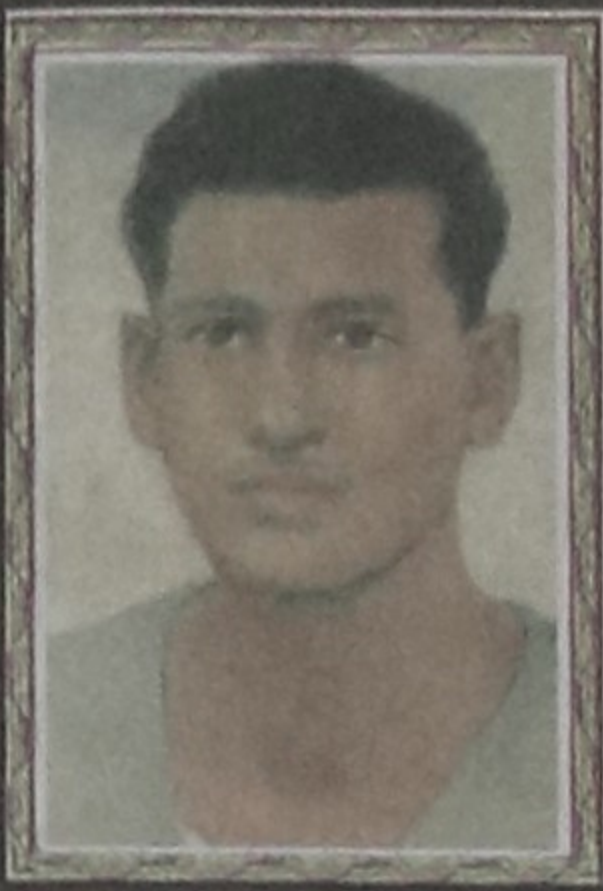


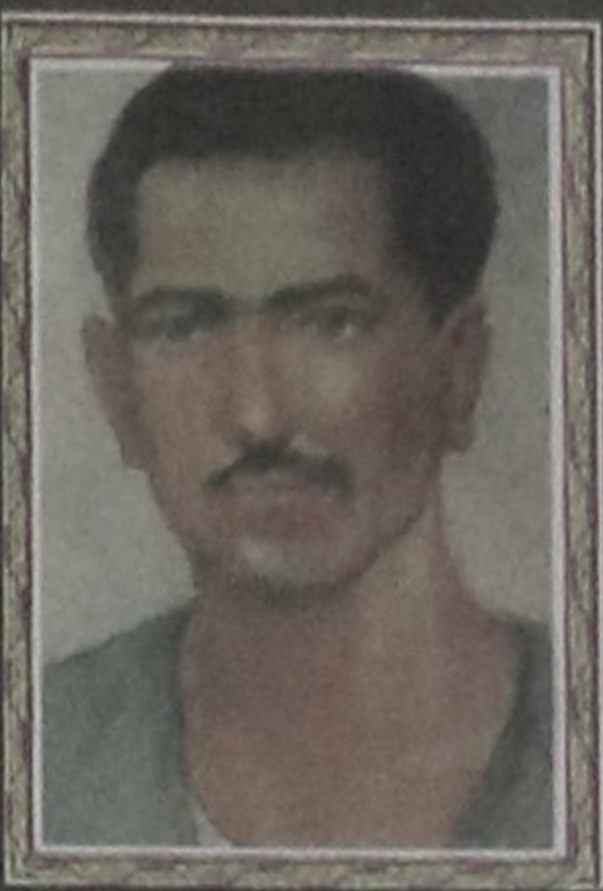
THE VALIANT SONS OF OUR SOIL-WE WILL EVER REMEMBER YOUR SUPREME SACRIFICES



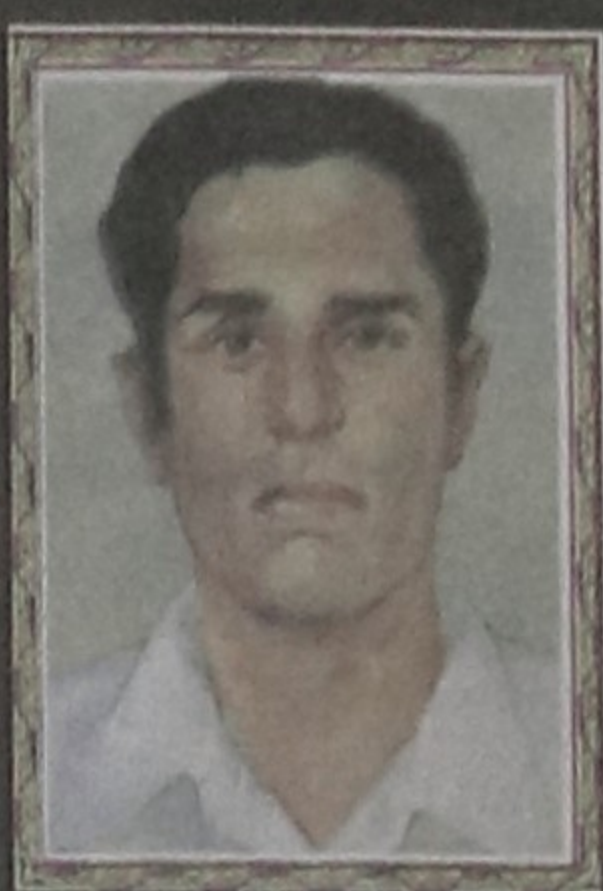
Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin
Jahangir, Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Sepoy Mostafa Kamal,
Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Sepoy Hamidur Rahman,
Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Engine Room Artificer-1
Md. Ruhul Amin, Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Flight Lieutenant M Matir
Rahman, Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Lance Naik Nur
Mohammad Sheikh, Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Lance Naik Munshi
Abdur Rouf, Bir Sreshtho

ROLE OF ARMED FORCES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

(From Supplement Front Page)

Rescue Operation at BSEC/NTV Building. The BSEC/NTV building at Karwan Bazar, Dhaka caught a devastating fire on 03 March 2007. Armed Forces' members instantly got involved in rescue operation. BAF helicopters saved valuable lives. A young Army officer got the prestigious Red Crescent Award for bravery in rescue operations.

Deployment during Flood 2007. From July to August 2007, a total of 46 districts were affected to varying degrees by two waves of flood. The flood inundated about 32000 Sq Km including the char areas of 6000 sq km affecting almost 16 million people in around 3 million households. Thousands of people suffered from flood related health hazards. Total 3000 troops and 339 Medical Teams of Army were deployed for emergency rescue and relief work from 25 July 2007.

Deployment during Cyclone SIDR. SIDR, one the severest cyclones that ever hit Bangladesh, struck our southern districts on 15th November 2007 with unprecedented fury causing severe devastation to millions of people in the coastal area, resulting in death of more than three thousand people, rendering survivors shelterless, and snatching away means of livelihood. Estimated total damage in terms of money was US\$ 2.18 Billions.

After the cyclone, right at the dawn, the Armed Forces immediately launched massive search, rescue and relief operations through its ground, naval and air assets in all dimensions. Armed Forces assisted in restoring the essential road, river and telecommunication services. Armed Forces Medical teams provided emergency life saving assistance in the affected area and augmented civil health care services. It may be highlighted that Bangladesh Army deployed its major assets from Jessore including 2300 personnel in the affected area. Besides, 12 small and medium sized BN ships and number of BAF transport

aircraft and helicopters were deployed to carry emergency relief goods to the SIDR affected area.

To execute the relief operation in an orderly manner, Government of Bangladesh further had established Post SIDR Relief Operation Coordination Centre (PSROCC) at Barisal having Hon'ble Adviser of Ministry of Communication as the Chief Coordinator and GOC, 55 Infantry Division as the Coordinator. AFD established a monitoring cell from where the activities of all concerned Ministries and organization of the Government, which includes Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home

affairs, Ministry of Food and Disaster management, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, LGED, Ministry, Disaster Management Bureau, Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation, Civil Aviation etc and friendly foreign armed forces, were coordinated.

ACTIONS OF ARMED FORCES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

From the above experiences following actions can be highlighted in respect of disaster management by the Armed Forces at the national level:

- Early rescue of affected people.
- Immediate life saving activities like medicine, food, water etc.
- Restoration of transport and communication services by a short period.
- Coordinating all relief activities countrywide.
- Receiving relief and prioritizing the type of relief.
- Transportation and prioritizing areas.
- On ground liaison for distribution.

- Storage of relief.
- Prioritizing and planning immediate, short, mid and long term need assessment.
- Coordinating and handling relief operations of foreign armed forces.

Participation in Overseas Disaster Management

Bangladesh Armed Forces participated in a number of Disaster Management Operations abroad. BAF aircraft carried relief for earthquake survivors of Vooz in India in February 2001, Bam City of Iran in December 2003, Kashmir in Pakistan in October 2005 and most recently, at Sichuan in China in May 2008. To help the tsunami victims of Sri Lanka and Maldives, two Task Forces were deployed under the code name 'OPERATION SAARC BANDHAN' in December 2004. Two BN ships, two BAF C-130, and two BAF helicopters were part of the Task Forces. A 37 member Medical team was sent to Yangon after the cyclone NARGIS hit Myanmar in May 2008. Two BAF C-

130 and 1x AN-32 carried the team with some emergency relief goods.

Conclusion

Bangladesh Armed Forces have given highest priority in disaster management in every major disaster since independence. Disaster Management during Flood 2007 and Cyclone SIDR is a success story for Bangladesh as well as for the Armed Forces. The constraints and lessons learnt from these events shall be duly analyzed, studied and incorporated in the total disaster management system of Armed Forces. Armed Forces' experience of coordinating and handling disasters has paved the way to a comprehensive disaster management programme at national level. Public awareness, co-ordination of various aspects down to the grass root level, integration of various Government and Non-government agencies have enabled Armed Forces to take appropriate measures at pre, during and post disaster periods. In future, Bangladesh Armed Forces shall be more prepared to minimize the damage of disaster by skilful management both at national and international environment.



Lt Cdr A A Maksus, (TAS), psc, BN

UNMIL- A GLITTERING FOAM IN WEST ATLANTIC COAST

"Bell View" a commercial airlines of West Africa took off on 05 April 07 from ACCRA for Robert International Airport, Monrovia. It was a known destination by name, as briefed by the fellow mates and as found in the web, Liberia, a country with hope and prosperity. The aircraft flew over the Atlantic Ocean and maintaining its course along the coast line. Two and half hours on board generates lot of curiosity about the country that has similar land space of my home land. All along the way coast line appeared more distinct due to the white foam of varying width. It did not only serve as an aid for the pilots to follow the appropriate line of march but was also banging on the shore with a tone for some change with each successive waves. Finally at around 1230 hrs the aircraft landed and integrated me in United Nation's Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) as United Nations Military Observer (UNMO).

For about 3.3 millions populace the hope for change of fate is a crying need since their independence in 1847. Political unrest, ethnic clashes and corruptions has put them in back footing by their previous leaders. Only 700km paved road and few commercial infrastructures in the capital city, Monrovia bears the evidence of bloodshed caused by the long lasting civil war. Military regime, harassments, central coup have further declined the economy thus affecting the overall living standard of the common mass.

By the UNMIL intervention peace process starts with disarmament & demobilization (DD) phases which ended on 31 Oct 04 and led to a successful completion of general election held in 2005. Presently after smooth transition of the new government of Miss Sirleaf-Johnson, and the recent

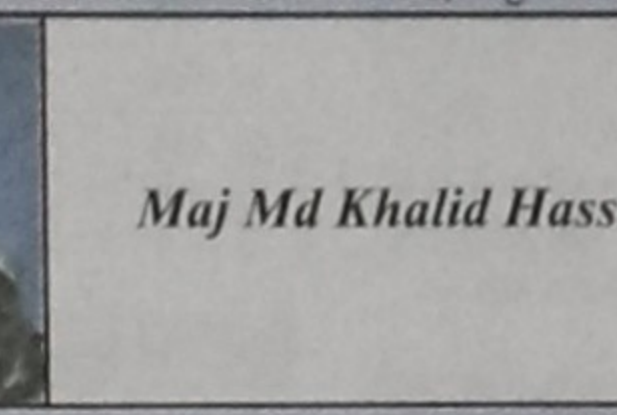
successful transfer of Ex-President Taylor to Hague without any socio-political upheavals in Liberia, the general security situation in the country is stabilizing. However, the harsh economic conditions prevailing in the country, characterized by mass unemployment, little or no basic amenities, poor infrastructure coupled with the outstanding property and land disputes, as well as the significant number of ex-combatants who may not have been able to integrate into civil society, pose potential conditions for instability. The aim of this write-up is to highlight, the modality of UNMIL in general and the efforts undertaken by the BANBAT in particular in bringing peace in Liberia.

Presently in the phase of assisting the government in various ways to reconstruct a platform for launching massive development projects in all possible sectors. Three contingents of BANSEC are deployed in three countries namely Bong, Nimba and Grand Bassa, covering a large portion of Liberia. Basing on the threat assessment tasks performed by the three contingents varies in relation to their locations and socio cultural phenomenon.

Although the general threat to security is assessed to be minimal, it is possible for the economic and social conditions, as well as the land disputes to generate tensions that could lead to riots, attacks, hijacking of UN vehicles, looting, abduction of UN staff, terrorist acts etc.

Basing on the above assessment major responsibilities performed by the contingents includes check point duties, routine patrolling within the AOR, road repair

works at inaccessible places, special patrolling in rubber / palm plantations and at illegal mining sites, special patrol with law and order on any issue and conducting various programs as part of civil military cooperation. It is one of the effective means for maintaining law and order because of its inherent deterrent effect. In all the three contingent location BANBAT has well fortified check points for checking various types of vehicles that includes taxi cabs, goods



Maj Md Khalid Hassan, AC

carrying lorry, container carrier etc. It also prevents smuggling thus contributing to overall economy of Liberia. Patrolling as show of force is one of the prime events for any force operating under Chapter 7 of UN duty. It not only ensures maintenance of law and order but also augment security situation at rubber plantation and various mining sites.

World's two largest rubber plantations are located in Liberia which are in the area of responsibility of two BANBAT contingents. Ethnic clashes, grouping between the former soldier groups and worker union's unlawful demands to the plantation authorities made the situation volatile.

Logging / timbering and iron ore mining contributes second largest foreign currency to Liberian economy. Presently a ban for export on these sectors is still in effect and BANBAT is tasked to safeguard these resources. Basing on the nature of threat check points and camps and places are established to monitor the illegal transportation. Like other West African neighbor Liberia

is also blessed with gold and diamond under its earth surface. Before the war she had an organized exploration by the foreign investors which used to take place in various mining sites of the country. These days illegal extractions are still taking place by the locals and it is one of the indicators that might contribute negatively in the ensuing peace process. To guard against such unwanted episode BANBAT put their extra efforts by carrying out Helicopter / foot / long range patrolling at far flung and deep interior of the country. Beside the routine patrols all three Bangladeshi Contingents and Force Reserve

Company have to carry out frequent APC borne special patrol on various occasions.

Special security and guards are also provided to cover any VIP visit and for monitoring any movement / protest organized by different groups.

BANENGR contingent have definite success in construction and maintenance of major roads and tracks in Liberia. Most of these roads are unrepaid and demands constant repair work especially during rainy season. Due to their relentless efforts all the main supply routes could be made open for the force and other UN agencies as well. A BANENGR construction plant is maintaining Road, Gbanga-Zoror, one of the major road in Bangladeshi sector. Civil military cooperation is one of the key indicators in implementation of the peace process. In this regards three Bangladeshi contingents have earned outstanding reputation among the general populace. Construction of school building, imparting training on various technical subjects like carpentry, masonry, tailoring, computer training and elementary training on basic farming are worth while to be mentioned. Beside this BANNED also provided free

treatment to the locals as part of sensitization program. Thereby it's a matter of pride for all members of BANBAT for their efforts that has made a distinction between other troops contributing nations in UNMIL.

Liberia has border with three of its neighboring countries. Out of which border with Guinea and Cote D'Ivoire is found to be porous and most of the crossing takes place following indigenous means. There is no custom or immigration post in most of the crossing sites. There is no record keeping of persons visiting in or going out of Liberia. The situation get further tensed during any unrest caused around border causing inflation of good number of refugees on both the sides. To prevent from such happening, BANBAT carry out daily routine patrol at border, especially at identified crossing points. They also carry out concurrent patrolling with neighboring UN force operating across the border.

Liberia is a country with full of natural resources and scenic beauties. Improper leadership and long lasting civil war has not only jeopardized the nation's economy but also affected them socially with their traditional values. BANBAT is putting their best in recovering them from such "Black Hole" and till today they are claimed to be most successful among all the contingents of other countries. If anyone has the opportunity to visit Liberia in future may be as part of UNMIL or as sightseer, should not be astounded hearing... "Hay Bangla Goo Fay, me no choo choo, please give me foo, I beg you (Hi Bangladesh Good friend, I have no food, please give me food, I beg you)". We all should be swollen with pride of such reputation earned by the BANBATs for their dedication, hard work and life risk efforts.

NAVY IN THE INDEPENDENCE WAR OF BANGLADESH A REVISIT TO HISTORY

Through the epic struggle of 1971 Bangladesh emerged as a free nation in the world map. The contributions of naval personnel before and during the war occupy a special chapter in the history of struggle for Bangladesh. The naval operations not only destroyed a number of coastal and ocean going vessels, but also made the ports and bridges unsafe for merchant shipping and troops for movement respectively. These operations shattered the morale of the occupation forces and contributed in the ultimate victory by compelling Pakistani forces to accept full complicity.

The history of naval involvement in the movement of liberation of Bangladesh dates back to year 1958 when Lieutenant Moazzam Hossain (Later Lieutenant Commander) formed the nucleus of a 'Revolutionary Group' in Karachi with three other sailors of PNS HIMALAYA. Naval Steward Mujibur Rahman was made the treasurer to raise the fund and work as media. This 'Revolutionary Group' was later joined by politicians, tri-services personnel, bureaucrats and civilians and made a viable "Revolutionary Organization". Out of 33 active members of this organization six were naval personnel.

The active involvement of naval personnel in the War of Liberation began with the defection of eight Bengali Submariners from the under construction Pakistan Navy Submarine PNS MANGRO at Toulon Submarine base of France. Following the crackdown of 25 and 26 March, A W Chowdhury (later BU, BB and a Commodore of BN) collected the passports from the Captain's safe to set for on 31 March 1971. A grace entry failure to Switzerland put them into deep frustration. They were soon put to their lives when a newspaper declared such a grace entry into Spain that allowed them to Madrid via Barcelona. The Indian Embassy in Barcelona was prompt enough to arrange their journey to India by 10 April. The traumatic week was marked by the apprehension attempt of Pakistani authorities in Spain, Geneva and Rome. While Pakistan authorities were busy awarding their death sentences, the submariners were receiving special training between 25 April and 15 May, after which they moved to Kolkata in quest of Volunteers for 'Suicidal Operations'.

Besides the above sailors another 8 sailors serving in Pakistan Navy were on leave in East Pakistan. They crossed the border and moved to Kolkata and were chosen for organizing 'Gunboat Actions'. Enroute two camps were established for training: Camp No-2 Plessey in short C2P for Naval Commandos and Camp No-2 Haldia in short C2H for Gunboat crews. The Camp wise charters of training were as under:

Commando Squads based on the vision of General M A G Osmani as "the duration of Liberation War will greatly depend on the success of naval commandos. On completion of this training suicidal squads will be formed. Those who are not willing to die, may abandon the training". Thus the Commandos were to sign a bond written as "I am taking part in this training with a pledge to dedicate my life for liberation of the country. No one will be responsible if I die during the operations of war". Through a rigorous training C2P prepared 515 Naval Commandos for operations by August 1971.

C2H, C2H was to train the crew for manning gunboats PADMA and PALASH. The time available was not enough to prepare the fresh recruits or sailors for Command and watch duties. Thus the sets of officers were taken from Indian Navy (IN).

Sector-10, a special one, falling within the periphery of sectors 1,2,3 and 9 was designated for water borne operations.



Captain AM Quamrul Huq, (ND), afwc, psc, BN

Commander-in-Chief General M A G Osmani himself was the Commander for this sector. The operations were to be conducted from Bangladesh forces Headquarters and coordinated by the local sector Commanders.

The naval Commando Task Force (TF) was divided into four Task Groups (TG) located around Chittagong, Chalna, Narayanganj and Chandpur. Each TG had four Task Units (TU) and each TU had 10 Task Elements (TE) with three frogmen. The naval Commando operations were carried out in two different phases. In the first phase 'Operation Jackpot' was conducted on night 15-16 August by 178 Commandos. In the second phase the operations were carried out sporadically by small commando groups where independent groups would select own targets and missions, would make out and execute plans for themselves. Between 15 August and 25 November the naval commandos conducted about 45 operations, of which the operations of which only three failed. Most interestingly 'Operation Jackpot' on 15-16 August was conducted through radio to arrive synchronization. On 13 August 1971, the song of Ponkaj Mollik "অনি কৈলাস বড় পলিগোলাস গান" broadcast by Akashbani Kolkata substituted for the order "Prepare for Operation". On 15 August 1971, the song of Shandhya Mukhopadhyaya "অবলম্বিত পুষ্কর জলকে ঘেরা নদী" substituted for the order "Go for operations". The Operations Jackpot alone took 23 vessels at Chittagong, Chalna, Chandpur and Narayanganj and compelled General Tekka Khan, the

Governor General of East Pakistan to physically visit Chittagong who stand released and arrested the Pakistani senior naval officers and sentries. According to Lloyd's calculation the naval commandos sank total 50,000 tonnage and damaged 65,000 tonnage of shipping, destroyed about 75,000 metric tons of arms and ammunitions and about 1,00,000 metric tons of other goods. As a result the foreign shipping companies increased their war-risk insurance from five Shilling to one Pound sterling and 20 percent risk pay for the crew. Further 1000 dollars were required to be paid as risk money for every one day in port. The results were rather far reaching since as a follow up of those on 05 October Pakistani envoy in the UN admitted the existence of Commando actions by Bengalis in East Pakistan and on 12 October 1971 President Yahya accepted the losses by naval action in a nationwide address.

While the Pakistani forces were nose down at the fluidity and surprises of naval Commandos, the unfolding of gunboat actions yet added to their headache and new agonies. With the outbreak of war between India and Pakistan on 3 December, force

"ALPHA" was formed with two Bangladeshi vessels PADMA and PALASH and two Indian vessels MV CHITRANGADA and INS PANVEL. Commander M. N. Samal of IN was the appointed senior officer with instruction to liberate Khulna. Sailed from Kolkata Diamond harbour, force ALPHA carried out engagements and mining in the Pussur River approaches. The winning of Naval battles in the port approaches by early December added to the over enthusiasm of the Commander to reach the end state. This resulted a same side with Indian Air force fighters. PADMA and PALASH were bombed and a good number of crews including Shaheed Ruhul Amin had to accept martyrdom.

16 December marked the ultimate victory in all the fronts. In this success the beauty of the naval operations lying in the fact that, as multiplier those were instrumental in internationalizing the issue against Pakistan's 'no war situation' declaration and thereby helped exiled Bangladesh government to earn the valuable consensus of international community for the cause of liberation. The blockade imposed, both on overseas and inland shipping, deprived the occupation forces of all essential supplies so as to bring a still stand in economy and supply line that brought Pakistani forces on the terms of the liberation forces. A repetition long past histories again proved that the unique geography of Bangladesh will always seek for naval operations for her survival. The lessons derived over centuries including 1971, if ignored will be only at the peril of our national well being.

PEACEKEEPING EXPERIENCE OF BANGLADESH ARMED FORCES

Experience is the knowledge of individuals. It is an assembly of the men of experience in a particular field, which has become a dominating means of maintaining international security and peace in the post Cold War era. Bangladesh achieved her independence through a war, sacrificing the lives of three million people. We know the value of peace. Just after our independence we declared peace to be one of the principles of our foreign policy. Bangladesh desired peace not only for the sake of peace but also for the strategic consideration of development and security.

Bangladesh remains committed to peace, cooperation and prosperity. Peace is pre-condition for progress. Without peace, there can be no progress and no development. We are prepared to do everything possible to make the world a peaceful and happier place for the humanity. Bangladesh has proved that she could respond unhesitant at the call of the United Nations. Our determination for upholding the ideals of peace and security will remain ever unflinching.

The world today is in the threshold of a new century with the sweeping changes in the regional and global political landscapes. Even though the familiar forms of armed conflicts are on the decline, radically new ones are developing to take their place. Excessive proliferation of weapons, power politics, emergence of new world order etc have all allowed new actors such as religious fundamentalists, the international drug mafia, terrorists, subversive elements and anarchists to enter the world stage, who do not belong

to any nation-state.

We have witnessed in the last decades, how the violence, triggered by these groups, have de-stabilized the societies already ravaged by war, poverty, hunger and environmental degradation. Today, we see an alarming diversity of separatist wars, ethnic and religious violence, border dispute, civil upheavals and terrorist attacks shocking the world and rocking the nations. All these indicate the diversity of wars we are likely to confront in the days ahead. It is not easy to understand how varied tomorrow's wars are going to be, how increased diversity could complicate our future peacekeeping efforts. Under all these complexities, war planners and the peace keepers alike face the unprecedented complexity and uncertainty. Under the perceived imminent scenario, the peacekeepers are likely to encounter daunting challenges and difficulties in the days ahead.

Many of our practised methods for peacekeeping operations have been getting out of date. The armies and even the terrorist all over the world are racing to meet the realities of the twenty-first century. Peacekeeping, by contrast, plods along, trying to apply methods appropriate to living in the past. Everything we have seen so far is probably and anti-war alike, posing altogether new challenges for the peacekeepers and peacekeepers.

Today, peacekeeping has evolved as an internationally accepted way of controlling disputes and promoting peace. The United Nations Organisation has emerged as a strong organization with growing influence on international affairs and has committed herself in several countries in peacekeeping missions. The continuing success of United Nations on peacekeeping missions since it's beginning 60 years ago and it's greater acceptance by the nations have established the peacekeeping operation as a 'Driving Force' for establishing peace in the history of United Nations. With the increased demand on peacekeeping operation, Bangladesh has stretched her unhesitant hands, to support the peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the United Nations.

Bangladesh has made rich contribution and has been in

re-addressed. The United Nations must play more effective role in establishing peace in the world in general and troubled areas in particular.

In the recent past, the United Nations launched a number of peacekeeping operations in many troubled areas of the world. Thus far, with the exceptions of a few, peacekeeping operations, in general, have proved to be useful instruments for the containment and management of conflict. They can provide and have been providing the breathing space necessary for initiating a process towards the desired conflict resolution. But the probable future threats and emerging trends demand greater synchronization of our peacekeeping efforts to match the very type of conflict the peace keepers intend to deal with. It is experienced that the best way to strengthen the process of peacekeeping is to establish the

facilities and methods for concerted efforts based on multinational studies of the past and current practices and possible future trends. In this bid, much more can be done through the development of common doctrine, modus operandi, appreciation of the special skills and requirements of peacekeeping and above all by ensuring institutional training for the peacekeepers.

Peacekeeping operations are not a novelty but their sudden increase in the post-Cold War era is an event to note. Many of these operations are successful, a few not so successful, while some have

been continuing for years. The end of the Cold War has brought qualitative changes in international politics which in turn have brought changes in the nature of conflicts. Macro level rivalries and conflicts of the Cold War period have transformed into micro rivalries and conflicts. Places of inter-state conflicts have been taken over by intra-state conflicts of complex natures. These developments have brought changes in the nature and characteristics of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. The limited nature of the Cold War era peacekeeping operations have turned into multi-dimensional activities where a set of norms and values have undergone changes.

The changed situation of the post Cold War era has brought many countries to the forefront in peacekeeping operations; collectively and individually we have a rich experience in this regard. Bangladesh had the first chance to participate in a peacekeeping operation by sending her troops in 1988 to supervise the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. Since then she has been sending her best officers, troops and equipment to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Within this period of 20 years the excellent performance of Bangladesh peacekeepers and the quick responses of the government to the call of the United Nations have made her a major contributor in this regard. It will be rewarding to recall what Aristotle once observed, "Experience is not simply a matter of perceiving things, rather experience is, with a view to action".

Peacekeeping operations are not a novelty but their sudden increase in the post-Cold War era is an event to note. Many of these operations are successful, a few not so successful, while some have

been continuing for years. The end of the Cold War has brought qualitative changes in international politics which in turn have brought changes in the nature of conflicts. Macro level rivalries and conflicts of the Cold War period have transformed into micro rivalries and conflicts. Places of inter-state conflicts have been taken over by intra-state conflicts of complex natures. These developments have brought changes in the nature and characteristics of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. The limited nature of the Cold War era peacekeeping operations have turned into multi-dimensional activities where a set of norms and values have undergone changes.

The changed situation of the post Cold War era has brought many countries to the forefront in peacekeeping operations; collectively and individually we have a rich experience in this regard. Bangladesh had the first chance to participate in a peacekeeping operation by sending her troops in 1988 to supervise the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. Since then she has been sending her best officers, troops and equipment to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Within this period of 20 years the excellent performance of Bangladesh peacekeepers and the quick responses of the government to the call of the United Nations have made her a major contributor in this regard. It will be rewarding to recall what Aristotle once observed, "Experience is not simply a matter of perceiving things, rather experience is, with a view to action".



Wing Commander Kazi Abdul Moyeen