



EBF Conference at House of Lords in London

‘The challenge of Parliamentary Democracy & Radicalisation in Bangladesh: Way Forward’

European Bangladesh Forum (EBF) will organise a Conference on ‘The challenge of Parliamentary Democracy & Radicalisation in Bangladesh: Way Forward’ on Thursday 25 October 2018, from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm at the House of Lords, London, UK.

The Conference will bring together democratic and secular actors, politicians, think tank and create strong public opinion in favor of Parliamentary and secular democracy and against the Islamist extremist groups. This will also strengthen European and global stake holders to address a phenomenon that is pertinent to the problems and exchange good practices of prevention.

It may be mentioned that in end-December 2018 Bangladesh is set to hold its next general election but there is considerable political uncertainty with one of Bangladesh's main political party – the BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) - failing to agree on an election process. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has proposed of forming a cross-party interim cabinet to supervise the election but BNP leader, Khaleda Zia, has threatened to boycott the elections if they are not held under a non-elected/non-party caretaker government.

Another key issue causing tension between the two main parties is the appeasement of Islamists by the BNP. Islamo fascist party Jamaat-e-Islami is a partner of BNP-led Alliance. Despite objections from all quarters including EU, BNP has refused to sever ties with Jamaat. The world community is aware of BNP Jamaat-led violence against minority communities when they were in power. EBF is working to ensure that Bangladesh remains a secular democratic politically stable state.

The Conference will be addressed by Lord Paul Bew as host, Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick, MP, Prof. Martin Frampton, Queen Mary University of London, Ms. Roberta Bonazzi, President, European Foundation for Democracy, Belgium, Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf, Director of Research, South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), Belgium, Dr. David Lews, London School of Economics, Syed Badrul Ahsan, Editor in charge, The Asian Age and Mr. Ansar Ahmed Ullah, President, EBF.