

Call to work to get recognition of 1971 Genocide by Pakistan in Bangladesh

The Hague, 15 Aug 2018: Embassy of Bangladesh in The Hague organized a program on 15 August 2018 at the embassy auditorium to commemorate the 43rd martyrdom anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Mourning Day. Embassy officials along with members of the family, leaders of the Netherlands Awami League and expatriate Bangladesh community attended the program.

The discussion held on the occasion was addressed by the Bangladesh ambassador Mr Sheikh Mohammad Belal, visiting Professor and Chairman of the Department of Criminology of the University of Dhaka Dr. Zia Rahman, local Awami league leaders Mr Mayeed Faruque, Mr. Jounal Abedin Mr. Mostafa Zaman and expatriate Bikash Chowdhury Barua.

The visiting Professor Dr. Rahman presented a paper titled, “Political philosophy of Bangabandhu in the development of Bangladesh”. In his paper Prof Rahman said, Bangabandhu turned Bangladesh into a secular state despite all odds. The two countries were divided in the name of religion. Bangladesh was just a new born country from a Muslim-country, Pakistan. During that period the social structure, faith, life style- all were dominated by religion. That period can well be termed as a ‘theological stage’. Living in this time in 2018 in Europe can we think how difficult it was to give a



Muslim country into a Secular form and how much modern philosophical thoughts and directions you have to have? Impossible. Despite all the obstacles and objections from the fundamentalist groups, Bangabandhu remained determined and uncompromising to the 1972 Constitution of the country, turning Bangladesh a Secular state. (Photos: From left Prof Rahman, Mayeed Faruque, Bikash Chowdhury Barua & below: ambassador Sheikh Mohammad Belal. Photo: Bangladesh Embassy)

Quoting from a speech of Bangabandhu delivered in 1973 the Prof said, Bangabandhu in his speech said,

“so that religious fundamentalism cannot raise their heads. Bangladesh is a secular country. Muslims will do their religious activities, Hindus will perform their religious activities. Buddhists will do their religious work. No one can hinder the other. But in the name of Islam no one will be allowed to exploit the people of Bangladesh anymore”.



Prof Rahman regretted the 1971 genocide perpetrated by the Pakistani forces and their allies in Bangladesh is one of the heinous crimes in the world. But unfortunately it has not yet received international attention and recognition. He called upon the expatriates to reach to the mainstream population and work to get recognition of the 1971 genocide.