



14 November 2018

Press Release

High Court orders DNA testing of the accused in a rape case of a teenage girl with intellectual disabilities to determine paternity of her child

The High Court has directed relevant authorities to conduct the DNA test of an individual accused of raping a teenage girl with intellectual disabilities in Kushtia, to determine the identity of the father of her child. On 12 November 2018, a Division Bench of the High Court, comprising Justice A.N.M Bashirullah and Justice Mustafa Jaman Islam, granted the application for a DNA test in Criminal Appeal No. 3144/2013, filed by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) in 2013, and issued the directive.

It is to be noted that the accused had raped the girl by exploiting her intellectual disability. She became pregnant as a result, but the accused subsequently denied paternity of the child. Aggrieved by this incident, the teenager filed a case at the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Kushtia under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, applying for a DNA testing of the accused to determine the identity of the father of her unborn child. When her application was refused, she sought legal assistance from BLAST to file a criminal appeal against the Tribunal's decision in the High Court, which was filed by BLAST on 29 May 2013. The High Court granted the appeal on 12 November 2018 and directed the DNA test of the accused.

Dr. Qazi Jahid Iqbal, panel lawyer, BLAST represented the applicant.

For further information, please contact:

Mahbuba Akhter

Deputy Director (Advocacy and Communication), BLAST

Email- mahbuba@blast.org.bd