

Implement Phulbari accord

Speakers urge CG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citizens' Commission on Gas, Oil and Coal yesterday demanded immediate implementation of the accord between the people of Phulbari and the immediate past alliance government.

They also urged the caretaker government to conduct investigations into the corruption in the energy sector and demanded exemplary punishment to the miscreants and enactment a new coal policy to preserve the national interest.

They were speaking at a view exchange meeting on 'Phulbari coalmine: Anticipation of the people' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

"Corrupt bureaucrats, politicians, experts and consultants in the energy sector should be brought to book after proper investigations", said Kazi Khaliquzzaman, convener of the commission, while reading out a written statement.

The commission demanded immediate cancellation of the Phulbari Coal Mine Project with the Asia Energy.

Khaliquzzaman expressed concern over Asia Energy's latest activities, including changing its name and distributing New Year's greeting cards at Phulbari.

"Treaties and accords regarding coal exploration should be signed with expert companies after enacting a fresh coal policy and considering the opinion of the experts and locals," added the commission convener.

Commission members Abul Barkat, SK Abdullah, Md Rafidul Islam Khan and Golam Mortoza were also present at the meeting.



A mobile court found bottles of medicine without manufacturing date at Pragati Homeo Hall at Malibagh Chowdhurypara in the city during a drive yesterday. The court also fined the drug store Tk 2 lakh.



Winners of Shaplakuri Award 2006 organised by Zia Shishu Academy pose for photograph with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Former Ctg DC Hasan sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former deputy commissioner of Chittagong Mohammad Hasan was sent to jail yesterday, a day after he was arrested on charges of corruption and making indecent proposal to a woman teacher.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Moksudur Rahman sent Hasan to jail custody after he was produced before the court at around 11:30am.

On Wednesday, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Hasan, now chairman of Dew Point School, during a raid on the school in the city's Halishahar G Block area. The raid was conducted following a complaint lodged by the woman teacher who serves in the school.

Hasan was later handed over to Halishahar Police Station.

Rab sources said they arrested Hasan under Section 16 of Emergency Act 2007 to investigate the allegations of corruption and indecent proposal. There were allegations that Hasan resorted to widespread corruption when he served as the DC of Chittagong and Rangamati.

'Raise awareness about women's rights issues'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said both men and women should raise their voice and practise the rights of women at home.

They said some people have theoretical perceptions about women's rights but they remain reluctant in practising them.

The discussion on 'Women's rights to establish democracy' was organised jointly by PRIP Trust, Oxfam-GB and Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra (BNSK) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

"It is not enough that only the women will speak for their rights, rather both men and women, especially near and dear ones should also speak and act to establish women's rights," said PRIP Trust Deputy Director Shirin Banu Mitil.

The government has prepared PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) and Women's Development Policy, but there still remain questions as to what extent these reflect the women's rights, she added.

BNSK President Nasimun Ara Haque Minu said Bangladesh has signed many international conventions on the rights of the women, but has failed to implement many of its pledges.

"The Women Development Policy 1997 should be reinstated, as some of its very important provisions have been changed, which is almost equal to cancel the policy," she noted.

The government pledged to formulate an equal citizenship law, but has not implemented it, she said urging the caretaker government to look into the issues seriously.

PRIP Trust Gender Expert Laila Arju Mand Banu said they have initiated divisional level workshops in participation of the local journalists, lawyers, NGO activists, teachers and women activists to create awareness on women's rights issues.

The trust will also prepare a thematic paper on the basis of the discussions of the workshops, which will be used for advocacy at different level in the society for creating mass awareness on women's rights.

"We shall also try so that the political parties include the recommendations in their election manifestoes," she noted.

The speakers stressed on more dialogues with journalists so that they highlight the women's rights issues in appropriate manner.

Farhana Hafiz, project officer of Gender and Equity Programme of Oxfam-GB, also spoke at the discussion.

Machine Tools Factory keen to produce transparent ballot box

UNB, Dhaka

A commercial enterprise under the management of Bangladesh Army has expressed its interest to produce transparent ballot boxes for use in the next general election.

Factory (BMTF) Ltd has recently sent a letter to the Election Commission expressing its desire to manufacture transparent ballot boxes.

In the letter, the BMTF mentioned that it is interested to actively participate in the task of manufacturing transparent ballot boxes as it earlier successfully produced 40,000 ballot boxes.

If a decision is made to manufacture transparent ballot boxes, the business organisation requested the EC to give it the work order.

Bangladesh Machine Tools