

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS-2009

Special Supplement

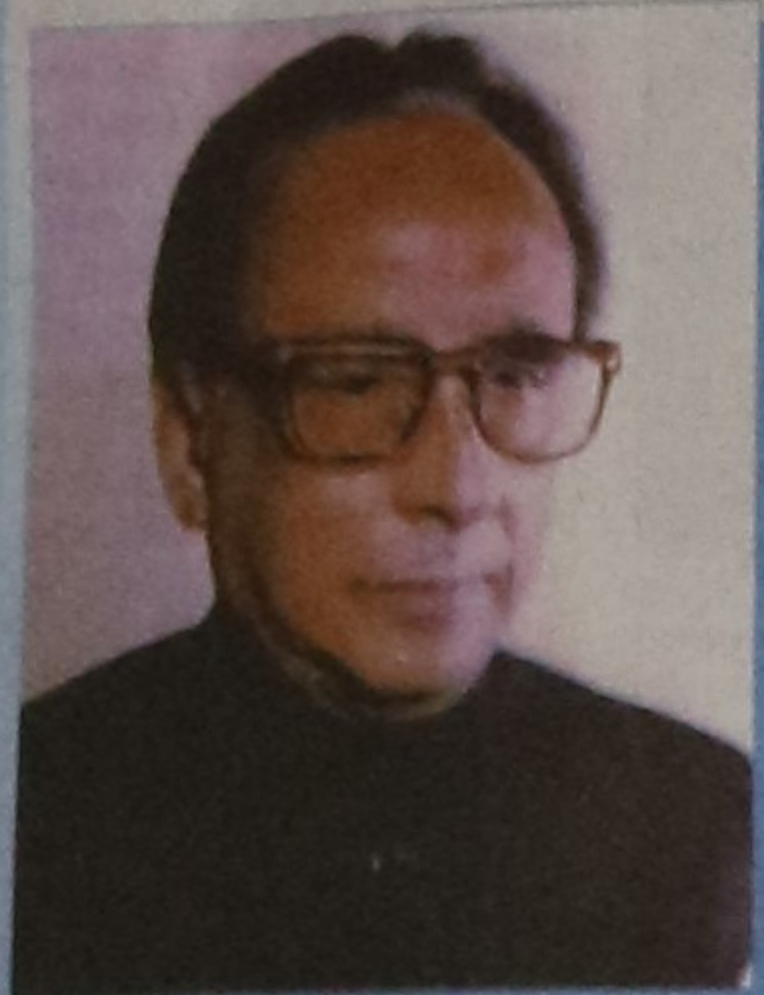
Coordinated & Organised by Bangladesh Navy

Cooperation : Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Police & UNDP

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MESSAGE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

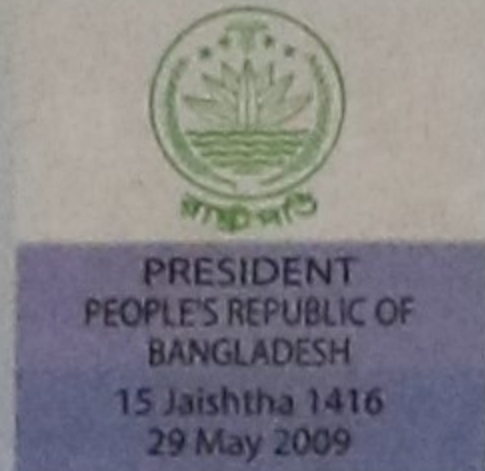


I am delighted to know that the 'International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers-2009' is being observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world on May 29, 2009. On this auspicious occasion, I convey my heartfelt felicitations to the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police, participating in different UN Peacekeeping Missions.

As a peace-loving country, Bangladesh always stands in favour of peace and tranquility. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Bangladesh peacekeepers have been contributing immensely towards global peace and stability in UN Peacekeeping Missions since 1988. In the meantime, our peacekeepers have elevated the image of the country in the international arena to a great height by displaying their highest standard of professionalism and dedication. On this solemn occasion, I pay my profound gratitude to the unfading memory of the peacekeepers who made supreme sacrifice during their duties in UN Peacekeeping Operations. I also express my deep sympathy to the bereaved families of the Shaheed families. 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-2009 a success.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH
15 Jaishtha 1416
29 May 2009

MD. ZILLUR RAHMAN

MESSAGE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



I am happy to learn that Bangladesh is observing the 'International Day of UN Peacekeepers' on 29 May 2009 along with other member countries of the United Nations.

On this occasion people of Bangladesh join me to pay their homage to all the 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 remember those who continue to defend and promote peace with courage and fortitude.

It gives me great satisfaction that Bangladesh, as a leading troops-contributing country, is at the forefront of the UN's relentless efforts in peacekeeping and peace building.

Nearly 9,500 members of our Armed Forces and Police Forces have been working in 13 missions in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean areas. I am proud of the role played by the Bangladeshi peacekeepers in the conflict-ridden regions of the world.

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.



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
15 Jaishtha 1416
29 May 2009

Joi Bangla Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever

SHEIKH HASINA

MESSAGE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Bangladesh joins the comity of nations in celebrating the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. On this occasion, I pay my homage to all men and women around the world who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of international peace and security. I also pay my tribute to the UN peacekeepers who have been in the line of duty. I congratulate all who have been serving in difficult circumstances in many conflict spots to secure a peaceful world for all of us.

We have always been an active and proud partner of the UN in meeting the challenges of international peace and security. We are a nation committed to peace, at home and around the world. Our vision for international peace and security was articulated by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his first speech at the United Nations General Assembly in 1974. He said, "The very struggle of Bangladesh symbolized the universal struggle for peace and justice. It was, therefore, only natural that Bangladesh, from its very inception, should stand firmly by the side of the oppressed people of the world." Bangabandhu reminded the international community of the value of maintaining international peace and security by saying, "Peace is an imperative for the survival of mankind. It represents the deepest aspirations of men and women throughout the world."

Bangladesh's participation in UN peacekeeping, also stems from her constitutional commitment to uphold peace, freedom and justice across the globe. The glorious sacrifice of the Bangladeshi nation during our War of Liberation greatly influenced our national commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security. Our participation in UN peacekeeping is also a tool in implementing Bangladesh's foreign policy objectives.

Bangladesh's association with UN peacekeeping has been long. Since late 1980s, more than eighty-one thousand UN peacekeepers from Bangladesh have participated in 45 peacekeeping operations across the globe. They have earned accolades from the international community for their professionalism, integrity and efficiency.

Bangladesh's commitment to global peace, however, has not been without a price. Ninety one of her brave men have lost their lives in the service of international peace and security. I recall today, with deep sense of gratitude, their supreme sacrifices.

I congratulate the members of the Armed Forces of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Police and others involved in UN Peacekeeping Operations for their contribution to world peace and security. On this International Day of UN Peacekeepers, I reaffirm our Hostile Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government's commitment to peace and security. Together with the international community, we shall continue to work for a world which is free from poverty, illiteracy and hunger, where we and our future generations can live in peace, prosperity and dignity.

DR. DIPU MONI, MP

MESSAGE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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-2009'. 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 Bangladesh peacekeepers began in 1988, and thereafter Bangladesh never looked back. Presently Bangladesh has stepped into the 21st 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, three Bangladeshi contingents in United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) and United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Sudan and one additional infantry company in United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), are being newly deployed. We lost 82 comrades for the noble cause of peace. 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.

GENERAL MOEEN U AHMED
ndc, psc

MESSAGE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



I am deeply delighted and proud on the occasion of 'International UN Peacekeepers Day-2009' to note that the brave sons of this soil are firmly committed to establish peace in the world. Despite various adverse and hostile situations faced in Mission areas, the Armed Forces personnel have not only brightened the image of Bangladesh in the international arena but also brought honour and dignity through patience and supreme sacrifice.

I revere those immortal martyrs who strove hard under UN umbrella and made supreme sacrifice for establishing peace world over. May Allah shower divine peace upon those departed souls. I heartily congratulate all those who engaged in duties in the Mission areas. I also felicitate those who are making strides committing their own life to usher peace and stability in Ivory Coast, Congo, Georgia, Liberia, Western Sahara, Afghanistan and other countries.

I pray to Almighty Allah for good health and bliss of all officers, sailors who are presently serving in UN Mission including their families. I firmly believe that, they will continue to maintain world peace and earn good name for the nation. On this auspicious day, may peace spread out all over the world. May Allah accept our all noble endeavour. Amen.

REAR ADMIRAL ZAHIR UDDIN AHMED
(ND), ndc, psc

MESSAGE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



The valiant soldiers of Bangladesh Armed Forces have been making immense and invaluable contribution and cooperation in the international arena for about last two decades shouldering the noble responsibility of maintaining world peace. The supportive and pro-active role of the peacekeepers of Bangladesh Armed Forces to bring peace in war-torn regions of the world is crowned with glory. Bangladesh Air force is proud to be an active participant of this noble efforts.

In response to the UN mandates, the peacekeepers of Bangladesh Armed Forces have reached the trouble-torn regions of the world with the message of peace and stability. They have made history of heroism and ushered an ambience of peace through their dedication, professionalism, discipline, compassion, and exemplary commitment. A good many soldiers of Bangladesh Armed Forces have sacrificed their lives for establishing world peace. On this 'International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers-2009' I would like to pay my highest tribute with great honour and gratitude to those members of our Armed Forces who have sacrificed their lives for restoring peace in the war-torn countries of the world. I pray for the salvation of their departed souls and express my condolence to their bereaved family members. Their sacrifice will last forever as the milestone in the history of world peace which will inspire the next generations.

I appreciate the endeavour of highlighting the significance of the day through publishing special supplement in the national dailies. On this precious day, I also express my heartfelt felicitation to all the members of the Armed Forces of Bangladesh and their family members. May Allah bless us all.

AIR MARSHAL SM ZIAUR RAHMAN
ndc, fawc, psc

MESSAGE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



It gives me immense pleasure that International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is being observed today, 29 May 2009, with the joint collaboration of Bangladesh Armed Forces, Bangladesh Police and UNDP, Dhaka. A host of programmes have been undertaken to commemorate the day in a befitting manner that will manifest Bangladesh's contribution towards international peace.

The day has great importance and significance to Bangladesh especially, the Armed Forces. Bangladesh Armed Forces have been playing significant role in United Nations peacekeeping operations. This effort has been repeatedly lauded by the international community. In fact, Bangladesh is constitutionally pledge bound in respect of international peace.

Since 1988, Bangladesh Armed Forces have been actively taking part in international peacekeeping operations under United Nations without any cease. The UN peacekeeping efforts have been successfully carried out with the professionalism, skill and crisis management ability of our Armed Forces. In recognition of this commendable service, Bangladesh stands as one of the leading peacekeepers contributing countries. This is no exaggeration to the fact that, Bangladesh emerges as a country of peacekeepers.

At present 8,445 and 964 peacekeepers respectively from Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police are participating in peacekeeping operations in 13 missions located in 12 countries around the globe. So far, Bangladesh has participated with 81,415 peacekeepers in 45 missions around 30 countries which is unique in terms of UN peacekeeping records.

While participating in UN peacekeeping operations, 86 members from Armed Forces and 5 members from Police had to embrace martyrdom. Apart from them, 106 peacekeepers from Armed Forces sustained injuries. Nevertheless, we firmly stand by our constitutional pledge for international peace and security.

On this occasion, I recall the sacrifice and contribution of the peacekeepers with great respect. I also pay homage to the departed souls of the martyred peacekeepers and express my sincere feeling and sympathy to their bereaved families. I hope, the UN will continue its international peace efforts to ensure a peaceful and livable world for our future generation.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MD ABDUL MUBEEN
ndc, psc

MESSAGE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



I am happy to know that the Police/Troops Contributing Countries along with the international communities are observing May 29 as 'International Day of the United Nations Peacekeepers 2009'. It is matter of delight to see its colourful celebration in Bangladesh.

On this propitious occasion, I humbly pay my highest tribute to those peacekeepers who laid down their lives for the cause of international peace and humanity. UN peacekeepers now-a-days contribute in multi-dimensional humanitarian activities to alleviate the sufferings of hapless victims of internecine conflicts between ruthless contenders.

Since 1989, Bangladesh Police has been participating in peacekeeping operations of the United Nations. It is a great honour that Bangladesh Police has the highest number of police personnel serving in different UN peacekeeping operations. Our police force is contributing a great deal to diffuse tensions among the conflicting parties by performing law-enforcement functions and national capacity-building activities.

I wish this celebration a grand success.

NUR MOHAMMAD

MESSAGE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Since its establishment by the General Assembly in 2002, the International Day of Peacekeepers is observed annually on 29 May. On this day, we pay tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations, courageously helping countries torn by conflict create the conditions for durable peace. We also honor the memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this cause. In the last year more than 130 peacekeepers from 42 countries lost their lives in our operations around the world.

For the past six decades, United Nations peacekeeping has evolved into one of the main tools used by the international community to manage complex crises that threaten international peace and security. The number of countries that now contribute police and military personnel has reached 120, an all time high and more than 110,000 men and women serve as peacekeepers. In this year's celebration we are paying special tribute to them, those women who play a vital role in the success of our work in the field. Their participation bolsters the strength of UN operations in more ways than one. In 2000, the UN Security Council adopted its landmark Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. For the first time in an omnibus resolution, the Council recognized that women bear the brunt of armed conflicts, and should have a commensurate role in their prevention and resolution.

The resolution stressed the importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Among its many recommendations, the resolution called for an expansion of the role and contribution of women in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including in military, police, and civilian roles, as well as in positions of leadership. Peacekeeping has evolved from its traditional role of monitoring ceasefire agreements and borders between sovereign States to carrying out large scale multi-dimensional peacekeeping operations often addressing civil wars. These newer missions are mandated to facilitate political processes through the promotion of national dialogue and reconciliation, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants, support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights, promote reform of the domestic security sector, and assist in restoring the rule of law.

These expanded responsibilities make the need for more women peacekeepers more pressing than ever. In all of these fields, women peacekeepers have proven that they can perform the same roles, to the same standards and under the same difficult conditions, as their male counterparts. In many cases, women are better-placed to carry out peacekeeping tasks, including interviewing victims of sexual and gender-based violence, working in women's prisons, assisting female ex-combatants during the process of demobilizing and reintegration into civilian life, and mentoring female cadets at police academies.

Adding to the value of this contribution, female peacekeepers act as role models in the local environment, inspiring, by their very example, women and girls in the often male-dominated societies where they serve. Demonstrating to these women and girls that they can do anything in the realm of politics, security, law and order, medicine, journalism and beyond - the female blue helmets truly embody the concept, "Power to Empower."

As the Head of the department of Peacekeeping Operations, I am deeply aware of how dependent the UN's peace endeavors are on reliable troop contributions from our member states. I would therefore like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the country of Bangladesh, which has been a top provider of well-trained military, police and other personnel for many years. The value and quality of Bangladesh's support makes your nation an esteemed participant in the global partnership of UN peacekeeping. I am committed to continue to work with Bangladesh and deepen this partnership in years to come and I would certainly like to see more Bangladeshi women joining our efforts.

ALAIN LE ROY

MESSAGE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Today we celebrate the remarkable history of UN peacekeeping, stretching back to the first mission in 1948, and over the next decades covering a total of 63 missions. More than 110,000 men and women are currently deployed in some twenty peacekeeping operations around the globe. Carrying the signature blue helmets, they are taking part in what has become a flagship enterprise of the UN: a multinational force in the service of peace and stability.

For many people around the world, the blue helmets define the UN and the values embodied in the organization. The participation of many nations helps ensure the neutrality and legitimacy of a mission, which in turn are important for its success. On this day, the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, we honor the men and women serving in these missions. They are the backbone of the UN's peace endeavors. We also pay tribute to those who have served, and fallen, in earlier years. The professionalism and commitment showed by subsequent generations of blue helmets are the UN's most important strength, our greatest pride, and a manifestation of concrete cooperation across borders. We pay our respect to the nations that have contributed to these historical efforts.

As the Representative of the UN Secretary General in Bangladesh, I am proud to say that Bangladesh has consistently been one of the UN's top contributing countries, currently fielding more than 9,200 troops, police officers, and military observers. They include many women, and they together serve the UN on four continents. I am particularly pleased to note that Bangladesh not only contributes manpower and technical skills, but also leadership, with several Bangladeshi nationals holding senior positions in UN peacekeeping, including the Force Commander position in Liberia.

Bangladeshi blue helmets continue to serve with distinction, dignity and courage. Over the years, their service has become a hallmark of Bangladesh, a reputation internationally recognized and highly esteemed, not the least in the villages and towns where Bangladeshi blue helmets deploy. I am confident that Bangladesh will continue to be a dedicated and reliable partner for the UN in future decades.

I think the Government of Bangladesh for this most precious, invaluable contribution to peacekeeping and peacebuilding around the world.

RENATA LOK DESSALLIEN