

**Hon'ble Speaker of the Parliament Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury MP  
at the discussion program to mark the 52nd Constitution Day organized by  
Forum for Secular Bangladesh (Nirmul Committee)  
'Bangabandhu's political philosophy  
fully reflected in the constitution of 1972'**

'Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971' (Nirmul Committee) has been agitating for the restoration of the Bangabandhu's constitution spirit for the last 32 years. 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh' celebrates Constitution Day on November 04 every year. This year, the Forum has organized the 'Constitution Day' program on November 05 instead of November 04 for a reason. November 05 (2023), on the occasion of the 52nd Constitution Day, a discussion meeting titled **'Constitution of 1972: Mirror of Bangabandhu's Political Philosophy'** was held at the Supreme Court Bar Auditorium under the initiative of 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971' (Nirmul Committee). Hon'ble Speaker of the Parliament Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury MP was present as the chief guest and the program was presided over by the Forum's President Writer Journalist Shahriar Kabir. Heroic Freedom Fighter Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, President of 'South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism'; Attorney General Adv. AM Amin Uddin; President of Supreme Court Bar Association Adv. Md. Momtaz Uddin Fakir; Bangladesh Bar Council Chairman Adv. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman Badal; Political Scientist Professor Rafal Pankowski, President of 'Never Again' Association from Poland & Human Rights Defender Natalia Natalia

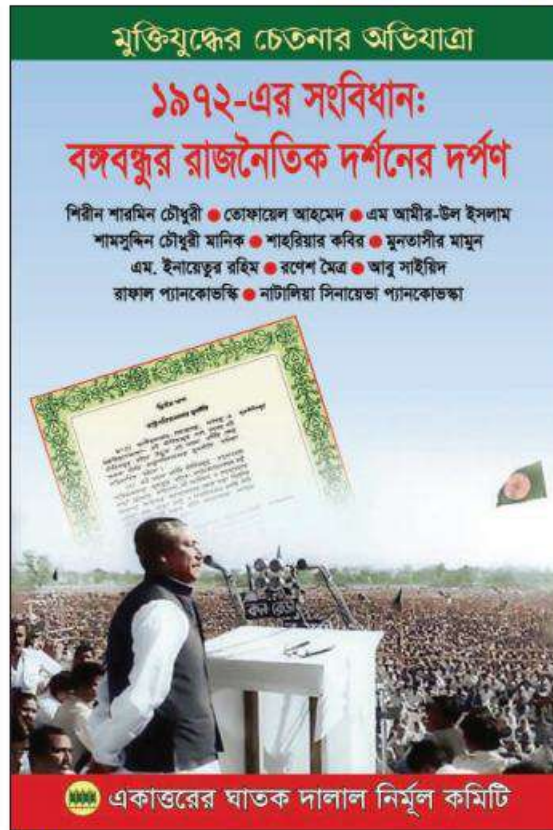
Sineaeva-Pankowska, Executive member of 'Never Again' Association from Poland gave speeches in the discussion meeting. Adv. Azhar Uddin Bhuiyan, General Secretary, Legal Aid Committee of 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh' moderated the program. Seminar on 'Constitution of 1972: Mirror of Bangabandhu's Political Philosophy' held on November 05 at 3 pm at Supreme Court Bar Auditorium.

### Speakers' remarks

#### Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury MP, Hon'ble Speaker of the Bangladesh National Parliament

described the background of the 1972 constitution under the leadership of Bangabandhu, and said, 'Under the auspices of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the constitution was formulated and adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 4, 1972 and came into effect on December 16. Which is a clear manifestation of Bangabandhu's strong commitment to parliamentary democracy and the constitution. The Father of the Nation was aware of the need for a constitution and under his guidance the Constituent Assembly was able to frame a remarkable constitution in less than a year. In history, we see, that other countries have taken many years to frame the constitution.'

Honorable Speaker also said, 'Bangabandhu's political



Publication of 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh and trial of War Criminals of 1971' (Nirmul Committee) on November 05, 2023 titled 'Constitution of 1972: Mirror of Bangabandhu's Political Philosophy'



November 05, 2023, Hon'ble Speaker of the Parliament Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury MP is delivering his speech as the chief guest in the discussion meeting entitled 'Constitution of 1972: Mirror of Bangabandhu's Political Philosophy' on Liberation War Spirit Campaign to mark the 52nd Constitution Day organized by 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971' (Nirmul Committee) at the Supreme Court Bar Auditorium, Dhaka. On the stage (From left) Advocate Azhar Uddin Bhuiyan, General Secretary, Legal Aid Committee of 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh'; Human Rights Defender Natalia Natalia Sineaeva-Pankowska, Executive member of 'Never Again' Association from Poland; Political Scientist Professor Rafal Pankowski, President of 'Never Again' Association from Poland; President of the Forum Writer Journalist and Filmmaker Shahriar Kabir; Heroic Freedom Fighter Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, President of 'South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism'; and Attorney General Advocate AM Amin Uddin

Photo: Saiff Uddin Rubel

philosophy was fully reflected in the 1972 constitution of Bangladesh. After the liberation war, standing on a pile of rubble, he wrote this constitution thinking about the common people. The third part of the constitution contains the principles of governance in which Bangabandhu's philosophy is clearly expressed. Men and women, education and rights are said there. Bangabandhu wrote the constitution with the understanding that the source of all power is the people and nothing can be done without their opinion.'

**President of 'Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971' (Nirmul Committee), Writer Journalist Shahriar Kabir,** said in the presidential speech, 'After achieving victory in the liberation war in return for the sacrifice of 30 lakh martyrs and the extreme sacrifice of nearly 5 lakh mothers and sisters, the constitution that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his associates who led the liberation war gave to

the nation is recognized as one of the best constitutions in the world. In this constitution, the four principles of the state are adopted— democracy, socialism, secularism and nationalism; Which was the embodiment of Bangabandhu's political philosophy and the spirit of the liberation war. Although these four principles are present in the constitutions of many other modern states, politics in the name of religion was banned in the original constitution of Bangladesh adopted on November 04, 1972, written in the blood of 3 million martyrs, to ensure the

principle of secularism. Because during the liberation war, all genocides, war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed in Bangladesh for the sake of religion. Not only in the liberation war of 1971 but also in the entire world including Bangladesh, the ideological incentive of the terrible terrorism and massacres that are taking place in the name of Islam is Jamaat-e-Islami's 'Maududibad', i.e. 'politics in the name of religion'. Just as Jamaat in '71 legitimized all crimes against humanity including genocide and war crimes in the name of Islam— they and their local and foreign allies are now doing the same to disrupt the elections, which is why there is no alternative to banning the terrorists politics of Jamaat Gang.'

**Heroic Freedom Fighter Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, President of the 'South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism',** said, 'A unique feature of the Constitution of 1972 was the guarantee of religious

neutrality in clear print. In many countries of the world, the principle of secularism is followed in reality. However, the language in which the guarantee of secularism is mentioned in Article 12 of the Constitution of Bangladesh is very significant. It has been said that all forms of communalism, and religious abuse for political purposes will be abolished. It has also been mentioned that the state shall not give special favor to any religion, and no discrimination or oppression shall be done against a person practicing any particular religion.’ He also said, ‘After the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975, Zia & Mostak gang seized power at gunpoint, extra-constitutionally, tearing apart the sacred and unique General Constitution of 1972 and erasing its special features including secularism. Zia Gang’s military dictatorship and subsequent Zia followers brought about unwanted changes to the constitution by Zia, which were overturned by the 5th and 7th Amendment cases. In the judgment of two particularly important cases in the constitutional sense, the constitution has been freed from the undesired changes made by Zia and Ershad’s military decrees, which erased the spirited features of the liberation war and made it fanatical. It has been confirmed that usurping power in this way is tantamount to treason and any ambitious individual or group of individuals who attempt to do so in the future will be punished accordingly. However, Ershad’s theory of state religion is still in force, which conflicts with the secular ideals of the constitution.’

**President of Poland’s ‘Never Again’ Association, Political Scientist, Professor Rafal Pankowski,** says, ‘The ‘Never Again’ campaign led to the inclusion of a ban on racist and fascist groups in Poland’s new constitution, which resulted in Article 13 of the 1997 constitution specifically banning racist activities. For example, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inserted secularism in the constitution during the formulation of the constitution of 1972. Where equal rights have been guaranteed to all people regardless of caste and religion, which has made this constitution one of the best constitutions in the world.’ He expressed his solidarity with those who are trying hard to uphold the constitution of Bangladesh and concluded his speech.

**Human Rights Defender Natalia Natalia Sineaeva-Pankowska, Executive member of ‘Never Again’ Association from Poland,** said, ‘Bangabandhu made provisions for the security of all minorities in Bangladesh through the constitution of 1972. Where only citizens of Bangladesh can enjoy equal rights. The way the constitution of Bangladesh guarantees the neutrality of religion is not so clearly given in the constitutions of other countries of the world. This is where the constitution of Bangladesh is one and unique. We want the constitution of Bangladesh to continue.’

**Attorney General Adv. AM Amin Uddin,** said, ‘Ziaur Rahman and Ershad changed the constitution of Bangladesh at gunpoint after the assassination of Bangabandhu. They pushed the country towards fundamentalism by cutting the constitution. But this constitution was the constitution won by the blood of Hindus-Muslims-Buddhists-Christians. If we want to build Bangabandhu’s Sonar Bangladesh, we have to go back to the 1972 constitution.’

**Supreme Court Bar Association President Adv. Md. Momtaz Uddin Fakir** said, ‘Bangabandhu did politics all his life to bring smiles to the faces of the suffering people of Bangladesh. Conspirators must be aware of conspirators to maintain the constitutional order in Bangladesh.’

**Bangladesh Bar Council Executive Committee Chairman Adv. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman Badal** said, ‘The Constitution of 1972 is the constitution of the mass people of Bangladesh. Bangabandhu wrote this constitution with his hand. A group is conspiring with this constitution today. This constitution is the constitution to build a non-communal Bangladesh. This constitution must be upheld at any cost.’ The speakers in the meeting demanded to ban the politics of terror in the name of religion, said, ‘In order to smooth the wonderful socio-economic development that is going on in Bangladesh under the leadership of Bangabandhu’s daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the original spirit of Bangabandhu’s 1972 constitution must be re-established. Jamaat-e-Islami and the mass murderers of 1971 and their collaborators must ban the politics of terror in the name of religion.’