

**Embassy of Bangladesh
The Hague**

Press Release

The teachings of Rabindra-Nazrul is universal

The Hague, 25 June 2019:

Bangladesh Embassy in The Hague celebrated Rabindra-Nazrul jonmo-joyonti to mark the 158th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and 120th birth anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on 23 June 2019 with due reverence and festivity. The auditorium of Bangladesh Embassy was over flown with local members of Bangladesh community, students, Dutch dignitaries and members of Bangladesh Embassy family. Based on a theme of “humanism everywhere”, the programme began with the performance by child artists followed by a un-breaking chain of performances and discussions highlighting the teachings of these two literacy giants of Bengali literature.

H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Ambassador of Bangladesh, in his remarks highlighted the teachings of humanism that has been imbued in the writings of both Rabindranath and Nazrul. Terming Nazrul as a gift from heaven, Ambassador Belal shared with the audience how relevant is his lessons of equality and an oppression free society in our country. In this regard Ambassador Belal expressed his utmost gratitude to the best Bengali of all times, our Father of the Nation Bangabondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his foresighted efforts to bring Kazi Nazrul Islam in Bangladesh and thereby allowing him to make Bangladesh as his last resting place. On Rabindranath, Ambassador Belal highlighted his time in Europe and the West and described how Tagore defied all odds to state the obvious as he urged the Europeans to come out from their singular mindset of narrow nationalism at the cost of sacrificing humanity at large. Ambassador Belal went on to cite German philosopher Emanuel Kant and inform the audience as to how Rabindranath Tagore preached for perpetual peace in order to achieve a world order where rights of individual remains sacrosanct under any circumstances. Ambassador Belal, while thanking the audience for joining the celebration in a bigger number, expressed his regrets for not being able to provide them bigger space, but hoped that with ongoing development spree in the country his Embassy will soon be able to work out better arrangements for the audience in the future.

Mr. Sakil Ahmed and Ms. Jui presented discussion papers highlighting their teachings and unprecedented women empowerment in Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. They also touched upon on aspects of teachings from both Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam and stated that their teachings and lessons are valid not only for Bangladesh or South Asians, the teaching of humanism is universal. Mr. Chittabrata Saha, while acting as a Master of Ceremony, also moderated the discussion session. Mr. Chittabrata Saha drew attention of the audience on numerous occasions how Tagore and Nazrul together brought our literature and culture in the international arena.

During musical performance, Ms. Prajna Bhattacharya, the founder of Netherlands School of Music (Sangeeti) rendered her solo performance enthralling the audience with both Rabindra and

Nazrul songs. Ms. Aparna Saha, Ms. Shampa and Ms. Eshita Mitra Saha also performed during the musical segment of the programme. Dr. Dilruba Nasrin, wife of Ambassador Belal, delivered the vote of thanks and rendered a musical homage to our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam highlighting his contribution in Bangladesh and on humanism at all time.

As it was the first event after holy Eid-ul-Fitr, the event was turned out as a colourful re-union of our members of the community living in the Netherlands as well. Messages of Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister on the occasion of Eid were also read out during the event.

After distributing prizes to all the participants, Ambassador Belal gathered the children and members of the community for a ceremonial cake cutting commemorating birth anniversaries of two literacy giants.

All guests were served with traditional Bangladeshi dinner and sweets.
