

International Day of UN Peacekeepers-2008

BANGLADESH IN SUDAN MISSION (UNMIS)

(From Supplement 2nd page)

UN Organs	Levels	Bodies for Ceasefire Mechanism
UN HQ in New York	Strategic Level	Ceasefire Politics Commission (CPC) is formed by equal number of Senior Ministers from both the parties. The UNMIS HOM (SRSG) is the ex-officio member of the CPC.
UNMIS HQ in Khartoum		
SRSG and FC		
UNMIS HQ in Khartoum	Operational Level	Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) comprised of equal number of senior military officers from both the parties. The UNMIS FC is the ex-officio Chairman of CJMC.
FC		
Sector HQs	Tactical Level	Area Joint Military Committee (AJMC) with equal number of members from both the parties of the rank of senior Colonels. UNMIS SC is the ex-officio Chairman of the AJMC. The UNMO Coordinator and TSL attend the AJMC.
SC with UNMO Coordinator as adviser		
TS		Joint Military Team (JMT) is the Ceasefire Mechanism Body deployed in the field. JMT is formed by the TSL taking equal numbers of senior officers from the parties and senior international Milobs.
TSL		

From diverse requirements of the mission mandate and to satisfy The Ceasefire Mechanism at different levels the military employments are categorized as command/leaders, Staff/advisers, Milobs/UNMOs and contingent members.

UN in general and UNMIS in particular offer a very wide scope of civilian employments. Bangladeshis are yet to explore this avenue like the citizens of other SAARC partner states. Nevertheless, Bangladeshi Miss Amiera Haq, holding the office of Deputy SRSG and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, is placed third in UNMIS after SRSG and FC. A career UN official Miss Haq earned high reputation for her professionalism. Mr Nuba Islam (son of eminent lawyer Gazi Shamsur Rahman), the team leader of reliefs, Rehabilitation and reconciliation (RRR) in Sector III Malkal, Wing Commander (Retd) Shahjahan, Major (Retd) Habib and Major (Retd) Rafique are other Bangladeshis working in civilian clothes in the responsible positions of UNMIS.

Bangladesh has reasons to take pride in its high military and police contributions in UNMIS. While in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, any one will confuse whether its Sudan or Bangladesh. This UNMIS sector is manned by more than thousand contingent members. Personnel of Bangladesh Battalion (BANBAT), of Bangladesh Engineers (BANENGRS), of Bangladesh Medical (BANMED) and of Bangladesh Transport (BANTPT) with

their components spread over four TSs are keeping an area of hundreds of square kilometers in south Sudan vibrant with their activities. They have proved their worth as one of the most creative partners for Sudan peace process.

The Bangladesh Force Riverine Unit (BANFRU) in Sector II Malakal puts up another excellent show. BANFRU site has earned reputation as the second most beautiful UNMIS contingent site after Pakistan contingent site at Ed Damazin. This small detachment of Bangladesh Navy has an Area of Responsibility (AOR) stretching over hundreds of Kilometers covering two sectors, namely, Sector I, Juba (the Bangladesh Sector) and Sector III Malakal (the Indian sector). The dominating presence of BN personnel on a long trick of Nile river system furthered the image of BN and Bangladesh in Sudan.

The Bangladesh Military Police (BANMP) comprised of Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force personnel and the Bangladesh Fuel units with personnel are represented in all six UNMIS Sector Headquarters. They are putting up good shows. Their presence in all sectors is facilitating our national flags to fly in the yardarms of all sector Headquarters.

In UNMIS structure Military Observers (UNMOs/ Milobs) are termed as the key players to implement CPA through monitoring and verification of Ceasefire Mechanisms. They are said to be the eyes and ears of the SRSG and FC in their pursuit of reaching the

UN Mission objective in Sudan. They are seen as the ambassadors of their respective countries with the eyes of the world set on them. Justice will not be done if this core group is not discussed with due importance.

A total of approximately twenty Military Observers (Milobs) from three services are forming the UNMIS Milobs corps of Bangladesh. Amongst 750-sanctioned strength of Milobs in UNMIS from 59 countries the represented numbers of Bangladeshi Milobs distributed over different Team sites are not that significant. But their activities have across the board reputations. Out of a total of 24 key appointments for Milobs in UNMIS three were held by Bangladeshi Milobs between June 2007 and May 2008. The writer Commander A M Quamrul Huq from Bangladesh Navy, hold the appointment of Team Site Leader of oil rich Sector VI Abeyi Team Site of 40 Milobs from 23 Nations. Wing Commander Mohammed Zahidul Sayeed of Bangladesh Air Force hold



the appointment of Milobs/UNMO coordinator in Sector VI, Ed Damazin. Lieutenant Commander Mohammad Wasim Maqsood from Bangladesh Navy hold the appointment of Team Site Leaders of Sector VI, Kadugli with 14 Milobs. These were dream appointments for Milobs irrespective of nationalities and no giveaway appointments. Holding of three key appointments at a time by Bangladeshi Milobs was talk of UNMIS for quite some time. Besides these UNMIS key appointments a number of Bangladeshi Milobs were appointed in the key staff positions of sectors and

Team sites. The key appointments exposed Bangladeshi Milobs to the party top braces, UN HQ and UNMIS HQ personalities, AJMCs, Sector Commands and FC and earned high reputation for Bangladeshis.

Bangladeshi staff officers are on the other hand holding many important portfolios in the UNMIS HQ. As dependable staff officers their presence is well felt in the UNMIS HQ. There is also some Bangladeshi staff officers deployed in El-Obeid, Wau, Juba and Malakal. All of them are putting up good shows and making Bangladesh Known to the world community.

UN Police of UNMIS is represented by Bangladesh Police with strength of about 35 police officers. They are also bringing credits for the country.

UNMIS was born with the promise of bringing peace in Sudan. The integrated Mission structure of UNMIS provides wide scopes of military, police and civilian employment. Bangladesh has sizeable slice of stake in the military and police. Bangladeshi participation in the civilian component is quite insignificant compared to other

SAARC partner states. We can however, celebrate the position of Miss Amiera Haq in UNMIS structure. In the part of military, the case of holding 12½% UNMIS key appointments and many other sector and TS key positions by only 2.7% Bangladeshi Milobs is an encouraging display by Bangladeshis in Sudan Mission. The ever-vibrant military and police contingents are making yet another unique display on Bangladesh in Sudan. Addressing yet exploreable areas Bangladesh may go ahead with its credits and goals in UNMIS and UN as well.

never disappoint anybody. In our level one hospital, besides our own personnel we extend medical facilities to the UNPOL officers, other international staff and also the local people. These activities have increased our acceptance to the local inhabitants to a great extent.

With a view to improving relation with other organizations we arrange, in BAN FPU compound, sports programs and friendly matches participated by CIVPOL, PNTL, UIR, RSC, and BAN FPU. Twenty BAN FPU personnel received letters of appreciation for arranging and successfully conducting such sports programmes. Important persons of all these organizations and of the local administration regularly attend our different ceremonies and we are also invited to important ceremonies of theirs.

Another significant program conducted by Bangladesh FPU is the Mentoring Program for the local police, the PNTL, and UIR. With a view to increase their efficiency and capability, BAN FPU officers conduct theoretical and practical field training for them. These efforts have brought positive outcome been highly praised by all parties.

For all these achievements Bangladesh FPU has been not only praised verbally by different quarters, but also given several dozen letters of appreciation by the Police Commissioner and district commanders for outstanding contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in our area of responsibility, for our dedication and commitment in pursuing the UN mandated tasks, and also for the highest standard of moral and ethical values that we have shown all along. Those commendations were given to different BAN FPU personnel including the Commander individually, and to the contingent as a whole.

In short, Bangladesh FPU is untiring and unhesitating in pursuing its mandated tasks-protection of United Nations personnel and facilities, providing security support to the national law enforcement agencies and capacity building. In doing so we are always guided by the UN rules and other applicable national laws, and above all, by our good conscience. We, the peacekeepers of Bangladesh, are strongly committed to upholding the dignity of the blue berets. Because, only by being so we can uphold the dignity of our own, and the dignity of our red and green flag, which we got at the cost of a sea of blood.

PARTICIPATION OF BAF IN UN ACTIVITIES AND SCOPE FOR FUTURE DEPLOYMENT

The United Nations Organization started its journey since 1945. It is prosecuting a range of peacekeeping operations for last six decades in order to maintain international peace and stability. Bangladesh got involved in late 1980s and, today, stands as one of the largest troops contributing country (TCC) in UN peacekeeping missions.

BAF started its journey in UN peacekeeping missions by providing military observers/staff officers (UNMO/UNSO) in Mozambique in 1991. The first BAF air contingent (BANAIR) was deployed in Kuwait (UNIKOM) in September 95.

BAF has its biggest UN deployment in DR Congo (MONUC) under chapter-VII. It is getting two pronged experiences with Bangladesh Aviation Utility Unit and Bangladesh Airfield Services Unit deployed there at Bunia. Both the units are deployed under wet lease contract, which is unique for BAF. So far, approximately 1500 BAF personnel have served in 18 different UN missions in five different continents across the world. With experience gained, BAF is now capable of shouldering more UN responsibilities in different capacities.

BAF has participated in different UN missions in different countries under chapter VI, VII & VIII. The journey started in 1991 by giving a token of mid-level officers as UNMO/UNSO. Its major contribution started with the deployment of one B-212 helicopter in Kuwait. However, BAF participation can be divided in the following main two categories:

- Deployment as Contingent under TCC agreement:
 - Aviation Unit.
 - Airfield Services Unit (ASU).
 - With Army Units as Military Police (MP).
- Deployment as UNMO and UNSO.
- Deployment as Contingent.

Aviation Unit. BAF has completed two air contingent missions in Kuwait and East Timor (UNMISSET). BAF is participating in MONUC with the biggest air contingent ever deployed. The missions are discussed briefly:

a. UNIKOM. BAF air contingent (BANAIR) started operating in Kuwait with one B-212 and 17 personnel. The aircrew demonstrated excellent skills and gained a huge experience of flying in desert environment. Due to its excellent service and safe flying record, both duration and strength of the contingent were increased later.

b. UNMISSET. After completion of UNIKOM, the same contingent was deployed to East Timor with 2X Bell-212s in October 2003. All operational and administrative activities of BANAIR were highly satisfactory in accordance with UNMISSET and unit SOP. For their overall excellent performance BANAIR received a certificate of excellence from UN.

c. MONUC. BAF deployed to DR Congo in August 2003. It consists of Bangladesh Utility Aviation Unit and Bangladesh Airfield Services Unit. The Aviation Unit has 5x MI-17 helicopters to carry out a wide variety task in the densely forest of Congo. Both aircrew and ground crew are getting wartime experience due to prevailing hostile situation there. BAF has proved that she is capable of maintaining its machines airworthy over long distances.

Airfield Services Unit. For the first time, Bangladesh ASU deployed at Bunia in DR Congo with a host of equipments and other specialist vehicles to provide necessary airfield support. Bunia is the only airfield in DR Congo where all the services, especially ATC, are provided solely by BAF personnel. It has been an excellent ground for operational activities and training of BAF personnel under real threat environment.

With Army Units as MP. BAF personnel have served as MP with Bangladesh Army Unit in different UN missions. The role and task of the MP unit is to monitor the traffic movement, strict adherence to maintain curfew time by UN personnel, provide escort for movement of personnel and logistics as necessary.

UNMO is the eye through which the mandated missions are observed. UNSO is required to ensure coordination for the safe employment of UN requirements specific to each mission. BAF personnel have participated in 16 different UN missions as UNMO/UNSO.

Participating in different UN missions in different capacities, BAF had a great contribution for the national exposure to the international community. Apart from the individual gain, BAF achievements are praise worthy.

BAF personnel have become experienced in working in multinational environment while overcoming critical language barrier. Individually, they gained proficiency in negotiation and inter-agency coordination. Administratively, these people are more efficient than before and their expertise is a valuable asset for BAF now.

It was a unique opportunity for BAF personnel to work with Bangladesh Army personnel shoulder to shoulder in an international environment. The missions have definitely enriched the operational experience of our provosts and security personnel, which is rare in BAF.

Overseas deployment with man and material itself is a great

c. Financial Gain. Beside the individual financial benefit, BANAIR personnel are contributing to the national economy by earning a good amount of foreign currency deposited in government treasury



Sqn Ldr Shah Kawsar Ahmed Choudhury

up to June 2007 by different contingents are given below:

UNIKOM - 150 core taka (Approximately)
UNMISSET - 20 core taka (Approximately)
MONUC - 92 core taka (Approximately)

d. Morale. UN mission helps to improve the social and economical status of BAF personnel. This has a remarkable impact on morale of all personnel deployed in UN mission. For example, BAF aircraft serviceability average rate is 70%, whereas the rate in mission area is average 99%.

e. Exposure in International Arena. It is indeed a great opportunity for BAF personnel to interact with people of different culture, religion and nationality to show our professionalism and dedication. This has given an exposure of a third world country like Bangladesh to uphold the national flag in international arena.

f. Civil Military Relationship. In UN environment, BAF personnel have



experience for BAF. Successful deployment of BAF contingents in different mission areas is helping BAF to attain sustainability. However, the main achievements are:

a. Operational Values. Operating in adverse ground environment and unfamiliar terrain condition has enriched the operational capabilities and confidence of BAF personnel in manifold. Without the UN deployment, it would never be possible for BAF personnel to gain such experience.

b. Training Values. UN Deployment has great contribution on training of BAF personnel in different fields. These are discussed below:

(1) Aircrew Training. Our aircrews are getting the opportunity to train themselves through different challenging missions. BAF pilots are able to continue their training for categorization; instrument rating etc. by UN allotted flying hours. This is saving a great amount of BAF training budget, which would be required to train these aircrews otherwise.

(2) Ground Crew Training. Our ground crews have gained professional capabilities and confidence of maintaining aircraft under adverse weather and environmental conditions. Without third line maintenance support it has been a good training for the ground crews to keep the serviceability rate very high. For MONUC it is 97%, UNIKOM-100% and UNMISSET-100%.

(3) Training for Other Personnel. BAF personnel have got the opportunity to obtain training by themselves on different grounds due to their working environment. For example, in ASU, our personnel working in Emergency Crash and Rescue section have been trained to operate specialized vehicles smoothly. ATC and flight following personnel have received training on handling air traffic and airspace management. Movcon personnel have received training on handling passengers, cargo, and dangerous goods. Meteorology personnel have gained new experience to forecast weather in different geographical condition. Ramp control service personnel have received training on marshalling, towing and parking aircraft. All these personnel have gained proficiency in their respective fields of works.

to work with the UN civilian staffs. Satisfying them with professional excellence, BAF personnel have developed a respectable mutual relationship and good understanding with the civilian. This would remain a key ingredient for operations in aid to civil power.

g. Personal Quality. Large-scale religious activities in different contingents would definitely help the BAF personnel to keep their personal quality high in future.

Absence of SOP. Absence of SOP and lack of clear guideline on job description was a big hurdle for the initial contingents to settle down.

Wet Lease Contract. Both the units in DR Congo were deployed under wet lease contract in which BAF had no previous experience. BAF has to maintain the aircraft, vehicles and equipments all by herself. It was a real challenge for BANAIR to settle down in a very hostile environment and carry out its task without home support. However, it was overcome by sincerity, dedication and will power of BAF personnel.

Adverse Environment. Unlike Bangladesh, BAF aircrews had to operate under adverse and unfamiliar weather condition and ground terrain (e.g. desert, forest, mountain area etc) in all the mission areas. None of the BAF helicopters were fitted with weather radar making the operation difficult for aircrews. However, adequate action has been taken to fix necessary equipments in all BAF helicopters operating in mission area.

Security Situation. Due to the seriousness of threat especially around Bunia, BANAIR is to put extra effort in maintaining security round the clock for its contingent. It puts extra workload on all contingent members.

Domestic Work Load. As BAF is deploying her personnel and equipment from existing establishment, it is creating an additional pressure on the remaining personnel in daily activities.

In many occasions, the UN mandate has to be changed from Chapter VI to VII to protect its manpower. For an example, the

new Hybrid AU-UN mission in Darfur demands such protections. Bangladesh, with its small but well trained air force can be well suited in those conditions. The deployment can be either under dry lease or wet lease contract. In dry lease, UN takes responsibility to maintain the contingent owned equipments (COE). In wet lease, the responsibility remains with TCC where the reimbursement is quite high for COE. BAF is now experienced in both dry lease and wet lease agreements. Though it creates additional pressure on BAF, wet lease is beneficial from the financial aspect. As such BAF should assess the gain versus such complications before such deployments in future.

Deployment of Light Attack Aircraft. On UN request, BAF may deploy L-39ZA aircraft in the ground attack role to show of force like Mi-25 attack helicopters in many other missions. BAF may go for deployment of 3 x L-39ZA aircraft with the required number of aircrew, ground crew, logistics and other maintenance facilities to operate from a Forward Operating Base as per existing SOP. 1st and 2nd line maintenance may be done in the mission area and 3rd line maintenance may be done in Bangladesh like deployed Mi-17 in MONUC.

Deployment of Transport aircraft. BAF is experienced to operate helicopters in mission areas without much UN and home support. So, deployment of transport aircraft will not be a major issue. BAF may even procure new 2XAN-32 transport aircraft for deployment because of its comparatively high reimbursement.

Deployment of Additional Helicopter. BAF is already experienced in UNIKOM, UNMISSET and MONUC. If requested by UN, additional helicopters, preferably Bell-212 may be deployed in the same manner.

Deployment of Additional Airfield Services Unit. BAF is now experienced of providing all airfield services in the mission area. BAF Airfield Services Unit deployed in MONUC, DR Congo has earned good name by the professionalism of her personnel. With this experience BAF may go for additional deployment if requested by UN.

It is indeed a matter of prestige and honour for BAF in taking active part in UN peacekeeping operations beside Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy. Since 1991, BAF is playing a vital role in establishing international peace and security under UN umbrella. Working in the different capacity, BAF personnel have brightened the goodwill and image of Bangladesh contributing for the national exposure to the internal community. BAF personnel had been awarded with a good number of commendation and appreciation as recognition of their extra ordinary performance and contribution in UN peacekeeping mission.

BAF personnel who were deployed as UNMO/UNSO or Military Police are administratively and operationally much more efficient than before. BAF is now capable of maintaining its man and material over long distances. UN mission is playing a vital role in maintenance of morale of her personnel due to monetary gain. And BAF is contributing in national economy by earning lot of foreign currency for the country. Apart from the individual gain, BAF achievements through successful deployment of its air contingents unfold further scopes for future deployment.

BAF now may consider buying new light attack aircraft and helicopters for UN deployment with the money earned from the reimbursement of helicopter deployed in different UN missions. BAF may also consider deploying additional Air Field Services Unit for high value financial and operational gain.

Every day, BAF personnel are gathering operational experience and are receiving valuable training through their participation in UN activities. These experience and training will go a long way to help BAF to shoulder higher responsibilities and deploy its man and machine in any difficult mission area. It will also help to advance our operational capability to build a better air force in coming days.

IN QUEST FOR PEACE IN TIMOR

In spite of all our lacks and drawbacks in our national life, we have a few things that we can be proud of. The number may not be big, but they certainly are there. Bangladesh peacekeeping missions abroad are among those few things. FPU (Former Police Unit) is the latest concept in peacekeeping efforts. Bangladesh has been sending FPUs to different parts of the world as part of the peacekeeping mission.

Family members of BAN FPU, East Timor Bangladesh FPU set foot in Timor Leste more than one and half years ago. Since then it saw a lot of ups and downs, a lot of changes in the political, social economic, and administrative arena of this tiny nation. So far as security remains a factor in these changes Bangladesh FPU has been playing a tremendous role in this connection. The present Bangladesh FPU contingent of 140 personnel replaced, on 11 October last year, the 1st contingent, which successfully completed its one-year tenure on that date. From the beginning we have been performing our mandated tasks with utmost integrity and sincerity, and showing the highest standard of moral and ethical values which earned us not only the respect of the international community, but also the love and faith of the local people for whose welfare only the world community works there.

BAN FPU's area of responsibility are five strategically most important districts out of all 13 districts of East Timor. These districts are Dili which includes the capital city Dili, Baucau, Viqueque, Lautem, and Manatutu. In fact, the notorious incidents that took place in these districts in 1999 necessitated the inception of this present UN mission, the UNMIT, the mandate of which is mainly to restore and maintain public security, and to assist with the further training, institutional development and strengthening of the Timorese national police (PNTL).

Bangladesh FPU includes four platoons-three operational platoons and one administrative platoon. One of the operational platoons has since the beginning been permanently deployed in Viqueque, another platoon has for the last six months, been in action in Dili district, one platoon is assigned for Baucau district where the contingent HQ is situated, two

sections are securing the Baucau Court Compound which is, in terms of security concern, one of the most sensitive institutions in Timor.

Here in Timor, Bangladesh FPU discharges its duty in exclusive coordination with CIVPOL, PNTL,



Mallick Faqruul Islam, SP Contingent Commander BAN FPU UNMIT

UIR, ISF, RSC and other national and international staff working in the mission area. Our operational activities involve, among others, patrol duty, law and order duty, VIP and VVIP protection duty, venue security, crowd management duty static duty, check posts duty etc. During the last seven months our performance in all these regards was up to the mark and was lauded by all.

Our field of specialty is VIP and VVIP protection. During our first four



months here and before he was shot at his residence compound in February, President Ramos Horta paid several visits to the three eastern districts and turned up in public dialogues and public meetings during which BAN FPU played a key role in ensuring the safety. On none of those occasions did he forget to particularly thank BAN FPU for our activities and specially praise all our efforts. We received the same commendation during the visits of the SRSG, DPKO, Commissioner and the likes.

Whenever any security threat is felt BAN FPU undertakes constant patrol duty during day and night with other CIVPOL officers and the local police. Besides, we help the CIVPOL and the PNTL in arresting offenders, maintaining peace and tranquility. Whenever crowd management is discussed as a topic, Bangladesh FPU is cited as a model. We have shown outstanding capabilities in this field.

most proficient in this job and are ready to bravely face any critical situation.

Apart from the crime operations, Bangladesh FPU undertakes some other activities, which, though not directly associated with crime control, are covered by the mission mandate. These are mostly benevolent works, which further glorify us.

One such activity is community policing. We developed a good rapport with the local community. For instance, in Viqueque BAN FPU personnel reconstructed a fully damaged road connecting the main hospital. It earned us the gratitude of the whole community. In the surrounding locality whenever any private or public vehicle faces accidents and the vehicles need removing or the victims need taking to hospital, it is Bangladesh FPU which is first remembered. And we