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**Press Release**

**Munshiganj Launch Terminal Assault on Women: BLAST calls for accountability**

BLAST calls upon the authorities to conduct a prompt and effective investigation into the incident of public assault and beating of two young women a launch at the Munshiganj terminal. BLAST demands legal action against those involved and necessary steps to ensure the safety and protection of the women.

BLAST further calls on the Government to take urgent measures for prevention of such attacks on women, and to issue clear directives to hold those responsible accountable.

BLAST has earlier written to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) in this regard.

According to recent [media reports](#), on 9 May (Friday) at around 9:30 PM, two young women were returning home after a picnic on a launch operating on the Dhaka-Lalmohan route, and that a man, Nehal Ahmed Jihad, physically assaulted them in public and stating that he did so “to teach them a lesson as a brother.”

Videos of the incident have been circulating on social media. The incident depicted appears to involve commission of several offences including under the Penal Code (section 323: punishment for voluntarily causing hurt, section 325: punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt, and section 354: assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty); the Children Act, 2013 and Section 10 of the Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act, 2000.

It also involves breaches of the right to protection of law (Article 31) and prohibition of cruel and degrading treatment (Article 35(5)) of the Constitution of Bangladesh.

For further information, please contact:

Communications Department, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

Email: [communication@blast.org.bd](mailto:communication@blast.org.bd)