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NEW AGE

Rights activists blast EU position on MDTF

Staff Correspondent

RIGHTS activists on Monday criticised the suggestion of the European Union ambassador to Dhaka, Stefan Frowein that the World Bank should manage Bangladesh's Multi-Donor Trust Fund on a temporary basis.

They termed neo-colonial the EU position on MDTF, saying they have been consistently pushing Bangladesh government to accept World Bank in managing the fund.

The statement from the EU ambassador and state minister for environment and forest on MDTF is contradictory as the state minister recently said the Bangladesh government should have sole authority over the fund,' Prodip K Roy of Online Knowledge Centre told a human chain.

An alliance of nineteen rights organisations, led by EquityBD, formed the human chain programme in

front of the National Press Club in Dhaka.

Mostafa Kamal Akanda of EquityBD moderated the programme addressed, among others, by Feroze Ahmed of Lead Trust, Shipra Das of Kishani Shova, Tusar Rehman of Citizen Rights Movement and Rezaul Karim Chowdhury and Shasuddoha of EquityBD.

They also criticised the EU for imposing conditions on inclusion of the World Bank in management of MDTF.

The rights groups attending the programme are Arpon, AMKS, Eso, Bangladesh Krishak Federation, CSRL, EquityBD, Kishani Shova, Lead Trust, On Line Knowledge Centre, Potikrit, La via Campesina, MFTD, Prantik, Purbasha, RCASV, Swadin Bangla, Garments Stromik Federation, Solidarity Workshop, Sirajonj Flood Forum and Uddipan.

Feroze Ahmed of Lead Trust in his speech said two-third of the World Bank projects across the world depend on fossil fuel, which are causing carbon emission.

Besides, most of the WB projects in Bangladesh have failed, so the WB should not be involved with any projects anymore, he added.

Shipra Das of Kishani Shova said the EU and other developed countries are the major carbon emitters and they must compensate first to climate change-affected countries without any condition.

Tusar Rehman of Citizen Rights Movement said the government must maintain sovereignty in climate fund and such a fund should be channelled through an independent foundation.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of EquityBD said unless the government finalises the management modalities of MDTF.