

Public Servants Retirement Act challenged

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to show cause within 10 days why its arbitrary power to retire any government servant on completion of 25 years of service will not be declared ultra vires of the Constitution, reports UNB.

A High Court Division Bench issued the rule upon a writ challenging the Public Servants (Retirement) Act of 1974 empowering the government to retire anyone without showing any cause on completion of 25 years of service.

The writ petition was filed with the HC Bench comprising Justice M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice KM Hasan by Bernstein Amirul Islam on behalf of former director of Ansars Lt Col (Retd) Harun-ur-Rashid.

He challenged his compulsory retirement on the ground of public interest without any showcase.

Meanwhile some forced retired senior government officials have urged the caretaker government to consider their plea for reinstatement.

The retired officers in a meeting here yesterday alleged that they were forced to go on retirement as part of the polisation process of the past government.

College student electrocuted

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 9: A college student, Mahbuba Khanam Mukti, 21, was electrocuted today at her home in Gaoshor village of Char Baria under Kotali Thana.

The accident occurred when she was pressing clothes with an electric iron.

She died on the way to Barisal Medical College Hospital.

Bomb blast at DU Journalism Deptt

By DU Correspondent

Some unidentified miscreants exploded a bomb near the office of the Chairman of Journalism Department of Dhaka University yesterday at around 11:30 in the morning.

The Chairman of the Department, Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, who is also the general secretary of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) was in his office during the bomb explosion.

Protesting the incident, the students of the department brought out a procession and held a rally at the main gate of the Arts building. They demanded an investigation into the incident and exemplary punishment to the miscreants.

The students will also submit a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor today demanding arrest of the miscreants.

UNB adds: The Academic Committee of the department at an emergency meeting yesterday expressed deep concern at the bomb attack and demanded of the authorities to investigate into the heinous incident.

Besides, some 40 senators of Dhaka University expressed concern at the bomb explosion.

In a joint statement, they condemned the incident and demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for it.

The DUTA also at an emergency meeting condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment of the offenders.

Jalil resigns

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Election Commission itself.

"No political parties or the government has asked me to resign. I have done it at my own will. I have been a judge for a long time and you know the present structure of the Election Commission does not really accommodate me there," the former Election Commissioner said.

The development activities during last five years surpassed the development of previous 20 years," Begum Zia said.

Presided over by party's Joint Secretary General Abdullah Al-Noman, the meeting was also addressed by BNP leaders Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Md. Ahmad, Dr Khanakader Mosharrif Hossain, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddiqui, Jahan Ara Begum, A M Zahidur Rehman, L K Siddiqui, Md. Morshed Khan, Mirza Abbas, Amanullah Aman, Kamruzzaman Ratan, Khairul Kabir Khokan, Syed Wahidul Alam, Syed Nasibul Bashir Majibandari, Begum Rosy Kabir, Zafarul Islam Chowdhury, Sarwar Jamal Nizam, MA Hannan, Nizamur Rahman, AM Nizamuddin and Tareq Rahman.

Khaleda at Chittagong

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taka during the 'so-called' non-cooperation movement against her government by the opposition parties that shattered the country's image abroad as a sound production base.

Potential investors from Singapore, Korea and Japan stayed away because of the political disturbance in the country, she said. "What are they who destroyed the country and pushed the economy backward - friend or foe of the people?"

She further asked: "Why and whose interest they forced the closure of the Chittagong port, set fire to the Chittagong railway station built at a cost of Tk 12 crore and damaged offices of foreign investors, banks and financial institutions in Chittagong. Whose interest was behind looting and ransacking of the Biman office?"

Giving a brief resume of her government's efforts for the development of the port city, the former Prime Minister said Chittagong was declared the commercial capital of the country and necessary steps were taken to implement it.

Also, she said, the airport in the city has been upgraded as an international one, foundation stone of the World Trade Centre laid, the country's second stock exchange estab-

lished, new EPZ created and the stadium renovated and expanded.

Listing the development activities during the five-year term of her government, Begum Zia said BNP has put the country on the track of development after 'rescuing it from the debris of the autocracy.'

Hundreds of bridges and culverts were built, roads and highways constructed, rural areas brought under electrification, schools and cyclone shelters constructed in last five years, she said.

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