

Withdraw

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drafted, but concerns remain over existing restrictions on freedom of expression and trade union activities, particularly outside Export Processing Zones (EPZs).

She called for a unified democratic labour law to replace the current dual system and urged policymakers to prioritise workers' interests.

While government employees receive six months of maternity leave, garment workers do not, despite women workers contributing significantly both industries and society, she said.

Labour Reform Commission chief Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed said rising income inequality is worsening the hardships faced by workers.

The activists also called for the ratification of ILO Convention 190 to institutionalise anti-sexual harassment policies and ensure strict enforcement.

ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা রিভারভিউ কেরানীগঞ্জ
আবাসিক এলাকায় এল-৩ দক্ষিণদুখী
১১৫০ বর্গফুটের প্রায় রেডি ব্যাক
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01672 630240



AKALU GOVT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Playground turned into a construction site

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The playground of Akalu Government Primary School in Aloa of Bhuanpur upazila in Tangail has been occupied by road construction materials and vehicles for the past several weeks, disrupting students' education and sports activities.

The Govindasi-Nikrail Bazar via Char Alloa road is being renovated by the contracting company M/s Tapas Traders. This project, under the Local Government and Engineering Department, aims to improve 3.80 kilometres of the road at a

cost of Tk 1.13 crore.

Abul Hossain, a supervisor from the contracting firm, claimed that the field is being used with the school's permission. However, Khandakar Abdul Aziz, the headteacher of the school, denied this. "It is impossible to conduct classes while work is ongoing in the field, as all windows and doors must be shut to prevent noise and smoke from entering," he said.

The headteacher also alleged that no action has been taken despite notifying the contractor, the LGED, and the Education Office.

During a recent visit, this correspondent observed that road construction materials, such as sand and stone, were piled up on the playground. Additionally, bitumen was being burned on one side of the field, while a road roller was parked on another side, and a mixer machine was running in the middle.

Aside from losing their playground, students reported that their classes were disrupted due to the loud noise and black fumes from the burning bricks and bitumen.

The school's teachers demanded the immediate removal of all

materials from the playground.

Aminul Islam, upazila engineer (LGED) in Bhuanpur, said the contractor informed them that they were keeping construction materials on the school grounds after discussing it with locals and the school authority.

Mahbub Hossain, upazila primary education officer in Bhuanpur, said necessary instructions have been given to the LGED to remove the construction materials from the school grounds soon.

"They assured me that the school field will be cleared in a few days," he added.

Reforms must start

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called for detailed discussions before altering the constitution's foundational principles.

Currently, the constitution's state principles include nationalism, socialism, democracy, and secularism. The reform commission has proposed replacing them with "equality, human dignity, social justice, pluralism, and democracy".

Dr Nazrul Islam, former chief researcher at the UN Development Research Department, presented a paper on "State Reform and Electoral System Reform". He said while some recommendations were acceptable, others required further scrutiny or should be discarded outright.

Islam supported recognising non-Bangalee ethnic groups in Bangladesh and their right to use native languages, saying, "Converting fundamental rights into a charter could be a good proposal, but many of the new rights suggested by the commission are already included in the constitution."

He also questioned the necessity of the

commission's most significant proposal: introducing a bicameral parliament to replace the unicameral system. He warned that a second chamber could complicate decision-making and unnecessarily increase parliamentary costs, burdening taxpayers.

However, he acknowledged the importance of proportional representation in the electoral system.

He argued that it should be applied to the lower house elections, rather than the proposed upper house, to ensure the benefits of proportional representation are realised.

Other notable speakers included economist Mostafizur Rahman, Communist Party President Shah Alam, and General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince.

PRAYER
TIMING

FEBRUARY 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:52 7:15

JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:56 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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Cowater International Inc. PRO-NURSE

ProNurse Project in Bangladesh

Cowater International Inc.

House-100 Road-25, Block-A

Banani, Dhaka-1213

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Memo No: PRN/GAC/Cowater Int/527/2025 Date: 30.01.2025

01	Procuring Entity Name	Dr. Lubana Ahmed, Project Director, ProNurse Project in Bangladesh Cowater International				
02	Project No.	1275				
03	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)				
04	Source of Funds	ProNurse Project, Cowater International Inc. (The Government of Canada provides funding for this initiative).				
05	Tender Name	Construction of Nurse Teachers Training Center (NTTC), Mohakhali, Dhaka. (Civil, plumbing and internal electrical work)				
06	Time for Completion of the Works.	The duration for completion of work (From the date of Commencement of Work as per contract) is described in the table in SL/No 9 below.				
07	Eligibility of Tenderers:	This invitation for Tender is open to all eligible Tenderers as per following criteria: (a) PWD, HED, MES and/or LGED enlisted Contractors/Construction firms who have a minimum of 5 (Five) years of general experience in construction works under PWD, HED, MES and/or LGED. (b) ABC Category of Electrical Supervisory License from Bangladesh Electrical Licensing Board is essential. (c) Having experience in successful completion of at least 1(one) number of construction work of at least 7 storied building within Dhaka/Chittagong/Rajshahi and khulna Division in a single tender under Government/Semi-Govt./Autonomous Organizations of Bangladesh during the last 3 (three) years mentioned in the table in SL/No 9 below. Work experience in construction of any training institution is an asset. (d) Certificate to be submitted as per attached "Work Completion Certificate", The certifying authority shall be an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer. (e) The tenderers shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover during the last 5 (five) financial years (from FY 2019/20 till date) as mentioned in the table in SL/No 9 below. (f) The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of the tenderer shall be as per the table mentioned in SL/No 9 below. Document submitted along with the tender must be issued within three months from the submission date of the tender. (g) Working on construction projects funded by international donors/organization will be considered as an extra qualification. Other required eligibility and conditions of the tender are shown in the Tender Data Sheet of tender documents.				
08	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 2,000/- (Taka two thousand) only in cash. The original money receipt must be enclosed with the tender.				
09	Amount of Tender Security	To be submitted in the form of a Bank Draft/ Pay Order/Bank Guarantee. The amount is mentioned in the table below.				
	Location	Completion time, (Para 6) in Days	Amount single tender, Para 7(c) Tk. In Crore	Average turnover Para 7(e) Tk. In Crore	Liquid asset Para 7(f) Tk. In Crore	Tender Security Tk. In lac.
	The proposed NTTC will be built in the empty plot within College of Nursing, Mohakhali, campus Dhaka.	18 months	10 Crore	15 Crore	5 Crore	Tk. 20 Lac
10	Name and address of the a. Office Selling Tender Documents b. Office receiving Tenders c. Office Opening Tenders	Office of the ProNurse Project, House-100 Road-25, Block-A Banani, Dhaka-1213.				
11	Tender publication date.	01.02.2025				
12	Tender selling last date and time	19.02.2025 up to 16.30 hours				
13	Tender submission last date and time.	20.02.2025 up to 11.30 hours				
14	Tender opening date and time	The tender will be opened on 20.02.2025 at 12.00 PM in the Office of the ProNurse Project, House-100, Road-25, Block-A, Banani, Dhaka-1213. Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives may remain present during the opening of tenders.				
15	Name, Designation, and address of official inviting tender.	Dr. Lubana Ahmed, Project Director, ProNurse Project, Cowater International, House-100, Road-25, Block-A, Banani, Dhaka.				
16	Contact detail of official inviting tender	Email: info@cowater-pronurse.com, call: 01819245607				
17	Brief Description of Works	Construction of Nurse Teachers Training Center (NTTC), Mohakhali, Dhaka. (Civil Plumbing and internal electrical work)				
18	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings at any stage of the tender process.					
19	Special Instruction:	Tenders shall be examined and evaluated only on the basis of the criteria specified in the tender document. At the time of purchasing the Tender Schedule, the following documents must be produced and submit with the Tender document. a) Updated PWD/HED/MES/LGED enlistment certificate. (2024-2025) b) Updated ABC Category Electrical Supervisory License c) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate. d) Valid VAT registration certificate. e) Up-to-date trade license. (2024-2025) f) Work completion certificate issued from PWD/HED/MES/LGED NOA/Work Order will be offered to the successful tenderer following the standard procurement process.				

Dr. Lubana Ahmed
Project Director
ProNurse Project in Bangladesh
Cowater International.

Make your stance clear on indigenous

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"We are stunned to witness this. The names of those responsible for erasing indigenous graffiti must be revealed, or the government must take responsibility," he said.

He accused the interim government of destroying the spirit of the 2024 mass uprising. Tony Piran, vice

president of Adivasi Jubo Forum, said, "We must fight for our identity and constitutional recognition. Holding roundtable meetings won't suffice -- we need to take to the streets."

Daily Samakal advisory editor Abu Sayeed Khan said the vision of an "inclusive Bangladesh," raised during the anti-discrimination movement,

has already faded.

Nirmal Rosario, president of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, emphasised that constitutional recognition of indigenous people is a matter of goodwill. "The interim government must prove through actions that it is different from the previous regime," he said.

At the rally, Uzzal Azim, Sports, education and cultural affairs secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, presented a 12-point demand.

These include constitutional recognition of indigenous communities and immediate action against those who attacked a rally near the NCTB building.

Curtain lifts on Boi

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The book fair will be open from 3:00pm to 9:00pm daily, except on holidays when it will run from 11:00am to 9:00pm. On February 21, International Mother Language Day, the fair will begin at 8:00am and continue until 9:00pm. Special children's events will be held every Friday and Saturday from 11:00am to 1:00pm, except on 8th and 15th February.

Bangla Academy and other participating institutions will sell books at a 25 percent discount. Every day at 4:00pm, seminars will be held at the main stage, followed by cultural programmes in the evening. Bangla Academy itself is releasing 43 new books and 41 reprinted editions at this year's fair. As part of the Amar Ekushey celebrations, various competitions, including recitation and music contests, will be organised. There will also be a dedicated space in

Suhrawardy Udyan for launching new books.

Security measures have been reinforced, with an adequate number of archways installed at the entrance and exit points. The overall security of the fair will be managed by the police, Rab, Ansar, and various intelligence agencies.

The fair has been declared a polythene- and smoke-free zone. Food stalls have been arranged along the boundary of the Engineering Institute, and essential services such as prayer spaces and washrooms will be available.

The Amar Ekushey Boi Mela is not just an event; it is an emotion, a collective experience that binds Bangalees to their language, history, and the power of the written word. This year, as the nation stands at a turning point, the fair becomes even more special -- a testament to the resilience, aspirations, and cultural strength of the people.

The 'misunderstood'

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Recent video tracking in Lawachhara National Park confirmed a relatively stable fishing cat population, but ongoing research is necessary for their long-term survival.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, former divisional forest officer in Sylhet, described the fishing cat as a small wild species weighing between 5 and 16 kg.

Found mainly in South Asian wetlands, they are rare in Southeast Asia.

Unlike domestic cats, fishing cats are well adapted to aquatic environments, with webbed toes and strong fishing skills. Their diet consists mainly of fish, waterfowl, and small aquatic animals.

Their straw-yellow fur with black spots often leads to misidentification as a tiger. Social media exacerbates the issue by spreading misleading labels like "fishing tigers."

To protect fishing cats, it is essential to correct public misconceptions and implement conservation programmes, said Rezaul.

Proposed changes

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Building Code and FAR-related modifications in DAP.

He pointed out that urban planners' recommendations were entirely overlooked in the draft, which poses a significant threat to efforts aimed at making Dhaka liveable.

He said in the past, powerful business lobbies had manipulated urban planning and building regulations for personal gain, leading to Dhaka's continued decline in liveability.

The current amendments -- proposed under the guise of revisions following the July political shift -- appear to be another attempt by business groups to protect their financial interests at the cost of public well-being, he added.

Some government officials, along with a handful of professionals, are reportedly involved in this concerning development, necessitating a thorough investigation, Adil said.

According to IPD, the

2008 Building Code set the FAR for residential buildings based on road width and plot size, with a range from 3.15 (minimum) to 6.5 (maximum).

In the latest DAP, the FAR for Category A3 (apartment-style residential buildings) was capped at 4.25 -- a limit that was also maintained in Rajuk's May 2024 draft regulations.

However, in December 2024, Rajuk abruptly proposed an increase, raising the FAR to 5.5 for A3 residential plots.

This sudden adjustment will drastically intensify the already unbearable pressure on Dhaka's infrastructure. Globally, FAR standards for small residential plots typically remain between 1 and 3. A FAR of 5.5, driven by vested interests, could push Dhaka closer to uninhabitability.

The government must re-evaluate these amendments and ensure that public and expert opinions are at the core of any revisions to the city's planning framework, IPD observed.

Construction of new

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planned to upgrade the Basail Upazila Health Complex from 31 to 50 beds. The tender was awarded to Sonar Bangla Prokoushol Sangstha.

The work order was issued on September 24, 2005, with a deadline of April 23, 2007.

According to the tender, two four-storey, one two-storey and one single-storey building were to be constructed, and the old building was to be renovated, spending Tk 4.96 crore.

By September 26, 2006, the firm withdrew Tk 3.39 crore in bills and completed around 76 percent of construction before halting the work and abandoning the site.

The firm did not resume the work to this day.

According to locals and health complex sources, many items, including doors, windows, and sanitary items, have

been stolen from the construction site.

Meanwhile, the old hospital is struggling to provide adequate facilities to patients.

Several doctors said many machines and equipment could not be installed in the old building due to a lack of space. "If the new building is opened, more patients could be admitted, while doctors could have separate rooms for consultations," said Naeem Abdullah, a resident medical officer of the facility.

Dr Shirley Hamid, upazila health and family planning officer in Basail, said letters were sent to higher authorities regarding the inadequate infrastructure, but the issue remains unresolved.

Habibur Rahman said, "We will invite a new tender for the remaining work. The matter has been included in the next operational plan."