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Buses lie idle at Mohakhali terminal yesterday. With nearly no passengers, many bus operators and workers did not operate their vehicles amid the ongoing blockade.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

PM to open
Matarbari
power plant
on Nov 11

BSS, Dhaka

Matarbari power plant's first unit (600 MW) and Single Point Mooring are ready for inauguration. "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to open the first unit of Matarbari coal-fired power plant on November 11," State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid told BSS yesterday. The premier will also inaugurate the SPM, which is expected to save about Tk 800 crore annually, a ministry official said. Nasrul Hamid said the first unit of two-unit Matarbari power plant, each having generation capacity of 600MW, started power generation on trial basis on July 29. The first unit generated 618MW power as the reactor of the second unit was also installed on September 22. Ministry sources said 13,104 tonnes of coal will be required per day to generate power from it at full scale.

Government
to showcase
its success at
grassroots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government intends to publicise its successes and achievements at the grassroots to build on them ahead of the upcoming parliamentary election. The cabinet committee on economic affairs yesterday approved a proposal placed by the information ministry in this regard. An official of the cabinet division said through the project implementation, the government's successes in development activities will be upheld through video content on social media platforms. About 2,500 outreach programmes will highlight the government's successes through mobile display vans, which will roam the rural areas.

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Police are yet to arrest any of the 91 people involved in fraudulence – proxy candidates and mediators – in the recruitment test at the Election Commission Secretariat in the last two months. The incident came to light after the viva voce for the post of office support staff of the EC started on July 17. EC officials said they detained 41 candidates during the viva voce, and they all gave written statements to the authorities, confessing their involvement in the test fraud. Their statements revealed that 41 proxies took the written and MCQ tests instead of real candidates, while 50 mediators were involved in the fraud. Nazmul Kabir, senior assistant secretary (personnel management-2) of the EC Secretariat, filed 23 cases with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station from July 18 to August 31 in this connection, accusing 47 people. In the cases, Nazmul stated that seven named and 34 unnamed proxy candidates took the tests. The 41 arrested candidates made contracts of total Tk 3.59 crore with different people and paid Tk 1.44 crores to them, according to the cases' statements. "We have no new arrests in these cases.

LNG SUPPLY
Govt signs 15yr deal
with US company

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Qatar and Oman, the US has been added as a supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) on a long-term basis in Bangladesh yesterday. The US company Excelerate Gas Marketing Ltd Partnership, a subsidiary of Excelerate Energy, will supply LNG for the next 15 years from January 2026. State-owned Petrobangla signed a deal with Excelerate at a city hotel yesterday in this regard. This is the first private company with which Petrobangla went for a long-term supply deal. Qatar and Oman supply LNG under government to government deals. Excelerate will deliver approximately 0.85 million tonnes of LNG per year in 2026 and 2027, and this quantity will increase to 1 million tonnes annually from 2028 to 2040. Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said the country had to spend an additional \$14 billion on energy purchases since the start of the Ukraine-Russia war. "Had it not occurred, we would have had a reserve exceeding \$40 billion by now. Our development is being hampered due to this overpricing. This experience helped us to enter new long-term deals," he said. State Minister for Power, Energy, and Mineral

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EC RECRUITMENT TEST FRAUD

Over 2 months gone,
no headway yet

The 41 arrested candidates made contracts of total Tk 3.59 crore with different people and paid Tk 1.44 crores to them, according to the cases' statements.

Police are working to identify the culprits behind the recruitment test fraud," said Mohammad Imran Hossain, assistant commissioner of DMP (Tejgaon zone). "Some people from the EC may have direct involvement in recruitment test fraud. The candidates' attendance sheets included their images. If any candidate resorted to cheating in the exam room, then the investigators concerned should have caught

them. Why couldn't they do so?" said a police official involved in the investigation, wishing anonymity. Nazmul said, "We only filed cases. Police are responsible to dig out who was behind the recruitment forgery." "If someone from the Election Commission is involved, let the police find out. We held those candidates, who committed fraud,

and handed them over to the police. We are not informed what progress police made in the cases in over two months. We want the culprits arrested soon," he added. **HOW THE FRAUDULENCE WAS UNEARTHED** Hafizur Rahman, 31, of Satkhira's Asashuni applied for the post of office support staff at the EC Secretariat one and half years ago. On July 17 afternoon, he appeared at the EC office in the capital's Agargaon for viva voce among candidates who passed in both MCQ and written examinations, separately held on March 31 and May 19. However, Hafizur could not answer any questions from the written examinations when the recruitment board of the viva voce asked him those. When his handwriting was matched with the handwriting of the written examination answer sheet, those also did not match. Hafizur then admitted to the board members that he did not participate in the MCQ and written examinations. He also told the EC officials that an unidentified person, mediated by two others – Pallab Hossain and Sohag – participated in his tests. In return, a contract of Tk 5 lakh was made with the said person. Interestingly, 38 more candidates

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WARRANT OF PRECEDENCE

Those in power must
shun corruption: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in its full text of verdict in a bribery case has observed that it is impossible for anyone to engage in corruption if those under the Warrant of Precedence become free of corruption. "Therefore, each and every person under the Warrant of Precedence must be made cleared of corruption to make a corruption free Bangladesh," the HC bench of Justice Md Ashrafur Kamal said in the 78-page full text of verdict, which was uploaded on its website yesterday. In the full text of judgement, the bench cited the Warrant of Precedence, 1986 (Revised up to July, 2020). The order of precedence in Bangladesh, officially known as Warrant of Precedence, is a symbolic hierarchy that lays down the relative precedence in terms of ranks of important functionaries belonging to the executive, legislative and judicial organs of the state, including the president and prime minister, opposition leader of the parliament, cabinet members, important government officials, chiefs of armed forces, national professors, members of the foreign diplomatic corps and so on. The bench delivered the partial verdict on December 14 last year on an appeal

filed by two officials of Titas Gas – Md Kamruzzaman Sarkar and Abdur Rahim – challenging their sentences in a bribery case. In the verdict, the HC scrapped the trial court verdict that had sentenced them to five years' imprisonment and fined them Tk 25,000 each. In the full text of the verdict, the HC has issued 16 recommendations to the **Warrant of Precedence is a symbolic hierarchy that lays down the relative precedence in terms of ranks of important functionaries belonging to the executive, legislative and judicial organs of the state.** Jatiya Sangsad to build Bangladesh as a corruption-free country, including introduction of an independent cadre service for recruiting officials for the Anti-Corruption Commission. The HC recommended changing laws, like the CrPC, to require ACC officials to disclose their wealth publicly. The HC instructed the SC registrar general to share the judgement with members of parliament, chairman of the law commission, and judges for review.

Now junior cops
want promotion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Frustrated over not getting promotions timely, police officers of the 35th and 36th Bangladesh Civil Service cadres met with Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun yesterday. After an hour-long meeting with the IGP, around 70 officials of the two batches also met the chief of the Branch and the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, several officials told this newspaper. In the closed-door meeting, they informed the police chief that the officials of the 35th batch did not get their promotion from assistant superintendent of police to additional superintendent even after working for the last six years and seven months. "It is disappointing that we are not getting our desired promotion whereas officials of the same batch of other cadres got promoted already," said an officer of 35th BCS cadre, present in the meeting. After the meeting, the IGP assured the officials that they would start working on the process for their promotions after the ongoing senior batch police cadre officials are promoted. SB Chief Monirul Islam echoed the same in the separate meeting. DMP Commissioner Habibur Rahman said he would talk about the issue with the IGP and senior secretary of the home ministry. On Tuesday, the government gave promotions to 140 superintendents of police to the rank of additional DIGs and 177 additional superintendents to the rank of SP. Within the next couple of days, at least 64 police officials will be promoted to DIG and 10 officials to additional IGP. The government created these supernumerary posts in the last couple of months ahead of the elections, said officials.

DNCC launches 'Smart Parking' app

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday unveiled the "DNCC Smart Parking" app in an effort to address the persistent parking difficulties in the capital. The inauguration of the pilot programme took place at DNCC's Nagar Bhaban. The app will allow vehicle owners to find, reserve, and pay for parking spots within the city. Users can also identify available parking spaces nearby, secure a spot in advance, and handle payments with just a few taps on their device. Currently eight roads of the Gulshan area are under this service – roads 52, 58, 62, 63, 64, 103, DIT circular road and Gulshan 2 inner circular road. To use this service, one has to pay Tk 50 for the first two hours, Tk 50 for the third hour and Tk 100 for every hour from the fourth hour for cars/jeeps/microbuses. Bikers have to pay Tk 15 for the first 2 hours, Tk 15 for the third and Tk 30 per hour from the fourth hour onwards. Users can opt for digital payment via the app. Parking fees will be applicable from 8:00am-10:00pm, from Saturday-Thursday.



There will be no parking fees between 10:00pm-8:00am, and it will be completely free every Friday and during public holidays. The app can be downloaded from Google Play Store or Apple App Store. Upon opening the app, users will have to register their account. They can then select the desired street, tap on the "parking" button and choose how long they need to park. The app will then show the parking fees, payable through various online

methods. Once payment is complete, the parking service will be activated. At the event, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was present as the chief guest. Mayor Atiqul Islam presided over the programme. MP of Dhaka 17 Mohammad Ali Arafat, IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun and DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman were also present.