

Questions over RAMPAL

Analysis of int'l firm states project not maintaining minimum social, environmental standards

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

An international organisation has raised serious questions about the much-debated Rampal coal-fired power plant, saying it does not maintain the minimum social and environmental standards.

"The project poses significant adverse social and environmental risks and impacts that are diverse and irreversible," said Bank Track, a Netherlands-based coalition of organisations "targeting the operations and investments of private sector banks and their effect on people and the planet".

In a recent analysis, it said serious deficiencies in project design, planning, and implementation and due diligence obligations render the project non-compliant with

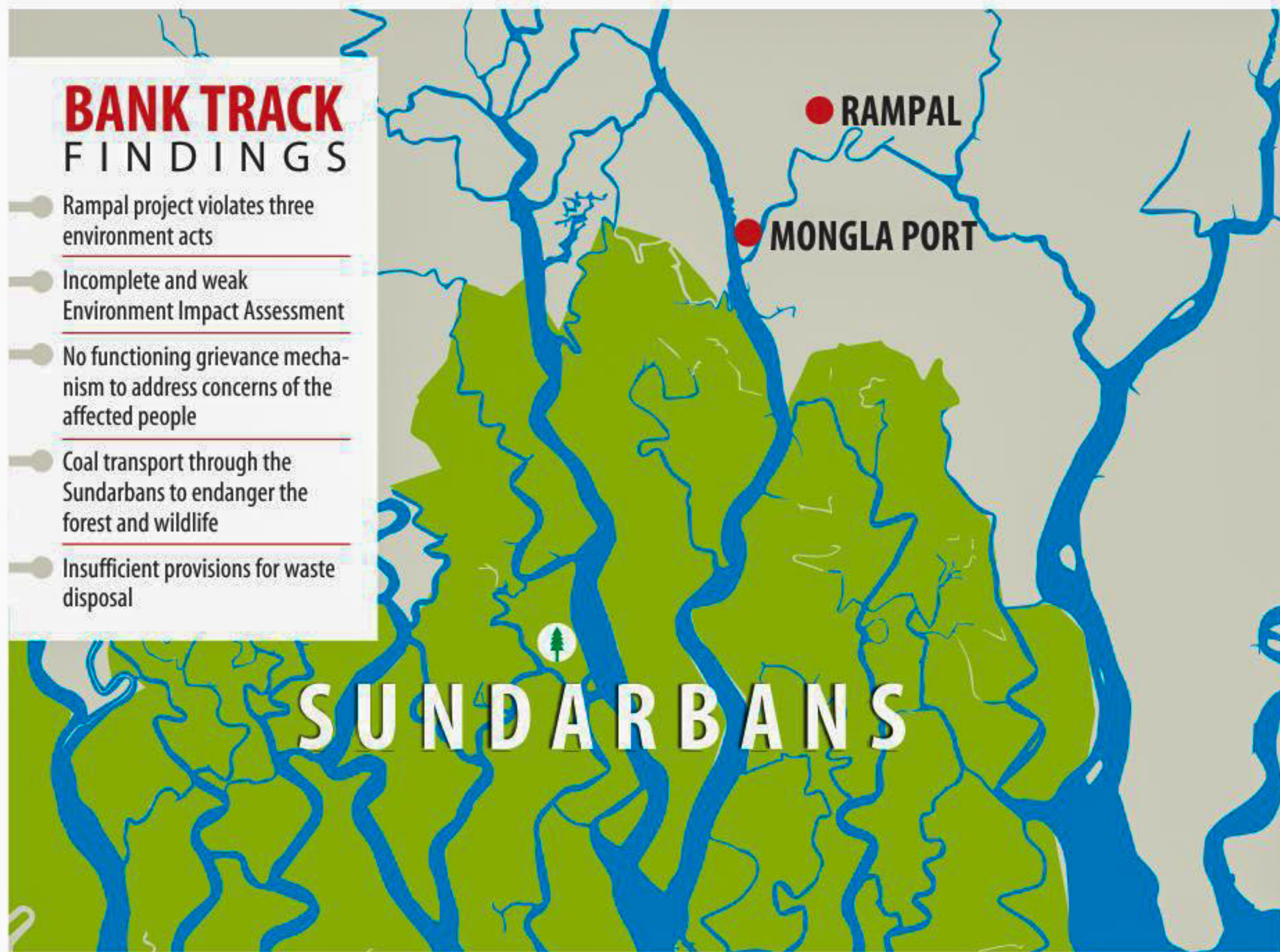
the minimum social and environmental standards and the International Finance Corporation's (IFC's) performance standards.

However, the government as well as the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Pvt Ltd (BIFPLC), which was formed to develop the Rampal project, claimed the 1,320MW plant would not harm the Sundarbans as international standards were being followed properly.

The Rampal plant is located just 14 kilometres upstream of the Sundarbans Reserve Forest, the world's largest remaining contiguous mangrove forest and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

India's largest coal power company

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



MG!

"Our party men had no links with the acts of violence and subversive activities carried out during the movement."

BNP SPOKESPERSON
ASADUZZAMAN RIPON
AT A PRESS BRIEFING AT PARTY'S NAYAPALTAN OFFICE

Cheers fading as Greeks face reality

Finance minister quits; Eurozone leaders sit today

AFP, Athens

After jubilant celebrations by 'No' voters, Athens returned to a reality of ATM queues yesterday and the shock news that the finance minister, champion of the victorious anti-austerity camp, had quit.

Yesterday's scenes of cheering outside parliament faded as fears spread that the country's banks could run dry within hours or days, forcing untold numbers of companies to go bust.

Those out for a coffee in the morning sunshine were worried that new efforts to strike a deal with the country's international



creditors may not come in time to prevent Greece running out of cash -- or the talks could fail entirely.

"I'm very afraid we will get no cash any more in the coming days. They really have to fix it, end of this week at the latest, otherwise it's collapsing," pharmacist Lambros Vritios said of the banking system.

Capital controls imposed by the government last week mean locals can only withdraw 60 euros (\$67) a day, but even that restriction -- aimed at averting financial disaster -- has not stopped a run on money.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

NEWS ANALYSIS

The perils of prosecution

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has hit the nail on the head.

Speaking as chief guest at a national dialogue on human trafficking on Sunday, he decried the present pervasive system of appointing ruling party men as public prosecutors. He also spoke about their poor knowledge of criminal laws. He deserves kudos for his strong pronouncements on the sorry state of public prosecution system.

The reality is: appointing lawyers who belong to the ruling party as public prosecutors and government pleaders has now become a convention. Through this practice, the party in power favours its men at district levels by appointing them as the State's law officers.

Loyalty to the ruling party is considered the topmost qualification to get the appointments. Efficiency and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ARREST OF BAISHAKH SEX ASSAULT CULPRITS

Police, Rab contradict home boss' claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police and Rab officials yesterday contradicted the home boss' claim that law enforcers have arrested several identified culprits who molested some women during the Pahela Baishakh celebration.

Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, state minister for home, made the claim in parliament, replying to a question from independent lawmaker Tahjib Alam Siddique.

"The inspector general of police has identified some people. We have caught some of them. So I can assure you ... we have identified them and brought them to justice and we



will do the same for the rest one or two [still at large]," Kamal said.

But DMP Deputy Commissioner (Media) Muntasirul Islam and Rab Media and Legal Wing Director Mufti Mahmud Khan told The Daily Star last night that they were yet to arrest anyone in connection with the sexual assault on April 14.

A senior police official said they had detained several people for interrogation but later released them.

Another police official, involved in the investigation, said last night that there was no one in their custody at the moment.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

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