

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS-2010

Special Supplement

BANGLADESHI PEACE-KEEPERS ARE DESIRED CHOICE FOR UN AND THE TROOPS RECEIVING COUNTRIES

In 1948 the United Nations' first peace keeping mission was deployed in India Pakistan border as United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). After forty years in 1988, Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to United Nations Peacekeeping Forces; incidentally in the same year Bangladesh Armed Forces personnel were deployed for the first time in UN peacekeeping operations in Iran-Iraq borders as United Nations Iran Iraq military observer group (UNIMOG). Since joining this elite force more than 82,985 of our armed forces personnel and 6,231 of our police personnel have served in 63 UN peacekeeping operations to ensure peace and stability in the war affected areas/countries around the globe. It is on one hand a success of our foreign policy which says "Friendship to all malice to none" and on the other hand courage, efficiency and professional competence of our military and police personnel, to be part of this international force. With the passage of time Bangladesh peacekeepers have earned the confidence and honour and considered as one of the desired for both United Nations and troops receiving countries.

cause of peacekeeping. **b. Discipline & Morale:** Bangladesh peace keepers are honest, sincere, disciplined and hard working. Their high morale and ethical values come from their family background, upbringing, quality in-service training, inclination in living communal harmony and liberal religious practices. Bangladesh troops are self respected, duty bound well trained military/police professionals who are courteous to local law and order, norms and practices of the area/country along with custom and



-Wing Commander Shafiqul Moslem Khan

etiquette. It is very encouraging to mention that in all the mission areas the statistics of road accident, SEA (Sexual Explanation & abuse) case, and misbehaviours with local communities or misappropriation of money and facilities Bangladesh peace keepers remain at the bottom of the list among the troops contributing countries.

c. Tolerance & Adherence to Rules of Engagement: Bangladesh peace keepers are tolerant in nature and adheres the rules of engagement procedure. They are very strict to mission standing operating procedure, considerate and agreeable with the local population. They believe in negotiation with warring factions and try to solve the problems cordially rather than using power and arms. That's why misuse of power, violation of human rights or rules

of engagement and misconduct with fighting forces and locals are minimal with Bangladesh peace keepers.

d. Tenacity & Professionalism: Bangladesh peacekeepers remain calm, quiet and ready to sustain any amount of pressure fashioned upon them. Wherever Bangladesh troops landed, right from the very first day, they were excellent for their detailed planning, timely preparation and scrupulous execution of any operation ensuring safety and security of the local population and property. This unique quality of tenacity & professionalism gave them upper hand among other peacekeepers engaged in similar type of operation.

e. Humanitarian & Social considerations: Bangladesh peacekeepers earned respect from all because of their humanitarian and social activities. They not only ensure peace and stability in war affected areas but also try to help local people and neighbourhoods

with fresh drinking water, free treatment with medicine, educate children, construct houses & roads and in cultivating vast unused lands. Sierra Leone is the vivid example for that; in honour of Bangladesh peace keeper's contributions they have adopted Bangladesh national language 'Bangla' as their second language. They have also invited Bangladesh farmers to transfer cultivation techniques to their farmers in Sierra Leone.

f. Winning the hearts and minds of local population: The very important aspects of confidence building among the local population and rival groups are to win the hearts and minds of the common people. Bangladesh peacekeepers' impartial attitude, soft & pleasing nature, amicable behaviour, agreeable and polite disposition towards all along with traditional Bangladesh food, cultural opulence and hospitality make Bangladesh peacekeepers illustrious in the mission area.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her speech in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 09, requested for appointing more Bangladeshis in the policy making levels of UN Peacekeeping Operations and different field level commanding posts. Her unique initiative and effective participation has brought, following success:

- One senior military officer from Bangladesh joined as Force Commander of UNOCI in Cote d'Ivoire on March 2010.
- One Engineering Construction Company consisting of 180 personnel in MONUC, D R Congo on Jan 2010.
- One Utility Aviation Unit along with One Movement Control platoon consisting of 104 personnel & three Helicopters in MINURCAT, Chad on Jan 2010.
- One Infantry Company of 175 personnel in UNMIS, Sudan Feb 2010.
- One additional Battalion consists of 850 personnel in



MONUC, D R Congo on Mar 2010.

Introduction: Bangladesh, one of the third world countries of South East Asia, is well renowned for its astounding contribution for the cause of world peace. The brave sons of soil, members of Bangladesh armed forces have raised the prestige and honour of their country in the world forum with their performance as United Nations Peacekeepers, lovingly known as the 'Blue Helmets'. Among many of the elements of ill fortune for the country, they are one of few who are constantly bringing name and fame for the nation. The Bangladesh Army has been actively involved in a number of United Nations Peace Support Operations (UNPSO) for last three decades. Its first deployments came in 1988, when it participated in two operations- UNIMOG in Iraq and UNTAG in Namibia. Later, as part of the UNIKOM force deployed to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia following the Gulf War the Bangladesh Army sent an infantry brigade. Since then, the Bangladesh Army has been involved in up to thirty different UNPKOs covering as many as twenty five countries. These include Namibia, Cambodia, Somalia, Uganda, Rwanda, Mozambique, Liberia, Haiti, Tajikista, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Georgia, East Timor, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire Ethiopia and former Yugoslavia.

As of March 2010, Bangladesh is ranked second in terms of its contribution to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, with 99,646 personnel (military and police) attached to various UN peacekeeping forces worldwide. In most of the peace keeping missions Bangladesh Contingents and observers have proved their worth by promptly meeting the requirement of the particular situation and place. There are number of occasions where the credible efforts of Bangladesh peacekeepers have earned the praise and appreciation of world forum. The performance of Bangladesh's contingents has been described as being of the highest order and the appointment of several senior Bangladesh military officers as the Commander of UN peacekeeping

BANGLADESH IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Background and relevancy: The first half of the last century has been a of chaos period. The world suffered two world wars with more than million deaths. The horrors of these wars finally convinced that peace was too precious a commodity to be left to the machinations of a few. After the First World War, the League of Nations was indeed created of maintain peace, but it was essentially an Anglo-French-American formulation that sought or retain their colonial interest under fancy names and institutions. It was then time to construct a better mechanism to maintain world peace. The United Nations (UN) organization was the result of



Capt Farhana Akter

The United Nations Charter was signed by 50 countries at San

Francisco on 26 June 1945. The United Nations established its first Emergency Force (UNEF-1) after the Suez war in 1956. The term 'Peacekeeping' was, however, formalized in February 1965 when the UN established a special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

Background of Bangladesh in UN peacekeeping Operation: Bangladesh is one of the few countries of the world that contributes troops to UN peacekeeping operations regularly now. It was only in 1988 that she sent her troops abroad in United Nations Iraq Iran Military Observer Group (UNILMOG) for first time

INTRODUCTION:

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, or UNIFIL, was created by the United Nations, with the adoption of Security Council Resolution 425 and 426 on March 19, 1978. The first UNIFIL troops were deployed in the area on March 23, 1978; these troops were reassigned from other UN peacekeeping operations in the area (namely the United Nations Emergency Force and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force Zone). During the occupation, UNIFIL's function was mainly to provide humanitarian aid. Beginning in 1985, Israel scaled back its permanent positions in Lebanon, although this process was punctuated by brief invasions and bombings, as in Operation Accountability in 1993 and Operation Grapes of Wrath in 1996. In 1999, Israel undertook a withdrawal, which concluded in 2000 and enabled UNIFIL to resume its military tasks. Until July 2006, despite numerous minor violations of the withdrawal line, the so-called Blue Line, including sea and air violations, and occasional breaches of the ceasefire, some of them very serious, the situation in the area remained relatively calm. The focus of UNIFIL operations remained on the Blue Line and the adjacent area, where the Interim Force sought to maintain the ceasefire through patrols, observation from fixed positions and close contact with the parties. The mission continued to provide humanitarian assistance to local population. Clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance in southern Lebanon also gained additional momentum. In September 2006, Lebanese Prime Minister forwarded a letter of invitation to the UN, setting the stage for a maritime force within the UNIFIL. The Security Council renewed the mandate of the UNIFIL with the resolutions in August 2007, 2008 and 2009. In that letter, the UN was requested to provide a Maritime Task Force (MTF) to assist the Lebanese authorities. The naval task force was

established in order to prevent unauthorized entry of arms or related material by sea into Lebanon until such time the Lebanese naval and security forces are able to fulfil these tasks. However, it is mentionable that Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has personally requested the UN Secretary General to deploy Bangladesh Navy Ship in UN



Lt Cdr M Reza Shah Pahlabi, BN

Peacekeeping Mission during the 59th General Assembly of the United Nations. As result of which, two Bangladesh Navy ships, ie; BNS OSMAN and BNS MADHUMATI have started their journey towards UNIFIL.

Participating Navies: Ten countries have either committed ships, are currently active in MTF under UNIFIL, or have offered support to MTF under UNIFIL in some way.

BANGLADESH NAVY IN UNIFIL: UNIFIL MTF is the only maritime mission in the world which started in 2006. In continuation of that mission and request of UNHQ, Bangladesh Navy prepared her two capable ships to undertake the said maritime mission in early 2009. On completion of preparation and training, Bangladesh navy had undergone a suitability test carried out by high UN officials in early 2010. Subsequently, BN ships could successfully prove her capability, worthiness and preparedness. Finally BNS OSMAN and BNS MADHUMATI have sailed for Mediterranean to join MTF under UNIFIL on 12 April 2010.

Mission and Task of BN: BNS as part of MTF will conduct Surveillance and Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) in order to provide assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces - Navy (LAF-N) in preventing the unauthorized entry of arms and arms related material by sea into Lebanon and enhance LAF-N capabilities for them to be able to conduct all the related maritime security duties within their TTW on their own. Following tasks are assigned:

- Conduct Maritime Interdiction Ops to prevent the flow of illegal arms and military Equipment into Lebanon.
- Conduct Reconnaissance in the Area of Maritime Operations (AMO) and the surrounding area of the AMO to assist Lebanese authorities to fulfill their security responsibilities in own TTW.
- If requested by Lebanon, MTF is to conduct boarding Operations against suspected vessels in Lebanese TTW.
- Conduct training to enhance and maintain mutual understanding and facilitate LAF-Navy.
- Contribute in the scope of capabilities and on a non-interfering basis with tasks related to UNIFIL Air picture over South of Lebanon.
- Contribute to UNIFIL Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance.
- Co-ordinate naval assets of UNIFIL Troop Contributing Countries inside the Lebanese TTW for the rotation of ground troops and equipment co-operating with the LAF-Navy.

Operations: **MTF Organization.** The present MTF organization consists of CTF (Commander Task Group) 448 which is having operational control on 3 task groups. The MTF is also overall responsible to UNIFIL Force Commander, through Military Chief Of Staff (COS). BNS OSMAN is expected to join with CTG 448.01 and BNS MADHUMATI with CTG 448.03. The operating Area is divided into 4 zones. Following are the distance of zones:

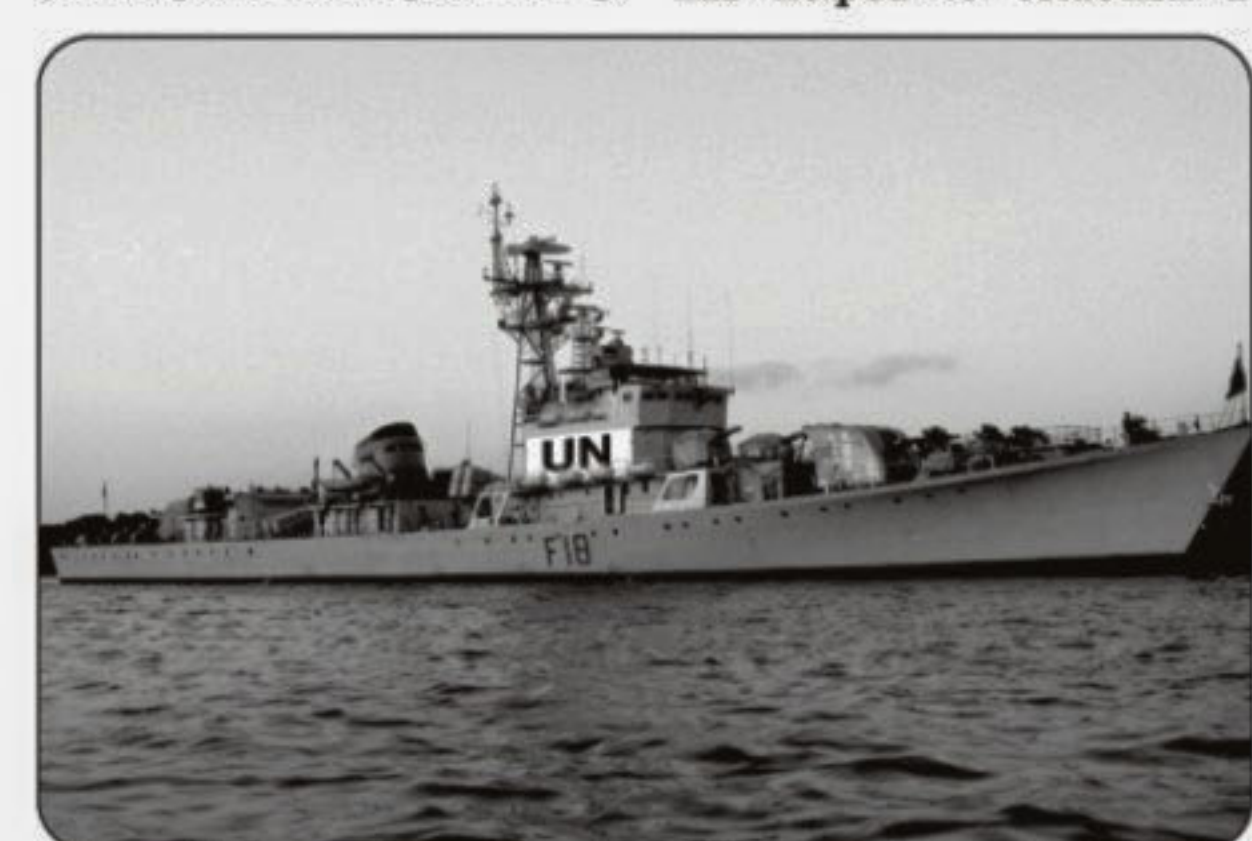
- Zone 4- (0-6 nm).
- Zone 3- (6-12 nm) (For

squadron ships. ie. BNS MADHUMATI) c. Zone 2 - (close to Israel border). d. Zone 1- Beyond 12 nm.(For Frigate. ie.BNS OSMAN)

Revenue for Government by BANGLADESH NAVY: Bangladesh Navy shall bring revenue for the government every year as follows:

S.NO	ITEM	REVENUE (IN TK)(for one year)
1	SHIPS	92,69,93,900
2	EQUIPMENTS	11,08,15,320
3	PERSONNEL	27,63,26,100
4	TOTAL	131,41,35,620 (One thirty one crore forty one lac thirty five thousand six hundred and twenty taka only)

CONCLUSION: Following the July/August 2006 crisis, the Council enhanced the Force and decided that in addition to the original mandate, it would, among other things, monitor the cessation of hostilities; accompany and support the Lebanese armed forces as they deploy throughout the south of Lebanon; and extend its assistance to help ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons. However, as it had been demonstrated more than once over the years, periods of quiet along



the Blue Line were often followed by episodes of hostilities, with one of the incidents across the Line

resulted in the killing and wounding of United Nations military observers. Tensions between the parties did not at any point appreciably diminish. Hostile rhetoric remained the norm, and stability continued to be threatened. Following the cessation of hostilities, the gradual

withdrawal of the IDF forces and deployment of Lebanese troops, the first elements of the expanded UNIFIL were deployed with record-breaking speed for any peacekeeping operation of such complexity, with battalions from France, Italy and Spain arriving to the area of operation by 15 September, and joining the contingents already in place from Ghana and India. The quick and effective deployment of the MTF under UNIFIL has been critical in preventing a recurrence of hostilities in Lebanese sea frontier and has helped to establish a

new strategic military and security environment in southern Lebanon.

BLUE HELMETS FROM BANGLADESH- THE CREAM OF UN PEACEKEEPERS

missions and Senior Military Liaison Officers, may be seen as further recognition of the Bangladesh Army's growing esteem in the peacekeeping community.

As a part of her endeavor for world peace, the country has sent number of contingents to Liberia. The relentless effort of the contingents and observers has enabled them to reinstate peace and order in the war torn country. Besides peacekeeping activities, the blue helmets also undertook numerous vocational projects that enhanced the knowledge and confidence of people of all ages to drive their country forward. In this paper a humble effort is made to bring about a few of the appreciative remarks rendered for the Bangladesh peacekeepers deployed in Liberia.

UN Envoy in Liberia Commends Bangladesh Peacekeepers for Helping Liberians Achieve Food Security: On February 11, 2009 the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Ellen Margrethe Løj commended the contribution of Bangladesh peacekeepers when she awarded UN peacekeeping medals to over 2,000 Bangladesh military peacekeepers serving in the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Commending the Bangladesh peacekeepers for demonstrating strong support for Liberia's objective to improve its economic conditions, SRSG Løj singled out two agricultural projects being executed by the Bangladesh peacekeepers in Bong and Nimba counties. Commenting on her visit to one of the farms, the UN Envoy said, "I was impressed not only with the size and scope of the farm and its produce, but with the commitment of our Bangladesh military colleagues and the pride of the beneficiaries in being a part of such an important venture." Ms. Løj urged Liberians to

emulate the example and grow their own food.

Later, UN Envoy Løj paid tribute to Bangladesh for being one of the first countries to respond quickly when the UN needed peacekeepers to come to Liberia in 2003 to quell the civil war and laid a wreath at the peace monument in memory of Bangladesh peacekeepers that lost their lives in the search of peace. Thanking the



Major Md Shariful Islam

Bangladesh Contingent, for their "spirit and determination, and the pride and honor" with which they have represented their country, she noted that their "tasks as engineers, patrol men and women, medical and agricultural professionals encompass your peacekeeping responsibilities." She pointed out that the peacekeepers, besides their peacekeeping duties, had helped in the settlement of land disputes that could have resulted into potential conflict, and also provided vocational training to Liberians, as well as support to local government authority.

element of concern among the military personnel, because Bangladesh had no experience in such undertakings. But fortunately, Bangladesh's performance in the very first mission was a great success. This was highlighted by the appointment of one Bangladesh Brigadier, first as the Assistant Chief Military Observer (ACMO), and later as the Chief Military Observer (CMO) in the same mission. As a result of the UN recognition received, Bangladesh troops gained a lot of self confidence, and Bangladesh was next offered to participate in United Nation's Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia. It was the first time in UN's history that peace building was incorporated along with traditional peacekeeping.

Assignments Completed by Bangladesh

SLNo	Name Of Mission	Observers	I/O staff	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total
1.	UNIMOG (Iraq)	25	31	-	-	-	31
2.	UNTAG (Namibia)	25	-	-	-	-	25
3.	UNTAG (Cambodia)	31	7	965	-	-	1003
4.	UNOSOM (Somalia)	5	-	-	-	-	5
5.	UNOMUR (Uganda/Rwanda)	20	-	-	-	-	27
6.	UNOSOM II (Somali)	-	21	1946	-	2	1969
7.	ONUMIG (Mozambique)	56	84	2328	14	39	2521
8.	UNAMIR (Rwanda)	107	29	854	7	15	1012
9.	UNMIH/MNF (Haiti)	-	39	1901	51	52	2043
10.	UNIKOM(kuwait)	93	-	3116	3	67	3279
11.	MINURSO (W.sahara)	35	-	-	-	-	35
12.	UNPROFOR (Yugoslavia)	148	13	1239	12	25	1437
13.	UNOMIL (Liberia)	42	-	87	18	21	168
14.	UNOMIG (Georgio)	33	-	-	6	5	44
15.	UNMOT (Tajikistan)	28	-	-	2	2	32
16.	UNAVEM III (Angola)	30	22	413	7	6	478
17.	(Croatia/Bosnia)	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Total	684	215	12,849	128	234	1410

Factors Influencing Bangladesh's Participation in UN peacekeeping: Factors influencing increased participation of Bangladesh are many. First Factor-Praiseworthy

Performance: Praiseworthy performance of our forces has received wide publicity in the UN circle. Few factors are noteworthy. Bangladesh military personnel have been found, in comparison to even many western forces, highly

disciplined. Bangladeshis, specially the officers, have the advantage of knowing English quite well. Thus, they can communicate with most people of many countries. See the Supplement Page 03