DHAKA SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024 JAISHTHA 5, 1431 BS The Daily Star



Fishers cast their nets in the Surma. They said the fish population in the river has declined over the years and they are struggling to stay afloat. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Class-3 govt employees demand new pay scale STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The class-3 government employees yesterday demanded the immediate announcement of 9th National Pay Scale.

They also demanded a 30 percent increase in interim special allowance before the new pay scale.

Leaders of Bangladesh Class-III Govt Employees' Association yesterday made the demands at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital.

"Since the last national pay scale in 2015, the prices of daily necessities and utilities as well as medical expenses all have been increasing abnormally over the last ten years," said Md Saljar Rahman, secretary general of the association.

"In this situation, there is no alternative to announcing the new pay scale immediately," he also said, urging for a 30 percent increase to interim period allowance.

The association also placed other demands including permanent

Extortion in name of 'city tolls' must stop Says Khokon, slams DSCC STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Dhaka South City Corporation mayor Sayeed Khokon criticised the incumbent mayor yesterday without directly mentioning his name.

Speaking at a briefing at Jatiya Press Club, Khokon said extortion in the name of "city tolls" at Dhaka entrances is driving up the prices of essential commodities and it has to stop.

He also accused the "current authorities" of DSCC of lying about the number of dengue patients.

"The current authorities claimed that there were at least 41,000 fewer dengue patients in 2023 than in 2019. I'm not naming anyone out of politeness. But when such propaganda is spread, it hurts me," Khokon said.

No barrier FROM PAGE 3

information, you can talk to the four deputy governors. We will give you the answer," he added. He then posed a

question: "What is free access?"

"If you want to go alone, you can and the assigned officials will provide you with information, which is allowed under The Secrecy Act. However, it is not permitted if you want to get information about the secrecy of the state."

He further asked journos not to be misguided with such propaganda.

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Ju-Jitsu FROM PAGE 3

BR to extend rail line FROM PAGE 5

now set for December 2025, with an anticipated cost increase of Tk 290 crore as the project authorities have requested additional funds.

The project has been delayed due to lengthy land acquisition process the contractor's and request to increase the contract price and change the specification for some materials, according to BR officials.

such allegations against are expected to be resolved him, said the Rab official. The other within two months, as the minister discussed a female athlete of the federation, the matter with Magura's accused of abetting the commissioner deputy

vesterday crime. He said the project had achieved 50.5 percent Rafiqul Rab custody while his progress by April this year alleged accomplice has been handed over to and expressed optimism Sher-e-Bangla about completing it by December 2025. Police Station, where the He also said a consultant complainant filed the rape will be appointed to case.

"Who told you it's US\$ 13 current

conduct a feasibility study Project Director Ashadul for the extension upon statement, the female Haque said land-related receiving the committee's trainee had been receiving

Fish landing centre lies unused for 15yrs

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

The lone fish landing centre of Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation in Barishal has been lying unused for 15 years, leading to a loss of Tk 50 crore of revenue for the government.

Fish landing centers are locations where various kinds of fresh fishes and fishery products are stocked from various sources such as rivers, beel, gher, ponds, estuaries and the sea.

The Barishal FLC was built on 1.27 acres of land on the bank of Kirtankhola in 1991. Its operation began in 2007 and continued till 2009, generating around Tk 3 crore of revenue, said Lt Col Masud Sikder, manager of Barishal and Patharghata fish landing centres of BFDC.

The FLC includes 16 shelters, three auction sheds, ice production mill, office, and gangway alongside all necessary facilities. And yet, fish wholesalers and traders left this landing centre and moved to the city's Port Road over some demands in 2009.

Since then it has been left abandoned.

Locals alleged that the abandoned landing centre has turned into a haven for drug addicts.

Nirab Hossain Tutul, secretary of

Barishal, said, "Since 1971, wholesale fish traders have used the landing centre on Port Road on three acres of land. There are a total of 131 traders registered there. Compared to it, the BFDC's FLC lacked adequate space, as it could accommodate only 32 traders. If only 32 can trade there, what will happen to the rest.'



"Also, it lacked parking space, bank services, workshops, and necessary business environment. Due to these reasons, the traders were compelled to leave it and return to Port Road," he added.

Visiting the Barishal FLC, this correspondent observed that the facilities and equipment of the centre, including the dormitories, offices, sheds, ice mill, deep tube wells, cold storage, car parking spaces are in a dilapidated state due to being abandoned for years.

In the absence of boundary walls, many are using fish sheds as

wholesale fish traders' association in garages for rickshaws and vans. The 16 shelters of the centre have been rented to tiles and sanitary product traders for Tk 2 lakh per month.

NEWS

BFDC has kept two staffers there to look after the premises.

The BFDC has 19 landing stations across the country. A total of 23,102 tonnes of fish were landed at these FLCs last year, said Md Raju Ahmed, marketing manager of BFDC in Dhaka.

There are seven FLCs in Barishal division, of which five are operational while two in Barishal city and Parerhat of Pirojpur are lying unused.

Last year, a total of 5,295 tonnes of fish were landed at the five FLCs, generating a revenue of Tk 3.6 crore, according to BFDC's Dhaka office.

Patharghata FLC has the highest figure of 3,500 tonnes of fish landed there, generating about Tk 2 crore, said Masud Sikder.

"If the Barishal FLC could be reopened, the government will earn more revenue, while it will be possible to get the correct figure of fish landing. It will also generate employment among many people. Due to its closure, the government has so far lost around Tk 50 crore of revenue," he also said.

'We have written to the head office in this regard. They will make a decision soon." he added.





গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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billion? According to which news report? We have our records." When journalists pointed at the Bangladesh Bank governor's remarks any? How many billion on the availability of US\$ 13 billion for use, Quader retorted, "Then ask the billion... Now we have 19-20 governor why it has come billion. Is that too little?" to this point. We are not

FROM PAGE 3

"Our export earnings aware of this. As far as we are increasing know, the available amount remittances are rising. The fluctuates between US\$ 19 reserves will grow with and US\$ 20 billion." these raises," he mentioned.

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GD-806

Date : 16-05-2024

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শ্বরক না

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ঠাকুরগাঁও

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞস্তি-১/২০২৪-২০২৫

জরিবা মে ২০২৪ দ্রিয়াল

"The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" ও অংশবনতী সাংশাদনী মোজানেক আগামী ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বনসন্তে ঠাকুবর্ণাও জেলার নিতুলিখিক আইটেম ওয়ারী বাগৰিক গৱশৱের মানামে ঠিকালর নিয়েশের নিশ্বরে রাঞ্চলেগের প্রকৃত ঠিকসার,চিরসারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমেরেযুক্ত খামে দবলর মাহবান করা বাজে।

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