

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

WRIT PETITION NO. 10390 OF 2026.

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:

Article 31 and 32 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF:

Inaction/ failure of the respondents to take necessary expeditious steps to renew/provide passport for Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People) residing in different countries.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF:

For a direction upon the respondents to take necessary expeditious steps to renew/provide passport for Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People) residing in different countries.

To,

Mr. Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh and his companion judges of the said Hon'ble Court.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF:

1. Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), represented by its Secretary Advocate Md. Sarwar Ahad Choudhury, Hall No.2 Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2. Advocate Ripon Baroi, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall No. 2, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka.

3. Md. Mahbubul Islam, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall No. 2, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka.

.....Petitioners.

-V E R S U S-

1. Bangladesh, represented by the Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division, Newly constructed building, Building No.-01, Room No.-401, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

2. The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Old Sangshad Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka - 1215, Bangladesh.

3. The Foreign Secretary, Foreign Secretary's Office (FSO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh.

4. The Senior Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

5. The Senior Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration, Room no.- 1401, 14th Floor, Building no.- 1, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

6. The Secretary, Finance Division, Building No- 11, Bangladesh Secretariat, Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.

7. The Secretary, Law and Justice Division, Building No.: 4, Room No.: 725, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

8. The Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Probashi

Kalyan Bhaban, 71-72 Old Elephant Road,
Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.

9. Inspector General, Bangladesh Police,
Bangladesh Police Headquarters, 6, Phoenix
Road, Fulbaria Dhaka - 1000.

10. Director General, Administration
Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Segunbagicha, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh.

11. Director General, Consular & Welfare,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha,
Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh.

12. Director General, Department of
Immigration and Passports, E-7, Agargaon,
Shere-E-Bangla Nagor, Dhaka-1207,
Bangladesh.

13. Project Director, e-Passport &
Automated Border Control Management
Project, Department of Immigration and
Passports, E-7, Agargaon, Shere-E-Bangla
Nagor, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.

14. Director General, Bureau of
Manpower, Employer & Training (BMET),
89/2, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

..... Respondents.

GROUND S

- I. That it is submitted that millions of Bangladeshi citizens are working and living in different countries. A portion of them is living having permanent residency/citizenship, who are treated as NRB (Non-Resident Bangladeshi People) and some of them are simple working having working visa of the respective countries. Both the categories of the people need renew Bangladeshi passport or issue a new passport for their living necessity/ working necessity during their stay in the respective countries. Especially the working people who are living abroad having job related visa in sometimes need to extend the validity of passport/renew/new passport. At the time of applying before the Bangladesh Embassy/High Commission situated in the respective countries they have limited validity of passport. It is important for their existence to continue their living/job renew/new passport is

necessary to obtain immediately within the timetable of expiry. Otherwise, they will be illegal and will lose their jobs. Consequently, due to overstay even they may be put in jail or deported to Bangladesh. If timely Bangladesh People living abroad do not obtain/receive their renewal passport or new passport in that case, they will suffer and every possibility for deportation to Bangladesh. Which may cause a serious effect on our remittance of income from abroad and a threat to the right to life of Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People).

- II. That it is submitted that persistent delays and complications in the passport renewal process (including lengthy delays in e-passport issuance) for Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People) is an ultimate threat to the economic stability of Bangladesh. Hence, the respondents should take prompt to measures to address the said issue, otherwise a negative impact will cast upon the economic sector of Bangladesh.
- III. That it is submitted that long delay in administrative process regarding passport service for the Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People) in different countries severely impact their legal states, jobs, livelihoods and mental wellbeing while working abroad. Thus, an unreasonable delay process violates Article 31 (Right to protection of law) and Article 32 (Protection of right to life and personal liberty) of the constitution of People's Republic of Bangladesh. Article 31 guarantees the citizens must be treated strictly "in accordance with law" implying the right to a fair and timely process. Article 32 protects personal liberty, excessive administrative delays that wrongful suffering severely impact on legal status, jobs, livelihoods and mental wellbeing, which amounts to threat to the right to life of the Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People). So, a direction should be given upon the respondents to take necessary expeditious steps to renew/provide passport to Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People) residing in different countries in the world.
- IV. That it is submitted that as per Article 31 and 32 of the Constitution of Bangladesh the duty of every public servant is to perform public duties and to observe the constitution and the laws. According to the prevailing situation the provision of Article 31 and 32 of the Constitution of Bangladesh has been violated.
- V. That it is submitted that as per Article 21 of the Constitution of Bangladesh the duty of every public servant is to perform public duties and to observe the constitution and the laws. According to

the prevailing situation the provision of Article 21 of the Constitution of Bangladesh has been violated.

- VI. That it is submitted here that the respondents are the experienced public servant and very much aware of the rules and law of the land. That the duty and responsibility vested upon the respondents to serve the people, but they have failed to follow the laws and rules to protect the interest of the citizen.
- VII. That it is submitted here that the respondents are the experienced public servant and very much aware of the rules and law of the land. The respondents are aware about the duties vested upon them but failed to perform to protect the legal rights of the citizen. Under these circumstances in such a public interest issue which is always in the notice of the respondents, is not necessary to bring their notices again by way of legal notice for taking steps.

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

- a) A Rule Nisi calling upon the Respondents to show cause as to why inaction/failure of the respondents to take necessary expeditious steps to renew/provide passport for Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People) residing in different countries, should not be declared illegal and without lawful authority and why a direction should not be given upon the respondents to take necessary expeditious steps to renew/provide passport for Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People) residing in different countries.
- b) Pending hearing of the rule direct the respondent Nos. 12 and 13 to take necessary steps to resolve the pending applications submitted by Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People) for renewal/issuance of passport with 30 days and direct the respondents to file a compliance report before the Hon'ble Court within 60 days.
- c) Pending hearing of the rule direct the respondent No. 3 to issue a letter/circular within 7 (Seven) days to all the Bangladesh Embassies/ High Commissions in different

countries to take steps immediately after filing of the applications for renewal/issuance passport by the Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB People), to the respondent Nos. 12 and 13 for prompt passport service and direct the respondent to file a compliance report before this Hon'ble Court within 30 days.

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 and now is pending before the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.