



19 November 2018

Press Release

High Court issues rule asking the government to explain why compensation of Taka 50 lakhs should not be provided to the family members of Nabila, who was crushed to death under the wheels of a pickup van that collided with a rickshaw

The High Court, on 19 November 2018, issued a rule requiring the government to explain why the family of Nabila, who was killed in a road accident in Mohammadpur, Dhaka, should not be awarded Taka 50 lakhs in compensation. The writ petition was jointly filed by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and the Children's Charity Bangladesh Foundation (CCB Foundation), and a divisional bench comprising Justices Sheikh Hasan Arif and Justice Razik Al Jalil issued the above rule. In addition to the rule, the Court ordered Mohammadpur Police Station to take necessary legal steps and submit all information regarding the case within the next month. The next hearing is scheduled to be held on 6 January 2019.

Justice Nizamul Huq, Former Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Chief Legal Advisor, BLAST remarked, "This is a path-breaking case in the field of PILs and compensation, which has opened up a new avenue for people to seek legal assistance in the future."

Barrister Abdul Halim, Chairman, CCB Foundation and panel lawyer, BLAST stated, "I believe that after the Jihad case, Nabila's case will now bring new dimensions to PILs filed in order to secure compensation. An individual or a company can also be held liable to provide compensation for gross negligence, much like state authorities."

It is to be noted that on Sunday, 21 October 2018, Nazma Begum, along with her brother and children, was going to Adabor from Dhaka's New Market on a rickshaw. A pickup van collided with the rickshaw in front of the Arman Hospital in Mohammadpur, causing all passengers to fall down. Nabila (1 year old), who was crushed by the pickup van, was subsequently admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. At 11 pm at the night, she was declared dead by the doctors.

Barrister Abdul Halim appeared on behalf of the petitioners.

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