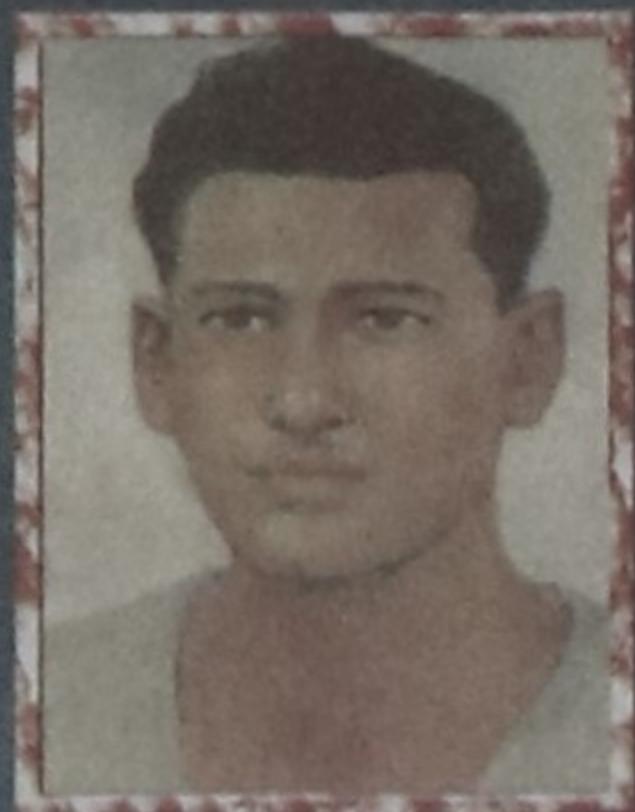


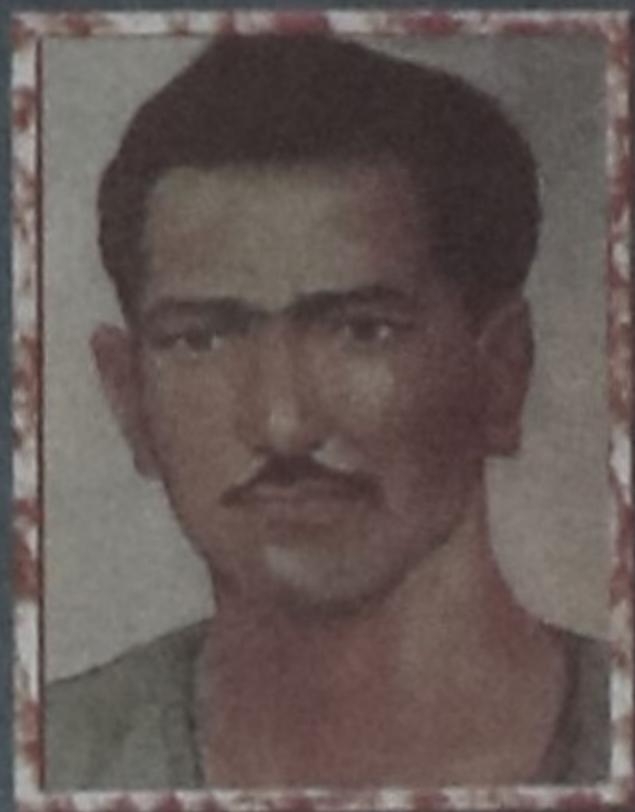
THE VALIANT SONS OF OUR SOIL-WE WILL EVER REMEMBER YOUR SUPREME SACRIFICES



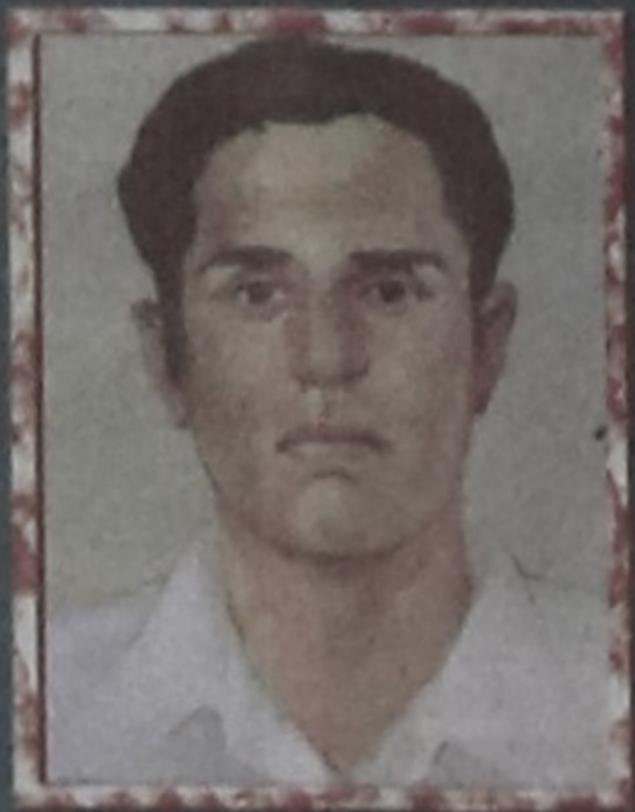
Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir, Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Sepoy Mostafa Kamal, Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Sepoy Hamidur Rahman, Bir Sreshtho



Shaheed Engine Room Artificer 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

Bangladesh Armed Forces in Versatile Role

(From Supplement Front Page)

A devastating cyclone called "Aila" hit the south west coastal areas on 25 May 2009. Army as usual promptly went to the affected areas in Potuakhali, Khulna and Shatkira, and relocated its asset to the help of cyclone victims. Responding to the call of humanity two Army coordination teams reached the spots amid serious inclement weather followed by two more units, an Engineering team and a Medical team. They launched rescue and relief operations and provided medical support there. A contingent of 600 manpower, 20 mechanized light water transports and several water purification plants were relocated at the cyclone hit areas. A huge chunk of beribandhi (embankment) at Soronkhola (Bagerhat district), and Shamnagar and Ashashuni (Shatkira district) were severely damaged by the cyclone. Army was given the responsibility to repair the torn beribandhi including monitoring of food grains and cash distribution. Likewise, Naval and Air Force assets were also involved for the transportation of relief materials in the inaccessible areas.

However, in 2007 the other cyclone "SIDR" massively hit the southern coastal parts of the country. There too, Armed Forces made gigantic efforts in terms of conducting rescue and relief operations. They also endeavored to reach the inaccessible areas in search of cyclone victims. Naval vessels provided drinking water among the SIDR victims while Air Force helicopters were used for primary disaster assessment. Within a short time Air Force with the help of Army was able to prepare a forward air base at Barisal Airport that, in fact, greatly facilitated the joint relief operations with US Marines. Apart from humanitarian assistance, Armed Forces equally give importance of participating in infrastructural development projects for nation-building efforts. Here a few projects were cited with a view to understanding its interest in the development of the country. In Dhaka city, Army

CHT Peace Accord.

is implementing the project for 11 km long link road between Dhaka Airport Road and Mirpur Cantonment; Hatirjheel and Begunbari Khal development projects etc. The projects are scheduled to be completed by 2010. However, the 2.6 km long road connecting Dhaka Airport Road with Rokeya Sonori built by Army is already in operation with smooth traffic.

Army also plays a huge role in the development of road communication network around Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Its Special Works Organization (SPO) is presently implementing the following projects:

Md Shaheenul Islam
Deputy Director
Civil and Military Relations Directorate
Armed Forces Division



Chimbuk-Thanchi Road; Rangamati-Chondraghona-Bangalhala-Bandarban Road; Bangalhala-Rajestholi Road; Alikodom-Thanchi Road; second phase of Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive; Bagaihat-Masalong-Sajek Road; Dighinala-Chhotomerung-Changchhori-Longadu Road; Khagachhori-Dighinala-Bagaihat Road; Chittagong-Hathajari-Rangamati Road etc. Army has also expertise in building river bridge. A 3-span bridge (length 427.6 ft. and width of 32.9 ft.) over River Ichhamoti named as Ranirhat Bridge at Rangunia at the Rangamati-Chittagong Highway is constructed by Army, so far its longest one. The construction of bridge cost BDT 83 millions while the estimated expenditure was BDT 120 millions.

Apart from dealing with security, and law and order around Chittagong Hill Tracts, Army conducts socio-religion and humanitarian assistance too, such as, establishment of religious harmony, repair of religious shrines/installations, house building and financial assistance for disaster victims, medical treatment and so on. These welfare oriented jobs conducted by the Army will verify the success of the implementation of

found in the erosion points the existence of a number of deep holes beneath the whirlpool. In the meantime, Army was deployed to check further damage and to repair the damaged embankments. With Army deployment people of that locality had a sigh of relief.

There is another fact to note that Armed Forces involve in dealing with industrial management a bit in respect of resurgence of some state owned sick industries. For example, while Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory and Khulna Shipyard appeared losing, government gave

Army and Navy respectively the responsibility to turn them into profitable ones.

They made a commendable success in the management of those industries. In line with this success, government later gave Navy one more challenges in terms of running the Narayanganj Dockyard. The contribution to UN peacekeeping by Bangladesh Armed Forces is praised and recognized worldwide. They are successfully playing the role since 1988 that enabled Bangladesh to contribute maximum number of peacekeepers to UN missions. At present, among the top 10 Armed Forces

[NB: Statistics and information used in this article are mostly from AHQ, NHQ and Air HQ]

People, Government And The Armed Forces

"War is nothing but a continuation of political intercourse, with a mixture of other courses"-wrote Clausewitz, in his master piece "On War". Yet the common people think of the war within its military context alone but in reality it is otherwise. The character of warfare in a period is shaped much more by the politico-socio-economic and cultural contexts than by military dimension alone. All these fields render significant bearing on the nature, purpose and conduct of warfare and also on the linkage amongst them. Clausewitz called this linkage a Paradoxical trinity with three aspects: the people, the commander and his Army, and the government. The people have to do with the nature of war, the military with the conduct of war, and the government with the purpose of war. This trinity found its relevance more in modern era when war has embarked into its fourth generation.

The fourth generation marked the most radical change emerged out of the modern politico-socio-economic and international realities. From what happened to USA in Vietnam or for that matter to former USSR in Afghanistan, nations could realize that the physical aggression to and the occupation of another country is the most uneconomical and impractical option in modern international environment. The process of realization is

still continuing in Iraq and Afghanistan. This realization coupled with other factors set forth for a new pattern of fourth generation warfare that aims to impose will on the enemy without waging a direct combat. It was revealed that a targeted country could be forced to comply with own terms

through exploitation of its vulnerabilities in collaboration with the vested groups and non state actors working both inside or outside the state. Objective is to destabilize the politico-socio-economic infrastructure of a country and to annihilate its national will, moral or cohesion among its people, government and the armed forces. This, in turn, forces the targeted country into a "Failed State" disintegrated enough not to resist external threat. Fourth generation warfare may, therefore, start and continue for long in peace time and end with a conventional war when targeted state is in total disintegration. Referring to this nature of warfare, William S. Lind in his article titled as "The changing Face of War: Into the Fourth Generations" stated "The distinction between war and peace will be blurred to the vanishing point. It will be

Lt Col Md Jaglul Ahsan, Arty



countering this type of war will, therefore, depend heavily on unity, cohesion and effective joint effort of all departments of the government, be it military or civil, and on solidarity of all segments of the people facing the fourth generation warfare. The more the mistrust, rift and inconfidence prevail or can be created among the people, government and armed forces of a country, the more vulnerable it becomes to this overall design. Not only because crisis of larger magnitude and dimension may be waiting to bang on us soon or later but mostly because this will urge greater cohesion and unity among the people, government and the armed forces to fight it against and to uphold the national entity. Let the Armed Forces Day instill such cohesion and unity amongst all of us to stand united against the already launched fourth generation warfare on us.

Our Armed Forces Our Pride

(From Supplement Front Page)

After independence, a new journey began with small but bold steps towards rebuilding the military power. It was a period with the inclusion of 4th generation MIG-29 fighter aircraft were added to our fleet. The transportation capacity of Air Force was enhanced by including a medium lift strategic C-130 aircraft and a number of MI-17 helicopters in 2001. To mark quick progress.

The reorganising process of Army began by placing three regular brigades of Liberation War, namely Z, K and S Forces at Comilla, Jessor and Dhaka respectively. The raising of rest of the headquarters, units, supporting establishments and installation including their training subsequently got underway considering the initial brigades as nucleus.

While visiting Bangladesh last year, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon gratefully acknowledged the role of Bangladesh Armed Forces in UN peacekeeping operations and said "... you are contributing to peace and better lives everywhere you go". Many of world leaders expressed the same impression about Bangladeshi peacekeepers on different occasions. Recently, US President Barack Obama highly lauded the role of Bangladeshi peacekeepers saying that they have enhanced the prestige of UN.

With education and training, skill and modernity, professional excellence and dedication, humanitarian and democratic values, and above all Armed Forces stand on the solid foundation of professionalism. Being involved with versatile nature of experience at home and abroad Bangladesh Armed Forces have earned nation's confidence and appreciation as well as international recognition. They are the inseparable part of the nation.

Emanating from this population they are nurtured in the matrix of state. Therefore, to the best of their ability Bangladesh Armed Forces lay their assets and services to the welfare of the people.

The brutal killing of the Father of the Nation and his family by a few disgruntled Military personnel changed the scenario in August 1975. Prolonged engagement in the counter insurgency operation in the hill tracts, problems of border demarcation with Myanmar in the nineties, political unrest and absence of democratic environment slowed down the overall progress.

The development process got momentum in 1996 again. On assuming the portfolio of Defence Minister Sheikh Hasina emphasized on

building a strong, modern and effective Armed Forces. She undertook a pragmatic approach for the immediate and long term development of the defence forces encompassing all spheres.

In 1996 decision was taken for strengthening Armed Forces to meet the strategic requirements. Accordingly in 1998 the first composite brigade of Bangladesh Army was raised at Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (BJMB) area. Another Infantry Brigade was raised at Sylhet to enhance the defence of North-Eastern part.

With the formation of these two brigades, vacancies of about five thousand officers and men were created. The second infantry regiment year. So far 1,087 students both civilian and military have obtained degrees in MBA, Engineering and MBBS from these institutes.

This period is also marked as an era of development for Bangladesh Navy. BNS Bangabandhu the avant-garde frigate of Bangladesh Navy was commissioned in 2001.

This battleship commands respect from other navies around the globe. Its inclusion has enhanced the capability, confidence and credibility of Bangladesh Navy. In addition to this, five other naval ships were incorporated in our Navy during this period. The Coastguard also commissioned a new ship named CGS Ruposhi Bangla in 2001.

Khulna Shipyard in full swing. A number of ships and patrol crafts have been produced under the management of Navy. In 1999, the Air Force was entrusted with the responsibility of maintenance of Tejgaon Old Air Port. As a result Air force has gained confidence in maintaining and overhauling their own aircraft.

The journey of Sena Kallyan Sangstha also marked steady progress since 1996. The



Major SM Saidul Islam, Sigs.

two long range three dimensional radar stations were established at Bogra and Moulovibazar.

In order to offset the infrastructural deficit of training ground and training facilities a military training area has been established at Trishal, 2 field firing ranges at Bandarban and Ghatail.

Besides, an air defence firing range has been established at Cox's Bazar. At Rajendrapur, Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation has been established to prepare our peacekeepers.

The training of Bangladesh Navy has been given due importance since 1996. The school of Maritime Warfare and Tactics established in the year 2000 has effectively enhanced the efficiency of the officers and sailors. The first Hydro Graphic and Oceanic Centre of Bangladesh was established in 2001.

Inclusion of FT-7 fighter and T-37 Z training aircraft in 1997 improved the operational capability including the training potentials of the fighter pilots. A Ground Controlled Interception Radar Simulator was set up in 1997 to train the weapon controllers of our Air Force. Since the

establishment of hypobaric altitude chamber in 1998, the hypobaric chamber training for the pilots is also being imparted in our country.

Defence Services Command and Staff College was the only institute for higher education of defence personnel till 1998. A massive improvement has been noticed in this field since 1998, when the National Defence College was established in January that year. Since then 267 senior Army officers as well as their civilian counterparts including 56 overseas officers have completed NDC and 157 officers have graduated in AFWC from this college.

In 1998 Military Institute of Science and Technology was established at Mirpur Cantonment. The Armed Forces Medical College was also established in the same year. So far 1,087 students both civilian and military have obtained degrees in MBA, Engineering and MBBS from these institutes.

With the stream of time all these institutes have been affiliated to Bangladesh University of Professionals raised in 2008.

Armed Forces have also been involved in the development of national economy since 1996. That year a scheme was taken to handover two sick industries, namely Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BMTF) and Khulna Shipyard to Bangladesh Armed Forces. Since taking over in 2001, BMTF has assembled more than 2000 vehicles, modified a huge number of transports and produced different types of tools and spares. Since 1999, CGS Ruposhi Bangla is running

Shortage of accommodation was a common problem for defence forces. To address the issue 12 bachelor officer quarter and a number of high-rise apartments were constructed for both officers and men in various cantonments. Besides, the four storied buildings were process of introducing a vertically expanded to number of avant-grade another floor. During that period medical treatment for modernizing defence facilities in CMH were forces is under way. Extended to the parents and Meanwhile contracts have been signed for in-laws of Officers and Men. The capacity of different CMH was enhanced. In Navy BNS BNS Uposhom was included. Steps have been taken to facilitate the medical treatment to the members of Khulna area.

In 1997 tiffin allowance was introduced for the soldiers of the ranks of Sergeant and below and in the next year guard allowance was introduced for the members of President's Guard Regiment. The ranks of the JCOs and soldiers of Bangladesh Army were also renamed as per international standard.

Bangladesh stepped into peacekeeping operations in the later half of 1988. The contributions of Bangladesh Armed Forces to this field have been globally recognised. The interactions and work experiences with the different Armed Forces have added extra edge to the efficiency and effectiveness of Bangladesh Armed Forces. So far over 87 thousand members of our Armed Forces have completed their assignments in 40