

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS-2010

Special Supplement

## PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

(From Supplement Page 02)

**Second Factor-Well training on peacekeeping:** Most officers of Bangladesh forces are well trained on peacekeeping. It may be mentioned that the Defense Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) is perhaps the first of the staff colleges of the world that incorporated the study of peacekeeping in its syllabus in the early 1980s. Before proceeding on peacekeeping mission BOPSOT provide two weeks pre deployment training to on going contingent. The training includes lesson on handling computer, riot control, various rules regulation as per the requirement of the UN.

**Third Factor- Religious Advantages:** Factor that influence increased participation of Bangladeshi troops is the religion. Most of our soldiers being Muslims, Bangladesh forces are acceptable to all the Muslim countries of the world.

**Fourth Factor- Neutral Posture:** Bangladesh's neutral posture in the global politics is also a contributing.

**Fifth Factor- National Commitment:** This factor is our national commitment to maintain peace even if that involves risk. In comparison, many Western countries are not keen to send soldiers in high-risk mission because of their domestic political compulsions.

**Sixth Factor-Goodwill :** In most missions the Bangladeshi troops went out of their way to help the locals in terms of sharing UN ration, extending medical facilities, solving local problems, etc, while remaining above any question of misdemeanor. In all the missions, the Bangladeshi soldiers have thus been able to earn the goodwill of all the locals.

**Seventh Factor-Internal pressure within Military :** The factor is the internal pressure from within the military. Having started UN missions in 1988, there is a constant aspiration among the soldiers to go for UN mission because of higher pecuniary benefits. This has played a strong role in military's

willingness to commit more troops.

**Advantages and Disadvantage of Peacekeeping :** Bangladesh's participation in UN peacekeeping operations has many advantages and also a few disadvantages.

**Advantages:**

**Financially:** It benefits both the soldiers and the Government. Every country has different system of scale of pay and allowances. Since the UN cannot be trouble with such intricacies, it has a singular standard of pay for all the UN peacekeeper. It pays \$ 988 per month to all the military personnel regardless of rank and status. The Government makes savings from the pay of the troops in many ways. From the observers, the Government takes 10 percent of the pay. When the UN pays daily subsistence allowance (DSA) to the peacekeepers, the Government takes 25 percent of the amount. The Government also keeps the full amount of the UN pays in total

against pay allowances, and what the soldiers are actually paid.

**Politically:** The most important benefit of Bangladesh's in UN missions has been in the diplomatic front.



Firstly : Her exemplary performance in all the missions Bangladesh has not only earned a few good friends, but services on return. Having earned some amount of money

it also had its impact on the economic front.

**Disadvantages:** One disadvantage of those missions can be that many social evils of outside cultures may be imported. Happily, the Saul high standard of discipline has been able to put a curb to that tendency. Another tendency, although very insignificant, is the tendency of leaving the

Secondly : Having willingly participated in those missions,

through the UN missions, some of the soldiers did not find military service attractive any more. One of the problems that Bangladesh is facing in receiving the money is in the absence for contract with the UN in many instances. Normally, whenever their is any request by the UN, Bangladesh just sends its troops without signing any contract with the UN. But when the demand of money is raised, the UN staff often asks for the legal document a contract.

**Areas of Improvements:**

**Firstly.** A peacekeeping institute could be set up to provide event better training.

**Secondly.** All the functions of peacekeeping could be centralized under one ministry, preferably under the MOFA Bangladesh. To avail more and more missions, Bangladesh could solicit stronger lobbies both at the UN and at the diplomatic front. The Government could also ensure an internal political consensus to avail more missions. Even if those involve high risk and the units at home suffer a little in efficiency due to shortage of manpower.

**Financially.** peacekeeping missions benefit both the state and the individuals. In terms of pay and allowances, the troops earned more than \$ 181 million dollars so far, much of which enters the country as foreign exchange. In addition to the earning of foreign exchange, the government earns in two other ways from the savings of pay and allowances of the troops, and from the depreciation payment of the country-owned equipment.

**Conclusion:**

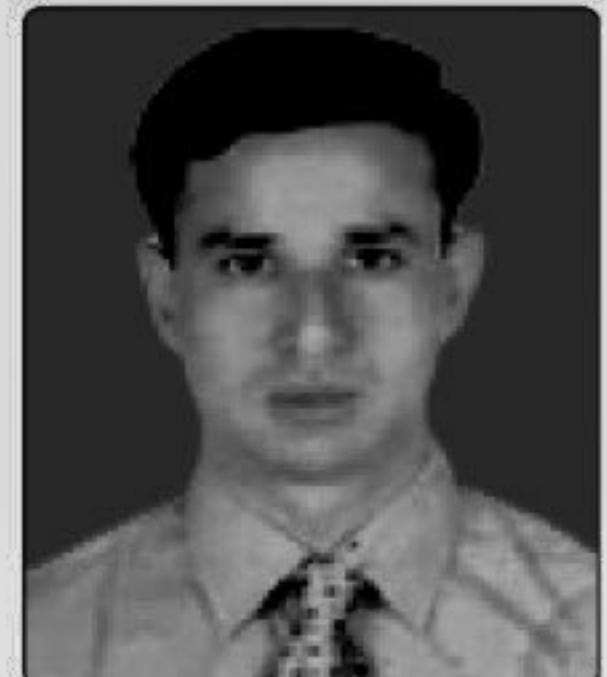
Bangladesh began to participate in UN peacekeeping operation since the 1988. Invitation to Bangladesh for contributing troops in peace mission coincided with the end of unpopular dimension of global power relations and beginning to rely more on the UN system for peacekeeping. That in turn, allowed the UN to undertake more number of missions. Peacekeeping is an area in which the military has turned to making peace, instead of war, played diplomatic roles in many significant ways and became a source of earning for the country. Although there is a trend of retrenchment in UN's peacekeeping undertakings, it is hoped that Bangladesh will continue to play a major role therein.

## UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: WHAT WE BRING BACK HOME

**Introduction:** The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 Oct 1945. Peacekeeping is one of the main activities of the United Nations for maintaining International Peace and security. It is a unique international partnership approach to prevent or remove threats to peace. Peacekeeping began in 1948 with so-called "classical" or "Traditional" operations that were largely militaristic in nature. Today the task of peacekeeping has become much more complex and multidimensional having a broader role in restoring public order in the host country. Furthermore the UN has taken initiatives for peace building instead of peacekeeping which is thought as conducive for attaining sustainable global peace. Peacekeeping has evolved as a practical mechanism to help contain armed conflicts and to assist in the settlement of disputes through peaceful dialogue and negotiation. In the post cold war era the United Nations was confronted with a significant change in the nature of conflict. Now the problems are intra-state conflicts or civil wars, in stead of wars between organized armies of two nations. Today's conflicts are typically internal struggles involving irregular forces, light weapons and guerrilla tactics. Civilians are also increasingly the targets of the

capacity to monitor human rights and to enforce law and order.

**Contribution of Bangladesh police to UN:** Bangladesh police has been contributing to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations since 1989. Till date 5013 police personnel have



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taken part in 18 UN peacekeeping missions. In 2005 Bangladesh set a standard by sending a Formed Police Unit (FPU) to UN peacekeeping mission in Ivory Coast. It unveils a wide scope for Bangladesh police to be deployed to the UN peacekeeping mission. At present Bangladesh has the highest number of police personnel deployed in UN peacekeeping operations. We have 12 FPUs and 276 UNPOLs

Hossain UNMIK (2000), Inspector Md. Monirul Islam Sarker UNAMID (2008), Head Constable Md. Showkat Ali, FPU, UNOCI (2009), ASI Md. Rafiqul Islam, UNAMID. They are awarded the Dag Hammarskjold Medal by the United Nations.

**Impact on national economy:** Bangladesh police has been contributing a lot to the national economy in terms of remittances in foreign currency that they earn from the United Nations. A police officer receives near about 48 thousands US dollar par annum as allowance. Apart from this Bangladesh government receives direct benefits of about 4 m US Dollar as reimbursement from the UN for one FPU deployed in mission. Since 2005 a total of 49 million US dollar has been earned by the Government of Bangladesh from the UN as reimbursement.

**National image building:** UN peacekeeping is a global partnership effort amongst the member states to achieve the global peace and security. By joining this international effort Bangladesh has been able to create it's national image in the international arena. The interaction of Bangladesh peacekeepers with other Peacekeepers from the different corners of the world and the people of the host country

home and abroad. Moreover after arrival in a mission area the officers are imparted different types of training related to the concept of democratic policing, community policing, human rights, code of conduct, cultural awareness, negotiation and mediations and prevention of sexual violations etc which stand them in good stead in their future career.

While working in UN peacekeeping operations our police officers get opportunity to acquire knowledge and skill in advanced technology and modern equipment that they use in mission area. Above all the officers who participated in UN mission return home with an experience of international standard policing. After coming back home when they resume their job in national police they are usually found to have become more professional in discharging their duties. Apart from this, the experience broadens their outlook which in turn benefits the organization as a whole. By working in the UN they earn financial ability and a sense of dignity. It lessens their economic hardship and reduces the compulsion of being involved in corruption and helps them maintain honesty and integrity in their profession. This way Bangladesh police as an institution gets benefited by sending it's members to the UN peacekeeping operations.

**Individual benefit:** In addition to being financially benefited the police officers having UN experience achieve self-development in respect of earning knowledge, having self-esteem and dignity. They get a wide scope of knowing and learning a lot of things. They get their knowledge enriched through sharing of experience and traveling different countries. This experience in many ways changes their life and their way of thinking. It broadens their mental horizon. Their financial ability facilitates them to give their children better education which in turn plays a vital role to bring positive changes to the society as a whole.

**Conclusion:** Through the participation in UN peacekeeping operations a country gets international exposure. Besides, due to globalization of ideas, values, culture and ideologies and also owing to the rapid advancement of technologies national boundaries have become largely blurred. So internal security of a country is no longer a national issue, rather it has assumed international dimension. Hence to prevent conflict and bring peace international effort is required. And as the highest police contributing country to the UN peacekeeping operations Bangladesh has been playing a vital role as a major partner of the UN peacekeeping effort. Hence adequate ways and means should be found out to sustain this effort and to strengthen it for the sake of continued global peace and security.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS AND ITS PERSPECTIVE

**Introduction:** By resolution 57/129 of 11 December 2002, the General Assembly designated 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. We commemorate this day to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace. Since then, United Nations peacekeeping is a unique and dynamic instrument developed by the Organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict for lasting peace. All over the world, Nation-States celebrate the day with due solemnity in recognition of the immense contributions put in by the dedicated peacekeepers. Bangladesh, as well, celebrates the day with due deference and dignity. 10,885 Bangladesh peacekeepers drawn from different forces are now engaged in 12 peacekeeping missions under the banner of UN peace support operation for their commitment toward world peace, heartfelt dedication. The process is under way to send more peacekeepers for UN mission soon. Bangladesh is the second largest contributing country in UN peacekeeping missions in terms of number of armed forces deployed who are discharging their duties creditably. Officers are being trained up at Institute of peace support training (BIPSOT) in Rajshahi to enhance their efficiency, preparing them for future job assignment in UN mission. Thereby, Bangladesh peacekeepers have been earning respect and gratitude of people worldwide.

**Background:** The UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was founded on May 29, 1948. UNTSO's task was to assist peacekeepers to observe and maintain a cease-fire. This cease-fire marked the end of the hostilities between Israel and the Arab League forces. The hostilities started after the end of the British Mandate of Palestine on May 14, 1948. On December 11, 2002, the UN General assembly designated May 29 as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The day was first observed on May 29, 2003.

Over the years, UN peacekeeping has evolved to meet the demands of different conflicts and a changing political landscape. Born at the time when the Cold War rivalries frequently paralyzed the Security Council, UN peacekeeping goals were primarily limited to maintaining ceasefires and stabilizing situations on the ground, so that efforts could be made at the political level to resolve the conflict by peaceful means. Those missions consisted of military observers and lightly armed troops with primarily monitoring, reporting and confidence-building roles. In the early years, UNTSO and the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) were the United Nations missions deployed. Both of these missions exemplified the observation and monitoring type of operation. The earliest armed peacekeeping operation was the First United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF

1) deployed in 1956 to address the Suez Crisis. In 1998, United Nations peacekeepers were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. As the Cold War ended, there was a rapid increase in the number of peacekeeping missions. The Security Council authorized a total of 20 operations between 1989 and 1994, raising the number of peacekeepers from 11,000 to 75,000. Some of the missions were deployed to help implement peace agreements that had ended long-drawn-out conflicts in countries, such as Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Cambodia. Missions were established in situations where the guns had not yet fallen silent and in areas such as the former Yugoslavia, Somalia and Rwanda where there was no peace to keep. Over the next decade, the Security Council also established large and complex peacekeeping operations in African countries. In all cases, the UN was widely viewed as the only organization with the globally recognized credibility and impartiality to take on the job. With the end of the Cold War, the strategic context for UN peacekeeping dramatically changed, prompting the Organization to shift and expand its field operations from traditional missions involving strictly military tasks, to complex "multidimensional" enterprises designed to ensure the implementations of comprehensive peace agreements and assist in laying a foundation for sustainable peace. Today's peacekeepers undertake a wide variety of complex tasks, from helping to build sustainable institutions of governance, to human rights monitoring, to security sector reform, to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.

**Significance:** To signify this day the Security Council decided to establish the Dag Hammarskjold Medal to mark the 50th anniversary of peacekeeping in 1997. Since then, the medal has been awarded annually to the peacekeepers that have fallen while serving in the cause of peace the preceding year. To pay tribute to this day, various events, such as, presentation, discussion forum, photographic and multimedia exhibitions take place in the UN Headquarters in New York, in the United States as well as vienna, Australia and other locations worldwide. Faced with the largest catastrophes in human history, men and women around the planet began to dream of a better, peaceful world. Since inception, UN peace operations have brought hope to them. 29 May 2010 is the 62nd anniversary of UN peacekeeping operation. This anniversary is a significant milestone for the United Nations and for the international community. As a considerable and significant nation and as a good international citizen, we continue that noble tradition to this day. Bangladesh has become a proud member of the United Nations in 1974. In the same year, the father of our nation Bangabandhu Shaikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his speech in UN General Assembly for the first time in Bangla as head of the State. This ultimately paved the way for Bangladesh to play a leading role in the UN forum.

Among other active roles, UN peace keeping effort of Bangladesh is appreciated in every corner of the globe.

**Bangladesh in Peace Support Operations:** Bangladesh started its peace keeping journey by contributing an observer group to UNIMOG just after the Iran-Iraq war back in 1988. This was followed by another observer group being sent to Namibia in 1989. After a very successful participation of a Bangladeshi contingent in the first Gulf War in 1990, a battalion strength contingent was sent for the first time to UNIKOM in the



Instr Lt Rezina Akter BN

demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait in 1992. Thereafter, Bangladesh got involved in Peace Support Operations by sending troops in bulk. Since then Bangladesh never hesitated in responding to UN call for any peace support operation. The Armed Force of Bangladesh has been taking part in many UN Peace keeping Missions since long. Bangladesh Navy as an integral part of Bangladesh Armed Forces is also contributing in those missions worldwide. In total, 12,921 officers and sailors participated in 17 missions out of 68 peacekeeping operations. At present, in the above mentioned missions 68 officers and 182 sailors are deployed:

Ser	Mission	Officer	Sailor
01.	MINURSO (Western Sahara)	02	-
02.	UNMIL (Liberia)	05	11
03.	MONUC (Congo)	08	27
04.	UNOCI (Ivory coast)	17	52
05.	UNMIS (Sudan)	13	12
06.	UNAMID (Darfur)	03	03
07.	BANFRU(Sudan)	16	77
08.	MINURCAT (CHAD)	01	-
09.	UNIFIL (Lebanon)	02	-
10.	UNHCR (New York)	01	-
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>182</b>

In addition 20 officers and 228 sailors from OSMAN and 10 officers and 60 sailors from MODHUMATI is going to set for UN mission in Lebanon very soon.

**Enrollment of women- a new arena in peacekeeping:** There are 185 member nations in the UN and several of them have women as integral members of their defense forces. Many have opened all fields to women. Dag Hammarskjold, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and second Secretary General of the United Nations, once said that 'peacekeeping is too important to be undertaken by soldiers'. But, he added, 'soldiers are the only one who can do it'. Because peacekeeping can be violent, combat training is essential. But the peacekeeper must also be conciliatory, patient and peaceful. Few male military personnel combine the qualities of soldier

and social worker essential to the job. As a result, UN operations have been marred by aggressive behavior that exacerbates tensions. The UN is deeply worried about this problem. The solution might be simple: women soldiers. Evidence suggests that women might indeed make a difference. In recent operations, just 1.7 percent of military peacekeepers deployed by the UN were female. Yet in almost any conflict 80 percent of the refugees are women and children. The most notable UN successes of late- in Guatemala, Namibia and South Africa- had a greater than normal female presence. Women, it seems, are not only better able to control violent tendencies, but are also perceived as less of a threat by local population and therefore less likely to provoke violence. Evidence also suggests that women peacekeepers are more willing than their male counterparts to seek understanding and reconciliation during disagreements, thus proving themselves more effective negotiators. The UN operation in South Africa revealed an added benefit of female participation. Local women seem to have been inspired by the presence of female UN peacekeepers as role models and, as a result, were empowered to play a larger part in the politics of their community. The UN is hoping to increase their numbers, not only to reach gender equity but also because female peacekeepers play a vital role in UN peacekeeping operations. In this perspective, Bangladesh is about to become the first Muslim-majority country to establish an all-women United Nations peacekeeping force.

**Conclusion:** More than 2,400 United Nations peacekeepers from some 118 countries died while serving under the UN flag during the past 60 years. UN peacekeeping continues to evolve, both conceptually and

operationally, to meet new challenges and political realities. Faced with the rising demand for increasingly complex peace operations, the United Nations in the past few years has been overextended and challenged as never before. The Organization has worked vigorously to strengthen its capacity to manage and sustain field operations and, thus, contribute to the most important function of the United Nations- maintaining international peace and security. It is the services that count. UN peacekeepers have rendered yeoman's services to be proud of. Peacekeepers that lost their lives in the peace missions should be eulogized in remembrance. Saturday, May 29, 2010 is going to be observed as the international day of United Nations peacekeepers. We wish it all success.



violence and most of the intra-state conflicts are aimed at destroying or undermining the state apparatus leading to a significant deterioration of the ability of the Government to either protect its citizen or to provide for their basic needs. Therefore, a humanitarian crisis is often a consequence of these conflicts along with serious violations of human rights. In this changed aspect, the main task of UN peacekeeping are to create a safe and secure environment within which humanitarian agencies could operate and institutions of governance could be re-established. In order to get this task accomplished, the UN Peace Operations are mandated with the task of supporting the development of democratic institutions and restoration of rule of law along with building

comprising a total of 1922 personnel deployed in Liberia, Ivory Coast, DR Congo, Sudan, Darfur, East Timor and very recently two FPUs in Haiti.

**Current deployment** The task of peacekeeping is very hazardous and strewn with thorns. By dint of their professionalism and strong commitment demonstrated by our police personnel Bangladesh has reached the pinnacle of deployment of police peacekeepers to the UN.

**Supreme Sacrifice:** 7(seven) of our valiant peacekeepers sacrificed their lives for the cause of global peace ( we pay rich tribute to them ). They are: Head Constable Abul Basar Akand UNTAC (1992), Sub-Inspector Mir Shahidul Alam, UNMIK (1999), Inspector, Mohammad Ali UNMIK (2000), Sergeant Monjur

strengthens the image of Bangladesh. Each and every individual radiates his/her values, cultural and tradition while in a multicultural and multidimensional working environment. The professionalism of our peacekeepers has been highly praised nationally and internationally which enhances our own standing in the comity of nations.

**Institutional benefit:** Participation in UN peacekeeping operations has a long term effect on Bangladesh police as an organization. The experience of working in a multidimensional international post conflict situation enhances their professionalism, communication skill, interpersonal and leadership skill which help them become more efficient in dealing with this type of complicated situations both at