20,000 crore through the sale of the data, said Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Joy and Palak abused their powers by facilitating the sale of citizens' NID information through an organised syndicate, according to the case statement.

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WORK ON PROTEINS Nobel chemistry prize goes to trio

REUTERS, Stockholm

US Scientists David Baker and John Jumper and Briton Demis Hassabis won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry yesterday for work on decoding the structure of proteins and creating new ones, yielding advances in areas such as drug development.

Half the prize was awarded to Baker "for computational protein design" while the other half was shared by Hassabis and Jumper "for protein structure prediction", said the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which makes the award.

Baker, 62, is a professor at the University of Washington, in Seattle, while Hassabis, 48, is CEO of Google DeepMind, the AI research subsidiary of Google, where Jumper, 39, also works as senior research scientist. Hassabis and Jumper utilised artificial intelligence to predict the structure of almost all known proteins, while Baker learned how to master life's building blocks and create entirely new proteins, the award-giving body said.

"This is a monumental achievement for AI, for computational biology, and science itself," Google DeepMind said on X.

The award is the second this week given for work involving artificial intelligence, underscoring the growing importance of machine learning and large language models for science.



Baker

Jumper

Hassabis

Advertorial

ORION

The Orion Group has been alarmed by a spree of false and misleading news reports on some television channels—giving the masses the impression that the group has misappropriated government funds, money laundering and failure to supply electricity from its power plants.

In the interest of the public, we clarify the following:

- Orion has built power plants fully complying with the national regulations and its Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are aligned with over 100 other power projects of the country. Since 2011, Orion has supplied 16.9 billion kWh of electricity to the national grid from six state-of-the-art power plants, demonstrating our commitment to the nation's energy needs. We are also fulfilled to be at the forefront of the renewable energy sector with the country's first 100+ MW solar power plant i.e. Energon Renewables (BD) Limited, a testament to our alignment with commitment to zero carbon emissions.
- All loans acquired for Orion's power projects have been properly accounted for and repaid on time or in regular repayment, per agreements with lenders. Orion has not involved any foreign-owned companies and there is no foreign or political ownership in any of our businesses. Orion also has no investments outside Bangladesh.
- Contrary to some defamatory reports aired by a television channel, Orion's flagship infrastructure project—the Jatrabari-Gulistan Flyover has no shareholders disputes, cost escalation or toll collection mismanagement. This project is the country's first successful Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project. This Flyover has been twice recognized as the highest VAT payer, underscoring our significant contributions to national infrastructure. This project remains a benchmark for cost efficiency in Bangladesh's civil infrastructure sector.
- Another false TV report alleged that the Orion Group obtained loans in the name of a foreign company through signature forgery, embezzled proceeds from sales, became a loan defaulter, laundered money, and improperly changed its shareholding structure through its City Centre, Bangladesh's tallest building to date. There is no loan in the name of any foreign entity, and all financial dealings, including loans, were obtained and repaid as per agreements with local banks. Changes in shareholding were conducted in accordance with the Bangladesh Companies Act, and there has been no illegal transfer of funds abroad. Orion Group has always operated within legal and regulatory frameworks.
- The Orion Group has taken legal steps against the media outlets for spreading malicious fake news. These legal steps were taken after the media outlets refused to publish our rejoinders and respond to our legal notices.
- It has also been alleged that during the students' movement, Orion Group Chairman Mohammad Obaidul Karim participated in a meeting with the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to express loyalty to her at all costs. But in reality, he did not participate in that meeting.
- These defamatory reports not only attack Orion's corporate integrity but also undermine national interests. As one of Bangladesh's leading companies, our efforts in power generation and infrastructure development are vital to the country's continued economic progress. The public and private sectors must work together to safeguard these critical industries and prevent misleading media coverage from damaging Bangladesh's global standing.

Orion remains committed to the principles of fairness, responsible journalism, and transparency. We will continue to serve the nation with the highest standards of corporate ethics and remain unwavering in our dedication to the country's growth and development.