

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
CONSTITUTIONAL WRIT JURISDICTION
APPELLATE SIDE
(Via Video Conference)

WPA 9332 of 2020

Sk. Sahanoor Islam
Vs.
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Niladri Sekhar Ghosh
Mr. Mujibar Ali Naskar
Mr. Srimoyee Mukherjee
... For the petitioner

Mr. Rana Mukherjee
Md. Sabir Ahmed
... For the State

Despite time being afforded to the State on December 1, 2020, to trace out the minor girl upon the State's submission that its investigating agency was close to discovering where the person may be, further time is sought.

A report has been filed by the Inspector-in-Charge of Arambagh Police Station, dated December 10, 2020, but there is no indication therein as to the whereabouts of the missing girl.

It is high time that police reforms are introduced in this State to bifurcate the law and order wing from the investigating wing. Criminal cases suffer because of lack of adequate investigation and lack of adequate material being produced. Though maintaining law and order is an

important part of the police duty, the investigating arm cannot be compromised.

Copies of this order should be reached to the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary of the State for appropriate measures to be taken in terms of the Supreme Court dictum in ***Prakash Singh v. Union of India [(2006) 8 SCC 1]*** and the police reforms that remain outstanding for more than a decade after such pronouncement.

As far as this matter is concerned, the Superintendent of Police, Hooghly, should file a report when the matter appears next on December 21, 2020.

(Sanjib Banerjee, J.)

(Arijit Banerjee, J.)