



"Ukraine is under fire by the occupiers. They continue to do what they do best – terrorise and kill civilians."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky



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## FORCED RETIREMENT A signal to admin and police?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday sent three superintendents of police into retirement, citing public interests, two days after it showed the information secretary the door on the same grounds.

Highly placed sources in the government said the three were forced into retirement as part of a possible purge in the administration and police, keeping in mind the next general election.

The three are Delwar Hossain Mia and Mirza Abdullah Baqui of the Criminal Investigation Department and Shahidullah Chowdhury of Police Headquarters.

Delwar was supposed to retire on June 4, 2026; Shahidullah on December 31, 2023; and Baqui on February 28, 2023.

The home ministry yesterday issued three circulars signed by Akhter Hossain, senior secretary of its Public Security Division. All invoked section 45 of Bangladesh Service Rules, 2018.

According to the section, upon the president's approval, the government can send an employee, who has



Delwar

Shahidullah

Baqui

completed 25 years of service, into retirement in public interest, without showing any specific reason.

The government has already made a list of bureaucrats and police officials who, it perceives, are not "aligned to the ruling Awami League's ideology", and many of them might be forced into retirement in phases, the sources added.

These officials had been in the administration and the police during the last two national polls, but the government did not bother much then. This time, it does not want them around, given the anti-incumbent mood stemming from worries over the state of economy and the power crisis, said the sources.

The government is now closely watching the reaction of its decisions. Once it is convinced repercussions won't be that severe, it will go full throttle, said the sources.

Of the three SPs, Shahidullah Chowdhury and Delwar Hossain are from the 12th BCS.

Delwar got his promotion as an SP after 21 years of service, whereas at least three of his batchmates are working as additional inspector general of police, the second highest post in the force.

At least two of Baqui's 15th BCS batchmates now hold the rank of additional IGP.

Talking to The Daily Star, Baqui and Delwar said they knew nothing about why they had been let go.

"I came to know about the order unofficially ... I haven't

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The second and final reactor of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna will be installed today -- marking a major development in the project. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the installation through a video conference from the capital. Each of the reactors has the capacity to produce 1,200MW electricity.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 21 DHAKA NEIGHBOURHOODS Power outages every other hour

ZYMA ISLAM and ASIFUR RAHMAN

People living in the capital's Shyampur, Nandalalpur, Kajla or Matuail experienced load-shedding every alternate hour yesterday.

There was not a single hour when at least one neighbourhood of these areas was not in the dark, with one feeder or the other going out every hour in turns.

A person going to sleep at midnight had to endure four hours of load-shedding until 8:00am.

This affected 21 neighbourhoods of the localities in the capital.

Engineers in Shyampur's Network Operations and Customer Services office, which covers all four areas, said there are many factories in the areas and yesterday was declared an industrial holiday. Since the industries were closed, this area was not a priority for distribution.

But there are factories and homes in Shyampur, which is serviced by Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPPC).

Raju Ahmed, a cloth trader and shop owner

of Alambagh in Shyampur, said his whole family squeezes into one room with a single rechargeable table fan at night to sleep.

"My daughter has a two year old baby. She stays up all night fanning the baby by hand," said Raju.

When this newspaper spoke to him at 7:00pm yesterday, he said there had been six hours of power outages since morning.

This is the predicament of the area's residents at a time when temperatures can go up to 34 degrees Celsius in the day.

"This is also hampering our business. Customers do not come to the market when there is no electricity, and we have to close shop by 8:00pm," he said.

Dhaka division was scheduled to get 11 percent less electricity than the estimated demand of 4,419MW, and this shortfall was distributed among cities, with every single neighbourhood experiencing four hours of scheduled load-shedding during the day -- and many more hours of outages at night.

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## 100 new bridges opening at once

### Major boost expected in nationwide connectivity

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is likely to simultaneously open 100 new bridges at the end of this month, giving a big boost to the country's road network.

Most of the bridges have been constructed on regional highways and district roads and these would replace risky Bailey bridges and narrow and dilapidated ones.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD), the implementing agency of the bridges, has spent Tk 906.32 crore to construct the bridges, which will increase the reliability and efficiency of its road network.

The highest 41 bridges would be opened in Khagrachhari, followed by 18 bridges, including the long-awaited Kushiara and Surma bridges, to be inaugurated in Sunamganj.

The total length of the 100 bridges would be around 5.87km.

"Opening of 100 bridges simultaneously would be a historic moment for the country," said RHD's Chief Engineer AKM Manir Hossain Pathan.

He said they were taking preparations for opening the bridges, and the date of inauguration would be set upon getting consent from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We hope the bridges would be opened within this month," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

One important aspect is that all the bridges have been built with the government funds and all the designs are developed by the bridge wing of RHD, the chief engineer added.

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## Govt losing control over everything

### Says BNP, calls for demo in 7 divisions tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina repeatedly talks about a possible famine in the country next year because her government is losing control over everything, including the administration, for corruption and mismanagement, alleged the BNP.

"The government had announced only recently that the country was self-sufficient in food. What has happened now for which it fears a food crisis? Why is she [Hasina] making such comments? It is not clear to us where the issue lies," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

He made the comments yesterday after holding talks with the National Democratic Party (NDP) and the Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam at BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia's Gulshan office.

The government is failing to tackle massive corruption that has engulfed every sector. Extreme load-shedding that people have been experiencing in recent times is also a result of corruption, said the BNP leader.

In such a situation, he wondered, how the government would spend Tk 8,000 crore to purchase EVMs to hold a staged election and Tk 43 crore to construct houses for the cabinet secretary and the principal secretary.

"What do you expect from this regime? ... This regime has completely failed to run the state," said Fakhrul.

Mentioning that the government used police to file "false cases" against 437 BNP leaders and activists in Mymensingh, he said, the authorities should remember

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Sri Lanka pacer Pramod Madushan (L) jumps in air to celebrate the dismissal of UAE's Chirag Suri (C) during their Twenty20 World Cup match at Kardinia Park in Geelong on Tuesday. Batting first, Sri Lanka posted 152 for 8 despite a hat-trick from UAE's Karthik Meiyappan before getting the opposition bowled out for 73 runs.

PHOTO: AFP



## Sri Lanka stay alive

AFP, Geelong

Karthik Meiyappan lit up the Twenty20 World Cup with a hat-trick Tuesday but it was in vain as Sri Lanka crushed the United Arab Emirates to get their campaign back on track, while the Netherlands toppled Namibia.

The Asian champions were stunned by Namibia in the tournament's opening game on Sunday, a crushing 55-run defeat that left no room for error against the UAE.

They responded by bowling out the UAE for 73 for a convincing 79-run victory, but not before some drama.

Sri Lanka were cruising at 117-2 in Geelong when spin bowler Meiyappan derailed their plans in the 15th over, removing Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Charith Asalanka and skipper Dasun Shanaka in successive balls.

It was only the fifth hat-trick at a T20 World Cup, and the first-ever for the UAE in any T20 international.

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