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Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a public meeting in Jamalpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Govt urged to implement MoU with people of Phulbari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable discussion demanded that the government immediately implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the government and the people of Phulbari and cancel the agreement signed with the Asia Energy.

The discussion on Mass Upurge in Phulbari and the Movement to Protect National Resources was organised by Five Left Parties at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

The speakers said Phulbari movement sent a message to the people that foreign investment does not always mean development.

They said instead of bringing a proposal to implement the MoU, the political parties in the Parliament have been blaming each other to hide the reality.

Local leaders of Phulbari movement demanded implementation of the MoU during the tenure of this government.

Professor Anu Mohammad, member secretary of National Committee to Protect Phulbari Oil-Gas-Minerals-Electricity and Port said the amount of money Asia Energy could invest in the country for 30 years had been destroyed in just three days in Magurchara and Tengrila.

Commenting on the atrocities on the people of Phulbari, he said it was quite pre-planned and the Asia Energy as well as the government should take the responsibility of the incident of killing.

"Asia Energy must leave the country after giving the compensation for the huge loss of resources and manpower in the country that took place by their activities," he said adding that the irregularities during planning of the contract with Asia Energy is enough to cancel the agreement.

"Asia Energy is yet to pay the bank guarantee of Tk three thousand crore and it had started work before receiving the work permit from the Directorate of Environment. Besides, if people raise discontent over any project, it should be considered illegal to implement it," he said.

There is no legal intricacy in this case and people now want formal announcement from the government, Prof Anu added.

Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury said though the movement started locally, it was in fact the reflection of the desire of the people of the country.

Presided over by Coordinator of Five Left Parties Jonayed Saki, local leader of Phulbari movement Saiful Islam Jewel, Aminul Islam Bablu, Convener of National Committee to Protect Phulbari Oil-Gas-Minerals-Electricity and Port Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, Convener of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Khalequzzaman and Convener of Adivashi Samity Ramal Soren also spoke on the occasion.

Two orphanage officials suspended

UNB, Thakurgaon

Two officials of Shabdahat Fazilatunnesa Orphanage at Sadar upazila have been suspended on charge of corruption and irregularities.

Director General of Social Welfare Department on Thursday issued the suspension order on Deputy Superintendent Abdus Sobhan and Assistant Superintendent Abdul Hamid as some irregularities were found during an investigation against them.

On September 10, children of the orphanage staged a sit-in for three hours in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office protesting torture and substandard and insufficient food being served to them at the orphanage.

14 phensidyl peddlers held

UNB, Sirajganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a combing operation arrested 14 phensidyl peddlers from Jamtoli station and bazar areas in Kamarkhanda upazila on Friday night.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab members conducted the operation in plainclothes from 6:00pm to 8:00pm and held the peddlers, sources said.

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