

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

WRIT PETITION NO. .... 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 peach for Bangladesh (HRPB), represented by it's Secretary, Advocate Asaduzzaman Siddique, Hall No.2 Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

.....Petitioner.

-V E R S U S-

1. Bangladesh represented by the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forrest, Bangladesh Secretariat, P.S -, Shahbag, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2. The Secretary, Ministry of Land Bangladesh Secretariat, P.S:-Shahbag, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

3. The Secretary, Ministry of LGRD, Bangladesh Secretariat, P.S:-Shahbag, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

4. The Chairman, BIWTA, 141-43 Motijheel Commercial Area, P.S. Motijheel, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

5. The Director General, Department of Environment, Paribesh Bhaban, E-16, Sher-E

Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

6. The Deputy Commissioner (D.C), Dhaka, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

7. The Superintendent of Police (S.P), Dhaka, Post and District- Dhaka, Bangladesh.

8. The Director (Enforcement), Department of Environment, Paribesh Bhaban, E- 16, Sher-E-Bangla NAgar, Agargaon, Dhaka.

9. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Keraniganj Upazila, District- Dhaka, Bangladesh.

10. Assistant Commissioner (Land) Upazila: Keraniganj, District- Dhaka.

11. The officer in Charge (O.C), Keraniganj Police Station, P.S Keraniganj, District- Dhaka, Bangladesh

12. Mr. Samsul Haque, Din Timber Industries International, P.S. Keraniganj, Upazila- Keraniganj, District-Dhaka.

.....Respondents.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF:

The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995 (amended in 2000 and 2002), and মহানগরী, বিভাগীয় শহর ও জেলা শহরের পৌর এলাকাসহ দেশের সকল পৌর এলাকার খেলার মাঠ উন্মুক্ত স্থান, উদ্যান এবং প্রাকৃতিক জলাধার সংরক্ষন আইন, ২০০০.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF:

Inactions/failure of the respondents to take necessary steps to remove encroachment of Dhaleswari river and bank at Keraniganj , Dhaka and to remove construction of factory and houses constructed within the territory of Dhaleswari River at Keraniganj, Dhaka. violating the provisions of law.

AND  
IN THE MATTER OF:

For a direction upon the respondents to remove all the illegal permanent structures/factories/houses as built up within the territory of Dhaleswari River at Keraniganj, Dhaka.

**G R O U N D 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 against any violation of the provisions of law by way of earth filling, building permanent structures in river bed and illegal encroachment of river bed and territory of the Dhaleswari River which is illegal. Hence direction may be given upon the respondents to remove earth filling, illegal encroachment and building structures in the territory of the Dhaleswari river.

II. For that disregard to laws and legal provisions and failure to ensure proper implementation of laws, the respondents have caused damage to the environment; to the river and to the local people as well as the right to life of the people. Under these circumstances the respondents are legally bound to protect the river in accordance with law at one hand and to remove the factories, semi-pacca rooms, buildings as built in the river.

III. For that under Section 5 of the মহানগরী, বিভাগীয় শহর ও জেলা শহরের পৌর এলাকাসহ দেশের সকল পৌর এলাকার খেলার মাঠ উন্মুক্ত স্থান, উদ্যান এবং প্রাকৃতিক জলাধার সংরক্ষন আইন, ২০০০, 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. Hence, a direction may be given to remove the factories, semi-pacca rooms, buildings and structures from the territory of the river.

IV. For that encroachment, earth filling and making permanent structures in the territory of the Dhaleswari River and its bank is contrary to all applicable laws of the country. That the encroachment of river and permanent structures in the territory of River has created obstruction to the normal movement of the said River and vessels plying in the said river.

V. For that the environment is being continuously endangered and threatened by various illegal activities such as encroachment, earth filling and making illegal structures in the territory of Dhaleswari

River bank. The unauthorized activities are the main causes for environmental degradation. Taking advantage of the silence of the concern authority, the illegal activities is being continued and as a result the environment is being destroyed.

VI. For that the non-implementation of the laws by the respondents undermine rule of law and jeopardize people's fundamental right as guaranteed under Article 32 of the Constitution of Bangladesh.

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 failure/inaction of the respondents to remove all kinds of encroachment, earth filling, the factories, semi-pacca rooms, buildings within the territory of river Dhaleswari River under Chargoglia mouza, P.S. Keraniganj, Upazila: Keraniganj, District- Dhaka should not be declared illegal and without lawful authority.

AND

Why a direction should not be given upon the respondents to demolish/evict all illegal structures/constructions/markets/houses built within the territory of Dhaleswari River at P.S. Keraniganj, Upazila: Keraniganj, District- Dhaka and to protect Dhaleswari River and it's bank at P.S. Keraniganj, Upazila: Keraniganj, District- Dhaka from any land grabbers,

b) Pending hearing of the rule direct the respondents to take legal actions against the persons responsible for illegal encroachment/ building markets within the Dhaleswari River bank at P.S. Keraniganj, Upazila: Keraniganj, District- Dhaka violating the provisions of the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995 (amended in 2000 and 2002), and মহানগরী, বিভাগীয় শহর ও জেলা শহরের পৌর এলাকাসহ দেশের সকল পৌর এলাকার খেলার মাঠ উন্মুক্ত স্থান, উদ্যান এবং প্রাকৃতিক জলাধার সংরক্ষন আইন, 2000.

c) Pending hearing of the rule directs the respondent no. 12 to maintain status quo in respect of any construction/earth filling/encroachment within the river area Dhaleswari at Keranigonj, Dhaka.

d) Pending hearing of the rule direct the respondent no. 4 and 10 to survey the area and submit a report within 30 days before this court through affidavit stating detail about construction/earth filling/encroachment within the river area Dhaleswari at Keranigonj, Dhaka.

e) Upon hearing the parties and the cause if any shown makes the rule absolute.

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

### **Present Status**

The case was filed 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.

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