

## Stop support for Banskhalhi

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professor, Department of Economics, Jahangirnagar University; and Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), are among the 129 individuals who penned the letter.

"The involvement is contrary to President Xi Jinping's speech at the second Belt and Road Forum in 2019 where he said, 'We need to pursue open, green and clean cooperation ... We may launch green infrastructure projects, make green investments and provide green financing to protect the Earth which we all call home,' they said in the letter.

"In February 2021, Economic and Commercial Counsellor (ECCO) of China in Bangladesh sent a letter to the Bangladesh's Ministry of Finance stating that 'the Chinese side shall no longer consider projects with high pollution and high energy consumption, such as coal mining and coal-fired power stations,' they mentioned.

Terming the project "A Blood-coloured BRI project", the personalities and organisations said, "Since the beginning of the project in 2016, 12 people have lost their lives, more than 100 got injured and harassment cases have been filed against over 6,000 workers and villagers in three different incidents around this power plant."

"The project has been marred by lack of transparency, irregularities and rampant human rights violation since its inception. Lead sponsor S Alam group evicted thousands of

local residents and they were not paid a single penny for their land. Those who refused to give up their land were harassed with fake lawsuits. S Alam acquired several times more land than the actual 640 acres of project area using their muscle and mobsters," the letter said.

"Banskhalhi power plant will be extremely harmful to the public health in the area. According to estimates, the coal power project will emit 192,200 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over its operating lifetime," it added.

They also added, "The project plans to apply very weak emissions standards, which would not be allowed even in China, and the flaws and omissions in the EIA help justify this. The ongoing construction itself creates a permanent waterlogging over a large area of the adjoining villages."

The signatories demand the Chinese minister to get aligned with those Chinese measures for foreign investment, and respond to their following demands:

1. Withdraw all involvement of your institution from the Banskhalhi coal power project.
2. Investigate the issues in relation with human rights violation and erroneous Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
3. Ensure adequate compensation and rehabilitation of the dead and injured workers and the affected villagers.
4. Without exceptions, cancel all ongoing and future investments in fossil fuel including coal, oil and gas.

## Two ministers appear to resolve feud

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the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnet), the planning minister said, "I'm thankful to Momen as he has mentioned about our friendship of 50 years. But his sending the DO letter without even discussing it took me by surprise.

"There are some ongoing issues between me and five other parliamentarians of Sunamganj. Those will be resolved soon."

Mannan said what Momen did was "unnecessary" and added, "It wasn't a government decision and no serious harm was done. It was rather a misinformation and it will be taken care of. We are friends and will remain so."

Speaking to journalists on his return from the US, the foreign minister said he would talk to his "old friend" to discuss how he came to support the

idea of a railway connecting Chhatak with Sunamganj and Mohanganj, reports UNB.

Momen, a parliamentarian from Sylhet-1, said he wrote a letter to the railways minister "with an open mind" after five lawmakers from Sunamganj requested him to back their proposal.

"I should have talked to him [Mannan]. Now I will have to look at it. I have no conflict with him. I shall speak to him. I feel sorry about it," Momen told reporters at his foreign ministry office.

He said he was surprised at the discussion on social media over his letter to the railways minister. He said he had no information about "internal politics" of Sunamganj, but he only favoured connectivity.

For decades, Sunamganj has been waiting to get connected through rail as only the district's Chhatak upazila

has been connected to Sylhet since 1954 due to industrial importance.

The railways ministry in 2015 assessed three possible routes to connect Sunamganj town with Chhatak, which will connect with Dhaka via Sunamganj's Dharmapasha and Netrakona's Mohanganj upazilas.

However, the planning minister recently asked the railways ministry to revise the assessment by skipping Chhatak and including Dakshin Sunamganj upazila, which is his home and constituency.

An assessment project considering the request is under progress now.

As this demand will eventually increase cost and time, all five other MPs of Sunamganj opposed it and sent DO letters to the railways minister on June 7.

The foreign minister then backed the five.

## Allow her

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Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at a press briefing at party chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday.

The BNP leader said the former premier needs to be taken abroad for better treatment for liver and other complications.

Khaleda was admitted to Evercare Hospital on April 28, three days after she tested positive for coronavirus for the second time. She was released from the hospital on June 19. She first tested positive on April 11.

The BNP chief has also arthritis, diabetes and eye problems.

Fakhrul said, "Earlier, family members of Khaleda Zia talked about her taking abroad for treatment. We took a resolution in the party's standing committee meeting that she needs treatment abroad. The government should do everything immediately to take her abroad."

The government released Khaleda from jail on March 25 last year, suspending her sentence as per section 401 (1) of the Criminal Code of Procedure. The suspension was later extended twice.

The BNP chairperson landed in jail on February 8, 2018, after a special court sentenced her to five years in prison in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. On October 30, 2018, the High Court raised her punishment to 10 years.

## Elephant in room

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considers it briefly, and then sticks it in its mouth -- before the video cuts out.

Kittichai and his wife live near a national park in western Thailand, by a lake where wild elephants often bathe while roaming in the jungle.

He was unperturbed by the mammoth mammal, recognising it as a frequent visitor as it often wanders into homes in his village where it eats, leaves and shoots off back into the jungle.

The elephant had actually destroyed their kitchen wall in May, he said, creating an open-air kitchen concept reminiscent of a drive-through window.

This weekend, its sole task was to find food.

Kittichai said a general rule of thumb in dealing with unwelcome visitors crashing is not to feed them.

"When it doesn't get food, it just leaves on its own," he told AFP.

"I am already used to it coming, so I was not so worried."

Wild elephants are a common sight in Thailand's national parks and its surrounding areas, with farmers sometimes reporting incidents of their fruits and corn crops being eaten by a hungry herd.

## It's all to exert political clout

FROM PAGE 1  
even though they want to work as a helping hand of the government identifying their errors," he added.

Journalists show a lack of interest in learning new things, said Afsan Chowdhury, a researcher and columnist.

"In our country, reporters do not do the structural analysis on corruption in their reports. Rather, they talk about who is involved with the corruption. We are failing to say why corruption or stealing is going on," he added.

Maintaining ethics is imperative for all kinds of journalism, said Julfikar Ali Manik, planning consultant of Boishakhi Television.

If anyone does journalism violating ethics it means he/she is stigmatising the profession.

"We cannot collect information by force and purchase information from anybody. We cannot take away anything without informing a person from his/her room and these things will violate the ethics of journalism," Manik added.

Doing investigative journalism in Bangladesh is very challenging, said Gitiara Nasreen, a professor at the department of mass communication and journalism of Dhaka University.

The journalists' job is to talk and write, but in the last year they have seen their rights of journalists compromised all over the world, she said.

Talking about fake news in social media, Nasreen said during the pandemic mainstream media also gave wrong information.

Reducing sources of gathering information, torturing journalism physically and mentally and curtailing freedom by enforcing new laws are giving scope to fake news, said Masum Billah, assistant coordinator of outreach and communication division of the TIB.

Fake websites got four times more hits than 10 first-grade newspapers' websites, according to the World Health Organisation and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention of the US.

Of them, only 16 percent of the content got warning signs from Facebook, he said in his keynote paper.

It is claimed that 86 percent of the coronavirus cases in China would have been avoided if there were assurance of freedom of speech and accurate flow of information, he said.

"We are all responsible for the stagnation of current journalism in Bangladesh. This situation has arisen due to the government, the political parties, the administration, the owners of mass media, working journalists, journalist unions, and above all our tendency to accept and adopt in some cases compel," he said.

In the keynote paper, TIB demanded a policy considering media as an assistant in ensuring the free flow of accurate information during the coronavirus pandemic.

This will be helpful for independent journalism.

They also demanded a repeal of the controversial sections of the Digital Security Act 2018 and declare the Official Secrecy Act 1923 extinct.

They also demanded bringing the subject of wholesale termination of journalists under the supervision of the government and different journalist organisations will have to take steps in this regard.

TIB also demanded necessary steps by the authorities concerned to ensure the security and health protection of journalists.

The local chapter of the global anti-graft watchdog also demanded making the press council more effective than the information ministry.

At the webinar, three journalists were given the TIB Investigative Journalism-2020 award. The recipients are Abu Rayhan Tanin, staff reporter of daily Chattogram Pratidin in print media (regional) category; Saikat Bhoumic, senior correspondent of Sarabangal.net in print/online media (national) category; and Mufti Parvez Nadir Reza, Ekattor Television's senior correspondent, received the award in the electronic media category.

## Abetting repression

FROM PAGE 12  
military equipment from the US defence department's excess stocks sold to Pakistan under state department licence. Another ship bearing American military equipment for Pakistan had sailed from this port in May, 1971. According to the bills of lading, equipment for the earlier shipment was delivered at a New York dock on the same date that the state department sent its letter to the senate committee saying no deliveries were scheduled.

"These shipments," wrote The New York Times, "represent a breach of faith with the American public, with Congress and with a friendly foreign power."

It further said, "They serve further to undermine the credibility of the United States Government. And they put the United States in the position of abetting an act of repression that is not only morally repugnant but which constitutes a serious threat to this country's own long-term interest in peace and democratic development on the Indian subcontinent."

### ARRESTS OF BANGALEES REPORTED

Reports spread through Dhaka today that a large number of Bangalees—some reports put the figures as high as 400—had been arrested by the army during the night.

### WAR-AFFECTED AREAS INSPECTED

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said today that he had made helicopter

inspections of areas disrupted by civil strife in East Pakistan and had found that "life is slowly returning to normal".

The commissioner, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, warned, however, that massive relief and rehabilitation support was needed in the affected areas.

He said that the \$45 million given or pledged by governments to care for East Pakistani refugees now in India had been used up and that the Indian authorities expected they would need far more than the \$175 million estimated earlier to cover a six month period.

### INDIA ASKS US TO CLARIFY REPORT ON AID TO PAKISTAN

The United States charge d'affaires in New Delhi, Gallen L Stone, was called to the foreign ministry today for clarification of a report in The New York Times that two Pakistani ships had sailed from American ports carrying United States military equipment, including aircraft and spare parts for army vehicles.

Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh, who returned early today after a visit to six world capitals, said the contents of the report were "contrary to assurances" that he had from American officials in Washington that military aid would not be provided to Pakistan.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

## AL founding

FROM PAGE 12  
Working Committee will place wreaths at the mausoleum of Bangabandhu in his birthplace in Gopalganj's Tungipara at 10:00am. AL presidium member Lt Col Muhammad Faruq Khan (retired), Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Organisational Secretary SM Kamal Hossain, Mirza Azam, Shahabuddin Farazi, and Syed Abdul Awal Shamim will attend the programme.

Besides, a discussion programme marking the day will be held at 4:00pm at the party's central office on Banghabandhu Avenue. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the AL president, will attend the programme virtually.

Yesterday, the PM issued a message marking the founding anniversary of the party.

Party General Secretary Obaidul Quader has already called upon all its leaders, activists and followers to organise programmes in a limited manner maintaining all health safety rules.

The AL began its journey on June 23 in 1949, when a young, secular and progressive section of the Muslim League formed the East Pakistan Awami Muslim League, at a meeting at the historic Rose Garden on KM Das Lane in Dhaka's Tikatuli.

Maulana Abdul Hamid Bhashani was elected as the founding president, and Shamsul Hoque was named the general secretary.

During the Second National Council meeting of the party in July 1953, Bhashani was re-elected president, and the Father of the Nation was named the new general secretary.

BSS adds: The AL saw seven chiefs and nine secretaries since its founding in 1949.

Hasina has been serving as the longest serving president of the party for highest nine consecutive terms for the last four decades since her election to the position on February 16, 1981.

So far, nine leaders served the AL as general secretary with Bangabandhu and Zillur Rahman serving in that position for the highest four terms each.

Bangabandhu became the AL president on January 25, 1966 and steered the party for eight years till January 18, 1974.

## 'World's happiest country' seeks migrants

AFP, Helsinki

Repeatedly dubbed the happiest nation on the planet with world-beating living standards, Finland should be deluged by people wanting to relocate, but in fact it faces an acute workforce shortage.

"It's now widely acknowledged that we need a spectacular number of people to come to the country," recruiter Saku Tihverainen from agency Talented Solutions told AFP.

### Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
www.tcb.gov.bd

**Import Section**

#### Invitation For Tender (International) of

**(a) 3,000(±10%) Onion**  
**(b) 3,000 (±5%) M.Ton Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce.
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable.
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	(a) Onion (b) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil
7	Invitation Ref. No.	(a) 26.05.0000.016.09.153.21.1121 (b) 26.05.0000.016.09.153.21.1122
8	Date	22-06-2021

**KEY INFORMATION**

9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10	Budget and Source of Funds	TCB's Own Fund.
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

11	Package No.	(a) TCB/Imp-38/Onion/2021 (b) TCB/Imp-39/Red Lentil/2021
12	Package Name	(a) Onion (b) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil
13	Tender Publication Date	23-06-2021

	Date	Time
14	Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time	02-08-2021 17:00 P.M
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	03-08-2021 12:00 P.M
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	03-08-2021 12:15 P.M
17	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address

- Selling Tender Document of each item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column.  
- Receiving Tender Document In front of TCB's reception (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), TCB Bhaban, I, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.  
- Opening Tender Document Board Room, TCB.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

18	Eligibility of Tenderer	Bonafide Suppliers/Manufacturers. Details conditions will be mentioned in the Tender documents.
19	Brief Description of goods	Import of (a) Onion: 3,000 (±10%) (Three Thousand Plus Minus Ten Percent) M.Tons (b) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil: 3,000 (±5%) (Three Thousand Plus Minus Five Percent) M.Tons
20	Price of Tender Document	(a) Tk.3,000 (Three Thousand) only Per Set. (b) Tk.3,000 (Three Thousand) only Per Set.

Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (USD/TK)	Shipment Schedule
21	1. (a) Onion (b) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil.	(a) Offers are to be made on CFR (C) Chattogram (Chittagong) by Sea. or Benapole /Bangla Hili Bangla Bandha /Burimari /Darshana/ Sonamasjid/Bhomra or Tecknaf /Mundu or any land port by Truck basis. (b) Offers are to be made on CFR (C) Chattogram ( Chittagong) by Sea.	Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to: (a) USD 29,000.00(US Dollar Twenty Nine Thousand ) or BDT 24,65,000.00 (BDT Twenty Four Lac Sixty Five Thousand) Only. (b) USD 56,000.00 (US Dollar Fifty Six Thousand) or BDT 47,60,000.00 (BDT Forty Seven Lac Sixty Thousand) Only in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee. The Successful Tenderer is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee.	Entire quantity of Goods is to be shipped latest by: (a) 30 September 2021 (b) 10 October 2021 (Including L/C correction & grace period) from the date of opening L/C.

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Shekhabur Rahaman
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) I, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone No. 02-8180074 Fax No.880-2-8180057 E-mail: tcb@tcb.gov.bd, tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd

**Special Instructions:**

- Incomplete, conditional Tender and alternative offer shall not be considered.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any/all Tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason.
- Tenderer who was awarded the Notification of Awarded (NOA) earlier but could not submit Performance Security (PS) in due time, will not be eligible for the Tender.
- Tenderer who's Performance Security (PS) was partially or totally forfeited earlier will not be eligible to participate in the Tender.

(Md. Shekhabur Rahaman)  
Chief Officer (Commercial)  
Trading Corporation of Bangladesh

GD-1255