

International Day of UN Peacekeepers-2008

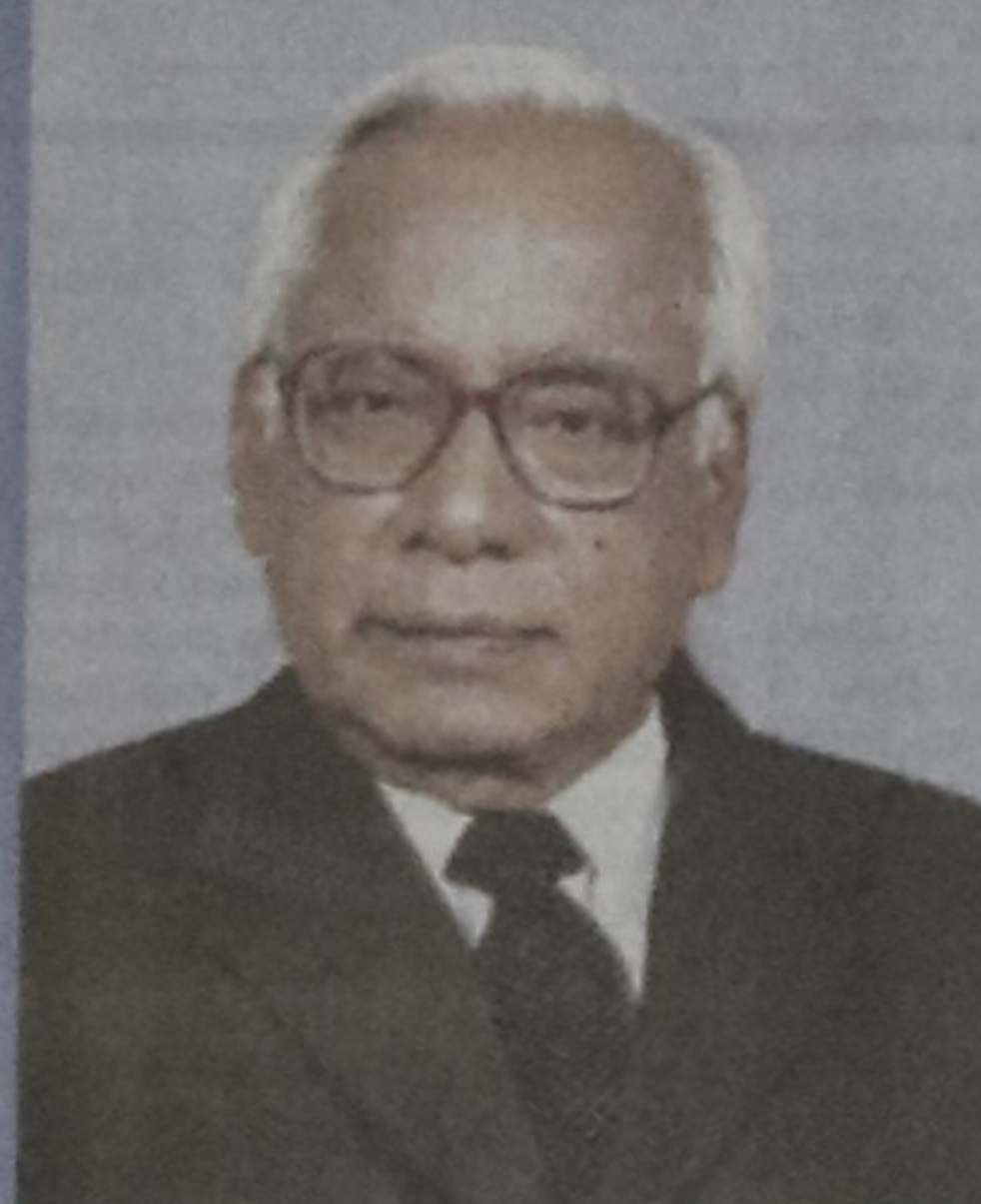
Special Supplement

Coordinated & Organised by Bangladesh Navy

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MESSAGE



I am delighted to know that under the auspices of United Nations the Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police is going to be observed the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers-2008 on May 29, 2008 to mark the respect of the members serving in UN Peacekeeping Operations.

As a peace-loving country Bangladesh always stands in favour of peace and tranquility. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Bangladesh peacekeepers are contributing immensely towards global peace and stability since 1988 in UN Peacekeeping Missions. In the meantime, our peacekeepers have elevated the image of the country in the international arena to a great height by displaying a very high standard of professionalism and dedication. We are, indeed, proud of being one of the largest troop contributing countries in the UN Peacekeeping Operations. On this auspicious occasion, I pay my highest tribute to the unfading memory of the peacekeepers who made supreme sacrifices during their duties in UN Peacekeeping Operations. The nation feels proud of those heroic sons of the soil. May the Almighty Allah bestow His infinite blessings upon all Bangladeshi troops deployed in Peace Support Operations abroad.

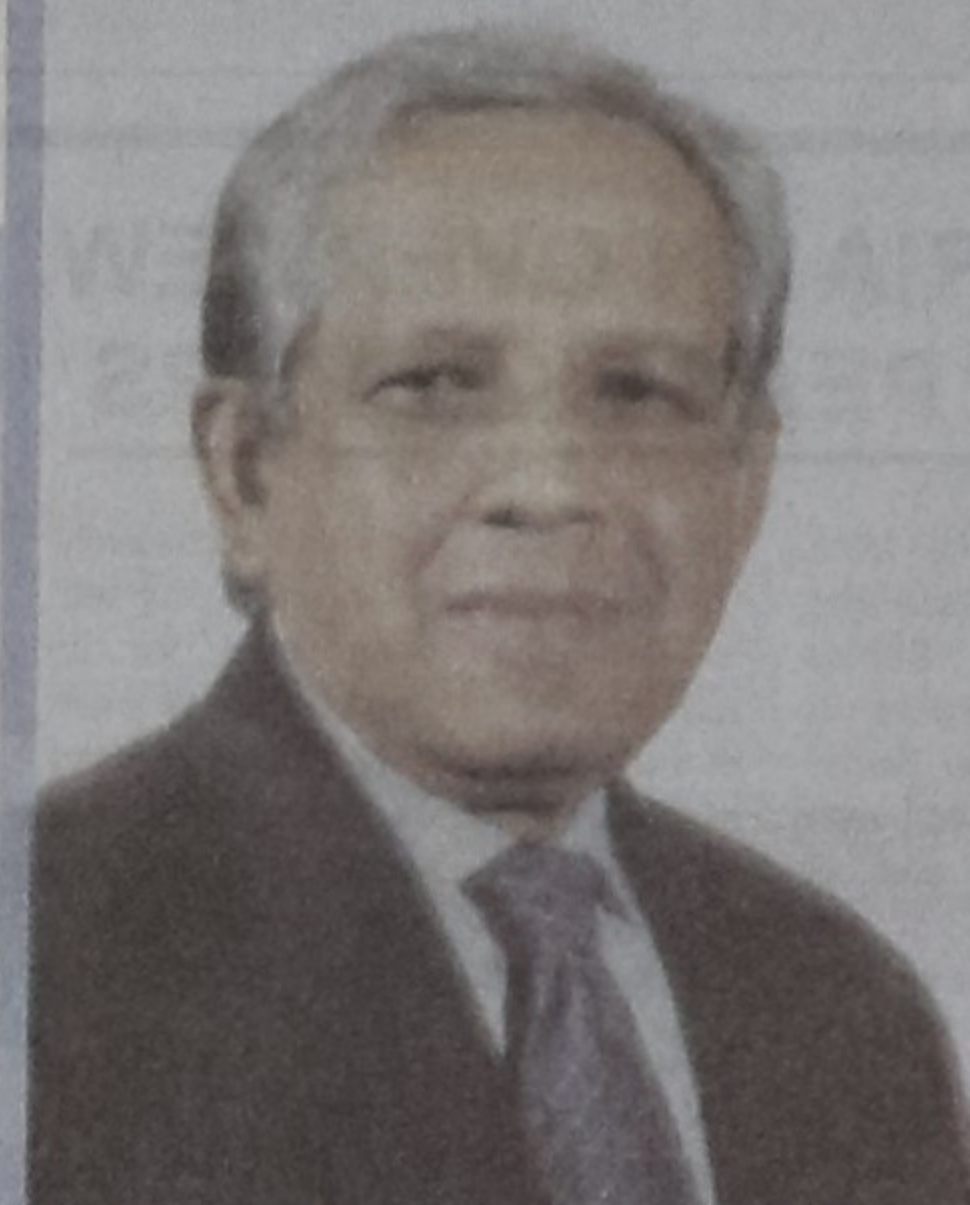
I wish the observance of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers-2008 a success.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.

Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed

PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

MESSAGE



I am happy to learn that Bangladesh is observing the 'International Day of UN Peacekeepers' in a befitting manner along with other member countries of United Nations on May 29, 2008.

On this glorious Day, the people of Bangladesh join me to pay their homage to all peacekeepers around the world for their sacrifice and selfless efforts in promoting global peace. Today, we not only commemorate heroes who sacrificed their lives for the cause of peace, but also those who continue to defend and promote peace with courage and vigour.

It gives us great satisfaction that Bangladesh, as a leading Troop Contributing Country is at the forefront of the United Nations' relentless efforts in peacekeeping and peace building. I am proud of the role played by the Bangladeshi peacekeepers in far flung corners of many conflict-ridden regions of the world. Nearly 70,000 of our defence and police forces have been involved in nearly 35 missions in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. The UN and members of the international community have, time and again, commended Bangladeshi peacekeepers for their effective and heroic role in UN peacekeeping mission. I, on behalf of the Government and people of Bangladesh, acknowledge the services of these individual soldiers, police, electoral experts and others who staff the UN peacekeeping missions.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh, I pledge our continued support to the United Nations for promotion and protection of world peace.

Fakhruddin Ahmed

CHIEF ADVISER
GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

MESSAGE



The United Nations Organization has designated 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. This commemoration, I believe is a right and praiseworthy step by the Organization as well as for the member countries of the United Nations Organization, who struggle relentlessly for the promotion and building of peace in the strife-stricken regions as well as around the world.

Bangladesh has a special attachment and significance in observing the Day. Bangladesh has consistently been one of the largest contributors of troops to the UN Peacekeeping Missions since 1988. During the past 20 years, Bangladesh has participated in 34 different peace Missions in 26 countries. There are 9,047 Bangladeshis at the moment working as peacekeepers worldwide under the aegis of the United Nations Organization. Hence, it is with utmost pride that I join the peacekeepers from Bangladesh in celebrating the Day that pays tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations with their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Our soldiers have earned not only the respect of their peers from other countries, but also the gratitude and admiration of the people they have protected and served. Their performance in peacekeeping operations has been valiant and commendable - in terms of commitment, courage and discipline.

In this day, I recall with profound reverence those who laid down their lives for the cause of world peace. Till date, seventy nine Bangladeshis, have died while serving as peacekeepers. I take this opportunity to pay rich tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives for restoring peace and stability in strife-torn regions of the world.

I congratulate and express my gratitude to the Armed Forces of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Police, and other contributors and to the UNDP for commemorating this Day befittingly.

I reiterate our firm commitment for advancement of global peace under the aegis of the United Nations and wish the peacekeepers all success in their humanitarian and peace building endeavors on the occasion of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury

ADVISER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

MESSAGE



It is with pride that Bangladesh along with other troop contributing countries, international community and the United Nations are observing the 'International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers-2008'. It is very pertinent to celebrate the day in a befitting manner in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is committed and an active supporter of United Nations call for establishing peace all over the world. The journey of Bangladeshi peacekeepers began in 1988, and thereafter Bangladesh never looked back. Presently Bangladesh has stepped into the 20th year of its participation in the noble task of promoting global peace. Over the years, by dint of a very high standard of professionalism, hard work, dedication and sincerity Bangladesh stands out as one of the largest troop contributing countries in the globe. In this year also, two Bangladeshi contingents are being newly deployed in United Nations - African Union Missions in Darfur (UNAMID), Sudan. We are proud of martyrdom of 79 intrepid comrades for the noble cause of peace of whom 71 are from Bangladesh Army. I pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of their departed souls. The prestige, honour, experience and knowledge brought about by the peacekeepers are our prized possession.

On this occasion I would like to pay my highest tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives and suffered injuries in the service of peace. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to those who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for earning laurels for Bangladesh Army.

I wish more successes for our peacekeepers. May Almighty Allah bless us all. Ameen.

GENERAL MOEEN U AHMED
ndc, psc

CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF
BANGLADESH ARMY

MESSAGE



Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim
On the occasion of UN Peacekeepers Day-2008, I revere the unfading memory of the martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for the world peace particularly the Bangladeshi peacekeepers. I am very happy to note that our beloved Bangladesh is one of the highest troop contributing countries for establishing world peace and stability around the globe.

It is with enormous pleasure that I mention about the active participation of Bangladesh Navy personnel as peacekeepers and their contribution ranges from an individual observers' mission to the deployment of a full fledged riverine unit in Sudan. I am proud to pronounce that our sailors in blue helmet are striving hard for the preservation of peace and stability in many countries like Sudan, Ivory Coast, Congo, Georgia, Liberia, Western Sahara and Afghanistan under the auspices of United Nations. It is worth mentioning that peace keeping activities lied very much in line with our foreign policy and commitments towards world peace.

On this auspicious day, I expect that our peacekeepers would uphold the nation's dignity and commitment in an infallible manner in the international arena. They will be inspired by the fact that war hinders peace and prosperity. Hence, "Peace and Not War" should always be the slogan of us. May Almighty Allah shower His endless blessings unto us for the preservation of world peace and prosperity. Ameen.

VICE ADMIRAL SARWAR JAHAN NIZAM
ndc, psc

CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF
BANGLADESH NAVY

MESSAGE



Bangladesh has long been playing a pro-active and forward looking role in support of the "Global Peace Initiative" of the UN. The widely acclaimed compassionate and impartial role of Bangladesh Armed Forces for the people of war torn nations has been a matter of great pride for the nation. To espouse the ideals of peace and stability in the world, the unrelenting courage, exemplary commitment, outstanding professionalism and highest standard of discipline displayed by the Bangladeshi peacekeepers under the trying conditions of peacekeeping environment has been duly acknowledged by all concerned. Bangladesh Air Force is also proud to be a part of this achievement. I firmly believe that Bangladeshi peacekeepers will keep on serving with humanitarian zeal and fortitude, and seek the blessing of the Almighty to grant us the strength and tenacity to uphold the noble effort.

On the auspicious occasion of the UN Peacekeepers' Day, I humbly commemorate the supreme sacrifice made by our peacekeepers and pray to the Almighty Allah for their eternal peace and divine salvation. I wish all-out success of the day observed in order to pay special tribute to the selfless service of the peacekeepers.

AIR MARSHAL SM ZIAUR RAHMAN
ndc, fawc, psc

CHIEF OF AIR STAFF
BANGLADESH AIR FORCE

MESSAGE



It is truly a matter of honour for the Armed Forces of Bangladesh to join the international community in celebrating the International Day of UN Peacekeepers. Armed Forces Division in co-ordination with UNDP, Headquarters of Army, Navy, Air Force and the Police has planned to commemorate the day in a befitting manner.

Bangladesh is an ardent supporter of global peace and harmony. On this note, Bangladesh Armed Forces being inseparable part of the people have been extending fullest cooperation to demonstrate their commitment to peace. We actively joined the global initiative of Peacekeeping by sending a small Peacekeeping contingent to UNIMOG in 1988. Since then we never looked back in our contributions to UN Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO). Today Bangladesh Armed Forces together with Bangladesh Police made our Nation one of the top troop contributors to UNPKO.

Peacekeepers of Bangladesh Armed Forces remain steadfast in restoring peace wherever it is jeopardized or threatened. Our Peacekeepers, in field and observer missions alike, work relentlessly with UN bodies and other partners of peace to ease the sufferings of the people affected by wars and conflicts. As a result we have earned an invaluable reputation and recognition from all tiers of the international community. Our dedication to UNPKO bears a testimony from the supreme sacrifice made by a significant number of Peacekeepers who laid down their lives for the cause of peace. Members of Bangladesh Armed Forces remain indebted to their noble efforts and pray for eternal peace of their departed souls.

On this special day, I wish all the Peacekeepers of Bangladesh and other contributing nations around the world a ceaseless success in their glorious journey of maintenance of peace and harmony thus making our planet a safer place to live.

Lieutenant General Masud Uddin Chowdhury
ndc, psc

PRINCIPAL STAFF OFFICER
ARMED FORCES DIVISION

MESSAGE



It is indeed a great pleasure to know that the Police/Troops contributing countries along with the international community are observing May 29 as the 'International Day of the United Nations Peacekeepers-2008'. I am also delighted to see its colorful celebration in Bangladesh.

On this auspicious occasion, I humbly pay my highest tribute to those peacekeepers who sacrificed their lives in this service of peace. Peacekeeping operations have become increasingly hazardous because of socio-political-cultural reasons. Now-a-days the UN peacekeepers contribute in multidimensional humanitarian activities to alleviate the sufferings of the people in the mission area, apart from their routine work of maintaining peace and order.

The members of Bangladesh Police have been participating in the United Nations peacekeeping operations since 1989, and so far have participated in 17 UN peacekeeping missions. They have earned a high level of reputation both at home and abroad for their commitment and dedication. Today Bangladesh is one of the largest contributors of police to United Nations Peacekeeping operations worldwide.

I wish this celebration all the success.

NUR MOHAMMAD
INSPECTOR GENERAL, BANGLADESH POLICE

PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

MESSAGE



UN peacekeeping operations span the globe. As of May 2008, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations manages 20 peace operations, composed of nearly 130,000 authorized military, police and civilian personnel. The demand for peacekeeping has increased rapidly since the end of the Cold War. Over the past four years we have deployed or expanded 11 missions, and in the last year alone we have fielded peace missions in the Darfur region of Sudan and in neighboring Chad/CAR. The 2007-2008 UN budget for operations stands at \$6.65 billion. UN peacekeeping has never been as large, complex or demanding as it is today.

Peacekeeping is not only expanding, it is also changing. For UN peacekeeping to succeed in the future, we need to sharpen our tools and adapt to the demands of wider mandates and difficult tasks. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is currently implementing a strategy, "Peace Operations 2010," which is a package of reforms in five prioritized areas: personnel, doctrine, partnerships, resources, and organization. Moving forward in these areas will strengthen the ability of our blue helmets to tackle inter- and intrastate conflict, while also performing tasks in support of the wider humanitarian and development agenda.

As Under-Secretary-General for UN Peacekeeping, I am deeply aware that expanding our operations in this way would not have been possible without the assistance of our member states. I would like to extend my fullest gratitude to the country of Bangladesh, which has consistently been one of the most generous troop and police contributing countries. The uniformed services of Bangladesh will be a critical partner in taking on the peacekeeping challenges of tomorrow. I am certain that the successful cooperation between the UN and Bangladesh will live on and I look forward to working together with you on the road ahead.

Jean-Marie Guéhenno

UNITED NATIONS
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

MESSAGE



The United Nations was conceived by a generation that carried, fresh in its memory, the horrendous destruction of World War II. The aims of the organisation reflect their experience and their wisdom: that an institution, based on principles of international law, cooperation and progress, that gives a voice to each group within the human community, is the surest way toward peaceful relations among peoples and between nations.

While peacekeeping was not envisioned in the UN Charter, it has grown to become the flagship enterprise of the United Nations, its most visible and iconic part: the blue helmets, a multinational force in the service of peace.

This year's commemorative ceremonies come at a time when the services of UN peacekeepers are in greater demand than ever before. Thousands of men and women are taking part in UN peace endeavors around the world. Today, we pay tribute to them. Their dedication, professionalism, and courage are the UN's most important resource and our greatest pride.

As a representative of the UN in Bangladesh, I would particularly like to underscore the value of the great and generous contribution that Bangladesh has made towards UN peacekeeping. It is a source of great pride to us all that this country ranks as a top troop contributor, currently fielding more than 9,000 troops across 15 missions, from places as far a field as Sudan, Georgia and East Timor. Around the globe, Bangladeshi peacekeepers are involved in a multitude of tasks. They patrol armistice lines, disarm warring factions, and monitor peace agreements. They do policing and assist in the restoration of the rule of law in post-conflict societies. They help build roads and public buildings. And they provide health services and train farmers. In performing these tasks, the competence and valor displayed by Bangladesh's blue helmets have earned them a special reputation among the best peacekeepers in the world.

Bangladesh's participation in peacekeeping is a sign of this nation's commitment to peace and to the goals of the UN charter. The founders of the UN would have been deeply impressed by Bangladesh's repeated and unflinching willingness to shoulder so much of the global responsibility for international peace. Thank you Bangladesh.

Renata Lok Dessallien

UNITED NATIONS
UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR
IN BANGLADESH