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Press release

Active initiative required by all stakeholders to implement Guideline on Emergency Medical Services for Injured by Road Accident and Protection of Good Samaritans, 2018

A consultation meeting was organised by BLAST for the discussion on “High Court Directives on Emergency Medical Services for the Injured by Road Accident & Protection of Good Samaritans: Implementation and Way forward”. The event took place on 26th January, 2019 and was moderated by S.M Rezaul Karim, a Legal Advisor from BLAST. Participants of the meeting gave their opinion on guidelines on Emergency Medical Services for the Injured by Road Accident & Protection of Good Samaritans, 2018. Justice Md. Nizamul Huq, Former Justice, Appellate Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Chief Legal Adviser of BLAST stated, “Road accident shall be taken into serious consideration from the moment it happens.”

Zakia Sultana, Additional Secretary, Public Health sub department, Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare quotes, “anyone can receive help from the app ‘Shastho Batayon’ at any time using the toll-free hotline 16263.” She hopes that the Emergency Protocol will be effective at the government hospital as soon as possible.

A K M Mosharraf Hossain Miazi, AIG (Traffic Management), Bangladesh Police says, “In order to reduce road accidents, Bangladesh Police emphasizes on the proper monitoring of vehicle fitness certificate.”

Md. Anisuzzaman, SP (Operation & Special Affairs), Highway Police, Bangladesh states, “In case of any accident one may call the toll-free police hotline 999 for any kind of emergency services. 236 blackspots have been identified along the highways of Bangladesh and to assure healthcare, workshops and seminars can be held on this topic in the nearby hospitals.”

Dr. Moinul Hossain, Secretary General, Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostic Owners Association articulate, “Steps should be taken to increase the efficiency of the emergency units of hospitals as soon as possible.”

During the session Advocate Tajul Islam, Supreme Court Bangladesh, and Advisor, Advocacy & Capacity Building, BLAST presented the High Court Directives on Emergency Medical Services for Injured of Road Accident & Protection of Good Samaritans.

In another presentation Taqbir Huda, Research Specialist, BLAST shows how much emergency medical services for injured have been reflected in the ‘Road Transport Act 2018. He said, “Further thoughts should be put on sentencing regarding the violation of Road Transport Act and decision should be taken.”



বাংলাদেশ লিগ্যাল এইড এন্ড সার্ভিসেস ট্রাস্ট (ব্লাস্ট) Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

Barrister Rashna Imam, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh upholding the present scenario and background of the guidelines of Emergency Medical Services for injured of Road Accident & Protection of Good Samaritans. Barrister Anita Gazi Rahman, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, emphasizes on Golden Hour and says, "It is important to improve the guidelines along with the health care services during the Golden Hour."

Barrister Sarker M R Hasan, Law Editor, Nirapod Shorok Chai expresses that in order to ensure accident victims their required protection and healthcare, requests the initiation of emergency support units with at least 25 beds within each Upazila hospital. He further adds that an 'Accident Control Commission' can be formed.

Lawyer, Doctor, Journalists, representative of Jatri Kollayan Shamity, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, Media, and Human Rights Activists attended the meeting and places their valuable opinions.

Background: On 21st January 2016, a Bus Helper, Arafat sustained severe injuries as he slipped and fell while trying to board the bus. He was then taken to the nearest hospital where he was refused help. Arafat was taken to two other hospitals and both refused treatment as well. He was finally admitted to Kurmitola General Hospital with the assistance of a sub-inspector from Gulshan Thana where the attending doctor there, upon inspecting Arafat declared him dead. Later, Syed Saifuddin Kamal, Managing Director, Toru filed a case with the support of Lawyer Sara Hossain, Barrister Anita Gazi Rahman, Barrister Rashna Imam, Advocate S M Rezaul Karim and Advocate Sharmin Akhtar. On 8th August 2018, Justice Refat Ahmed and Justice Farid Ahmed from the High Court Division formed a bench and passed an order to increase the effectiveness of the Guidelines for the Emergency Medical Services for the Injured by Road Accident & Protection of good Samaritans, 2018. It was declared in the judgement that the Protection of Good Samaritans be made mandatory. On 4 November 2018, High Court passed the full judgment on the writ petition on ensuring emergency treatment to injured persons in road accidents by Government, Non-Government hospital, Clinic without considering any legal formalities or complexity and financial ability.

In consideration of the above instance BLAST organised a consultation meeting on how to increase effectiveness of the guidelines with everyone's united efforts.

For further information please contact:

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