

Appellate Division Order To Maintain Status Quo Regarding Mironjilla Horijon Colony

10 July 2024

The Appellate Division today ordered the Dhaka South City Corporation to maintain status quo regarding the entire matter with respect to Writ Petition No. 8119/ 2024 (concerning the threatened eviction of the Mironjilla Horijon Colony in Ward No. 33, Bangshal, Dhaka City Corporation), and fixed 11 July 2024 for the next hearing.

On 11 June 2024, the Dhaka South City Corporation attempted to evict people living in the Mironjilla Horijon Colony, and demolished 16 houses leaving people without alternative shelter or security. On 13 June 2024, three lawyers of the High Court, namely Advocate Monoj Kumar Bhowmik, Advocate Utpol Biswas, and Advocate Aynunnahar Siddiqui filed a writ petition in public interest challenging this illegal eviction process. After the hearing of this petition, the High Court ordered that status quo be maintained for 30 days and also issued an interim order for the DSCC to provide 'temporary shelter' in the meantime of those affected.

The DSCC did not arrange such shelter, but instead filed an application seeking leave (permission) to appeal against this order of status quo for 30 days, and moved it before the Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division. The Chamber Judge did not pass any order and instead fixed the matter for hearing on 4 July 2024 before the Full Bench of the Appellate Division. The matter appeared in the list on that date but did not reach and is fixed for hearing tomorrow on 11 July 2024.

In the meantime, while the hearings of the High Court status quo order, and the Appellate Division remain pending, the DSCC has issued a new order, through its Additional Secretary, to the Police Commissioner, regarding management of the eviction process and deployment of a police force on 10 and 11 July 2024.

In this context, the petitioner lawyers filed an urgent application before the Hon'ble Appellate Division seeking an injunction and the Court was pleased to hear the same at 1 pm and to pass the order of status quo. This order has been verbally communicated to the Executive Magistrate Mr. Md Moniruzzaman.

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