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# ICT overrules prosecutor, lets Inu speak

## Bodi shown arrested in Ekramul murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chairman of the International Crimes Tribunal-I yesterday expressed dismay when Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam objected to former minister Hasanul Haq Inu speaking in court despite the tribunal chair granting him permission.

Inu was produced before the court with 15 other high-profile accused in a case filed over crimes against humanity during the July 2024 uprising.

Initially, Inu's counsel had sought permission from the two-member tribunal, saying his client wished to make a statement. Chief Prosecutor Tajul objected immediately, saying that at this stage of the proceedings, an accused person should not be allowed to speak.

However, tribunal chair Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder overruled the objection, saying, "Let's hear him."

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Hamiduzzaman Khan  
(1946-2025)

# The sculptor who etched the nation's spirit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned sculptor and painter Hamiduzzaman Khan, whose work etched the spirit of Bangladesh's Liberation War into the nation's public memory, is no more. He was 79.

The legendary personality passed away at 10:07am today while receiving treatment at Dhaka's United Hospital, his wife, painter Ivy Zaman, confirmed.

Hamiduzzaman had been admitted on July 15 and remained in intensive care for three days, battling a severe case of dengue and pneumonia. A medical board was overseeing his treatment, and doctors had initially been hopeful.

But despite medical efforts, he could not be saved.

His body was kept in front of the Fine Arts Faculty of Dhaka University at 2:30 pm to allow people to pay their last respects. Later, a namaz-e-janaza was held

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The girls of Happy Home shelter were all smiles as they celebrated their outstanding results in this year's SSC exams.

PHOTO: ACTIONAID BANGLADESH

# From a broken past to a bright future

## How 8 girls of ActionAid's Happy Home found strength in SSC success

TANGILA TASNIM

Imagine a room full of eight teenage girls huddled around a computer, hands trembling, hearts racing -- all waiting for their SSC results.

In Happy Home, a shelter for homeless girls in Mohammadpur run by ActionAid Bangladesh, this scene played out just a week ago when this year's results were published. With a 16-year low in overall results, their fear was real.

But then: 4.93. 4.79. 4.57...

Tears poured, smiles followed, and rare kind of pride filled the air.

These are not your average SSC examinees. They are survivors -- of abandonment, abuse, and poverty. And each of them carries a dream stitched into her story.

Bithi, 16, scored GPA 4.79. She came to Happy Home at age three, after her mother left her drug-addicted, abusive father. "If I hadn't come here, I'd probably be married by now," she said. "I didn't even get regular meals before. Here, I have books. I can dream."

Her father was often in jail and her mother constantly had to borrow money to bail him out. "I was raised without any affection. Even my aunt and grandmother would beat me."



"This isn't a job for me; it's a moral duty. When I place a pen in a girl's hand, I'm helping her fight for a future where she won't have to beg, bow down, or break."

Hasina Parven,  
education in-charge  
at Happy Home

Now, Bithi speaks of sewing and dancing with quiet passion. "The life that could have been -- it frightens me. I got a second chance."

Shikha, 17, who scored 4.57, was brought in by her uncle at age five after surviving sexual abuse by her stepfather. "When my mother remarried, she didn't want me around. She'd tell people I was her niece."

After getting her results, Shikha called her mother. "She never picked up. I asked someone else to let her know."

Still, she beams. "I cried and danced at the same time when I saw my results!"

She dreams of owning a business, but fears linger. "I don't know who will support me after this. That keeps me up at night."

Every girl at Happy Home has similar story to share.

Also 17, Rozy scored 4.50 despite battling health issues, including an abdominal cyst, during the exams. "My stepfather and brother-in-law used to sexually harass me. No one believed me when I told them. Then, my aunt brought me here in 2016."

Now she wants to be a fashion designer. "And I want to help girls like me."

Mitu, 16, came to the shelter from

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# Hasina can never be forgiven

## Says Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stating that Sheikh Hasina can never be forgiven for the killings and brutalities during the July mass uprising, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said his party's first priority would be to bring her and her associates back to face trial.

He hopes that the interim government will hold the election by mid-February next year as per its earlier commitment.

The BNP leader said that his party wants to build a "rainbow state" taking everybody on board.

"We believe there will be differences of opinion. Some will believe in democracy, some in socialism, and others in a welfare state. Bringing all these together, we want to build a "rainbow state" -- just like a rainbow rises with many colours. Our leader Begum Khaleda Zia dreamt of such a state long ago," Fakhru told a tree plantation event, organised by Krishak Dal and Amra BNP Paribar, in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday.

He said, "Through the election, we will be able to form a people's government -- one that will honour our martyrs,

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# NCP facing heat after lifting lid in Cox's Bazar

## Says Nahid; SAD, Juboshakti clash after NCP rally in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam said their party leader Nasiruddin Patwary revealed the truth in Cox's Bazar, which led to attacks on the party in various places.

"In Banskhali, one of our organisers was attacked, and our banners were set on fire. If they try to silence us, we will resist and we must win this struggle," he told a rally in the Chattogram city's Biplob Udyan last night.

"Chattogram is the lifeline of Bangladesh's economy, yet conspiracies are being hatched against it. Evil forces are eyeing this city. If there's any plot against Chattogram, the entire country will rise up in resistance."

Speaking at the rally, held as part of the party's ongoing "July March to Build the Nation", NCP Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain said people were divided in Bangladesh in the past. But there can be no more division between Bangalees and non-Bangalees, Sunnis, and non-Sunnis.

Hasnat Abdullah, chief organiser (south) of NCP, said, "Together, we were successful in ousting autocracy. But we failed to build the state properly. Now, we must focus on nation-building."

Among other party leaders, Chief Organiser (north) Sarjis Alam and Senior Joint Member Secretary Tasnim Jara were present there.

Meanwhile, a scuffle broke out between the activists of Students Against Discrimination (SAD) and Jatiya Juboshakti, NCP's youth wing, following the party's rally around 9:00pm.

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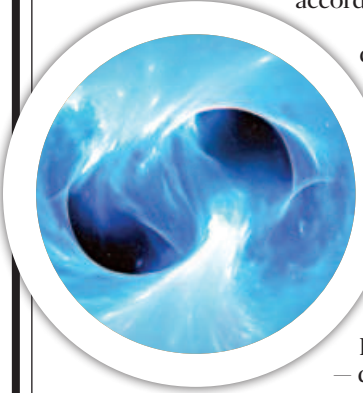
# Astronomers detect massive black hole collision

CNN ONLINE

A collision observed between two black holes, each more massive than a hundred suns, is the largest merger of its kind ever recorded, according to new research.

A team of astronomers discovered the event, dubbed GW231123, when the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) -- a pair of identical instruments located in Livingston, Louisiana, and Hanford, Washington -- detected faint ripples in space-time produced by two black holes slamming into each other. Physicists call such ripples gravitational waves.

Gravitational waves were predicted by Albert Einstein in 1915 as part of his theory of relativity, but he thought they were too weak to ever be discovered by human technology. In 2016, however, LIGO detected them for the very first time when black holes collided, proving Einstein right (once again). The following year, three scientists received awards for their key contributions to the development of what has been colloquially called a "black hole telescope."



Pedestrian movement is severely hindered as hawkers occupy the entrances to the footbridge and pavements in the capital's busy Farmgate area. Many are forced to walk on the street amid fast-moving traffic. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# MARITIME SECURITY US helping Bangladesh develop UAS

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US is working with Bangladesh's army and navy to develop an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) capability for Bangladesh, said the US Embassy in Dhaka in a statement yesterday.

"A Bangladesh regiment comprised of army and navy personnel will operate the new RQ-21 Blackjack system. This joint effort will enable Bangladesh to monitor its maritime domain, secure its borders, and conduct peacekeeping missions," it said.

The statement added that the US and Bangladesh will be conducting three joint military exercises this summer to continue their longstanding partnership and the delivery of a new capability that will reinforce common security interests.

The efforts by the Armed Forces of Bangladesh and

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