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We too will suffer for global recession

PM tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that the country will have to suffer as even developed countries are struggling to cope with the global economic recession.

“We have to be ready for any situation,” the PM, also the leader of the House, said while delivering the winding up speech in the 20th session of the 11th parliament.

She said the government was trying hard to maintain economic stability, but everyone has to practise some austerity.

She said the pressure faced while opening letters of credit due to dollar crunch will ease by December this year.

Hasina said there is cause to be fearful about the future, and decisions have to be made while constantly reviewing the situation. Import of

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PHOTO: TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Two lanes of a flyover, which is being constructed under the Bus Rapid Transit Line-3 project, were opened to the public yesterday. They (around 2.2km) connect Tongi Fire Service area with House Building area in the capital's Uttara.

BRT LINE-3 OPERATION

Wait extends by at least another year

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

People's wait for a dedicated bus service on the Dhaka-Gazipur route is getting longer as the authorities would require at least one more year to make the Bus Rapid Transit Line-3 operational.

Obaidul Quader, minister of road transport and bridges, yesterday hoped that the BRT Line-3 would be inaugurated in May or June next year.

However, the project authorities said they might take up to October to launch the service.

The authorities are expected to hand over the structure to Dhaka BRT Company Ltd, which is to operate the bus service, within June next year, and is expected to procure buses within July.

The development came as Quader yesterday opened two lanes of a flyover, which is being constructed under the BRT Line-3 project, to traffic to ease public sufferings.

After the construction of the project started in 2016, it has become a major cause for people's sufferings, which intensified during rainy seasons.

Quader, on several occasions, termed the project a golar kata(a thorn in the flesh) and yesterday expressed his regret for the sufferings.

The project was taken up in November 2012 to build a

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13 DAYS TO GO

Spain, Germany butt heads in tricky group

AFP, Barcelona

European giants Spain and Germany face off in World Cup Group E, the only one featuring two nations who have previously won the tournament.

The other two teams, Japan and Costa Rica, will be looking to cause an upset, with most expecting the heavyweight sides to sew up the top spots and reach the latter stages.

Both Spain and Germany suffered at Russia 2018, eliminated in the last 16 and group stage respectively, but hopes are significantly higher ahead of kick-off in Qatar, with their clash booked for November 27.

Germany, four-time World Cup winners and the defending champions in the previous edition, were humiliated by finishing bottom of their group, failing to progress for the first time since 1938 in one of the biggest shocks in the competition's history.

Joachim Loew's side, who romped

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COP27 SUMMIT IN EGYPT

Climate compensation on agenda for first time

REUTERS, Sharm El-Sheikh

Delegates at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt agreed after late-night talks to put the delicate issue of whether rich nations should compensate poor countries most vulnerable to climate change on the formal agenda for the first time.

For more than a decade, wealthy nations have rejected official discussions on what is referred to as loss and damage, or funds they provide to help poor countries cope with the consequences of global warming.

COP27 President Sameh Shoukry told the plenary that opens this year's two-week United Nations conference attended by more than 190 countries the decision created “an institutionally stable space” for discussion of “the pressing issue of funding arrangements”.

At COP26 last year in Glasgow, high-income nations blocked a proposal for a loss and damage financing body, instead supporting a three-year dialogue for funding discussions.

The loss and damage discussions now on the COP27 agenda will not guarantee compensation or necessarily acknowledge liability, but are intended to lead to a conclusive decision “no later than 2024”, Shoukry said.

The issue could generate even more tension than at previous conferences this year as the Ukraine war, a surge in energy prices and the risk of economic recession have at once added to governments' reluctance to promise funds

and poor nations' need for them.

Negotiations on Saturday night before the agenda's adoption “were extremely challenging,” Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at the non-profit Climate Action Network International, said. “Rich countries in the first place never wanted loss and damage to be on the agenda.”

Some criticised the dismissive language on liability, but although weaker than hoped, getting the issue formally on the agenda will oblige wealthier nations to engage on the topic.

“They rightly expect more solidarity from the rich countries, and Germany is ready for this, both in climate financing and in dealing with damage and losses,” German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said in a statement.

Germany wants to launch a “protective shield against climate risks” at the conference, an initiative it has been working on with vulnerable states such as Bangladesh and Ghana.

Bangladeshi-based environmental research body, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development said it was “good news” loss and damage was officially on the agenda.

“Now the real work begins to make finance a reality,” Salmeel Huq, director of the centre, said.

Inside the UN negotiations this week, small island states - whose vulnerability to climate change has seen them play an outsized role in past UN talks - will push a proposal for a UN-hosted “response fund” to pool and distribute cash to countries struck by disasters.



ANOMALIES AT BPC CONCERN

HC wants to know what actions were taken

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked what actions were taken by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation against its subsidiary, Standard Asiatic Oil Company, regarding irregularities involving over Tk 472 crore.

In a suo motu (voluntary) rule, the HC ordered the BPC, and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to give an explanation in this regard by November 20.

The court also asked the Anti-Corruption Commission to update it about the proceedings of the case filed against Moinuddin Ahmed, one of Standard Asiatic Oil Company's five directors and the president of its management advisory committee, who was found to be involved in the irregularities.

The HC rule also asked the authorities concerned and the ACC to explain in 10 days why their inaction towards the irregularities by the Standard Asiatic Oil Company should not be

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100-yr-old tunnel below Niagara Falls opened to visitors

NDTV ONLINE

The breathtaking sights at Niagara Falls make it a very popular tourist destination. From regular tourists to international celebrities, many of them have visited this site.

But now, through a tunnel that was constructed more than 100 years ago and is open to the public, people can get a different view of the grounds and learn about the fascinating history of a power station that formerly stood underneath the region.

According to CNN, a 670-metre (2,198-foot) tunnel built more than a century ago on the Canadian side has been opened up to reveal the awesome scale of these engineering marvels. Since July 2022, it's been part of tours of the decommissioned Niagara Parks Power Station tour, which began a year earlier.

“The power station, which operated from 1905 until 2006, diverted water from the mighty Niagara River to run giant generators that electrified regional industry and contributed to the nearby Great Lakes port of Buffalo becoming known as the City of Light,” the news outlet further reported.

According to station tour guide Elena Zoric, this region was once a hub of activity for businessmen who wanted to cash in on harnessing hydropower.

“A glass enclosed elevator takes visitors to the tunnel, where they can walk through the space below the power station that takes them to a

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION BOARD

HSC Bangla 1st part test postponed

Question paper mix-up cited

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Technical Education Board yesterday postponed the first part of Bangla HSC exams for class XI students on both new and old syllabi due to what officials said was a question paper mix-up.

The new date for the exam will be announced soon, said Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar, chief of the inter-education board coordination committee and chairman of Dhaka Education Board.

The exams were set to be held from 2:00pm-4:00pm yesterday.

Education ministry officials said at many places across the country students who followed the old syllabus got questions on the new syllabus and those who followed the new syllabus got questions on the old one.

Ali Akbar Khan, chairman of the Technical Education Board, said the test was postponed amid complaints by the students at “many centres across the country”.

About 1.7 lakh students were scheduled to sit for the test.

On the first day of the HSC exams, 15,255 students of the nine general education boards were absent and six others were expelled.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Dipu Moni told reporters at a college that the departments preparing and printing the question papers were on high alert against attempts of leaking the question papers.

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WORLD CUP FEVER ... Abu Khalifa, a tailor in Chattogram city's Loyel Road, is busy making flags of the nations taking part in the FIFA World Cup-2022. Thirty-two countries will compete in the mega football event kicking off in Qatar on November 20. Flags of Brazil and Argentina are in high demand as the two Latin American teams have a huge following here. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Ex-BNP MP on remand in DSA case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Sultana Ahmed, general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal and former lawmaker from reserved seats, on a two-day remand in a case filed against her under the Digital Security Act.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shahidul Islam passed the order after Muhammad Ashrafal Alam, sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station and investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced Sultana before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.

In the remand prayer, the IO said Sultana made derogatory remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a rally in Paltan on September 1.

She also delivered statements that denigrated the judiciary. The accused must be taken into remand to identify the instigators and conspirators behind such crimes.

However, the defence submitted a petition, seeking bail along with the cancellation of the remand prayer, saying she was implicated in the case

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