

Service age of FF govt employees extended to 59

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday issued a circular extending the service age of the freedom fighter officials and employees by two years.

Earlier, the cabinet approved the Public Service (retirement) (amendment) Bill 2009, which says that the retirement age has been extended from 57 to 59 years.

According to the circular, those government officials and employees who went on leave preparatory retirement (LPR) would also enjoy the extension of service age.

The freedom fighter civil servants will submit their certificates to the liberation war ministry, which will be verified, read the circular, adding that the ministry will also issue a separate certificate on verification.

It said if the posts of the officials and employees who went on LPR have fallen vacant in the meantime they would be appointed as officer on special duty (OSD) or given supernumerary appointment.

The vacation of those who went on LPR will be regarded as service vacation till the day before they join service, the circular added.



PHOTO: PID

Newly appointed Indian High Commissioner Rajeev Mitter presents his credentials to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page B3)

'Trial of war criminals early this year'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will hold the trial of war criminals early this year as it has completed necessary preparations to this end, said LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam yesterday.

"The trial of war criminals will kick off at the beginning of the new year since the countrymen entrusted Awami League with the mandate to try the criminals," he said at a Victory Day rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Awami League (AL) organised the rally as part of its month-long programme to celebrate the day.

The minister said democracy of the country would be strengthened and the politics of killing would come to an end forever if the war criminals are brought to justice.

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, AL presidium member and deputy leader of the parliament, addressed the rally as the chief guest, which was conducted by AL leader Nuhul-Alam Lenin.

458 'politically motivated' cases to be withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday recommended withdrawal of 458 cases, including 21 corruption-related cases, which were filed against Awami League (AL) leaders and activists during the tenure of the BNP-Jamaat government and the immediate-past caretaker with the intention to 'harass politically'.

The decision came at the 11th meeting of the inter-ministerial committee reviewing the 'politically motivated' cases. With this, the committee

so far recommended a total of 1,817 cases for withdrawal.

Of them, 195 are graft-related cases filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Former minister of AL Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain, JP lawmaker ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, ex-AL lawmaker Ali Reza Raju and his wife and Kazi Faruk Ahmed are some of those whose cases have been recommended to be withdrawn.

Two cases each against Prof Opu Ukil and ex-AL lawmaker Haji Selim and five cases against ex-AL MP

Mohiuddin Ahmed were also recommended for withdrawal.

State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam, who presided over the meeting, said ACC is an independent body and it is to decide whether or not it will scrap the cases.

"We'll not interfere in its activities. We have recommended withdrawal of those cases which were filed for harassing political leaders and workers," he told reporters after the meeting at the home ministry.

A total of 1,056 cases were submitted to the meeting with recommenda-

tions for withdrawal. Of them, 31 are from ACC. After review, 21 of the ACC cases were recommended to be withdrawn.

A total of 6,582 cases have been submitted to the ministry to date for consideration.

Most of those whose cases were recommended for withdrawal belong to the ruling party and its front organisations, triggering resentment in the opposition BNP circles as its leaders are also bearing loads of such cases on charges of graft that had taken place during their rule.

WE MOURN



The Board and all employees of Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) deeply mourn the sudden demise of their Director Mr. Saidur Rahman Ratan, in Dhaka, on December 31, 2009.

We pray for eternal salvation of the departed soul of Mr. Ratan and may his family have the strength to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.



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