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 Forces; Peacekeeping 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 (UNIIMOG). 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 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have earned the confidence & honour and considered as one of the desired

for both United Nations and

Presently more than 90,000 UN

troops receiving countries.

peace keepers are engaged in different conflicting zones in Africa, Asia, Central America and Europe - highest in the history of peace keeping operations of UN. It is interesting to note that the permanent members of the Security Council have a vital role to play for peace keeping and peace support operations episode. Security Council generally adopts a resolution; on the other hand UN also needs consent of troops receiving countries to allow peacekeeping troops in their territory. Once agreed upon by all the stakeholders, only then detailed proposals relating to troops compositions & contributing countries, financial implication, political, social and logistic aspects including legal implications and rules of engagements are laid down, which also require approval of permanent members of Security Council. After all these formalities the peacekeeping forces can be deployed. At present Bangladeshi troops' are maximum among the troops contributing countries. The other major troops contributing countries are Pakistan, India,

Bangladesh could create and ascertain her position maximum troop's contributor in international community and has emerged as one of the desired country for both Security Council permanent members and troop's receiving countries for following reasons:

Nigeria, Nepal, Rwanda, Ghana,

Jordan, Egypt and Italy.

a. Courage & Dedication: Generally peacekeepers are exposed to unfamiliar terrain and conditions, and political environmental uncertainty; above all high risk factor of being attacked by parties/factions. warring Bangladeshi troops are courageous and dedicated enough towards their duty. This was proven in many crisis periods especially during Kosovo crisis in Bosnia in 1993 and Rwanda genocides in 1994 where most of the peacekeepers left the conflict areas. Bangladeshi peacekeepers remained in their place of duty and tried to stop those genocides even at the cost of their lives. Till now a total of 91 Bangladeshi peacekeepers (86 military and 05 police) had laid down their lives for the noble

cause of peacekeeping.

Discipline & Morale: Bangladeshi 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. Bangladeshi 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



Shafiul Moslemeen 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 and facilities money Bangladeshi peace keepers remain at the bottom of the list among the troops contributing

c. Tolerance & Adherence to of Engagement: Bangladeshi 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

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

d. Tenacity & Professionalism: peacekeepers Bangladeshi remain calm, quite and ready to sustain any amount of pressure fashioned upon them. Wherever Bangladeshi 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: Bangladeshi peacekeepers earned respect from all because of their social humanitarian and activities. They not only ensure peace and stability in war affected areas but also try to help local people and neighbourhoods MONUC, DR Congo on Mar

This additional Bangladeshi peace keepers in four more missions were deployed during last four months which made Bangladesh highest contributing country in UN peace keeping operation. In addition, a Frigate & an Offshore Patrol Vassal (OPV) consisting of 320 naval personnel deployed for the first time in UNIFIL, Lebanon. US President Barrack Obama during his meeting with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in not only enhance the prestige of Bangladesh but is also an honour for the UN. Bangladeshi peacekeepers are accepted by all world leaders and have earned this trust and confidence as one of the most desired choice for ! UN peacekeeping operations.

contributions they have adopted Bangladeshi national language 'Bangla' as their second language. They have also invited Bangladeshi farmers to transfer cultivation techniques to their farmers in Sierra Leone.

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 Bangladeshi peace keeper's

Bangladeshi impartial attitude, soft & pleasing and Operation Grapes Bangladeshi food, cultural UNIFIL to resume its military opulence and hospitality make ! tasks. Until July 2006, despite illustrious in the mission area.

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

from Bangladesh joined as Force : to Commander of UNOCI in Cote d' Ivory on March 2010. b. One Engineering Construction

Company consisting of 180 personnel in MONUC, D R Congo on Jan 2010.

personnel & Chad on Jan 2010.

d. One Infantry Company of 175 personnel in UNMIS, Sudan Feb

consists of 850 personnel in

WHITES UNDER BLUE HELMET AND BANGLADESH NAVY'S JOURNEY TOWARDS UNIFIL established in order to prevent Mission and Task of BN: resulted in the killing and

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 other peacekeeping operations in the area (namely the United Nations Emergency Force and the United Disengagement Nations Observer Force Zone). During the occupation, UNIFIL's f. Winning the hearts and function was mainly to provide minds of local population: humanitarian aid. Beginning in The very important aspects of 1985, Israel scaled back its confidence building among the permanent positions in Lebanon, local population and rival groups ! although this process was are to win the hearts and minds i punctuated by brief invasions common people. and bombings, as in Operation peacekeepers' ! Accountability in nature, amicable behaviuor, Wrath in 1996. In 1999, Israel agreeable and polite disposition undertook a withdrawal, which towards all along with traditional . concluded in 2000 and enabled

peacekeepers • numerous minor violations of the withdrawal line, the socalled Blue Line, including sea 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 One senior military officer parties. The mission continued provide humanitarian assistance to local population. Clearance of mines and

additional momentum. In September 2006, Lebanese Prime Minister forwarded a c. One Utility Aviation Unit letter of invitation to the UN, along with One Movement setting the stage for a maritime Control platoon consisting of force within the UNIFIL. The three . Security Council renewed the Helicopters in MINURCAT, 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. One additional Battalion The naval task force was

unexploded ordnance

southern Lebanon also gained

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 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-UNIIMOG in Iraq and UNTAG in 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 UNPKO's covering as many as twenty five countries. These include Namibia, Cambodia, Uganda, Somalia, Mozambique, Liberia, Haiti, Tajikista, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Georgia, East Timor, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire Ethiopia and former Yogoslavia.

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 UN headquarters on September i missions Bangladesh Contingents and said that Bangladeshi observers have proved their worth by peacekeepers under blue helmets prudently meeting the requirement of the particular situation and place. There are number of occasions where the credible efforts of Bangladeshi 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

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 BNS and MADHUMATI have sailed for Mediterranean to join MTF under UNIFIL on 12 April 2010.

BN 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: a. Conduct Maritime Interdiction

Ops to prevent the flow of illegal arms and military Equipment into Lebanon. b. 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.

c. If requested by Lebanon, MTF is to conduct boarding Operations against suspected vessels in Lebanese TTW.

d. Conduct training to enhance maintain mutual understanding and facilitate LAF-Navy.

e. Contribute in the scope of capabilities and on a noninterfering basis with tasks related to UNIFIL Air picture over South of Lebanon. f. Contribue to UNIFIL

Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. g. Co-ordinate naval assets of

UNIFIL Troop Contributing Countries inside the Lebanese TTW for the rotation of ground troops and equipment cooperating 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 a. Zone 4- (0-6 nm).

b. 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:

Following the cessation of hostilities, the gradual REVENUE (IN TK)(for one year) 92,69,93,900 11,08,15,320 27,63,26,100 131,41,35,620 (One thirty one crore

threatened.

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

S.NO ITEM SHIPS **EQUIPMENTS** PERSONNEL TOTAL 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 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

withdrawal of the IDF forces and deployment of Lebanese troops, the first elements of the expanded UNIFIL were deployed with recordbreaking 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 effective quick and 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



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

Minister, Etmonia Tarpeh, Commends

new strategic military and security environment in southern Lebanon.

naintenance. It was soon to add nursing,

fish farming, hatchery, poultry, beef

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 Bangladeshi peacekeepers deployed in Liberia. UN Envoy in Liberia Commends

Bangladeshi Peacekeepers for Helping Liberians Achieve Food Security: On February 11, 2009 the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Ellen Margrethe Loj commended the contribution of Bangladeshi peacekeepers when she awarded UN peacekeeping medals to over 2,000 Bangladeshi military peacekeepers serving in the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Commending the Bangladeshi 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 Bangladeshi 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 Bangladeshi 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

Later, UN Envoy Loj 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 Bangladeshi peacekeepers that lost their lives in the search of peace. Thanking the



Major Md Shariful Islam

Bangladeshi 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

Bangladeshi Peacekeepers: Bangladeshi peacekeepers, besides enforcing peace in the civil war torn country, also worked to equip the Liberian youth with the essential skills of nation building. The first graduates from by Bangladeshi contingent established a vocational skills training centre established in Gbarnga in Liberia. The thirty-two (32) participants, mostly young men and women, received basic training in computer skills, masonry, tailoring and embroidery. Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Liberia's Youth and Sports Minister, Etmonia Tarpeh, commended the efforts of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in equipping Liberian youth with essential skills for the rebuilding of the country. The graduation ceremony was attended by government officials including Speaker of the House of Representatives, Bong County Superintendent, Bong County Senator and the President of Cuttington University, Dr. Henrique Tokpa, as well as community members.

The minister commended telling the members Bangladeshi contingent, 'You continue to inspire our people to strive for peace, unity and hope for a better future; for this, we are very grateful'. The minister reminded the people of the county that the Bangladeshi soldiers deprived themselves of many things and contribute out of their individual pockets to build the centre. She urged the people of the area to manage the facility well so that the development of the area could proceed at a faster rate. The Vocational Training Centre in Gbarnga, which forms part of an educational and recreational complex constructed by the Bangladeshi peacekeepers, offerd training in computer, tailoring, carpentry, electric wiring, welding, and generator repairs and

Assignments Completed by Bangladesh

Observers

fattening and handicraft to the courses offered. Instructors for the courses were drawn from the Bangladeshi Contingent. During the occasion the 60 years old political head of the district said 'The computer course I took will help me perform my work well as an administrator, he further stated 'As a district commissioner, my participation in this course will send signals to the youth and children of my area of the importance of education,' he added, 'for a young man, the skills received would help him, be part of the global world which is fast advancing in

Price to pay: As a result of its contributions to various UN peacekeeping operations, up to ninty eight Bangladeshi soldiers have lost their lives so far. The leader of Bangladesh contingent to Namibia UNTAG Lieutenant Colonel Md. Faizul Karim died in Windhoek, Namibia in 1989. He was the first Bangladeshi officer who died on a peace-keeping mission abroad. Conclusion: Bangladesh Armed Forces

continues to play its pivotal role in making of world peace. Besides earning huge amount of remittance in foreign currency it is earning name and fame for the country. In some of the remotest corners of the planet this small and poor country is respected for the deeds of it brave soldiers. Echoing with the ever growing reputation, US president Mr Barak Obama said during a summit meeting on UN peacekeeping, Bangladesh has not only enhanced her own prestige but also the prestige of the United Nations through the policing of peace. The same effort is well known and duly recognized in the financial arena of the country. However it is felt that, there is still room for improvement in the wide publicity of the matter in the country. Deliberate media coverage, articles in news papers or simply talk shows in the TV highlighting the contribution in the financial aspect of the country can be useful in this regard.

HO staff Army Navy Air Force Total

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

those agonizing experiences.



The United Nations Charter was signed by 50 countries at San

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

the offer came from the UN, it was considered a question of great honor for Bangladesh. Since then, Bangladesh has participated in most UN mission, including observer mission, traditional peacekeeping missions, fighting a conventional war in peace enforcement, another second-generation peacekeeping assignment. Bangladesh had been the largest troop-contributing country for UN peacekeeping operations for several years. UNIMOG being the first such peacekeeping mission for Bangladesh, there was an

following the long drawn war

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.

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, Bangladeshi 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.

Sl.No Name Of missions This was highlighted by the

CHARLES	THERE OF MINISTORIS	Chacklera	110 300	722	2 144.7	TAIL TOLGE	
1.	The Man Control of the Control	UNIMOG (Iraq)	31		-	-	31
2.	UNTAG (Namibia)	25	-	140	-	27-27	25
3.	UNTAG (Cambodia)	31	7	965	- 3	-	1003
4.	UNOSOM (Somalia)	5	-	-	-	-	5
5.	UNOMUR (Uganda/Rwanda)	20	-	1.0	8,71	0.70	27
6.	UNOSOM II (Somali)		21	1946		2	1969
7.	ONUMO (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	88	-			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	2	32
16.	UNAVEM III (Angola)	30	22	413	7	6	478
17.	(Croatia/Bosnia	(*	-	(2)	1	270	1
	Total	684	215	12,849	128	234	1410

UN peacekeeping: Factors received wide publicity in the influencing increased participation of Bangladesh are noteworthy.

Influencing Performance: Praiseworthy Bangladesh's Participation in performance of our forces has UN circle. Few factors are Bangladeshi military personnel have been found, in comparison to even First Factor-Praiseworthy many western forces, highly

disciplined. Bangladeshi forces, 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