

Team Anna gets Mumbai ground for agitation

IANS, Mumbai



Anna Hazare

Anna Hazare flayed the demand for concession as "improper", but his activist supporters nevertheless managed to get the MMRDA ground here at low rates from the state government for their agitation there from Dec 27 after the Bombay High Court declined to grant any waiver in the rent.

The Bombay High Court Friday refused to grant any cut in ground rent, which Anna Hazare flayed as "improper", but his activist supporters nevertheless managed to get the MMRDA ground here at concessional rates for their agitation from Dec 27.

The Maharashtra government-run Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) agreed to give its ground at concessional rates to Team Anna

that would entail a saving of nearly Rs.450,000 to the organisers, India Against Corruption member Mayank Gandhi said.

Now, the organizers will pay around Rs.680,000 instead of the earlier demand of Rs.11,80,000, plus heavy deposits for the use of the

ground, Gandhi said.

Earlier, Team Anna got a ticking off from the Bombay High Court, which they had approached challenging the high commercial rates - amounting to around Rs.19 lakh, including a hefty deposit of around Rs.700,000 - for the use of the ground from Dec 27 to 31.

The court made sharp observations on the need for Hazare to hold an agitation "outside" when the Lokpal bill was being debated in parliament.

2 young women killed

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around 4:15 in the morning to inform him that Aklima had suffered burn injuries in a fire. He also said the fire originated from a burning mosquito coil.

"We rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital but my aunt was already dead," the nephew said.

Alauddin said as no one else in the house had suffered any burns it seemed to him that his aunt might have been set on fire.

Aklima's neighbours told Alauddin his aunt had a huge fight with her husband before the fire started.

According to her family, Farid and Aklima were married eight years ago but three years ago he married another woman and has been torturing Aklima since. He also demanded that her family pay Tk one lakh as dowry so that he can start a business.

"Farid drove Aklima out of his house twice in the past for failing to provide this money. Her brother has already paid Tk 30,000 and Farid has been press-

ing her for the remaining money," Alauddin said.

Aklima was the mother of Arpana, 5 and Purno, 2.

Badda Police Station officer-in-charge Mahbubur Rahman said Farid has confessed to killing his wife by setting her on fire following a family feud.

In the other incident, Badda police recovered Sabina's body hanging from a rope at her Merul Badda residence.

Sabina's family alleged that her husband Halim beat her to death and then hung her body to cover his crime.

Sabina's younger brother Jahangir Hossain of Beraid village in Badda said Halim had been abusing his sister demanding Tk two lakh as dowry for the last three years.

"We have already filed two complaints with the police against Halim for torturing my sister and for demanding dowry," Jahangir said.

Badda OC said Sabina's husband Halim has been on the run since she was found dead.

Get rid of politicisation

FROM PAGE 20

Lawyers had waged a movement, even gone to jail in order to protect the independence of the judiciary, Dr Kamal said. He called on lawyers to work together to uphold the heritage and dignity of the judiciary.

Advocate Shahdeen Malik, honorary director of BILIA, said judges were being appointed on political consideration in recent years, raising concern among all sections of the society.

Transparency and accountability in appointing judges could be ensured if the appointments were made through a specific process or a law, he said.

As per article 95 of the constitution, a law for selection of judges must be enacted in parliament. Any further appointment of judges without a law will be described as arbitrary, Shahdeen noted.

He added that names should be recommended by the chief justice in writing for the appointment of judges.

Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Abdul Baset Majumder said politicisation of the judi-

cacy had become a national issue in the country.

"We have observed a competition between the political parties as to how many judges they could appoint when they came to power," he said. The scenario will not change if the present political culture in the country persists.

Prof Asif Nazrul of the law department of Dhaka University said 45 judges were appointed during the last BNP-led government while the present Awami League-led government appointed 52 judges in the last three years.

Prof Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Sujan, a civil society platform, suggested evaluation by the supreme judicial council or other body of the judges whose appointments had been made without "due diligence".

He urged senior lawyers to take an initiative in this regard.

Prof Anwar Hossain, president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, and Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, editor-in-chief of the daily Manabzamin, also spoke at the discussion.

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In Dinajpur, three children died after contracting pneumonia on Friday night, according to district health officials.

They are three-day-old Johnny, eight-day-old Aklima and Sumon, 6. Of them, Johnny and Sumon died at Dinajpur upazila, while Aklima at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

They had been suffering from respiratory problem, said Civil Surgeon Md Moudud Hossain.

Moreover, 59 more children infected with pneumonia were admitted to different health complexes during the period, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Though the cold wave has intensified leading to extreme chill, the district administration is yet to make any significant arrangements for warm clothes for the destitute, who are forced to bear the extreme cold.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday morning, Deputy Commissioner Md Jamal

Meanwhile, different social organisations have also been distributing warm clothes among the poor at places.

In Jamalpur General Hospital, seven-month-old Tayeba died of diarrhoea at 10:00am yesterday. Residential Medical Officer Jotindra Chandra Mandalsaid.

On Friday, Joynal Abedin, 65, Khoymon Begum, 70, and Harun-or-Rashid, 60, died of cold-related complications, union parishad chairmen sources said.

Death toll in the district has reached 18 in the district in the last one week.

In Kurigram, Jahura Begum, 90, of Kurigram municipality area died yesterday of cold-related disease.

Kurigram Sadar Hospital sources said no one died of cold-related complications at the hospital. The hospital authority, however, cancelled the leave of the physicians considering the weather and to ensure better treatment of the patients.

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