

Staff Reporter

The High Court on Monday directed the government to take necessary measures in all land ports, seaports and airports to detect Ebola virus among people entering the country.

The court also asked the government to provide humanitarian assistance to the countries already affected by the virus.

An HC division bench comprising Justice Naima Haider and Justice Md Jahangir Hossain passed the interim order following hearing on a public interest litigation (PIL) writ petition. Eunos Ali Akand, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed the writ petition with the High Court on Thursday seeking the court directive on the government to take necessary measures to counter the deadly virus.

The court also issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why it would not take necessary measures in country's seaports, airports and land ports to prevent the virus from entering the country and why it would not provide humanitarian assistance to the Ebola-affected countries.

Health secretary, Aviation and Tourism secretary, Home secretary, DG Health and others concerned have been made respondents to the rule.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), some 4,447 people have died from the outbreak of Ebola virus, mainly in West Africa.

Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea have been the hardest hit by the outbreak that began in December 2013, but was confirmed by the WHO in March 2014.