

13 August 2025

Press Release**BLAST Demands Action for Justice, Accountability, and Compensation for Victims of Road Crashes**

Today BLAST recalls with deep respect filmmaker Tareque Masud, ATN News CEO Ashfaque Munier Mishuk, and three of their colleagues who were killed in a road-crash in Manikganj fourteen years ago.

On this occasion, BLAST calls for ensuring justice and accountability for all victims of road accidents caused by negligence, for prompt and adequate compensation, and an effective insurance system.

Specifically BLAST urges the Interim Government to make the following changes to the Road Transport Act 2018:

1. **Prompt and Adequate Compensation for Road Crash Victims:** The compensation fund set up by the Road Transport Act 2018 for victims of road accidents is not activated, and does not provide for any criteria or process for assessment or payment of compensation.
2. **Mandatory Insurance for Vehicles:** Road accidents caused by negligence should be recognized as humanitarian disasters. Mandatory and integrated passenger insurance (covering waterways, roads, and air routes) should be introduced, factoring in the victims' lost working years, the mental and physical suffering of dependent family members due to death, and the long-term financial losses affecting their development and wellbeing.

Catherine Masud, film-maker, survivor of the 2011 crash, and campaigner on road safety, said:

"Since 2017, our case for compensation has been pending. hearing in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. This case reflects a broader reality. The Road Transport Act enacted after the 2018 students' movement for road safety was partial and inadequate, lacking accountability, oversight, and effective enforcement mechanisms. Even the limited accountability present in the previous law was removed without providing any alternatives. Road accident victims and survivors need compensation, not charity. Drivers, transport companies, and insurance providers must all be held accountable. True reform and safety will only be possible when those responsible are made financially liable. Now is the time for us to unite to ensure safe roads for everyone."

Background:

On 13 August 2011, Tareque Masud and Mishuk Munier were killed in an accident on the Dhaka–Aricha Highway in Joka, Ghior Upazila, Manikganj. Their microbus collided with a Chuadanga-bound bus (Chuadanga Deluxe), killing five people on the spot and seriously injuring three others.

Following a compensation case filed by Tareque Masud's wife, mother and son, separate appeals were lodged by the bus owners and the plaintiffs against the landmark High Court judgment. These appeals are currently pending in the Appellate Division for hearing.

Immediately after the crash, on 14 August 2011, Advocate ZI Khan Panna, BELA, and two other lawyers filed a public interest litigation (Writ Petition No. 7401/2011), supported by BLAST, before the High Court Division, seeking regular monitoring of road and highway safety, accountability of relevant authorities, and compensation for victims. This petition is awaiting a hearing.

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