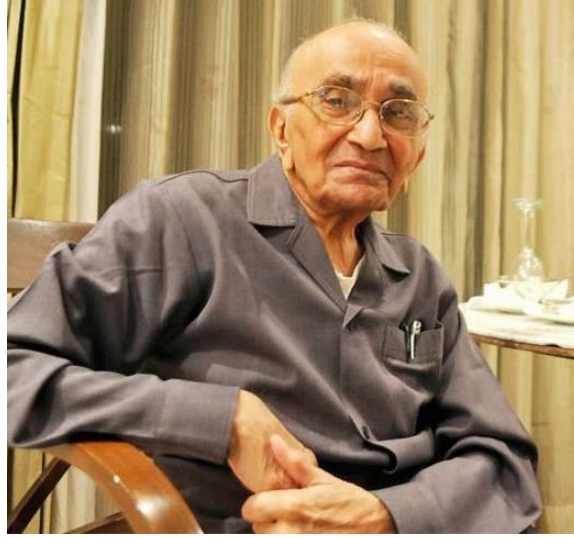




15 June 2017

Press Release

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) gravely mourns the demise of Justice Prafullachandra Natwarlal Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India



BLAST is greatly saddened at the news of the passing of Justice Prafullachandra Natwarlal Bhagwati (P N Bhagwati), former Chief Justice of India, on 15 June 2017. He was the 17<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India. Justice PN Bhagwati was born on 21 December 1921. He began his legal career at the Bombay High Court. He became the Chief Justice of India on 12 July 1985 and served in that position until his retirement on 20 December 1986. Justice P N Bhagwati is revered for his pioneering role in introducing and developing the concept of Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

In remembrance of his contributions to the field of law, Dr Kamal Hossain said, “The loss of Chief Justice Bhagwati marks the end of an outstanding jurist who had not only inspired PIL but also judicial activism, for the promotion and protection of human rights.”

Advocate Z I Khan Panna, Member, Board of Trustees, BLAST and Chairman, Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee, Bangladesh Bar Council, said, “He is the first Justice who overturned the idea that the aggrieved must be the one to bring an action, and brought dynamism into to the history of Public Interest Litigation. Chief Justice P N Bhagwati was a true friend of Bangladeshi lawyers and his death comes as a great loss to the subcontinent, of a progressive guardian and judge.”

The BLAST family remembers Chief Justice PN Bhagwati’s contributions with great reverence. We extend our sincere condolences to the family of the bereaved in their time of mourning and pray for the peace of the departed soul.

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