

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
SPECIAL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION ON OF 2016.

IN THE MATTER OF:

An application under Article 102 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF:

Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

AND

IN THE MATTER OF:

1. Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), represented by it's Secretary, Advocate Asaduzzaman Siddique, Hall No. 2, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

.....Petitioner.

-VERSUS-

1. Bangladesh, represented by the Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, Bangladesh Secretariat, P.S. Shahbag, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
2. The Secretary, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh Secretariat, P.S. Shahbag, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forrest, Bangladesh Secretariat, P.S. Shahbag, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
4. The Mayor, Barisal City Corporation, Barisal, P.O. & P.S.: Barisal, Dist: Barisal.
5. The Director General, Department of Environment, Paribesh Bhaban, E-16, Sher-E Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka.
6. The Director(enforcement) Department of Environment, Paribesh Bhaban, E-16, Sher-E, Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka.
7. The Director, Environment Directorate, Barisal, P.O. & Police Station- Barisal, District-Barisal, Bangladesh.
8. The Deputy Commissioner, Barisal, Post and District- Barisal.

9. The Police Commissioner, Barisal Metropolitan Police, BMP Head quarter, Post and P.S.- Barisal, Bangladesh.

10. The Officer in Charge(O.C), Barisal Sadar Thana, Post and P.S Barisal, District- Barisal.

..... Respondents.

GROUND S -

- I. For that the duty and responsibility vested upon the respondents to serve the people and initiate lawful steps and they are also duty bound to obey the provisions of law. But the respondents have failed to perform the duties and responsibility as vested upon them and by way of violating the provision of law the earth filling/encroaching is continuing within the Pond/(`xwN) situated at south side of Barisal Medical College and on the bank of the river kirtonkhola within Barisal City Corporation, , which is illegal. Hence, direction may be given upon the respondents to stop encroachment and earth filling and pollution of the pond and to protect Pond/(`xwN) situated at south side of Barisal Medical College and on the bank of the river kirtonkhola, within Barisal City Corporation, to it's original territory as per record.
- II. For that disregard to laws and legal provisions and failure to ensure proper implementation of laws the respondents have caused enough damage to the environment and the local people are being adversely affected in context of right to life. Under these circumstances the respondents are legally bound to protect the Pond/(`xwN) situated at south side of Barisal Medical College and on the bank of the river kirtonkhola within Barisal City Corporation in accordance with law.
- III. For that under Section 5 of the gnvbMix, wefvMxq kni I †Rjv kn‡ii †cŠi GjvKvmn †`‡ki mKj †cŠi GjvKvi †Ljvi gvV Db¥y³ `vb, D`vb Ges cÖvK...wZK Rjvavi msi¶b AvBb, 2000, also prohibits change of the nature of any land that has been earmarked as a natural reservoir. As per section 8 of the Act 2000 any person who acts in contravention of the Act is liable to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding Taka 50,000 or both. In spite of that provision of law the respondents are not taking any steps in case of killing of Pond, Situated within Barisal City Corporation. Hence a direction may be given to stop earth filling/encroachment and pollution of the Pond/(`xwN) situated at south side of Barisal Medical College and on the bank of the river kirtonkhola within Barisal City Corporation and to protect the same to its original territory as per record.

Wherefore, it is most humbly prayed that your Lordships would graciously be pleased to :-

- a) Issue a Rule Nisi calling upon the Respondents to show cause as to why inaction/failure of the

respondents to take effective steps to protect the Pond/(\xwN) situated at south side of Barisal Medical College and on the bank of the river kirtonkhola, within Barisal City Corporation, and to stop encroachment and earth filling of the said Pond, should not be declared illegal and without lawful authority and why a direction should not be given upon the respondents to stop earth filling and encroachment within the Pond/(\xwN) situated at south side of Barisal Medical College and on the bank of the river kirtonkhola, within Barisal City Corporation.

AND

Why a direction should not be given upon the respondents to protect the Pond/(\xwN) situated at south side of Barisal Medical College and on the bank of the river kirtonkhola, within Barisal City Corporation, to its original territory as per record.

b) Pending hearing of the rule direct the respondent no. 2-10 to take immediate steps within 72 hours to stop encroachment/earth filling within the Pond/(\xwN) situated at south side of Barisal Medical College and on the bank of the river kirtonkhola, within Barisal City Corporation (as reported in Prothom Alo dated 22.12.2015) and file a compliance report within 2 weeks through affidavit before the court..

c) Direct the office to serve the notices and copies at the cost of office.

d) Upon hearing the cause if any shown makes the rule absolute.

e) Pass such other or further order or orders as your Lordships may deem fit and proper..

Present Status

The case was filled and moved by Advocate Manzill Murshid, President, HRPB. After hearing the parties the Hon'ble Court issued Rule Nisi upon the respondents and granted ad-interim order. The matter is pending before the Hon'ble High Court Division.
