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People won't benefit soon from gas line



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'Bangladesh needed this victory'



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Water needs to be at centre of global political agenda, says UN chief



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The price of blood: Veteran actors reminisce independence

Recognise March 25 as Int'l Genocide Day

PM urges UN

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all international communities, including the United Nations, to recognise March 25 as International Genocide Day.

She made the call while speaking at a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Nomination Board at the Gono Bhaban, reports UNB.

On the night of March 25 in 1971, Pakistani military junta resorted to mass killings and arson in Dhaka to implement their blueprint to thwart AL's assumption of office following its victory in the 1970 general election.

The night also witnessed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's proclamation of independence before he was arrested by Pakistani troops and subsequently taken to West Pakistan.

Hasina, also the Awami League president, said that Bangladesh started its journey with these "wounds". She noted how Pakistani occupational forces committed genocide on unarmed Bangladeshis.

"They unleashed attacks on the people of Bangladesh in a horrific way and killed people for nine long months."

The AL chief said some 30 lakh people were martyred, and three crore became homeless.



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Anti-war crimes campaigners hold a torch vigil at the Central Shaheed Minar last night as they pay respect to the martyrs of March 25, 1971, on the 53rd Genocide Day. They led a procession from the Shaheed Minar grounds to Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

THE WORD 'BANGLADESH' A journey from literature to politics

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Bangladesh today proudly steps into its 53rd year of independence.

When the first constitution was drafted and adopted on November 4, 1972, the country was constitutionally named "People's Republic of Bangladesh".

The etymology of the word "Bangladesh", however, goes back decades before independence.

INDEPENDENCE DAY TODAY

So, how did it come to be the name of our land?

Even though the dreamers of a sovereign state brought the name into popular discourse, it was the poets and the writers who first used it.

It was in the 1960s that the demands for carving a sovereign country out of Pakistan and renaming the nation-state as "Bangladesh" were raised prominently.

"Bangladesh" made its way into the slogans after the mass upsurge of 1969,

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Budget likely on June 1

Polls, Eid holidays cited as reasons for early submission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 will be placed and passed in parliament earlier than usual this year, as lawmakers plan to spend the Eid-ul-Azha holiday in their constituencies ahead of the general polls.

The Eid-ul-Azha holiday will begin on June 28 this year, according to the government holiday schedule.

Meanwhile, because there is a constitutional obligation that the national budget be passed by June 30, this year's budget is expected to be passed in parliament by June 26.

Typically, the finance minister presents the budget proposal to parliament on the first or second Thursday of June.

This year, it is likely to be June 1, which is the first Thursday of the month.

A finance ministry official said there is a time constraint on holding the discussion on the proposed budget in the national parliament.

As the national budget is expected to be passed early, the discussion on

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BNP might not take part in polls

Hasina tells AL parliamentary board; 'BNP strategy mysterious'

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP might not participate in the next general election.

She termed the activities and strategy of the opposition party "mysterious".

Hasina, also the prime minister, made the observation at a meeting of the AL's Parliamentary Nomination Board at the Gono Bhaban, said meeting sources.

She made the comments after an AL leader expressed an assumption that the BNP would join the parliamentary polls despite everything.

The next Jatiya Sangsad polls is scheduled to be held in late December or early January.

The AL chief said the BNP's strategy is different this time, and their next course of action is totally uncertain.

"I think the BNP may not participate in the election this time," a leader who was present at the meeting quoted Hasina as saying.

The PM rejected the US state department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices which was released last week. The report, citing polls observers, said the December 2018 elections in Bangladesh were neither free nor fair because they were marred by serious irregularities, including ballot-box stuffing and intimidation of opposition polling agents and voters.

The premier told the meeting that her government would protest the report. She, however, didn't disclose how the government would counter it.

Hasina said the 2018 election was not questionable, and the BNP was going to take part in it, but it opted to boycott halfway through, which was not the government's failure in any way.

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২৬শে মার্চ ১৯৭১

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