

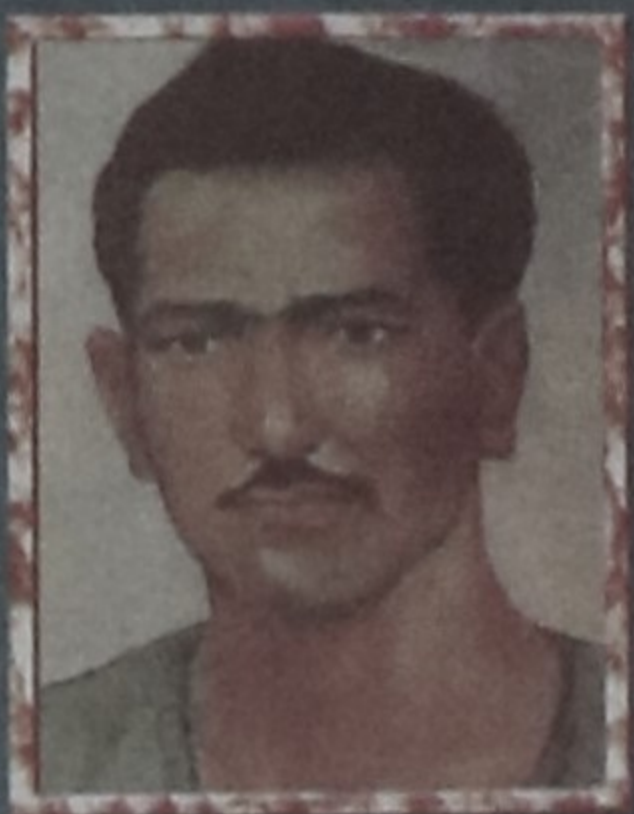
THE VALIANT SONS OF OUR SOIL-WE WILL EVER REMEMBER YOUR SUPREME SACRIFICES



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. Matur 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 Shatkhira, 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 beribandh (embankment) at Soronkhola (Bagerhat district), and Shamnagar and Ashashuni (Shatkhira district) were severely damaged by the cyclone. Army was given the responsibility to repair the torn beribandh 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

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 Soroni 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-Banghalia-Bandarban Road; Banghalia-Rajesthali Road; Alikodom-Thanchi Road; second phase of Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive; Bagaibhat-Masalong-Sajek Road; Dighinala-Chhotomerung-Changachhori-Longadu Road; Khagrachhori-Dighinala-Bagaibhat 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 shrines/installations, house building and financial assistance for disaster victims, medical treatment and so on. These welfare oriented jobs conducted by the Army will verily ease the successful implementation of

CHT Peace Accord. Needless to say, Bangladesh is the land of rivers. People's life and livelihood are heavily dependent upon its river system. Despite that rivers often appear all-devouring due to erosion that causes innumerable miseries of the people mostly living along the river banks. Recently on 10 July 2009, a chunk of about 150 meter of the town protection embankment at Sirajganj got devoured into River Jamuna. The erosion was so aggressive that it was almost in the way of swallowing the whole Sirajganj town. To find out the cause of the erosion, naval divers were immediately called in. They

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

around the world participating in UN peacekeeping, Bangladesh Armed Forces stands second position. According to the statistics updated till May 2009, as many as 8445 members of Bangladesh Armed Forces have been taking part in 13 UN Peacekeeping Missions deployed in 12 countries. However, Bangladesh so far contributed as many as 81415 of her Armed Forces to 45 UN missions in 30 countries. While discharging the peacekeeping duties 86 Armed Forces members embraced martyrdom and 106 sustained injuries. Nevertheless, they keep on participating in international peacekeeping with courage and valor.

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 Bangladesh 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 too.

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.

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

Our Armed Forces Our Pride

(From Supplement Front Page)

After independence, a new journey began with small but bold steps towards rebuilding military power. It was a gigantic task and a daunting challenge. In absence of a strong foundation and background, a painstaking process to rebuild the entire infrastructure was initiated from the scratch. However, with the initiative of the Father of the Nation it marked quick progress.

The reorganising process of Army began by placing three regular brigades of Liberation War, namely Z, K and S Forces at Comilla, Jessore 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.

Within next 3 years three small brigades of about 11,000 men rose to a strong Army of 50,000 personnel. Adequate steps were taken to modernize and re-shape the Navy as well. The first naval base of Bangladesh BNS Issa Khan was established in 1972. The Navy that was initially organised with two patrol boats and only 45 men expanded to a force of 3420 officers and men by 1975. The Kilo Flight formed with 3 grounded aircraft in 1971 soon expanded to Bangladesh Air Force with strength of 6728 personnel and modern aircraft like MIG -21, MI-8 etc.

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 called Bangladesh Infantry Regiment (BIR) was formed in 1999. The regiment now has 30 BIR units serving both at home and abroad.

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.

The potency and long arms of Bangladesh Air Force was also enhanced during this period with the inclusion of 4th generation MIG-29. Moreover, a number of FT-7 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 strengthen the air defence



Major SM Saidul Islam, Sigs.

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

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, Bangladesh Navy is running

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

Trust Bank was established in 1999. The Elephant Brand cement of Senakallyan Sangstha was launched at the same time. The project of Hotel Radisson Water garden, the best five star hotel of the country started off in that year.

Roti at lunch was a soar point for our troops from the beginning. Replacing roti by rice in the lunch menu was the first step towards raising morale of our troops. Authorization of telephone to the field officers in 1997 was another boost to the officers in general.

The long drawn insurgency operation in the Hill tracts ended on 22 December 1997 by signing the historic Peace Treaty with the Parbatya Chattagram Jono Shanhati Samity. 343 officers and men were so far killed in this operation. After returning to the plains the units got more opportunities to prove their worth in UN peacekeeping operations, disaster management and nation building activities. To keep up the promotion prospects, 50% extra vacancies were created against the UN assignments. As a result the vacancies of 22 Brigadier Generals, 10 Colonels and 24 Lieutenant Colonels were created in the army only. Similar posts were created in other two services in accordance with their strength.

Shortage of accommodation was a common problem for defence forces. To address the issue 12 bachelor officer's quarter and a number of high-rise apartments were constructed for both officers and men in various cantonments. Besides, the four storied buildings were vertically expanded to another floor. During that period medical treatment facilities in CMH were extended to the parents and in-laws of Officers and Men. The capacity of different CMH was enhanced. In Navy BNS Uposhom was included 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

peacekeeping missions over 31 countries. Besides honour and respect, they have added a good amount of revenues to our national economy, which is more than our accumulated defence budget during this period.

In 1975 after the killing of the Father of the Nation the history of our glorious Liberation got distorted. Bangladesh Armed Forces put up considerable emphasis in 1997 on discovering the real history of our glorious war. A number of research works were carried out during that period in various cantonment and bases. As a result Liberation War museums and sculptures were established in a numbers of garrisons. "Bijoy Ketan" the Liberation War Museum at Dhaka cantonment is one of the most informative liberation war museums in Bangladesh.

Inducting women in the armed forces was a great challenge for countries like Bangladesh. With the commissioning of Lady Officers in Bangladesh Air Force in 2000 Bangladesh stepped in to a new era. Later Lady Officers were also commissioned in Army and Navy. This was also a morale victory for the nation. This event paved the way for empowering women and ensuring their equal right. Today the Lady Officers of our Armed Forces are equally contributing to the Armed forces as well as to the nation. They are serving with honour and pride at home and abroad.

Since the birth Bangladesh Armed Forces always stood by the people in distress. The disaster management capacity of our Armed Forces has become the role model for many countries. Our Armed Forces also conducted disaster relief operations in China, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The development initiatives that began in 1996 have further accelerated after Sheikh Hasina assumed the portfolio of Defence Minister for the 2nd tenure in 2009. The development activities are now clearly perceptible within only eight months.

Proposals for increasing troops in peacekeeping missions and placing more number of officers in the policy making appointments of UNDPKO have been accepted in principle. The process of introducing a number of avant-grade armaments and equipments for modernizing defence forces is under way. Meanwhile contracts have already been signed for augmenting helicopter and automated missile to BNS Bangabandhu. Steps have been taken for improving and digitizing the training facilities of Bangladesh Air Force. To ensure uniformity among the three services the authorizations of army ration have been increased. Necessary steps have been taken for increasing pension benefits to the next of kin of the deceased retired personnel. The process of acquiring lands for DOHS for the officers and Senapalli for the troops has also been prioritized.

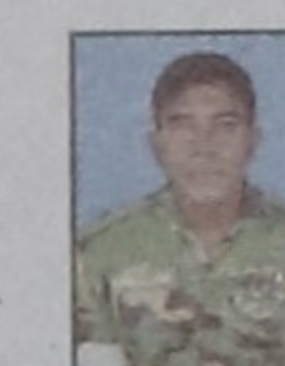
Bangladesh Armed Forces has come a long way since the days of its childhood. Its transformation from a nondescript entity to a credible defence apparatus has not been without its share of vicissitudes and trying times. As an institution, the Armed Forces are self-contained, with tremendous potentials to sustain growth, expansion and modernisation in totality.

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



Lt Col Md Jaglul Ahsan, Arty

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

nonlinear, possibly to the point of having no definable battlefields or fronts. The distinction between "civilian" and "military" may disappear.

Here we learn that that fourth generation warfare casts the civilian segment with equal importance, if not more, as it does with the military segment. Success of

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 in-confidence prevail or can be created among the people, government and armed forces of a country, the more vulnerable it becomes to this new pattern of warfare. The reason being if the armed forces who conduct the war are not in confidence of the government, who sets the purpose of the war, means will not produce the ends desired. On the other hand, if the people, who face the nature of the war, do not support the government or its armed forces both will lack moral power to fight. Fourth generation warfare will, therefore, always aim to grow mistrust and

inconfidence among these three vital elements of the nation what Clausewitz termed as the trinity of war. Agents, vested groups or collaborators are, therefore, planted in the politico-socio-economic and military institutions or for that matter among policy makers, intellectuals or media sector of the targeted country. Now the question is how far our country is subjected to or has already been affected by this new pattern of warfare?

Bangladesh being a third world country has innumerable vulnerabilities both at home and regional or international arena. Political divides, poverty, insurgency, extremism, drug trafficking, corruption or terrorism are few of the many of this nature. All these forced our country to a vulnerable stage suitable for our enemy to wage the war of fourth generation against us. We should, therefore, never lose confidence to each other on any sabotage launched in peace time as a part of 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.