



REPORT

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**"Countering Violent Extremism: European Context
and the Bangladeshi Diaspora"**

Thursday 22 March 2018

Venue: Room XI Palais des Nations UN Geneva



Background & Justification

Global co-operation

The key objective of the proposed Geneva conference on “*Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora*” at the UN building in Geneva was to ‘uphold Secularism to counter violent terrorism and rise of extremism in the name of religion across the globe including Bangladesh’. It is needless to mention that there is an urgent need for efforts to be made for bilateral, regional and global cooperation to combat the threat of violent extremism across the globe. The Geneva conference is a follow-up of the Brussels conference held on 11 July 2016 at Brussels Press Club on “*Countering Violent Extremism: Global context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora*”. It was addressed by two MEPs, two MPs, two experts from Bangladesh and a number of representatives from different national and international organisations working on the subject.

Sharing good practices

The Geneva Conference brought together secular forces, activists, think tanks, researchers, politicians both national and European, mainstream and Bangladeshi journalists; and create strong public opinion in favor of the secular forces and against the violent extremist groups. The Geneva conference has surely helped to strengthen the European and global stakeholders addressing a phenomenon that is indeed transnational and exchange good practices of prevention.

The Geneva conference discussed the role of the government and the civil society that may help formulate Action Programs at the end. It will mobilize support to fight violent extremism and religious fundamental groups. The conference will bring fore the threat of violent extremism and create awareness about the threat of these forces and their allies and create public opinion in favour of secular democracy.

Networking: The Geneva conference heard to European and Bangladesji experts and other stakeholders on terrorism and related issues who shared their experience and ideas at the conference.

The Conference also provided an opportunity for the Bangladeshi diaspora across Europe to play their role in preventing the radical and extremist interpretation of religion, in portraying and in speaking up on how communities are being radicalized. The Conference greatly helped to further develop this network with the among the stakeholders and at the EU and the UN level, involving the UN special Rapporteur in the whole program. Two UN Special Rapporteurs have assured their full support to the program and also assured their total support in such future activities.

Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and Bangladeshi Diaspora

22 March 2018, Thursday 2pm-5.30pm

Room XI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

MODERATOR: **Mr. Jakob de Jong**, Director, The Hague Peace, Netherlands

PANELISTS:

Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf, Director of Research, South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), Brussels

Ms. Nicola Spafford Furey, Vice President, Earth Focus Foundation, Geneva

Prof Dr. Willem van der Geest, Chief Economist, formerly Director at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York

Ms. Karima Benounne, UN Special Rapporteur, OHCHR, Geneva

Ms. Dr. Shammi Ahmed, Expert on International Development and formerly Senior Advisor at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Asia-Pacific Zone, Bangladesh

Ms. Samia Zaman, Editor & CEO, Ekattor Television Channel & Board Member of Institute of Conflict, Law & Development Studies (ICLDS), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Ansar Ahmed Ullah, President, EBF UK

Mr. Khalilur Rahman, Country Coordinator, EBF Geneva

PROGRAM

22 March 2018, Thursday
(14:00 – 17:30)

Venue : Room XI, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva

14:00 **Registration -Tea/Coffee/Snacks**

14:30 **Chair: Mr. Jakob de Jong**, Director, The Hague Peace, the Netherlands

Dr. Sigfried O. Wolf, Director of Research, South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), Belgium

Ms. Nicola Spafford Furey, Vice President, Earth Focus Foundation, Geneva

Prof Dr. Willem van der Geest, Principal Economist, formerly Director at UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), New York

Ms. Karima Bennoune, UN Special Rapporteur, OHCHR, Geneva

Ms. Dr. Shammi Ahmed, Expert on International Development and formerly Senior Advisor at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Asia-Pacific Zone, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Ms. Samia Zaman, Editor & CEO, Ekattor Television Channel & Board Member of Institute of Conflict, Law & Development Studies (ICLDS), Dhaka, Bangladesh

16:00 **Coffee Break:**

16:15	Questions & Answers Session
16:45	Mr. Ansar Ahmed Ullah , President, EBF UK - Summing up & Way forward Mr. Khalilur Rahman , Country Coordinator EBF, Geneva - Vote of Thanks
17:00-17:30	Refreshment/Networking
19:00	Dinner

(N: B: You need to register on-line and be present at the gate at 12:30 for security pass with your passport or ID. To register please visit: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/23484/>)

Executive Summary & Recommendations

A Conference titled on “Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora” and its impact and policy options to defend secularism and democracy was held on Thursday 22 March 2018 at The Palais des Nations, UN, Geneva.

The key objective of the Geneva conference was to uphold secularism to counter violent terrorism and rise of extremism in the name of religion across the globe including Bangladesh. The Geneva conference discussed the role of the government and the civil society that might help formulate Action Programmes. The conference brought together secular forces, activists, think tanks, politicians both national and European, journalists and created strong public opinion in favor of the secular forces and against the violent extremist groups.

The Geneva Conference underscored the need for ...: expressing satisfaction over the Bangladesh government's effort to counter terrorism and defusing political Islam, some speakers said, radicalisation is a global issue and unfortunately Bangladesh's feet has been gradually dragged into the terror network map. They underscored the need for an active role of the diaspora communities and the civil society as well to counter extremism and terrorism in Europe as well as home countries in the global South.



: strengthening the civil-society, especially regarding gender equality and political freedoms and rights. A vibrant civil society can function as counter-vailing force against the rising influence of religious extremism (ideologies of hate) and will help to promote secularism as well as political and religious tolerance.

: Monitoring the growing attempts of Jihadist organization and individuals to radicalize women. As such there is space for programs to create political awareness and political participation in organization dedicated to democratic norms, values and processes

: an increasing need for international cooperation to assist the government of Bangladesh in countering religious extremism and terrorism, especially regarding capacity building within the administration and the law enforcement agencies.

: extending support by the international community to the government of Bangladesh to strengthen the civilian institutions.

: need for monitoring the upcoming elections, especially the activities of the banned organizations and



not registered political parties. In this context, the phenomenon of infiltration by ‘double members’ of such banned/not registered groups is gaining significance. Furthermore, the activity of ‘independent candidates’ must be watched. Here, one should expect that not candidates of not registered parties take part in the elections as independent candidates by enjoying full-support of their parties and subsequently acting on behalf of them.

The conference was divided into two sessions. Each session had separate Questions and Answers Sessions. Both sessions were chaired by Mr. Jakob de Jonge, Director of The Hague Peace, the Netherlands.

And addressed by Dr. Sigfried O. Wolf, Director of Research, South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), Belgium, Ms. Nicola Spafford Furey, Vice President, Earth Focus Foundation, Geneva, Dr. Willem van der Geest, Principal Economist, formerly Director at UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), New York, Ms. Karima Bennoune, UN Special Rapporteur, OHCHR, Geneva, Ms. Dr. Shammi Ahmed, Expert on International Development and formerly Senior Advisor at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Asia-Pacific Zone, Ms. Samia Zaman, Editor and CEO of Ekattor TV, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Mr. Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party(UKPNP), Geneva.

In total 51 participants from different stakeholders from Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, France, UK, US, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Italy and Congo took part in the conference. They were researchers, academics, students, activists, inter faiths activists, journalists, members of the mainstream and Bangladeshi diaspora communities and representatives of different organisations.

Media Coverage: The Geneva event got huge media attention both in Bangladesh and Europe at print and electronic media. The event news was telecast by at least to our knowledge 5 Bangladeshi TV channels from Dhaka and London. We are also expecting media coverage in the mainstream newspaper by a British journalist who attended the conference and assured for the coverage. It was also covered by many websites, individuals and of organisations before and after the event.

Speakers focused the rise of violent extremism and militancy not only in Bangladesh, but also in the region and the globe. They termed the worldwide phenomenon of religious extremism as one of the greatest contemporary threats to global security, that can lead to violence and terrorism, and which can permeate all sovereign borders. In today's world, national and global security face their greatest threats from terrorism and violent extremism. In recent years, Bangladesh too has been subjected to increased threats from these menaces/dangers. They pointed their fingers at Jamat-e-Islami (JeI) and other religion-based groups in radicalization of youth both at home and abroad. Different countries from the middle east are also involved in financing these radical elements and organizations to destroy secularism. Speakers called secular groups to be united and fight against the rise of terrorism across the globe including Bangladesh.



They said, the international community must cooperate with Bangladeshi authorities to counter Jihadism and engage closely and strongly with the Bangladesh government authorities to combat fanatic indoctrination, terrorism and other forms of political violence. The western countries and authorities should encourage cross-border cooperation to combat terrorism in South Asia and beyond. Emphasising the role of the civil society in ensuring secularism and democracy the speakers said, the western governments must support Bangladesh to promote civil society, to support economic and social development, and humanitarian action, whereas the government's attempts to eliminate the spread of 'ideologies of hate' should be strengthened in a well-informed and comprehensive way, taking into account the realities on the ground. Only the promotion of a culture of tolerance is the way forward, they opined.



They continued, extremist actors will not be truly disarmed unless their ideology is comprehensively challenged and repudiated, in accordance with international standards, and in particular through culture, expression and education in accordance with international standards.

Dr. Sigfried O. Wolf

Dr. Sigfried O. Wolf, Director of Research, South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF) in his key-note presentation accused Jamaat e Islami (JeI) for the spread of violence and terrorism in Bangladesh and beyond saying, “ the official rhetoric of JeI emphasises its dedication to a ‘peaceful transition to Islamic rule’ , even blaming other Islamist organisations for the increase in violent incidents. However, the reality on the ground is quite different.

The JeI is the ‘visible face of radical Islam in Bangladesh’. JeI tries to replace parliamentary democracy and secularism with a theocratic Islamic state. Despite its electoral and political setbacks in recent past, JeI is already so deeply entrenched into the institutional system of governance and public sphere that it can continue to function – even without being in power – and build-up its Islamist network. It risks turning Bangladesh into a major hub of terrorist activities. JeI’s connection to Western based Jihadist organisations – namely in the UK – shows that it is not just a regional phenomenon, but also an important international player. The student wing of JeI, Islami Chattra Shibir (ICS) has demonstrable links to domestic international terrorist networks. It interacts with well-known terrorist organisations like Harakat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HuJI), among others. ICS supports the build-up and maintenance of infrastructure like training camps, provides places for stockpiling weapons and supplies, and recruits new members for a global Jihad. Jamaatul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), an active terrorist group in the country, originated from a faction of JeI and maintains close links with its senior members. Dr. Sigfried Wolf further went on saying, ‘Jihadist groups assumed a high profile during the BNP-JeI alliance government. This government downplayed the existence of Islamist violence in the country and organisations – in particular those under the direct control of JeI – silenced reports of such violence and undermined the work of law enforcement agencies. BNP-JeI government

support for Jihadist violence also took the form of material and financial support and there was a veritable surge of foreign Jihadist NGOs registered in Bangladesh. Financial support to these organisations is well-documented, he added. He said, it was Jamaat and BNP who created an anti-India sentiment and support cross-border terrorism. In this regard Dr. Wolf said, ‘JeI has never forgiven India for the help the latter rendered to the liberation struggle of Bangladesh in 1971. In the last decades, the group was very active in feeding anti-India sentiments, manipulating bilateral conflicts (e.g. the issue over the Farakka dam) and portraying New Delhi’s foreign policy as anti-Islamic and anti-Bangladesh. Most of JeI’s writings and propaganda considers India as the main enemy. Bangladeshi Jihadists are blaming New Delhi for whatever goes wrong in the country’. Quoting the South Asia Terrorism Portal, Dr. Wolf said, members of the student wings of JeI are cooperating with Pakistan’s ISI in order to ‘support Islamist subversive agenda in many regions in India, particularly in areas bordering Bangladesh’; they also claim ISI finances Islami Chatra Shibir(ICS). Dr. Sigfried Wolf further said, the US and EU governments – as well as researchers and analysts – should reassess their view of Jihadist groups, and perhaps no other country deserves a closer analysis than Bangladesh. Most western governments, he continued, assume so-called Islamist parties are willing and able to take part in democratic processes. This notion Dr Wolf says, needs to be reconsidered. The concrete political developments – like adopting an autocratic style



of governance to push an Islamist agenda after gaining a majority in elections – disproves the notion that Jihadists can function as stakeholders of democracy. Furthermore, it is essential that authorities fully understand the relations of these political actors with Jihadist networks, their complexity and, internal dynamics.

Consequently, political parties that directly or indirectly associate – either through individual members or third entities (Muslim Charity and cultural organisations) – with violent Jihadist organisations must be considered a part of the Jihadist movement. He called upon the West to stop acting as their safe-haven, granting them freedom of movement, economic and financial activities that eventually destabilise non-jihadist Muslim countries. Western government must make sure their territory is not used by parties supporting terrorism (especially the provision of logistics, finances, and recruitments) in Bangladesh or any other country.



Regarding attacks on the religious minorities in Bangladesh the SADF Research Director said, JeI targets Bangladesh's Hindu-minority as part of its anti-India strategy. This dates back to the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971 when JeI claimed that AL and the local Hindu community were Indian agents seeking to turn East Pakistan into a 'Hindu state'. Members of JeI and ICS are conducting 'large-scale orchestrated attacks on the homes, businesses, and places of worship of minorities, as well as engaging in the abductions and forced conversions of Hindu girls'. The violence also targets Christians and Buddhists.

Dr. Wolf further said, Bangladesh's intelligentsia, civil society and press are secular and modern in their outlook and quick to oppose fundamentalist accesses and violence. This is no longer the case. JeI contributed to this process through its own media, propaganda has been a key tool for JeI to influence society. Nowadays, in order to indoctrinate and mobilise people, the JeI and its affiliated organisations also rely on the internet and social media. Most importantly, JeI violently suppresses

critical voices, denouncing them as anti-Islam and blasphemous. The attack on supporters of the secular oriented 'Shahbag movement' is a dramatic example of this tendency. Besides propagating a 'silent Islamization', JeI uses the same violent tactics as Jihadist counterparts in Pakistan or Afghanistan, he added.

Ms. Karima Bennoune, UN Rapporteur

Ms. Karima Bennoune in a written statement (*read out by EBF President Mr. Ansar Ahmed Ullah*) sent to EBF said, 'as Special Rapporteur, I have repeatedly alerted the international community to the fact that rising tides of fundamentalism and extremism, in diverse forms, and whether espoused by State or non-State actors, today represent major threats to human rights, including cultural rights, worldwide. They are growing challenges that must be faced with urgency, using a human rights approach. In my thematic report to the Human Rights Council on fundamentalism, extremism and cultural rights (A/HRC/34/56, paras. 71-72), I addressed the situation in Bangladesh, underscoring my grave concern about jihadist attacks on writers, publishers and freethinkers in Bangladesh and the placing of others on a death list. In my work, I have framed fundamentalisms, to quote Algerian sociologist Marieme Helie-Lucas, as "political movements of the extreme right, which in a context of



globalization ... manipulate religion, culture or ethnicity, in order to achieve their political aims.” Fundamentalisms have emerged out of all of the world’s major religious traditions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism, and others. Fundamentalists across all these categories abuse cultural rights. Given the religious claims of their proponents, religious fundamentalisms are especially difficult and dangerous to contest.

The UN Rapporteur further mentioned, ‘the links between fundamentalism and extremism on the one hand and violent extremism and terrorism on the other must be recognized, as must the inherently dangerous nature of the underlying ideologies themselves for human rights. Some fundamentalist and extremist forces may pass themselves off as “moderate”. Yet, they may have a deleterious impact on cultural rights, and/or provide the ground on which militant extremists stand by promoting the very discriminatory laws and practices that the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief finds to have a strong link to incitement to violence in the name of religion’. Around the world, governments and non-governmental forces have been involved in promoting fundamentalism and extremism abroad, including through funding and education that is not compliant with international standards, and this has had significant consequences for cultural rights. Such contributing factors must be documented, condemned and combated.



States must respect, protect and fulfil human rights, in particular cultural rights, meaning that they must: (a) stop supporting directly or indirectly fundamentalist ideologies; (b) protect all persons from any act of fundamentalist or extremist groups aimed at coercing them into specific identities, beliefs or practices; and (c) design programmes aimed at creating conditions allowing all people to access, participate in and contribute to cultural life, without discrimination. Ms. Karima Bennouna said, it is also critical that the international community listen to the local opponents of fundamentalism and extremism, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, who have in some cases been battling them alone for decades. Despite unparalleled expertise, they are often not invited to international gatherings to discuss strategy. I am pleased that your meeting affords an opportunity for such voices to be heard at the United Nations. In this regard she said, the civil society plays a vital role in combating fundamentalism and extremism, and protecting cultural rights, using diverse strategies.

However, civil society is often constrained in its ability to carry out these functions through limitations on freedom of association, arrest, harassment, and violence. This gravely undermines the much-needed struggle against fundamentalism and extremism. She sees hope in those cultural rights defenders and other human rights defenders, as well as ordinary people, acting around the world, in countries like Bangladesh, and in diaspora populations, to challenge fundamentalism and extremism, sometimes at risk of their lives. The international community must stand with them. As Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, I am committed to standing with those who continue cultural and intellectual and human rights endeavors in the face of threats from extremists.

Dr. Willem van der Geest:

I worked in Bangladesh on behalf of UNDP. Subsequently I followed the economic development of Bangladesh very closely in different contexts. My presentation here today is not economic, but economic. I see in Bangladesh the increasing violence. I think on the whole all, whom I met, are



very peaceful people in Bangladesh. So how is that possible that such instances of violence occur and reoccur. Though Bangladesh was born in a violent war, but it is a peaceful country. In a way I am trying to look at the measure of peacefulness. There is a global peace index, which compares countries across the number of indicators. They compare the

peacefulness or lack of it, violence, sometime political violence, extremist violence, terrorist violence. They look at three aspects. One is incidence and occurrence of conflicts, second is how safe a society and about the militarization and securitization of society or expanding of military for private security.

The global picture of peace, as we know, on the whole the situation around the world like Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan is terrible. If you look at the recent development, you see that the number of death from terrorism and extremist violence is extremely high. The expenditure on conflict through military and private security and so on is enormous. So, we are losing out enormously because of the conflicts and the cost of dealing with the conflicts.

In accordance with this index, the most peaceful country is Iceland, another is New Zealand, Portugal, Austria, Denmark – these are very peaceful countries. Least peaceful countries are Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan and Yemen. Where does Bangladesh fit in this global picture? It ranks roughly in the middle. The measurement is made among 163 countries, as small countries are left out. Bangladesh is more or less near Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bolivia, Haiti – which are facing very serious problems. But in this index it still does better than



the US and India. Bangladesh is doing better than Pakistan and India in terms of violence and conflict and expenditure on military and security etc. We see also some improvements in recent years, which I think a countering tool. There is greater concern on violence in recent years. It sparked because of the incident in the Holey Artisan Bakery in the middle of 2016. It has been built in up for a quite some time. But there are some recent improvements.

If we switch to global database, compiled by the University of Maryland, which includes all conflicts incidents of terrorism and extremism, that happens round the world. If we look at this table, we see that over the last 12 years 1400 incidents of terrorism or extreme violence were reported and the number of people, who died in those incidents, was about 400. Much larger number of people were injured. A large number of these incidents happened in Bangladesh. We see a trend on incidents and fatalities and injuries reported. That is enormously increasing in recent years. Particularly the worst year was not 2016, when the international perception about Bangladesh changed because of the incident in Holey Artisan Bakery. But prior to that there were large incidents of fatalities. In 2016 about the number fatality is 75 in Bangladesh. These do not include traffic accidents, rather death from violent extremism. These are database from Ain o Salish Kendra and supported by international organizations. So, these are not data from the government, which seems to be trying to stop reporting the number of incidents and fatalities. In 2017 we have large amount of death related cost by the law enforcement agencies, the number of reported death, because the number of actions from law enforcement agencies was 162. So, the picture was quite gloomy. But the worst situation was in 2015. From that consideration I am optimistic, that the response of law enforcement agencies is probably working. But I do not want to jump to that conclusion. Because the number of death, extrajudicial death in the country has also increased very alarmingly.

If we look at the Islamic terrorism – we see three organizations, which are also clearly presented in the first presentation – Jamaate Islami, Jamatul Mujahideen and Islamic State Bangladesh (ISB) specially last two years. We find that these kinds of incidents started already in 1991. It is not a recent phenomenon. It went back that time as a protest against secular democracy. In the mid 90's, 2005 and again in 2015 – the trend is very high. So, this is actually the picture of violent extremism. 40% of the death happened in the hands of Islamic forces. Another big share is the political violence – in some cases lawmakers and journalists have been killed – and it is quite horrific.

What is the consequence of that on society? In general, I found that it is not bad for economy, terrorism is not bad for the economy. Bangladesh economy is doing better than ever before. Bangladesh has been moving forward. If you look at other countries, in the US there was no recession of 9/11, recession came much later because of finance. In general, we do not find any negative correlation with growth. But we find a lot of switching of expenditure from social or public purpose to security or military expenditure. The total military expenditure in 2016 and 2017 is about 14 Trillion Dollar. We see also rapid expenditure for military and rapid increase of the military budget in Bangladesh. Currently the military budget in Bangladesh is about 3 Billion USD. It is not too much in comparison to that in India. But for a poor country it is enormous expenditure. From 2014 to 2015 the military budget increased about 15%. From 2016 to 2017 it increased about 6%. It is also observed that the GDP continued to rise.

In conclusion I like to provide some statements like the increase of terrorism or extremism switches to expenditure for security – both private and military security expenditure. It is not negatively affecting the growth. But it negatively affects the social expenditure like education and health. As previously mentioned education is the core to fight against violent extremism. I also see continued increase in inequality in Bangladesh. BBS statistics, shows that it is in 2016 the highest ever in Bangladesh, higher than ever before, even higher than Pakistan or other countries. So, it is a very

concerning trend. So, the spending on human development and SGDs is also affected, as it decreases, because of the increase in security and military expenditure. So, my final comment in this presentation is: I reinforce the importance of focusing on sustainable development goals and also particularly focus on building peace, justice and strong institutions as a response to violent extremism and terrorism and putting more emphasis on keeping peace in the society.

Samia Zaman:

To be honest I just came to participate and listen to what has already been proven very interesting discussion and papers, not only for my television, but also for my personal knowledge. Incidentally one of our speakers was supposed to be the Executive Director of Institute of Conflict, Law and Development Studies Major General (Rtd) Abdur Rashid, but he could not come and I happened to be Board Member of that institute, so it is sort of my relationship to conflict and terrorism issues.

As a media practitioner in Bangladesh and people from Bangladesh surely know that I started my career with BBC in London. Eventually I moved to Bangladesh and I worked with the growth of our private television channel. Till now I have about thirty years experience of working in media to deal with the issues on Bangladesh.



We see a particular picture of extremism in Bangladesh and that's growing has been happening not only as a theoretician or as a researcher but we are really at the front line of it in Bangladesh. So anything that is happening there including in the Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan, which is another major fase of extremism in Bangladesh, probably I can remember the Hefajat movement, right

after Shahbag movement, took hold of our civil space or political space, then all the media were target of that.

I had an interesting question that Mr Jong was asking me, how do you deal with it and in reference to another journalist from London was mentioning that people asked a lot about the freedom of media in Bangladesh. To be very honest, most of our problems or the most challenge is from the rise of extremism, because these people, these groups or this movement, as Dr Wolf has already said, not just a political party, the target is any kind of free thinking or exchange of ideas or social space, where people can question the dogma. So they systematically have gone after the academics to journalists, the BBC contributor Manik Saha died between the period from 2001 to 2006.

Dr van der Geest mentioned the time of 1991, as the rise of that. Actually then Shibir was active, the student front of Jamaat, in the whole of the 80's. Incidentally the top layer was kind of cooperating with the democratic movement, but the student layer was systematically killing of people and they had a trade mark of Rog Kata, cutting of tandems, everybody here knows it. We grew up with that. So this kind of violence with extremism or extremist flavor is not new to us. The things really changed in the post 9/11 world and for Bangladesh it is the post Holey Artisan Bakery war. Dr Shammi Ahmed is definitely true that attack in the Holey Artisan Bakery is such an extreme incident in Bangladesh, because somebody was mentioning and it is true in thousands years of history in Bengal, where foreigners have come, gone, colonized us and did thugging and looting everything. But there has never been a systematic killing of recognizably foreigners in Bengal even during the mutiny and everything.

So that has really changed and I think, helped us in no way in respect that what is happening within our society. That is directly related to Diaspora. Here we heard a lot what is happening in Bangladesh and extremism, but there is a great representation of the Diaspora leaders. I really ask everybody to go back to their community and to their home and see what is happening inside our houses with our children, because they are desperate for some kind of identity, in the Post 9/11 World, if you have brown skin, if you have a name, which sounds little different, (you will hear,) you are a Muslim, you are Paki, you are a terrorist. So how do the young people deal with that, and how I deal with it. While I came to the UK, as my journalism started in UK, I was South Asian, I was Muslim, I was woman, if I was a physically disabled, I would have kicked off from Europe, what faced Salman Rushdi in 1988. The only thing I was missing, was wearing of Hijab. I went to SOAS (in London University) for my Masters, it was like a free liberal place. Now I go there and I find, as if I were the minority. If I went the American Embassy in Dhaka, I can bet you, if I wear a Hijab and go there, I can come out with good funding. That is how, you are being put into a little pitch in a hole. Our children are being influenced by that. So, they are neither Bangladeshi, nor Bengali, nor Danish, not British, nor European, nor Dutch, they become Muslim. The little piece of cloth immediately gives me a passport like a ticket to this Diaspora, the strong portion of Diaspora. How do we combat that?



In Bangladesh, not over all Bengali, we have amazing antidote or a historical fact helping us since our liberation war, which was fought in the name of liberal ideas and democracy. We have managed to make it controversial, so we have to kind of regain that space. But how would the liberation war be important to somebody growing up in Holland, I do not know. So the cultural identity, being proud of the fact that you are secular, liberal and feminist, we have to fight those wars. Then I really find myself in the minority, not as a Hindu, not as a woman, but as a free thinker, because you find hardly any people, not coming together. You will find it how difficult it is. If you do some kind of right wings politics, you will find millions of people with you. If you are a free thinker, you will not. So that is the challenge and in Bangladesh all of 40 Media (houses), we get tagged like we are government supporters and we are getting censored this and that. Censorship is happening here and there, because we want to live, we do not want to die. So, we are actually doing censorship like we do not talk about religion, we do not talk about army. This list is growing. It is rather easy to criticize government and Awami League. It is easy to give them real criticism both Awami League and government and Prime Minister. But it would be real challenge to criticize army and to criticize religion – any kind of criticism. So, we really need to talk about that. There are so many things we need to discuss. Lastly, I agree with Mr Kashmiri, the European panelists and European thinkers

should go back to their government and find out why they are selling their arms to countries like us. Look at the top ten (arms selling) countries.

Dr. Shammi Ahmed:

Dr. Shammi Ahmed said, One of the greatest contemporary threats to global security is the worldwide phenomenon of religious extremism that can lead to violence and terrorism, and which can permeate all sovereign borders. In today's world, national and global security face their greatest threats from terrorism and violent extremism. In recent years, Bangladesh too has been subjected to increased threats from these menaces/dangers. She added, national and global security today face their greatest threats from terrorism and violent extremism. Regarding the terrorist attackings in Bangladesh she



said, after the July 1 Holy Artisan attack in Dhaka it was thought that the attack was the beginning of a new era of intimidation from terror in the country. But due to the continuation and amplification of the 'zero tolerance' policy of the present government towards terrorism and violent extremism, Bangladesh has fought back

strongly against terrorism and violent extremism. In this regard said, during the last one year and a half a total of 26 major anti-terror operations have been conducted across the country, in which 58 terrorists were killed, while over 50 have been arrested. As regards the legal and judicial battle against terrorists, over 60 operatives of the most dangerous terrorist organization, Jamaatul Mujaheedin Bangladesh, have been sentenced to death, over 150 to life term imprisonment and around 250 others to different jail terms in cases of various attacks. Besides, law enforcers arrested 1,792 JMB men in different cases while 2,043 were charge-sheeted in different cases. The current government placed highest priority to the task of combating terrorism. In line with that policy, they formed a 17-member umbrella organization-“National Committee on Militancy Resistance and Prevention”, with the aim of tackling extremism and mobilizing public opinion against such activities.

Ms Nicola Spafford Furey:

Our organization works for the awareness among the young people. We say – learn, share and act. We should leave something for the future generation. We should not be leaving violence and history of violence, because sadly they are repeated. I think this is the tragedy. Two days ago Bangladesh won prize on telecommunication. That means digitalization, internet connectivity and development through communication. This is the future way of taking away from terrorism, violence and we can live with

the nature in peace and happiness with each other. We hope that we can work together and communicate and contact – that is the way of Earth Focus Foundation.

Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP), Geneva: In the world today, there is a growing trend of violence - both domestically and internationally in the form of terrorism. It is present in our everyday life and in every part of the world. Some face more than others. Terrorism takes place in many forms and has impact on all of our lives, in one way or other. But some of us are affected directly by losing our loved ones, or in accident, or we are affected indirectly by heightened scrutiny in the airport causing delays, stop value and beyond. Emotionally by the countless reports and images spread by the media terrorism has affected us and showing of no sign of going away anytime soon.

We appreciate Bangladesh government's initiatives against terrorism and extremism in the country. The present Prime Minister of Bangladesh Ms Sheikh Hasina Wazed is the only head of the state in the entire Muslim world, who has seriously taken action against the radical elements in the society.

Because many of the learned panelists highlighted the main topic today, because the title of this conference is countering violent extremism, how we can control, what is the role of the government. There are some governments, especially during the cold war era, there were some influential governments like United States and many other countries, who actually installed extremist forces in the Muslim societies for their elimination policy, to suppress or to eliminate popular progressive Muslim leaders. Now today we have a crisis in the whole Muslim world. We have only one leader, elected one leader. the rest of the Muslim world either we have some dictator or we have kingdom.

We have an organization, which is called OIC. That OIC is with Muslim countries, but which has nothing to do for the Muslim population, like in Yemen many children are killed by their own government, who used air gun, long range weapons. The rest of the OIC countries did not raise voice in favor of the Yemenis. We have some dictator, but we are the secular. But unfortunately, by the name of democracy and change of regimes, they installed the radical elements like in Nusra Fronts. What is Nusra Front? That is the organization, which is continuously supported by some of the European countries. They are using the name of democracy against the regimes, who are not liked by some other countries. So that is why the terrorism and extremism and violence is getting more and more space in the Muslim world.

Until and unless the governments have changed their behavior towards the regimes, until and unless they will prevent the likings and disliking in the Muslim society, we will be unable to counter the violence, because on the one hand we have a target/trumped against the terrorism and extremism, on the other hand the same government, which have the double game, is supporting and funding the terrorist groups like in Pakistan, Lashkar –e-Tayeba, led by an influential cleric, who resides in Islamabad and holds a very important mosque, which is called the Red mosque. He is calling Dayesh, ISS and asking the constitution in Pakistan should be advocated, because democracy is infidel and will not allow democracy to take roots in Muslim society. But he is enjoying the full rights, whereas those people, who are trying to promote harmony among different sections of religions, they become target of the state. Like there is no voice in favor of Balochs, they are suppressed. Though they are secular, progressive and nationalist, but nobody is taking any counter/cognigence in favor of the Baloch. Like in Sindh, because the state is promoting the extremism, how the private or common people combat and counter extremism. It is until and unless the government and especially Europe, the advanced society seriously take initiative to combat terrorism and raise voices in the Muslim society. Because it is the Muslim countries, who are promoting terrorism, who are promoting extremism, who use religion. But before the cold war era it was some of the western countries who promoted this kind of extremism, which we are facing today.

Questions & Answers Sessions (1 & 2)

Mr. Jakob de Jong: We have already seen quite different approaches to the central theme of this conference countering violent extremism in both European context and among the Bangladeshi Diasporas. We have the analysis of finance behind the extremist groups, heard economic implications, heard the opportunities from the environmental perspectives and we heard an explanation what the current government is doing to counter extremism. *Now the floor is open for the audience to ask questions to either of the speakers.*

Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP), Geneva: Every presentation is fantastic. But I think there is a missing regarding the role of the state. Because in our experience, there are some states, which promote terrorism and promote extremism; and terrorism is imported and exported through the states. I have knowledge that it is clear that Bangladesh and the head of the government of Bangladesh have a clear stand against the terrorism. But the rest of the Muslim world is very confused or some how they are promoting or exporting the terrorism and extremism. *For example, Pakistan is a country with so many insurgents, who use religion as a tool and exporting extremism. I think, any of the panelists can address the role of the states.*

Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf: I published a book on that – State Sponsorship of Terrorism. Regarding Bangladesh, I think, the very important role the state has played during the period from 2001 to 2006. The then government strongly provided support to certain groups and ideology. In the similar procedure, you can also compare the military government in Bangladesh and Pakistan, where religion was used to legitimize their role. For me the state sponsorship of terrorism is a big issue on the stage. You are from Pakistan and you know well what is going on there. It is also big issue there, when it comes to the cross-border component of it. I am not expert on the Middle East. But unfortunately, the state sponsorship of terrorism – the whole issue is very biased, you may be either from Saudi Arabia or Iran. For me the position of Iran is worse than Pakistan in this regard. They are one of the greatest sponsors of terrorism, particularly with the very bad effect on Afghanistan. We also wrote a paper on the role of the Islamic Guards, their role in drug-dealing and funding to international terrorism in Europe and even in Latin America. So, they are globally acting. It is a big issue and everybody should take it into account and address to the academics. Unfortunately, some academics claim that state sponsorship of terrorism cannot exist, because state cannot be terrorist. They are few, from whom we have to get rid of. So, we have to bear in our mind that state can also act as a terrorist, not only individual or only an organization. We have to broaden our approach, how to think about the terrorism issue.

Dr. Shammi Ahmed: Our role is very clear on the Bangladesh side. What we are observing that terrorism is supported by other countries and in the name of the democracy or democratic rights they are promoting the terrorism and violence, because like many European countries and others are talking in favor of Jamaat-e-Islam, when we did the conviction of war criminals, then voice was raised that they are the Islamic leaders. We have to raise our voice against that. This is very clear, who are the extremists and who are democratic parties. What is the definition of a democratic party? If you ask me, I would say, BNP is not a democratic party. If you are a democratic party then you have to first work within your people and then form a political party. BNP was born in the cantonment. So according to me, that is not a democratic party actually. So, I do not know why the western world is supporting BNP as a democratic party. They have never raised their voice against the terrorism, again their action, what they are doing. So we have to be very careful on that. Once you are promoting the

extremism on the one hand and on the other hand you are talking how we can tackle you are playing so many different roles. I think that will not work. You have to make a stand very clear.

Mr. Jakob de Jong: One more addition to that – I have heard about foreign state sponsoring terrorism, role of Pakistan as a state, you have said about the position of EU, but I have not heard about the Gulf Region like Saudi Arabia and other countries.

Ms. Dr. Shammi Ahmed: I can mention about Gulf region – actually their role is confusing. On the one hand, they say that they are in favor of secularism, but on the other hand money is going to Madrasahs, which I mentioned in my presentation that Madrasah, their curriculum and everything is the factory for production of terrorism. So, we have to focus on that. The Middle East countries, I do not want to blame anyone, but the way they are doing like just Islamic and they have taken religion as a weapon to promote the extremists, knowingly or unknowingly, I do not know. But now-a-days it is changing. If you look at the present role of Saudi Arabia and others is changing actually.

Dr Bidduth Barua, Convenor of Secular Forum of Bangladesh, Denmark Chapter: Bangladesh is a peaceful country and it will be in future also. To establish Bangladesh a lot of people sacrificed their lives. Only few people are against that. In 1975 they established another political party with the support of Jamaat and BNP. As history says, after 2001 and till 2006, if you look at the statistics, the terrorism and violence were established by the then government, which was formed by BNP and Jamaat. After that when Awami League is in power, they minimized, managed and tackled the terrorism. But it is very difficult, when one of the big parties support the terrorism, to control the country, to make it peaceful. My question to the European panel, why do not you tell BNP and another party not to support terrorism. Because during their government we saw the rise of Bangla Bai and JMB was established at that time. My appeal to the European panel to call all groups and parties to come to a common platform not to support terrorism.

M M Murshed, Coordinator of Brussels Dhaka Solidarity for Peace Committee BDSPC: We have organized a number of seminars and conferences against terrorism and extremism and towards peace for the globe. We know extremism and fundamentalism provoke terrorism and massive destruction all over the world. So why do not we think that all activists against terrorism and extremism and fundamentalism, who are working in group, or in an organization or individual – why we do not think that we should be united? We have to have an interconnection with each other – individually by the country and there should be a framework of all European countries, there will be a body, who will take care of it or keep contact with them – what is happening, who are going to be involved in fundamentalism or terrorism. So, we can not only specify Bangladesh, or Pakistan or India. We should have a global contact, a global frame and interconnection with each other to eliminate this type of destruction.

Adam Barnett, Journalist from London: I would like to ask Dr Shammi Ahmed following up her comment just now - that BNP is not a democratic party. I want to ask whether you consider a party in Bangladesh other than Awami League which are to be democratic and if not whether you think Bangladesh being a one-party state, would it be a good policy to combat extremism?

Dr. Shammi Ahmed: There are so many political parties in Bangladesh. You can see the leftist parties. There are also right parties, who are democratic and who were born in a democratic way. I mentioned it and I said that what is the definition of a political party. If you are there and see that BNP is not fit or Jatiya Party is not fit in a definition of political party. I cannot support army-backed political party. If you support the army backed political party, then in a way you are supporting those, who do not represent the people's voice. So, there are so many political parties. I cannot give you the exact number how many of those are registered in our election commission. In Bangladesh you have

to register in election commission and you have to get certain votes. Like CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh) and other political parties exist over there, who are democratic and who were born in a democratic way.

So, my point was like that when you were born in an army barrack, then your birth is illegal. You cannot expect legal action from them. That is happening in Bangladesh. BNP is army-backed and Jamaat does not believe on Bangladesh, because they were against our liberation war and they were in favor of Pakistan. So, if you do not believe in Bangladesh, in the country where you live, how can you support that kind of party? They do not have feelings for their own people. That is happening in our country, that they patronize extremists, all the Mujahidin and things like that, which were born in the BNP-Jamaat period.

When they assassinated the father of the nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, many things happened in Bangladesh. Otherwise we were not like that. The nation we are not like that, as a country we are not like that. We have a rich history. I think Bangladesh is the only country, who fought for our mother language. So, for the country we sacrificed a lot. We do not want to see these kinds of things like terrorism in our country. Our country was not born for that. For the religious activists it was heaven for them, during their time, it was heaven for the extremists. If you analyze that why these things happened, because they do not have any commitment towards the people, because they are born in army base. They just want to get the power and opportunity. If you have a party, who do not belong to the people, you cannot expect anything good from them. If you look at our development, our achievement, Bangladesh today is example for the world.

Munir Mengal, President of Baloch Voice Association, Geneva: I belong to Balochistan. Our Bangladeshi people probably remember that their kids were attacked by a state and we are still being a victim of that state. What we have got from that state? An artificial state was created artificially in the name of a specific religious ideology. After that all of us became victim of that ideology. Till date our society, our people, our political, religious ideology, our culture, our identity and even languages have become a victim of that religious terrorism. Our thousand years of historical markets, I am referring to Gulistan, used to be led by female, was attacked. In the same way our children got attacked, threatened and kicked away from the Western style of co-education. Our females were attacked with acid to keep away from outdoor activities including from going to school and earning their breads for themselves.

I just refer two-three names: Professor Sabad Istiary, who was a professor and who has written more than 80 books in Baloch language and culture. Another scholar Mr Jahed Baloch, who went to the USA, got educated over there, came back and opened an English medium school in Gwada, was killed. I myself became a victim of enforced disappearance. When I tried to launch a TV channel in my mother tongue Baluchi language, I myself was a victim of enforced disappearances for two years. While I was living in Europe, my organization published a book in Quetta. So, our office bearer got killed. In the same way all these things, these Bangladeshi people, who are here, I think, they can get same sort of escapes pictures from their fathers, from their elders, whatever they got from their history.

I myself visited Bangladesh on 14th December 2016, that was intellectual martyrs' day and participated in Dhaka and shared speech over there. Whatever I got from there, that why the minds of Bangladeshi people, why the thugs were attacked. Still they are living in the state, there was a sense of threat everywhere I myself stayed over there approximately seven or eight days, I have not visited a single market. Why, because there was some sort of threat prevailing that there are people, there are organizations who are still threatening the whole society. I think, this is first time in the

history that we got a chance to visit, I with Khan, because of Sheikh Hasina, she is such a bold lady, she invited us, no other Bangladeshi leader at this time had that courage to invite us. Why because the day we were there in the Pakistani national media the reports were like breaking news that Baloch traitor visited Bangladesh meeting there Bangladeshi traitors, who betrayed us on the direction of Hindus. So, until and unless that ideology exists that we are naming our bombs in the name of religion, these are Islamic bombs.

I myself got education in College Mastung. The first slap I got in front of 360 students, where physical touch is not allowed, I got it from the Principal, who was a retired Brigadier, because I missed morning prayer. In front of all of us he called me why did you miss the Fazar prayer. I asked the principal: For whom should I offer prayer, for you or for Allah? Then he said: of course, for Allah. Then I said, let the Allah ask me. Then he started to beating me in front of 360 students. In the same way while learning there we learnt that this bomb will protect you from Hindus and this bomb will attack those Hindus, who will attack you. So, these armies these bombs are not for the protection of that country, those bombs, those armies are just to attack non-Muslims, whom they call kafer.

Mr Nasir Aziz Khan, Human Rights Activist and Journalist: I came from Jammu-Kashmir part of the region, which is under Pakistani occupation and commonly known as Azad-Kashmir. I want to share few realities. Since 1947 we are the victims of state and victims of terrorism.

16 March is the foundation day of our state, state of Jammu and Kashmir. United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) and other nationalist parties are celebrating the national foundation day. Prime Minister from the so-called Azad Kashmir, which is installed by Pakistan is threatened Kashmiris that he will with the help of Pakistani Army eliminate each and every nationalist from the Pakistani occupied Kashmir. There was a protest Peace March from JKLF. They were having white flag for peace, so that there will be no cross firing in LoC – so called Line of Control, which divides our mother land. Local police opened fire on civilians, unarmed peaceful protesters and (JKLF Activist) Naem Butt died yesterday due to injury. Five days ago, Pakistan Army opened fire on LoC resulted in the killing of five members of a family, from 7 years old to 35 years old. This is happening with us. We are facing state terrorism since 1947 and we appeal to UN to send a fact-finding mission to that area to see these violations.

Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf: I would like to share one important observation that increasing number of women are being involved in suicidal attacks. It is of course not new, as in South Asia, in Sri Lanka LTTE had female fighters. But in Bangladesh it is a new trend. So there comes a recommendation perhaps from Jamaat point of view that they are very much trying to increase their female membership to radicalize the women. So, there might be an option to work to avoid the female being radicalized, because Jamaat is the only option to offer that.

Ms Samia Zaman: We are already very late. Dr Shammi Ahmed mentioned about the Madrasah. There is some kind of control in the sense of information about the established Madrasahs with the curriculum with the government as they have to register themselves. They are the huge network of female only Madrasahs and Dawat, when they go into their houses, they create there little gatherings. There are certain areas in Bangladesh, if you go there during the day time, you find all the women congregating in one of the larger houses and whole day they have religious instructions. Those women are particularly vulnerable. And female suicidal attacker, that you talked about, the information that we are gathering, most of them are actually involved or the partner or the wife either. Here, I would say, patriarchy trumps religion anyway. So, the power of a man over woman is much more than even religion dictates. So, when husband gets involved, son gets involved, woman

of the family gets involved. On these women Madrasahs or religious networks, we have been working about last 20 years since the beginning to get result of that.

Mr. Jakob de Jong: Thank you very much for your clear statement on the role of the Western governments of not being clear and not being consistent in their struggle against terrorism.



SPEAKERS PROFILE

Dr Willem van der Geest

formerly Director at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), UN Secretariat, New York. He has worked with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva (in the 1990s) as well as for UNDP in Dhaka, Bangladesh, assigned to work with the Planning Commission as macro-economist (in the 1980s). He is very committed to contribute to the strategic and intellectual leadership of Sustainable Development initiatives and provide high-quality policy research on pertinent issues on the interfaces of international economics, trade policy, economic integration, and sustainable development goals.



He directed the European Institute for Asian Studies from 1997 to 2007, a think-tank working with the European Commission and the European Parliament on the EU's external relations with Asian countries, focusing on issues of security, development, trade and international cooperation. At the UN Secretariat, he coordinated the 2015 MDG Gap Task Force, which includes the IMF, the OECD, the World Bank and the WTO, along with more than 30 UN entities. As Team Leader of the EU Advisory Group (EUAG), a programme requested by the Government of Armenia, he led a team of Advisors covering a broad range of issues within the scope of the EU Association Agreement negotiations as well as the negotiations towards a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA). He holds a PhD in Economics from Cambridge University (1996) and a M. Sc in Social Sciences from the University of Leiden (1978). He worked at the Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford (1987-1995) and taught on the international political economy of economic development for the Masters in International Politics at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (2000-2009). He was one of the key speakers at the EBF conference at the Brussels Press Club held in October 2016.

Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf

is a German political scientist and Director of Research at the Brussels-based think tank, South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF). Additionally, he is a senior researcher (member) at the South Asia Institute (SAI), Heidelberg University (Germany) and the Pakistan Security Research Unit (PSRU), Durham University (UK). He was educated at the SAI and Institute of Political Science (IPW) in Heidelberg. Furthermore, he is a former research fellow at IPW and Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH, New Delhi, India) and a former visiting fellow at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST, Islamabad, Pakistan). He was member of the external expert group of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force, German Federal Foreign Office, and worked as a consultant for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany.



Dr. Wolf is a political writer and commentator in international media on South Asia. He has been quoted regularly in Al Arabiya English, Business Standard, China Global Television Network, The Daily Star (Bangladesh), Deutsche Welle, The Economic Times, E-International Relations, The New York Times, The Straits Times, Ouest-France and The Wall Street Journal. He completed his degrees in Master of Arts (Class of 2003) in South Asian political science and Doctor of Philosophy (Class of 2009) from University of Heidelberg. He took part in the previous conferences on similar issues in Brussels and Bangladesh. He co-edited the book titled, *“Terrorism Revisited: Islamism, Political Violence and State-Sponsorship (Contemporary South Asian Studies)”* with Paula Casaca, former Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and founding director of South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF) in 2017.

Karima Bennoune

was appointed UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights in October 2015. She grew up in Algeria and the United States. Karima Bennoune is Professor of Law and Martin Luther King, Jr. Hall Research Scholar at the University of California-Davis School of Law where she teaches courses on human rights and international law. Her research and writing, including on cultural rights issues, has been widely published in leading journals and periodicals. She has received numerous awards, including the Dayton Literary Peace Prize (2014) for her recent book, *“Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim Fundamentalism.”* The book tells the stories of people of Muslim heritage challenging extremism. Ms. Bennoune has worked in the field of human rights for more than 20 years, including with governments and non-governmental organizations, and has carried out field missions, trial observation, election observation and research in many regions of the world. Professor Bennoune has also served as a consultant for UNESCO. She has frequently commented on human rights issues for the global media.



Jackob de Jong

Jakob de Jonge is the founder and Director of The Hague Peace Projects, an NGO based in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Hague Peace Projects is a collective of young professionals and human rights activists, mostly with a refugee or migrant background, who act as catalysts of peace all over the world. They try to reconstruct people's motivation and skills to deal with conflicts peacefully, using a wide range of tools such as research, advocacy, media, cultural events, education, training, journalism etc.



Jakob de Jonge has an MA in Religious Studies from Leiden University, Netherlands and studied Philosophy in Paris, France and Development Studies at the University of Amsterdam. He worked previously as Policy Officer at Justice & Peace Netherlands and Amnesty International. In both capacities he specialized in research and advocacy for the rights of undocumented and irregular migrants and addressing the human rights concerns related to immigrant detention.

Dr. Shammi Ahmed

was a Former of Senior Advisor at International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Asia-Pacific Zone. As a expert in the fields of development, Mrs. Shammi has a doctor of Philosophy (PhD) on Disaster Management, Sustainable development and gender and A masters in Development studies from well reputed University of Australia and over 20 years of proven experience in international development, gender mainstreaming, project management programs in south Asia, Asia Pacific and Australia . Apart from her long career in development fields, Shammi Ahmed has been playing a strong vital role in the political sector of Bangladesh.



Nicola Spafford Furey

An activist Nicola is always in the forefront when there is any cause on human rights, when humanity is affected in any parts of the globe. Nicola came forward with her strong support and voice on human rights issues, peace and climate change issues. With her diplomatic and business experience in Geneva, she has been involved with Earth Focus Foundation, Switzerland since its inception in 1992. With a leading Canadian forester for her Grandfather, the person who was the first to introduce re-afforestation in Quebec, Nicola has always been motivated, active and close to Nature. She promoted the Programme for Belize, half a million acres of rainforest that have been protected in perpetuity for the Belizean people. She believes that raising awareness to sustainability with learning and action is vital for now, the future and for all.



Samia Zaman

Samia Zaman is a leading Bangladeshi media personality and filmmaker. She was a television news presenter, reporter and talk show host. In 2006, she emerged as a film director. She serves as the Editor and CEO of the television channel Ekattor TV. In 1989, Samia Zaman started out her career as a producer at the BBN World Service in London. She served as a journalist and news presenter in Ekushey Television, Dhaka. In 1987 Samia Zaman worked in the film *Suchona*, with the director Morshedul Islam as an assistant. In 2006, she emerged as a filmmaker through her direction on the film *Rani Kuthir Baki Itihash*. She directed her second film, *Akash Koto Durey* in 2014. In March 2015, Zaman served in the judge panel of Geneva International Oriental Film Festival



Mr Ansar Ahmed Ullah, President EBF

Ansar Ahmed Ullah is co-President of EBF and a community leader who has lived and worked in the UK since late 1970s. He has worked as a youth, social and community worker and has been an active anti-racist campaigner. Ansar Ahmed Ullah has worked in local government, social services and in regeneration department in London in conjunction with various communities, engaging in consultation processes, gaining experience within deprived areas. Country coordinator of BASUG UK, Ansar Ahmed Ullah has organised a number of workshops and seminars for BASUG on Migration and Development, Remittances and Democracy in Bangladesh. He also maintains BASUG's contacts with the British mainstream politicians and British Euro parliamentarians.



Khalilur Rahman

A social activist, human rights defender based in Geneva, Switzerland, Khalilur Rahman is also the head of a human rights organisation, Secular Forum, Switzerland, with its headquarters in Bangladesh. He is the Country Coordinator of EBF in Switzerland and looks after the interest of BASUG.



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CityNews

Dhaka Monday March 26, 2018

Countering Extremism Conference wraps up in Geneva

Observer Desk

An international Conference titled "Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora" and its impact and policy options to defend secularism and democracy was held at The Palais des Nations, UN, Geneva last week.

The key objective of the conference was to uphold secularism to counter violent terrorism and rise of extremism in the name of religion across the globe including Bangladesh.

The Conference that brought together secular forces, activists, think tanks, politicians both national and European, journalists and created strong public opinion in favour of the secular forces and against the violent extremist groups, discussed the role of the government and the civil society that might help formulate Action Programmes.

Speakers focused the rise of violent extremism and militancy not only in Bangladesh, but also in the region and the globe.

They pointed their fingers at Jamat-e-Islami (JeI) and their allies in radicalization of youth both at

home and abroad.

Different countries from the Middle East are also involved in financing these radical elements and organizations to destroy secularism, they said. Speakers called secular groups to be united and fight against the rise of terrorism across the globe including Bangladesh.

They called upon the western government not to support any political forces in the name of democracy, who are encouraging extremism and religious intolerance in Bangladesh and beyond.

In his keynote speech Dr. Sigfried O. Wolf, Director of Research, South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), Belgium said, JeI's agenda seeks to bring about a social and political transformation that is diametrically opposed to the founding principles of Bangladesh.

JeI tries to replace parliamentary democracy and secularism with a theocratic Islamic state. Despite recent electoral and political setbacks, JeI is already so deeply entrenched into the institutional system of governance and public sphere that it can continue to function - even without being in power - and build-up its Islamist network, he added.

The UN Special Rapporteur, OHCHR, Ms. Karima Bennouna, who could not attend the programme sent a message lauding the objectives of the conference.

Dr. Willem van der Geest, Principal Economist also spoke on the conference presided over by Jakob de Jong, Director of The Hague Peace, from the Netherlands.

Among others, Editor and CEO of Ekattor Television Samia Zaman, Dr Bidduth Barua from Denmark, exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party, Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, Coordinator of Brussels Dhaka Solidarity for Peace Committee M M Murshed, President of Baloch Voice Association Munir Mengal and Human Rights Activist and Journalist Nasir Aziz Khan and EBF Country Coordinator in Switzerland Khalilur Rahman also spoke at the conference.

The event was organised by the European Bangladesh Forum (EBF), a platform of Bangladeshi diaspora in Europe as a follow-up event of the previous conference held in July 2017 at the European Press Club in Brussels.



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EBF confce on 'countering extremism' in Geneva Thursday

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A Conference titled "Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora" and its impact and policy options to defend secularism and democracy will be held at The Paleis des Nations, UN, Geneva on Thursday March 22. The key objective of the Geneva conference is to uphold secularism to counter violent terrorism and rise of extremism in the name of religion across the globe including Bangladesh, the organisers of the conference said in a statement made available to The Daily Observer on Saturday.

The Geneva conference will discuss the role of the government and the civil society that may help formulate Action Programmes.

It is hoped that the Conference will bring together secular forces, activists, think tanks, politicians both national and European, journalists and create strong public opinion in favour of the secular forces and against the violent extremist groups, said the statement.

Speakers who will address the conference are: Jakob de Jong, Director, The Hague Peace, from the Netherlands, Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf, Director of Research, South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), from Belgium, Ms. Nicola Spafford Furey, Vice President, Earth Focus Foundation, from Switzerland, Major General (Retired) Abdur Rashid, Executive Director of the Institute of Conflict, Law & Development Studies (ICLDS) from Bangladesh, Prof Dr. Willem van der Geest, Chief Economist, formerly Director at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York and Ms. Karima Bennoune, UN Special Rapporteur, OHCHR, Geneva.

The event is being organised by the European Bangladesh Forum (EBF), www.ebforum.eu a platform of Bangladeshi diaspora in Europe. This conference is a follow up event from the previous conference held in July 2017 at the European Press Club in Brussels, addressing Islamist attacks in Dhaka and Brussels.

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Countering Terrorism: Diaspora communities must play active role

European Bangladesh Forum confce told in Geneva

Staff Correspondent

Diaspora communities should play active roles in tackling terrorism and extremism in European as well as their native countries, speakers have suggested during a conference in Geneva.

In many cases, youths from the diaspora are being motivated towards extremism, they said.

The conference titled “Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora” was held on Thursday.

The speakers also stressed the need for a strict monitoring of the funds being sent by the diaspora to their native countries.

“The host countries should also monitor how much fund is being sent... and on what grounds. Otherwise, the fund might be ill-used,” Organising Secretary of All European Awami League Bidduth Barua told The Daily Star on Friday.

Since extremism has no boundary, concerted efforts are needed to fight the menace, said Bidduth, who attended the conference.

European Bangladesh Forum, a platform of Bangladeshi Diaspora in Europe, organised the conference.

A group of secular individuals, think tanks, politicians -- both national and European -- participated in the programme chaired by Jakob de Jong, director, The Hague Peace, from the Netherlands.

Dr Shammi Ahmed, international affairs secretary of Awami League; Dr Siegfried O Wolf, research director, South Asia Democratic Forum; Nicola Spafford Furey, vice president, Earth Focus Foundation; Prof Willem van der Geest, chief economist, former director at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and Karima Bennouna, UN special rapporteur, OHCHR, spoke among others.



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Conference on “Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora” at UN Geneva on 22 March

Geneva, March 15: A Conference titled on "Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora" and its impact and policy options to defend secularism & democracy will be held on the 22 March 2018 at The Palais des Nations, UN, Geneva.



The organisers of the conference said that the key objective of the Geneva conference is to uphold secularism to counter violent terrorism and rise of extremism in the name of religion across the globe including Bangladesh. The Geneva conference will discuss the role of the government and the civil society that may help formulate Action Programmes. It is hoped that the Conference will bring together secular forces, activists, think tanks, politicians both

national and European, journalists and create strong public opinion in favour of the secular forces and against the violent extremist groups.

Speakers who will address the conference are: Jakob de Jong, Director, The Hague Peace, from the Netherlands, Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf, Director of Research, South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), from Belgium, Ms. Nicola Spafford Furey, Vice President, Earth Focus Foundation, from Switzerland, Major General (Retired) Abdur Rashid, Executive Director of the Institute of Conflict, Law & Development Studies (ICLDS) from Bangladesh, Prof Dr. Willem van der Geest, Chief Economist, formerly Director at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, Dr. Ms. Shammi Ahmed, formerly Senior Advisor at International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Asia - Pacific Zone, Ms. Karima Bennoune, UN Special Rapporteur, OHCHR, Geneva and Dr. Bidduth Barua, a physician and political and leading community leader in Denmark.

The event is being organised by the European Bangladesh Forum (EBF), www.ebforum.eu a platform of Bangladeshi diaspora in Europe. This conference is a follow up event from the previous conference held in July 2017 at the European Press Club in Brussels, addressing Islamist attacks in Dhaka and Brussels.



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EBF Conference on Countering Violent Extremism in Geneva on Thursday

By [ourvoice](#) March 16, 2018

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- <http://our-voice-online.com/ebf-conference-on-countering-violent-extremism-in-geneva-on-thursday/>

• Saturday, March 23, 2018

<https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2018/03/23/ebf-conference-on-countering-violent-extremism-held-in-geneva>

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Bangladeshi diaspora in Europe organises conference in Geneva on 'countering violent extremism'

Senior Correspondent, bdnews24.com

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• The European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) has discussed the rise of violent extremism and how to counter those across the world in a conference in Geneva.

The platform of Bangladeshi diaspora in Europe said the Thursday's conference at the Palais des Nations UN in Geneva was a follow-up event of the July 2017 held at the European Press Club in Brussels. The objective of the Geneva conference titled "Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora" was to uphold secularism to counter violent terrorism and rise of extremism in the name of religion across the globe including Bangladesh.

The conference brought together secular forces, activists, think tanks, politicians both national and European, journalists and created strong public opinion in favour of the secular forces and against the violent extremist groups.

Presided over by Jakob de Jong, Director of The Hague Peace, Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf, Director of Research of South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF) from Belgium, Nicola Spafford Furey, Vice President of Earth Focus Foundation from Switzerland, Prof Dr. Willem van der Geest, Chief Economist and former Director at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York, Dr. Shammi Ahmed, international Affairs Secretary Bangladesh Awami League, were the speakers.

Editor and Chief Executive Officer of Ekattor Television Samia Zaman, Chief Executive Officer of Health-Tech Foundation and Organizing Secretary of the All European Awami League Bidduth Barua, Exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP), Geneva Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, Coordinator of Brussels Dhaka Solidarity for Peace Committee BDSPC MM Murshed, President of Baloch Voice Association Munir Mengal and Vice President of European Bangladesh Forum Bikash Chowdhury Barua also addressed the conference.

EBF President Ansar Ahmed Ullah summed up the discussion and presented concluding remarks and EBF Country Coordinator in Switzerland Khalilur Rahman delivered vote of thanks.

They focused on the rise of violent extremism and militancy not only in Bangladesh but also in the region and the globe, the EBF said in a statement.

"They pointed at Jamat-e-Islami and other religion-based groups in the radicalisation of youth both at home and abroad. Different countries from the middle-east are also involved in financing these radical elements and organizations to destroy secularism."

They called upon all secular groups to be united and fight against the rise of terrorism across the globe including Bangladesh.

কালের কণ্ঠ

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DAILY KALER KANTHO, DHAKA



<http://www.kalerkantho.com/online/nrb/2018/03/23/616835>

জেনেভায় ইবিএফ সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত

জাকির হোসেন সুমন, জেনেভা (সুইজারল্যান্ড)

২৩ মার্চ, ২০১৮ ১৯:৫২



ধর্মীয় ও সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থীদের প্রতিরোধে সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় অবস্থিত জাতিসংঘের সদর দপ্তরে বৃহস্পতিবার অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন।

সম্মেলনে বক্তারা বাংলাদেশের পাশাপাশি দক্ষিণ এশিয়া এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থা জঙ্গিবাদের বিস্তারে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করেন। তারা বাংলাদেশে ও দেশের বাইরে বিশেষভাবে তরুণ প্রজন্মের মাঝে মৌলবাদী চরমপন্থা বিস্তারের জন্য জামায়াতে ইসলামীসহ ধর্মভিত্তিক গোষ্ঠীগুলোকে দায়ী করেন। এ ছাড়া এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশে চরমপন্থী সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা উসকে দিতে অর্থায়নের অভিযোগ তোলা হয়েছে মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের বিভিন্ন দেশের বিরুদ্ধে। সম্মেলনে বক্তারা এ ধরনের সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা প্রতিরোধে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ সকল পক্ষকে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার আহ্বান জানান।

সম্মেলনের শুরুতে স্বাগত বক্তব্য দেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়া। এতে সভাপতিত্ব করেন নেদারল্যান্ডস ভিত্তিক আন্তর্জাতিক সংগঠন দ্য হের্গ পিস'র পরিচালক ইয়াকব দে ইয়ঙ্গে।

মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন বেলজিয়াম ভিত্তিক সংগঠন দক্ষিণ এশিয়া গণতান্ত্রিক ফোরাম'র গবেষণা পরিচালক ড. জিগফ্রিড ও ভোলফ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক সংগঠন আর্থ ফোকাস ফাউন্ডেশন'র ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট নিকোলা স্পাফোর্ড ফুরি, জাতিসংঘের অর্থনৈতিক ও সামাজিক বিভাগ (ডিইএসএ)-এর সাবেক পরিচালক ও মুখ্য অর্থনীতিবিদ প্রফেসর ড. ভিলেম ফন ডের খেস্ট এবং আন্তর্জাতিক রেডক্রস ও রেড ক্রিসেন্ট ফেডারেশনের এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের সাবেক উপদেষ্টা ও বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ এর আন্তর্জাতিক বিষয়ক সম্পাদক ড. শামী আহমেদ।

সম্মেলনে আলোচনায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন অন্যদের মধ্যে একাত্তর টেলিভিশনের সম্পাদক ও প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা সামিয়া জামান, হেলথ টেক ফাউন্ডেশনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ও ইউরোপিয়ান আওয়ামী লীগের সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক ড. বিদ্যুৎ বড়ুয়া, ব্রাসেলস ঢাকা সলিডারিটি ফর পিস কমিটি বিডিএসপিসি'র সমন্বয়কারী এম এম মুর্শেদ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির চেয়ারম্যান সর্দার শওকত আলী কাশ্মিরি, মানবাধিকার কর্মী এবং সাংবাদিক নাসির আজিজ খান এবং বালুচ ভয়েস অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রেসিডেন্ট মুনির মেজাল। সম্মেলনে উপস্থাপিত প্রবন্ধ এবং আলোচনার সারসংক্ষেপ উপস্থাপন করেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম (ইবিএফ)-এর প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ।



<http://www.shongbad24.com/?p=12345> - London 23 March 2018



Conference on countering violent extremism held at the UN

By Ansar Ahmed Ullah: Geneva, March 22: A Conference titled “Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora” and its impact & policy options to defend secularism & democracy was held on 22 March at The Palais des Nations, UN, Geneva.

The key objective of the Geneva Conference was to uphold secularism to counter violent terrorism and the rise of extremism in the name of religion across the globe including Bangladesh. The Geneva Conference discussed the role of the government and the civil society that might help formulate Action Programmes. The conference brought together secular forces, activists, think tanks, politicians, journalists to create strong public opinion in favour of secularism against violent extremism.

Vice President of the European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) Bikash Chowdhury Barua opened the conference with his welcoming remarks. Presided over by Jakob de Jonge, Director of The Hague Peace, from the Netherlands, the key-note speeches were presented by Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf, Director of Research of South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), from Belgium, Nicola Spafford Furey, Vice President of Earth Focus Foundation, from Switzerland, Prof Dr. Willem van der Geest, Chief Economist and former Director at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, Dr. Shammi Ahmed, former Senior Advisor at International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Asia -Pacific Zone.

Guest speakers focused on the rise of violent extremism and militancy not only in Bangladesh, but also in the region and the globe. They pointed their fingers at Jamaat-e-Islami and other religious-fundamentalist groups in radicalization young people both at

home and abroad. Speakers also pointed out that in addition many states were responsible in financing these radical elements and organisations. Speakers called on secular groups to unite and fight against the rise of terrorism across the globe including Bangladesh. They also called upon the western governments not to support political forces in the name of democracy, who are encouraging extremism and religious



intolerance in Bangladesh and beyond. In his keynote paper Dr. Sigfried O. Wolf, Director of Research, South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), Belgium said Jamaat-e-Islami's agenda seeks to bring about a social and political transformation that is diametrically opposed to the founding principles of Bangladesh. Jamaat wants to replace parliamentary democracy and secularism

with a theocratic Islamist state.

He highlighted the significance of Jamaat within the domestic and global Jihadist movement and emphasizes the need for a national as well as international response. The rise of Jamaat-e-Islam is connected – directly, through individual members, or indirectly, through its affiliates – with the rise of violence and terrorism in Bangladesh, including its cross-border components. It risks turning Bangladesh into a major hub of terrorist activities.

In a written statement sent to the EBF's Conference the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, OHCHR. Ms. Karima Bennouna said, 'In my thematic work as Special Rapporteur, I have repeatedly alerted the international community to the fact that rising tides of fundamentalism and extremism, in diverse forms, and whether espoused by State or non-State actors, today represent major threats to human rights, including cultural rights worldwide, including Bangladesh. There are growing challenges that must be faced with urgency, using a human rights approach. I remain deeply concerned about this matter. She added the links between fundamentalism and extremism on the one hand and violent extremism and terrorism on the other must be recognised, as must the inherently dangerous nature of the underlying ideologies themselves for human rights.

Fundamentalisms have emerged out of all of the world's major religious traditions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism, and others.

Fundamentalists across all these categories abuse cultural rights. Given the religious claims of their proponents, religious fundamentalisms are especially difficult and dangerous to contest.

It is also critical that the international community listen to the local opponents of fundamentalism and extremism, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, who have in some cases been battling them alone for decades. Despite unparalleled expertise, they are often not invited to international gatherings to discuss strategy.

She finally added, 'I see hope in those cultural rights defenders and other human rights defenders, as well as ordinary people, acting around the world, in countries like Bangladesh, and in diaspora populations, to challenge fundamentalism and extremism, sometimes at risk of their lives. The international community must stand with them. As Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, I am committed to standing with those who continue cultural and intellectual and human rights endeavors in the face of threats from extremists.'

Speaking on the economic impact of terrorism under Global Index during 2016-17, Dr. Willem van der Geest, Principal Economist said Bangladesh's response to terrorism has implied rapidly accelerating spending on internal security, military and private security thus resulting in negative impact on social expenditure (health, education) and on long-term human development.

Among others, the Editor and Chief Executive Officer of Ekattor Television Samia Zaman, Chief Executive Officer of Health-Tech Foundation Dr Bidduth Barua, exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP), Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, Coordinator of Brussels Dhaka Solidarity for Peace Committee M M Murshed, President of Baloch Voice Association Munir Mengal and Human Rights activist and journalist Nasir Aziz Khan addressed the occasion and took part in the debate following presentations.

EBF President Ansar Ahmed Ullah summed up the discussion and presented concluding remarks and EBF Country Coordinator for Switzerland Rahman Khalilur delivered vote of thanks.

The event was organised by the European Bangladesh Forum (EBF), a platform of Bangladeshi diaspora in Europe as a follow up event from the previous conference held in July 2017 at the European Press Club in Brussels.



জগন্নাথপুর টাইমস্ London



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বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষিতে জঙ্গিবাদ প্রতিরোধে জাতিসংঘে সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত

by [editor](#) - March 24, 2018 London



আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ, জগন্নাথপুর টাইমস্, জেনেভা থেকে ফিরে ::

ধর্মীয় ও সাম্প্রদায়িক চরম্পন্থীদের প্রতিরোধে বাংলাদেশ ও ইউরোপীয় প্রেক্ষিত বিষয়ে সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় অবস্থিত জাতিসংঘের সদর দপ্তরে অনুষ্ঠিত হল ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন।

বৃহস্পতিবার (২২ মার্চ) সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ বাংলাদেশের পাশাপাশি দক্ষিণ এশিয়া এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থা জঙ্গিবাদের বিস্তারে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করেন। তারা বাংলাদেশে এবং দেশের বাইরে বিশেষভাবে তরুন প্রজন্মের মাঝে চরমপন্থার বিস্তারের জন্য জামায়াতে ইসলামী সহ মৌলবাদী গোষ্ঠীগুলোকে দায়ী করেন। এছাড়া

এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশে চরমপন্থী সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা উস্কিয়ে দিতে অর্থায়নের অভিযোগ তোলা হয়েছে মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের বিভিন্ন দেশের বিরুদ্ধে। সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ এ ধরনের সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা প্রতিরোধে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ সকল পক্ষকে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার আহ্বান জানান।

সম্মেলনের শুরুতে স্বাগত বক্তব্য রাখেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়া। সম্মেলনে সভাপতিত্ব করেন নেদারল্যান্ডস ভিত্তিক আন্তর্জাতিক সংগঠন দ্য হেগ পিস এর পরিচালক ইয়াকব দে ইয়ঙ্গে। মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন বেলজিয়াম ভিত্তিক সংগঠন দক্ষিণ এশিয়া গণতান্ত্রিক ফোরাম এর গবেষণা পরিচালক ডঃ সিগফ্রিড ও ওলফ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক সংগঠন আর্থ ফোকাস ফাউন্ডেশন এর ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট নিকোলা স্পাফোর্ড ফুরি, জাতিসংঘের অর্থনৈতিক এবং সামাজিক বিভাগ - ডিইএস এর প্রাক্তন পরিচালক ও মূখ্য অর্থনীতিবিদ প্রফেসর ডঃ ভিলেম ফন ডের খেস্ট এবং আন্তর্জাতিক রেড ক্রস ও রেড ক্রিসেন্ট ফেডারেশন এর এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের সাবেক উপদেষ্টা ডঃ শাম্মী আহমেদ।

সম্মেলনে আলোচনায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন অন্যান্যের মধ্যে একান্তর টেলিভিশনের সম্পাদক ও প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা সামিয়া জামান, হেলথ টেক ফাউন্ডেশনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ডঃ বিদ্যুৎ বড়ুয়া, ব্রাসেলস ঢাকা সলিডারিটি ফর পিস কমিটি বিডিএসপিসি এর সমন্বয়কারী এম এম মুর্শেদ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির চেয়ারম্যান সর্দার শওকত আলী কাশ্মিরি, মানবাধিকার কর্মী এবং সাংবাদিক নাসির আজিজ খান এবং বালুচ ভয়েস এ্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রেসিডেন্ট মুনির মেঙ্গাল।

সম্মেলনে উপস্থাপিত প্রবন্ধগুলোর এবং আলোচনার সারসংক্ষেপ উপস্থাপন করেন এবং জেনেভাস্থ ওএইচসিএইচআর এ জাতিসংঘের বিশেষ র‍্যাপোর্টিয়ার কারিমা বেনোনের লিখিত বক্তব্য পড়ে শোনান ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম (ইবিএফ) এর প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ। বেনোনে তাঁর বক্তব্যে বলেন, “বিশ্বজুড়ে মৌলবাদ ও জঙ্গিবাদের উত্থানের পেছনে রয়েছে সামগ্রিক সাম্য এবং মানবাধিকার নিশ্চিত না করা, তাই শক্তহাতে জঙ্গিবাদ দমন করতে সর্বাপেক্ষে মানবাধিকারের সার্বজনীনতা নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। যখন রাষ্ট্র এবং সরকার এই সার্বজনীনতাকে অস্বীকার করে, তখন প্রকারান্তরে তারা জঙ্গিবাদকেই উস্কে দেয়।” আগত অতিথিবৃন্দ এবং অংশগ্রহণকারীদের ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন ইবিএফ এর সুইজারল্যান্ড সমন্বয়কারী খলীলুর রহমান।



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EBF Conference on Countering Violent Extremism Held in Geneva

By ourvoice- Germany

<http://our-voice-online.com/ebf-conference-on-countering-violent-extremism-held-in-geneva/>

March 22, 2018



Photo: OV

Geneva, March 22 (OurVoice): A Conference titled on "Countering Violent Extremism: European Context and the Bangladeshi Diaspora" and its impact and policy options to defend secularism and democracy was held on Thursday at The Palais des Nations, UN, Geneva.

The key objective of the Geneva conference was to uphold secularism to counter violent terrorism and rise of extremism in the name of religion across the globe including Bangladesh. The Geneva conference discussed the role of the government and the civil society that might help formulate Action Programmes. The conference brought together secular forces, activists, think tanks, politicians both national and European, journalists and created strong public opinion in favor of the secular forces and against the violent extremist groups.

Speakers focused the rise of violent extremism and militancy not only in Bangladesh, but also in the region and the globe. They pointed their fingers at Jamat-e-Islami and other religion-based groups in radicalization of youth both at home and abroad. Different countries from the middle east are also involved in financing these radical elements and organizations to destroy secularism. Speakers called secular groups to be united and fight against the rise of terrorism across the globe including Bangladesh.



Photo: EBF/OV

Vice President of European Bangladesh Forum Bikash Chowdhury Barua presented welcome address. Presided over by Jakob de Jong, Director of The Hague Peace, from the Netherlands, the key-note speeches were presented by Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf, Director of Research of South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF),

from Belgium, Nicola Spafford Furey, Vice President of Earth Focus Foundation, from Switzerland, Prof Dr. Willem van der Geest, Chief Economist and former Director at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, Dr. Shammi Ahmed, former Senior Advisor at International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Asia -Pacific Zone.

EBF President Ansar Ahmed Ullah read out the written statement of UN Special Rapporteur, OHCHR in Geneva Karima Bennouna and summed up the discussion and presented concluding remarks. In her statement Bennouna said, 'around the world, at the heart of the fundamentalist and extremist paradigms are rejections of equality and of the universality of human rights, making unwavering defence of these principles the touchstone of the human rights response. When States undermine universality, they aid and abet extremism'.

The event was organised by the European Bangladesh Forum (EBF), a platform of Bangladeshi diaspora in Europe as a follow up event from the previous conference held in July 2017 at the European Press Club in Brussels.

Among others, the Editor and Chief Executive Officer of Ekattor Television Samia Zaman, Chief Executive Officer of Health-Tech Foundation Dr Bidduth Barua, Exiled Chairman of United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP), Geneva Sardar

Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, Coordinator of Brussels Dhaka Solidarity for Peace Committee BDSPC M M Murshed, President of Baloch Voice Association Munir Mengal and Human Rights Activist and Journalist Nasir Aziz Khan addressed the occasion. EBF Country Coordinator in Switzerland Khalilur Rahman delivered vote of thanks.

আমরা জনগণের পক্ষে

বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন

জেনেভায় ইবিএফ সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত

প্রকাশ : ২৩ মার্চ, ২০১৮ ১৭:৩৯ অনলাইন ভার্সন

<http://www.bd-pratidin.com/probash-potro/2018/03/23/316425>

জেনেভায় ইবিএফ সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত

অনলাইন ডেস্ক



সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় ধর্মীয় ও সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থীদের প্রতিরোধে বাংলাদেশ ও ইউরোপীয় প্রেক্ষিত বিষয়ে ইবিএফ সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘ সদর দপ্তরে বৃহস্পতিবার ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের উদ্যোগে এ আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হয়।

সম্মেলনে বক্তারা বাংলাদেশের পাশাপাশি দক্ষিণ এশিয়া এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থী জঙ্গিবাদের বিস্তারে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করেন। তারা বাংলাদেশে এবং দেশের বাইরে বিশেষভাবে তরুণ প্রজন্মের মাঝে মৌলবাদী চরমপন্থার বিস্তারের জন্য জামায়াতে ইসলামী সহ ধর্মভিত্তিক গোষ্ঠীগুলোকে দায়ী করেন। এছাড়া এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশে চরমপন্থী সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা উস্কিয়ে দিতে অর্থায়নের অভিযোগ তোলা হয়েছে মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের বিভিন্ন দেশের বিরুদ্ধে। সম্মেলনে বক্তারা এ ধরনের সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা প্রতিরোধে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ সকল পক্ষকে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার আহ্বান জানান।

সম্মেলনের শুরুতে স্বাগত বক্তব্য রাখেন, ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়া। সম্মেলনে সভাপতিত্ব করেন নেদারল্যান্ডস ভিত্তিক আন্তর্জাতিক সংগঠন দ্য হেগ পিস এর পরিচালক ইয়াকব দে ইয়ঙ্গে। মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন বেলজিয়াম ভিত্তিক সংগঠন দক্ষিণ এশিয়া গণতান্ত্রিক ফোরাম এর গবেষণা পরিচালক ড. জিগফ্রিড ও ভোলফ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক সংগঠন আর্থ ফোকাস ফাউন্ডেশন এর ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট নিকোলা স্পাফোর্ড ফুরি, জাতিসংঘের অর্থনৈতিক এবং সামাজিক বিভাগ- ডিইএস এর প্রাক্তন পরিচালক ও মূখ্য অর্থনীতিবিদ প্রফেসর ড. ভিলেম ফন ডের খেস্ট এবং আন্তর্জাতিক রেড ক্রস ও রেড ক্রিসেন্ট ফেডারেশন এর এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের সাবেক উপদেষ্টা ও বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ এর আন্তর্জাতিক বিষয়ক সম্পাদক ড. শাম্মী আহমেদ।

সম্মেলনে অন্যান্যের মধ্যে একাত্তর টেলিভিশনের সম্পাদক ও প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা সামিয়া জামান, হেলথ টেক ফাউন্ডেশনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ও ইউরোপিয়ান আওয়ামী লীগ এর সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক ড. বিদ্যুৎ বড়ুয়া, ব্রাসেলস ঢাকা সলিডারিটি ফর পিস কমিটি বিডিএসপিসি এর সমন্বয়কারী এম এম মুর্শেদ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির চেয়ারম্যান সর্দার শওকত আলী কাশ্মিরি, মানবাধিকার কর্মী এবং সাংবাদিক নাসির আজিজ খান এবং বালুচ ভয়েস গ্র্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রেসিডেন্ট মুনির মেজ্জাল বক্তব্য দেন।

সম্মেলনে উপস্থাপিত প্রবন্ধগুলো এবং আলোচনার সারসংক্ষেপ উপস্থাপন করেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম ইবিএফ এর প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ। আগত অতিথিদের এবং অংশগ্রহণকারীদের ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন ইবিএফ এর সুইজারল্যান্ড সমন্বয়কারী খলীলুর রহমান।

বিডি প্রতিদিন/২৩ মার্চ ২০১৮/হিমেল



<http://www.breakingnews.com.bd/bangla/probash/59934.online>

English Version

ঢাকা, রবিবার, ২৫ মার্চ ২০১৮, ০২:৫১ পূর্বাহ্ন (১০ চৈত্র ১৪২৪)

জেনেভায় 'চরমপন্থা মোকাবেলা: প্রেক্ষিত বাংলাদেশ' শীর্ষক সম্মেলন

কবির আল মাহমুদ, মাদ্রিদ থেকে

প্রকাশিত : শুক্রবার, ২৩ মার্চ ২০১৮, ০৮:৪৬



ধর্মীয় ও সাম্প্রদায়িক চরম্পন্থীদের প্রতিরোধে বাংলাদেশ ও ইউরোপীয় প্রেক্ষিত বিষয়ে সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় অবস্থিত জাতিসংঘের সদর দপ্তরে বৃহস্পতিবার (২২ মার্চ) অনুষ্ঠিত হল ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন।

সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ বাংলাদেশের পাশাপাশি দক্ষিণ এশিয়া এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থা জঙ্গিবাদের বিস্তারে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করেন। তারা বাংলাদেশে এবং দেশের বাইরে বিশেষভাবে তরুণ প্রজন্মের মাঝে মৌলবাদী চরমপন্থার বিস্তারের জন্য জামায়াতে ইসলামীসহ ধর্মভিত্তিক গোষ্ঠীগুলোকে দায়ী করেন। এছাড়া এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশে চরমপন্থী সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা উস্কিয়ে দিতে অর্থায়নের অভিযোগ তোলা হয়েছে মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের বিভিন্ন দেশের বিরুদ্ধে। সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ এ ধরনের সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা প্রতিরোধে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ সকল পক্ষকে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার আহ্বান জানান।



সম্মেলনের শুরুতে স্বাগত বক্তব্য রাখেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের ভাইস



প্রেসিডেন্ট বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়া। সম্মেলনে সভাপতিত্ব করেন নেদারল্যান্ডসভিত্তিক আন্তর্জাতিক সংগঠন দ্য হেগ পিস এর পরিচালক ইয়াকব দে ইয়ঙ্গে। মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন বেলজিয়ামভিত্তিক সংগঠন দক্ষিণ এশিয়া গণতান্ত্রিক ফোরাম এর গবেষণা পরিচালক ড. জিগফ্রিড ও ভোলফ, জেনেভাভিত্তিক সংগঠন আর্থ ফোকাস ফাউন্ডেশন এর ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট নিকোলা স্পাফোর্ড ফুরি, জাতিসংঘের অর্থনৈতিক এবং সামাজিক বিভাগ- ডিইএস এর প্রাক্তন পরিচালক ও মূখ্য অর্থনীতিবিদ প্রফেসর ড. ভিলেম ফন ডের খেস্ট এবং আন্তর্জাতিক রেড ক্রস ও রেড ক্রিসেন্ট ফেডারেশন এর এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের সাবেক উপদেষ্টা ও বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ এর আন্তর্জাতিক বিষয়ক সম্পাদক ড. শাম্মী আহমেদ।

সম্মেলনে আলোচনায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন একাত্তর টেলিভিশনের সম্পাদক ও প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা সামিয়া জামান, হেলথ টেক ফাউন্ডেশনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ও ইউরোপিয়ান আওয়ামী লীগের সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক ড. বিদ্যুৎ বড়ুয়া, ব্রাসেলস ঢাকা সলিডারিটি ফর পিস কমিটি বিডিএসপিসি এর সমন্বয়কারী এম এম মুর্শেদ, জেনেভাভিত্তিক ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির চেয়ারম্যান সর্দার শওকত আলী কাশ্মিরী, মানবাধিকার কর্মী এবং সাংবাদিক নাসির আজিজ খান এবং বালুচ ভয়েস এ্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রেসিডেন্ট মুনির মেজদাল।

সম্মেলনে উপস্থাপিত প্রবন্ধগুলোর এবং আলোচনার সারসংক্ষেপ উপস্থাপন করেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম ইবিএফ এর প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ।

আগত অতিথিবৃন্দ এবং অংশগ্রহণকারীদের ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন ইবিএফ এর
সুইজারল্যান্ড সমন্বয়কারী খলীলুর রহমান।

ব্রেকিংনিউজ/কবির/জিসা



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বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষিতে চরমপন্থীদের ঠেকানোর বিষয়ে জেনেভায় ইবিএফ সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত

By ourvoice

মার্চ 23, 2018

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Photo: OV

জেনেভা, ২২ মার্চ: ধর্মীয় ও সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থীদের প্রতিরোধে বাংলাদেশ ও ইউরোপীয় প্রেক্ষিত
বিষয়ে সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় অবস্থিত জাতিসংঘের সদর দপ্তরে বৃহস্পতিবার অনুষ্ঠিত হল
ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন।

সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ বাংলাদেশের পাশাপাশি দক্ষিণ এশিয়া এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থা ও জঙ্গিবাদের বিস্তারে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করেন। তারা বাংলাদেশে এবং দেশের বাইরে বিশেষভাবে তরুন প্রজন্মের মাঝে মৌলবাদী চরমপন্থার বিস্তারের জন্য জামায়াতে ইসলামী সহ ধর্মভিত্তিক গোষ্ঠীগুলোকে দায়ী করেন। এছাড়া এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশে চরমপন্থী সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা উদ্ভিগে দিতে অর্থায়নের অভিযোগ তোলা হয়েছে মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের বিভিন্ন দেশের বিরুদ্ধে। সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ এ ধরনের সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা প্রতিরোধে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ সকল পক্ষকে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার আহ্বান জানান।

Photo: OV

সম্মেলনের শুরুতে স্বাগত বক্তব্য রাখেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়া। সম্মেলনে সভাপতিত্ব করেন নেদারল্যান্ডস ভিত্তিক আন্তর্জাতিক সংগঠন দ্য হেগ পিস এর পরিচালক ইয়াকব দে ইয়ঙ্গ্লে। মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন বেলজিয়াম ভিত্তিক সংগঠন দক্ষিণ এশিয়া গণতান্ত্রিক ফোরাম এর গবেষণা পরিচালক ডঃ জিগফ্রিড ও ভোলফ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক সংগঠন আর্থ ফোকাস ফাউন্ডেশন এর ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট নিকোলা



স্পার্কোর্ড ফুরি, জাতিসংঘের অর্থনৈতিক এবং সামাজিক বিভাগ – ডিইএস এর প্রাক্তন পরিচালক ও মূখ্য অর্থনীতিবিদ প্রফেসর ডঃ ভিলেম ফন ডের খেস্ট এবং আন্তর্জাতিক রেড ক্রস ও রেড ক্রিসেন্ট ফেডারেশন এর এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের সাবেক উপদেষ্টা ডঃ শাম্মী আহমেদ।

সম্মেলনে উপস্থাপিত প্রবন্ধগুলোর এবং আলোচনার সারসংক্ষেপ উপস্থাপন করেন এবং জেনেভাস্থ ওএইচসিএইচআর এ জাতিসংঘের বিশেষ রিপোর্টার কারিমা বেনোনের লিখিত বক্তব্য পড়ে শোনান ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম ইবিএফ এর প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ। বেনোনে তাঁর বক্তব্যে বলেন, "বিশ্বজুড়ে মৌলবাদ ও জঙ্গিবাদের উত্থানের পেছনে রয়েছে সামগ্রিক সাম্য এবং মানবাধিকার নিশ্চিত না করা, তাই শক্তহাতে জঙ্গিবাদ দমন করতে সর্বাপ্রাে মানবাধিকারের সার্বজনীনতা নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। যখন রাষ্ট্র এবং সরকার এই সার্বজনীনতাকে অস্বীকার করে, তখন প্রকারান্তরে তারা জঙ্গিবাদকেই উস্কে দেয়।"

সম্মেলনে আলোচনায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন অন্যান্যের মধ্যে একান্তর টেলিভিশনের সম্পাদক ও প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা সামিয়া জামান, হেলথ টেক ফাউন্ডেশনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ডঃ বিদ্যুৎ বড়ুয়া, ব্রাসেলস ঢাকা সলিডারিটি ফর পিস কমিটি বিডিএসপিসি এর সমন্বয়কারী এম এম মুর্শেদ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির চেয়ারম্যান সর্দার শওকত আলী কাশ্মিরি, মানবাধিকার কর্মী এবং সাংবাদিক নাসির আজিজ খান এবং বালুচ ভয়েস গ্র্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রেসিডেন্ট মুনির মেঙ্গাল। আগত অতিথিবৃন্দ এবং অংশগ্রহণকারীদের ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন ইবিএফ এর সুইজারল্যান্ড সমন্বয়কারী খলীলুর রহমান।

<http://our-voice-online.com/bn/%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B7%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%B0/>



বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষিতে চরমপন্থীদের ঠেকানোর বিষয়ে জেনেভায় ইবিএফ সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত

in সুইজারল্যান্ড — মার্চ ২২, ২০১৮ Switzerland

<https://www.shomoynews.com/2018/03/22/বাংলাদেশের-প্রেক্ষিতে-চর/>



জেনেভা, ২২ মার্চ: ধর্মীয় ও সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থীদের প্রতিরোধে বাংলাদেশ ও ইউরোপীয় প্রেক্ষিত বিষয়ে সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় অবস্থিত জাতিসংঘের সদর দপ্তরে বৃহস্পতিবার অনুষ্ঠিত হল ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন।

সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ বাংলাদেশের পাশাপাশি দক্ষিণ এশিয়া এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থা জঙ্গিবাদের বিস্তারে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করেন। তারা বাংলাদেশে এবং দেশের বাইরে বিশেষভাবে তরুণ প্রজন্মের মাঝে মৌলবাদী চরমপন্থার বিস্তারের জন্য জামায়াতে ইসলামী সহ ধর্মভিত্তিক

গোষ্ঠীগুলোকে দায়ী করেন। এছাড়া এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশে চরমপন্থী সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা উস্কিয়ে দিতে অর্থায়নের অভিযোগ তোলা হয়েছে মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের বিভিন্ন দেশের বিরুদ্ধে। সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ এ ধরনের সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা প্রতিরোধে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ সকল পক্ষকে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার আহ্বান জানান।

সম্মেলনের শুরুতে স্বাগত বক্তব্য রাখেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়া। সম্মেলনে সভাপতিত্ব করেন নেদারল্যান্ডস ভিত্তিক আন্তর্জাতিক সংগঠন দ্য হেগ পিস এর পরিচালক ইয়াকব দে ইয়ঙ্গে। মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন বেলজিয়াম ভিত্তিক সংগঠন দক্ষিণ এশিয়া গণতান্ত্রিক ফোরাম এর গবেষণা পরিচালক ডঃ জিগফ্রিড ও ভোলফ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক সংগঠন আর্থ ফোকাস ফাউন্ডেশন এর ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট নিকোলা স্পাফোর্ড ফুরি, জাতিসংঘের অর্থনৈতিক এবং সামাজিক বিভাগ – ডিইএস এর প্রাক্তন পরিচালক ও মুখ্য অর্থনীতিবিদ প্রফেসর ডঃ ভিলেম ফন ডের খেস্ট এবং আন্তর্জাতিক রেড ক্রস ও রেড ক্রিসেন্ট ফেডারেশন এর এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের সাবেক উপদেষ্টা ডঃ শাম্মী আহমেদ।

সম্মেলনে আলোচনায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন অন্যান্যের মধ্যে একাত্তর টেলিভিশনের সম্পাদক ও প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা সামিয়া জামান, হেলথ টেক ফাউন্ডেশনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ডঃ বিদ্যুৎ বড়ুয়া, ব্রাসেলস ঢাকা

সলিডারিটি ফর পিস কমিটি বিডিএসপিসি এর সমন্বয়কারী এম এম মুর্শেদ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির চেয়ারম্যান সর্দার শওকত আলী কাশ্মিরি, মানবাধিকার কর্মী এবং সাংবাদিক নাসির আজিজ খান এবং বালুচ ভয়েস এ্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রেসিডেন্ট মুনির মেজাল।

সম্মেলনে উপস্থাপিত প্রবন্ধগুলোর এবং আলোচনার সারসংক্ষেপ উপস্থাপন করেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম ইবিএফ এর প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ। আগত অতিথিবৃন্দ এবং অংশগ্রহণকারীদের ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন ইবিএফ এর সুইজারল্যান্ড সমন্বয়কারী খলীলুর রহমান।



নবকণ্ঠ

<http://www.nobokontho.com/>

বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষিতে চরমপন্থীদের ঠেকানোর বিষয়ে জেনেভায় ইবিএফ সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত

মার্চ ২৩, ২০১৮ in ইউরো-বাংলা সংবাদ, সর্বশেষ একটি মন্তব্য করুন



জেনেভা, ২২ মার্চ: ধর্মীয় ও সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থীদের প্রতিরোধে বাংলাদেশ ও ইউরোপীয় প্রেক্ষিতে বিষয়ে সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় অবস্থিত জাতিসংঘের সদর দপ্তরে বৃহস্পতিবার অনুষ্ঠিত হল ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন।

সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ বাংলাদেশের পাশাপাশি দক্ষিণ এশিয়া এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থা জঙ্গিবাদের বিস্তারে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করেন। তারা বাংলাদেশে এবং দেশের বাইরে বিশেষভাবে তরুন প্রজন্মের

মাঝে মৌলবাদী চরমপন্থার বিস্তারের জন্য জামায়াতে ইসলামী সহ ধর্মভিত্তিক গোষ্ঠীগুলোকে দায়ী করেন। এছাড়া এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশে চরমপন্থী সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা উস্কিয়ে দিতে অর্থায়নের অভিযোগ তোলা হয়েছে মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের বিভিন্ন দেশের বিরুদ্ধে। সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ এ ধরনের সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা প্রতিরোধে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ সকল পক্ষকে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার আহ্বান জানান।

সম্মেলনের শুরুতে স্বাগত বক্তব্য রাখেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়া। সম্মেলনে সভাপতিত্ব করেন নেদারল্যান্ডস ভিত্তিক আন্তর্জাতিক সংগঠন দ্য হেগ পিস এর পরিচালক ইয়াকব দে ইয়ঙ্গে। মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন বেলজিয়াম ভিত্তিক সংগঠন দক্ষিণ এশিয়া গণতান্ত্রিক ফোরাম এর গবেষণা পরিচালক ডঃ জিগফ্রিড ও ভোলফ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক সংগঠন আর্থ ফোকাস ফাউন্ডেশন এর ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট নিকোলা স্পাফোর্ড ফুরি, জাতিসংঘের অর্থনৈতিক এবং সামাজিক বিভাগ - ডিইএস এর প্রাক্তন পরিচালক ও মূখ্য অর্থনীতিবিদ প্রফেসর ডঃ ভিলেম ফন ডের খেস্ট এবং আন্তর্জাতিক রেড ক্রস ও রেড ক্রিসেন্ট ফেডারেশন এর এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের সাবেক উপদেষ্টা ডঃ শাম্মী আহমেদ।

সম্মেলনে আলোচনায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন অন্যান্যের মধ্যে একাত্তর টেলিভিশনের সম্পাদক ও প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা সামিয়া জামান, হেলথ টেক ফাউন্ডেশনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ডঃ বিদ্যুৎ বড়ুয়া, ব্রাসেলস ঢাকা সলিডারিটি ফর পিস কমিটি বিডিএসপিসি এর সমন্বয়কারী এম এম মুর্শেদ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির চেয়ারম্যান সর্দার শওকত আলী কাশ্মিরি, মানবাধিকার কর্মী এবং সাংবাদিক নাসির আজিজ খান এবং বালুচ ভয়েস এ্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রেসিডেন্ট মুনির মেহ্জাল।

সম্মেলনে উপস্থাপিত প্রবন্ধগুলোর এবং আলোচনার সারসংক্ষেপ উপস্থাপন করেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম ইবিএফ এর প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ। আগত অতিথিবৃন্দ এবং অংশগ্রহণকারীদের ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন ইবিএফ এর সুইজারল্যান্ড সমন্বয়কারী খলীলুর রহমান।

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জাতিসংঘে জঙ্গিবাদের প্রতিরোধে আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত

জেনেভা, ২২ মার্চ ||

ধর্মীয় ও সাম্প্রদায়িক চরম্পন্থীদের প্রতিরোধে বাংলাদেশ ও ইউরোপীয় প্রেক্ষিত বিষয়ে সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় অবস্থিত জাতিসংঘের সদর দপ্তরে বৃহস্পতিবার ২২ মার্চ অনুষ্ঠিত হল ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন।

সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ বাংলাদেশের পাশাপাশি দক্ষিণ এশিয়া এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থা জঙ্গিবাদের বিস্তারে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করেন। তারা বাংলাদেশে এবং দেশের বাইরে বিশেষভাবে তরুন প্রজন্মের মাঝে চরমপন্থার বিস্তারের জন্য জামায়াতে ইসলামী সহ মৌলবাদী গোষ্ঠীগুলোকে দায়ী করেন। এছাড়া এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশে চরমপন্থী সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা উন্মোচন করে অর্থায়নের অভিযোগ তোলা হয়েছে মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের বিভিন্ন দেশের বিরুদ্ধে। সম্মেলনে বক্তাগণ এ ধরনের সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা প্রতিরোধে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ সকল পক্ষকে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার আহ্বান জানান।



সম্মেলনের শুরুতে স্বাগত বক্তব্য রাখেন ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ

ফোরামের ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়া। সম্মেলনে সভাপতিত্ব করেন নেদারল্যান্ডস ভিত্তিক আন্তর্জাতিক সংগঠন দ্য হেগ পিস এর পরিচালক ইয়াকব দে ইয়ঙ্কে। মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন বেলজিয়াম ভিত্তিক সংগঠন দক্ষিণ এশিয়া গণতান্ত্রিক ফোরাম এর গবেষণা পরিচালক ডঃ সিগফ্রিড ও ওলফ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক সংগঠন অর্থ ফোকাস ফাউন্ডেশন এর ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট নিকোলা স্পাফোর্ড ফুরি, জাতিসংঘের অর্থনৈতিক এবং সামাজিক বিভাগ – ডিইএস এর প্রাক্তন পরিচালক ও মূখ্য অর্থনীতিবিদ প্রফেসর ডঃ ভিলেম ফন ডের খেস্ট এবং আন্তর্জাতিক রেড ক্রস ও রেড ক্রিসেন্ট ফেডারেশন এর এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের সাবেক উপদেষ্টা ডঃ শাম্মী আহমেদ।

সম্মেলনে আলোচনায় অংশগ্রহণ করেন অন্যান্যের মধ্যে একাত্তর টেলিভিশনের সম্পাদক ও প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা সামিয়া জামান, হেলথ টেক ফাউন্ডেশনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ডঃ বিদ্যুৎ বড়ুয়া, ব্রাসেলস ঢাকা সলিডারিটি ফর পিস কমিটি বিডিএসপিসি এর সমন্বয়কারী এম এম মুর্শেদ, জেনেভা ভিত্তিক ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির চেয়ারম্যান সর্দার শওকত আলী কাশ্মিরি, মানবাধিকার কর্মী এবং সাংবাদিক নাসির আজিজ খান এবং বালুচ ভয়েস এ্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রেসিডেন্ট মুনির মেহ্‌দাল।

সম্মেলনে সুইজারল্যান্ড, জার্মানি, হল্যান্ড, ডেনমার্ক, ইতালি, যুক্তরাজ্য, মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র, অস্ট্রেলিয়া, বাংলাদেশ, বেলজিয়াম ও ইতালি থেকে সাংবাদিক, চিন্তাবিদ, রাজনীতিক কর্মী, মানবাধিকার কর্মী অংশ নেন।

সম্মেলনে উপস্থাপিত প্রবন্ধগুলোর এবং আলোচনার সারসংক্ষেপ উপস্থাপন করেন এবং জেনেভাস্থ ওএইচসিএইচআর এ জাতিসংঘের সাংস্কৃতিক অধিকার বিষয়ক বিষয়ক বিশেষ দূত কারিমা বেনোনের কনফারেন্সে পাঠানো লিখিত বক্তব্য পড়ে শোনান ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরাম (ইবিএফ) এর প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ। বেনোনে তাঁর বক্তব্যে বলেন, “বিশ্বজুড়ে মৌলবাদ ও জঙ্গিবাদের উত্থানের পেছনে রয়েছে সামগ্রিক সাম্য এবং মানবাধিকার নিশ্চিত না করা, তাই শক্তহাতে জঙ্গিবাদ দমন করতে সর্বাপ্রকারে মানবাধিকারের সার্বজনীনতা নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। আগত অতিথিবৃন্দ এবং অংশগ্রহণকারীদের ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন ইবিএফ এর সুইজারল্যান্ড সমন্বয়কারী খলীলুর রহমান।

বাংলা ট্রিবিউন

বিকাল ০৩:৪৬ ; মঙ্গলবার ; মার্চ ২৭ , ২০১৮

প্রসিদ্ধ

বাংলাদেশের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে চরমপন্থীদের ঠেকানোর বিষয়ে জেনেভায়
ইবিএফ সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত

বাংলা ট্রিবিউন রিপোর্ট ২২:১১ , মার্চ ২৫ , ২০১৮

<http://m.banglatribune.com/national/news/307799/বাংলাদেশের-পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে->

[চরমপন্থীদের-ঠেকানোর-বিষয়ে](#)



ইবিএফ

‘সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থীদের প্রতিরোধে বাংলাদেশ ও ইউরোপীয় প্রেক্ষিতে’ বিষয়ে সুইজারল্যান্ডের জেনেভায় জাতিসংঘের দফতরে গত বৃহস্পতিবার (২২ মার্চ) ইউরোপীয় বাংলাদেশ ফোরামের (ইবিএফ) উদ্যোগে আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে।

সম্মেলনে বক্তারা বাংলাদেশের পাশাপাশি দক্ষিণ এশিয়া এবং বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে সাম্প্রদায়িক চরমপন্থা ও জঙ্গিবাদের বিস্তারে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করেন। বাংলাদেশে এবং দেশের বাইরে বিশেষভাবে তরুণ প্রজন্মের মধ্যে মৌলবাদ ও চরমপন্থার বিস্তারে জামায়াতে ইসলামীসহ ধর্মভিত্তিক গোষ্ঠীগুলোকে দায়ী করেন তারা। এছাড়া এশিয়ার বিভিন্ন দেশে চরমপন্থী সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা উসকে দিতে অর্থায়নের অভিযোগ তোলা হয় মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের বিভিন্ন দেশের বিরুদ্ধে। সম্মেলনে বক্তারা এ ধরনের সন্ত্রাসী তৎপরতা প্রতিরোধে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ সব পক্ষকে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার আহ্বান জানান।

সম্মেলনে স্বাগত বক্তব্য রাখেন ইবিএফের ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট বিকাশ চৌধুরী বড়ুয়া। সম্মেলনে সভাপতিত্ব করেন নেদারল্যান্ডসভিত্তিক আন্তর্জাতিক সংগঠন ‘দ্য হেগ পিস’-এর পরিচালক ইয়াকব দে ইয়ঙ্গে। মূল প্রবন্ধ উপস্থাপন করেন বেলজিয়ামভিত্তিক সংগঠন ‘দক্ষিণ এশিয়া গণতান্ত্রিক ফোরাম’-এর গবেষণা পরিচালক ড. জিগফ্রিড ও ভোলফ, জেনেভাভিত্তিক সংগঠন ‘আর্থ ফোকাস ফাউন্ডেশন’-এর ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট নিকোলা স্পাফোর্ড ফুরি, জাতিসংঘের অর্থনৈতিক এবং সামাজিক বিভাগ-ডিইএসএ’র প্রাক্তন পরিচালক ও মুখ্য

অর্থনীতিবিদ প্রফেসর ড. ভিলেম ফন ডের খেস্ট এবং আন্তর্জাতিক রেড ক্রস ও রেড ক্রিসেন্ট ফেডারেশন-এর এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের সাবেক উপদেষ্টা ও বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের আন্তর্জাতিক বিষয়ক সম্পাদক ড. শাম্মী আহমেদ। সম্মেলনে আলোচনায় অন্যান্যের মধ্যে অংশ নেন বেসরকারি একাত্তর টেলিভিশনের সম্পাদক ও প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা সামিয়া জামান, হেলথ টেক ফাউন্ডেশনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ও ইউরোপীয় আওয়ামী লীগের সাংগঠনিক সম্পাদক ড. বিদ্যুৎ বড়ুয়া, ব্রাসেলস ঢাকা সলিডারিটি ফর পিস কমিটির (বিডিএসপিপি) সমন্বয়কারী এম এম মুর্শেদ, জেনেভাভিত্তিক ইউনাইটেড কাশ্মীর পিপলস ন্যাশনাল পার্টির চেয়ারম্যান সর্দার শওকত আলী কাশ্মিরি, মানবাধিকারকর্মী ও সাংবাদিক নাসির আজিজ খান এবং বালুচ ভয়েস অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রেসিডেন্ট মুনির মেহ্দি। সম্মেলনে উপস্থাপিত প্রবন্ধগুলোর এবং আলোচনার সারসংক্ষেপ উপস্থাপন করেন ইবিএফ'র প্রেসিডেন্ট আনসার আহমেদ উল্লাহ। সম্মেলনের অতিথি ও অংশগ্রহণকারীদের ধন্যবাদ জানান ইবিএফ'র সুইজারল্যান্ড সমন্বয়কারী খলীলুর রহমান।

/পিএইচসি/এইচআই

LONDON TIMES NEWS also published the news on Geneva Conference. It can not be copied here as it is protected. Here is the link for the news on the event:
<http://www.londontimesnews.com/archives/27442>



Dr. Biddhuth Barua (left) on live TV talks with NEWS 24 from Dhaka on Geneva conference of EBF on 23 March 2018

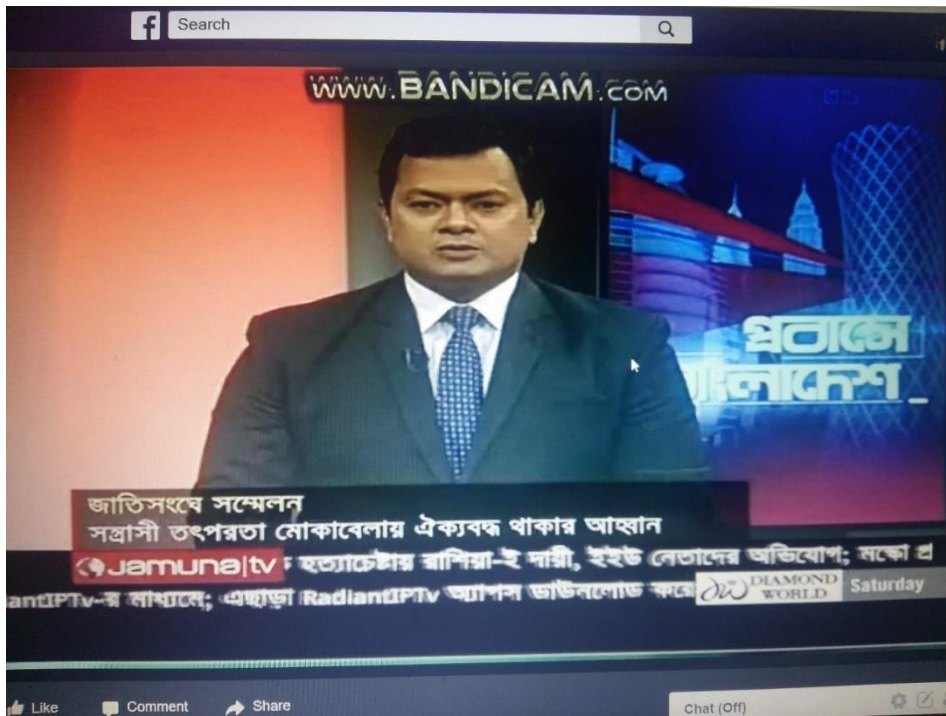
TV Coverage of Geneva Conference:

Mohua TV

<https://www.facebook.com/nobokonthon24/videos/760762004113903/?pnref=about.work>

Jamuna TV

<https://www.facebook.com/nobokonthon24/videos/760778974112206/>



DBC News

<https://www.facebook.com/DBCNews24x7/posts/2085187591722718>

NTV Channel

<https://www.facebook.com/nobokontho24/videos/761254134064690/>



GTV:

<https://www.facebook.com/220814898118381/videos/87694855250509/>



Channel I:



Expecting news/write up by British journalist Mr Adam Barnett, who was at the program and promised to write on the event.

NEWS24 Channel



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