



LIKELY REFORM PROPOSAL Govt officials may be able to retire after 15yrs

BAHARAM KHAN

For government employees, voluntary retirement with pension benefits currently requires 25 years of service. The Public Administration Reform Commission is set to recommend lowering the requirement to 15 years.

The commission is also likely to recommend doing away with a legal provision that allows the authorities to force employees to retire after they have been on the job for 25 years or more, said multiple sources in the commission.

Sections 44 and 45 of the Government Service Act-2018 would need to be amended in order to implement these recommendations.

The Public Administration Reform Commission held a meeting yesterday to finalise the recommendations. It will hand the chief adviser the recommendation on February 5, which is the new deadline for the submission.

"Currently, if a government employee voluntarily retires before 25 years in service, they do not get pension benefits. This is why the commission is recommending

An officer should not be afraid of forced retirement for disagreeing with the government or having a history of being a member of an opposition party.

the change," said a source.

However, those retiring after 15 years will not get the full pension benefits, for which one must be on the job for 25 years.

No commission member is willing to explain on record the rationale behind the recommendations.

"Officers often receive better job offers in the private sector. Unless they have been on the job for 25 years, they often do not take those opportunities because they do not want to lose their pension benefits. We want to change that."

As to why the government should not be allowed to force someone to retire, another source said, "An officer should not be afraid of forced retirement for disagreeing with the government or having a history of being a member of an opposition party."

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, accompanied by Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki and other officials, visit a stall at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela in the capital after its inauguration yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

20 Bangladeshis feared dead in Libya

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Twenty bodies, believed to be of Bangladeshis killed after a boat capsized in the Mediterranean near Brega of Libya last week, have been buried in the north African country.

Bangladesh foreign ministry in a message to the media last night said no identification document was found on them and that the Red Crescent, which handled the burials, believes the victims were Bangladeshis.

It said the bodies were buried in Ajdabiya, which is about 40km away from Brega on Friday, as they were decomposing.

The incident occurred in an area under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Libyan Government, based in Benghazi. The Bangladesh embassy has yet to obtain the necessary clearance to visit the site,

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DEATH IN CUSTODY Army camp commander withdrawn

Armed forces
launch probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) has announced the formation of a high-level investigation committee to determine the cause of death of Jubo Dal leader Touhidul Islam in Cumilla.

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Star INTERVIEW

'No room for politics under AL name, ideology'

WASIM BIN HABIB and
BAHARAM KHAN



As the interim government is going to complete its six months in office, calls for the national election are growing louder. Several reform commissions have already submitted their reports, and the government may soon engage with political parties. Nahid Islam,

a July uprising leader, who is now serving as an adviser to the interim government, lately spoke with The Daily Star's Wasim Bin Habib and Baharam Khan on a range of pressing issues.

TDS: How would you evaluate the six months since the interim government took office?

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