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Press Release: BLAST lauds Supreme Court's interim compensation order against United Hospital for their negligence

On 29 April 2021, a six-member bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, chaired by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, [directed](#) United Hospital to pay Tk. 1 crore to the family members of four victims of the deadly fire which broke out in the hospital's makeshift isolation unit on May 27, 2020 and killed five patients who were admitted there. The money is to be paid within a month.

Each of the four families is entitled to receive 25 lakh taka as interim compensation, while the family of the other victim had already settled out of court with United Hospital for 20 lakh taka, and therefore are not part of the ongoing case.

Previously, United Hospital had filed an appeal with the Appellate Division challenging the High Court Division's order on 11 January 2021, directing them to pay Tk 30 lakh to each of the four families within 15 days. On [17 January 2021](#), the Appellate Division had stayed the High Court Division's order for eight weeks.

BLAST lauds this decision of the Appellate Division and congratulates all the lawyers involved in moving this important public interest litigation case forward.

Taqbir Huda, Research Specialist, BLAST, said "Today's interim compensation order takes us one step closer in holding negligent corporations accountable for the deadly yet preventable harm caused to human lives in their relentless pursuit for profit. We hope that the final order of compensation will reflect the full extent of losses suffered by the victims' families, and the standard of care expected from corporate giants like United Hospital."



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Sara Hossain, Honorary Executive Director, BLAST said, “This landmark decision is an important step forward by our highest court in holding to account those who violate the constitutional right to life.”

Retired **Justice Md Nizamul Haque**, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court and Chief Legal Adviser of BLAST, said, "This order of compensation will benefit the common people." He believes that this is a landmark step in protecting the lives and rights of the people which will be appreciated by all.

Message from,

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