

Peacekeeping in world order

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IN the backdrop of the World War II, the UN was formed to unite the strength of the comity of nations to maintain the international peace and security. Since then UN had been performing the role of policing to a certain extent but with some inherent limitations. Whatever a scale of involvement is, UN has earned reasonable credibility and success in bringing peace and stability in several war torn regions/countries. However, there had been some failures and constraints also. The form of UN peacekeeping, as we see today, was not actually envisaged by the founding fathers of UN and hence there is no mention of UN peacekeeping in the UN Charter. Basically Chapter V, VI, VII and VIII cover various modalities to ensure world's peace and security. However, the evolving situation and circumstances necessitated the development of UN peacekeeping is its current form.

The nature and development of the strategic environment immensely influenced the evolution of the UN peacekeeping. It all began during early Cold War period when UN peacekeeping forces, mainly military, were tasked to monitor ceasefire, control buffer zone, investigate alleged arms flows, prevent a resumption of hostilities, etc. It gave a breathing space for the politicians and diplomats to negotiate and arrive at a political settlement of the conflict.

The end of the Cold War brought about a dramatic shift in UN peacekeeping both in numbers and scope. This second generation of peacekeeping, mainly deployed in the areas of intrastate conflicts, was complex and multidimensional where military were reinforced with many non-military and non-UN actors to respond to the wider mandates of the mission. The intricate nature of conflicts in the 90s warranted UN to launch missions with enforcement authority of Chapter VII. Most of these missions were very large with ambitious mandates and continue to be very complex and multidimensional. Some went beyond the capacity with disastrous result causing a retreat. But the demand of UN Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) resurfaced in late 90s and UN in its reformed state re-launched several missions across the globe which is continuing and expanding.

Termination of Cold War in late 80s saw the reduction of internal wars vis-a-vis increase of UN force deployment. With the change of regional and strategic environment, there also had been rise intra-state conflicts, especially in Africa, which caused Security Council mandates for deployment of UN forces. In the early period, developed nations had a lead role both in the policy making and in the force provision. When the risk factors increased in the field, developed nations gradually pulled out from troop's commitment, excepting in the Middle East conflicts and the vacuum has been quickly filled up by developing nations



forces and revise policies and practices in conformity with evolving UN Peacekeeping. It needs to modernise her forces and upgrade her logistic system especially for the sustenance of forces thousands of miles away.

To consolidate the gains achieved and to make UN peacekeeping more effective, following actions are recommended:

a.To ensure the universality of UN and negating the selectivity of the Security Council in giving mandates for UNPKO, the much debated reform of the UNSC should be expedited specially revising the veto authority of the permanent members.

b.To avoid prolonged mission (some missions are in place for several decades), UNSC mandates should specify the exit policy and maintain all political/diplomatic and military means to implement it with the specific period.

c.The composition of UN forces needs to be balanced one representing member states from all categories to ensure its international charter and neutrality. Dominance of a particular group in a region should be avoided.

d.UNSC while giving a mandate, should also address the root cause of the conflict and all activities of the multi-dimensional UNPKO be directed in mitigating the cause. All such complex UNPKO should be followed by peace building operations to consolidate peace in the area.

As regards to Bangladesh's contribution in UN peacekeeping, followings are recommended:

a.Bangladesh should establish a dedicated Think-Tank Body on UN peacekeeping to carry out study on UN peacekeeping strategic and operational issue and recommend formulation of appropriate policies/response by ministries/forces. This could be an extension of BIIS or a separate establishment. BIPSOT should continue to deal with the operational and tactical issues and concentrate on training the forces/peacekeepers.

b.Bangladesh should continue political and diplomatic manoeuvre to get senior positions representation in the UN secretariat and in field missions pursuing the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution A/61/19 Part II dated June 5, 2007 (Paragraph 215).

c.The goodwill established by the Bangladesh peacekeepers in the country of operations should be further carried forward through enhancement of diplomatic and economic ties to mutual benefits.

d.Besides maintaining skill in English, there should be a concerted and long term implementation policy to acquire skills in French and Arabic languages by the potential peacekeepers in Franco phone and Arabic speaking nations.

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especially from South Asia and Africa. In multi-dimensional approach, the police and civilian dimension of the UNPKO has increased tremendously. Along with the UN forces, regional and sub-regional forces are also getting involved; be it together or in parallel, in a conflict zone in ensuring the collective security.

UN is however, also criticised by many experts for its selectiveness in providing mandates. There had been several conflict zones where UN had been non-committed e.g. Chechnya, Palestine, etc. The influence and interest of the key players in the Security Council cause this selectiveness and thus affect the universality and impartiality of the UN. The non committal approach of developed nations for the troop's provision and their preference for multinational forces affect the effectiveness of the UNPKO. With time and space, new challenges surfaced and UN peace operations have to evolve suitable strategy to face it squarely. Evaluating the current trends and various other related circumstances, the prime challenges for UN peacekeeping perhaps would be getting the adequate political will of the international communities; mobilisation of qualified, adequate and balanced forces for robust peacekeeping; mobilisation of required fund; in creating the rapid deployment capacity; implementation of the Rule of Law under complex operations, etc.

Bangladesh entered as UN peacekeepers in its second generation period and quickly emerged as a top Troop Contributing Country (TCC) which she had been maintaining for over a decade. Since her participation in 1988, Bangladesh has taken part in 54 UN peacekeeping missions in 38 different countries (out of total 69 missions) with approximately 119000 uniformed personnel. This consistent and all time participation signify her credibility, capability and the political will. Currently, Bangladesh is the top Troop Contributing Country (TCC) providing almost 10% of the total force out of 116 TCCs. Bangladesh credentials in UN peacekeeping stems from her constitutional obligations, spirit of the War of Liberation 1971, obligations to UN Charter, high professionalism of the force deployed and their impartial and neutral roles.

Bangladesh in now universally recognised as a role model for UN Peacekeeping. It has developed an international standard training institute, BIPOST to train her forces. All forces HQ has dedicated branches to plan coordinate and supervise UNPKO activities. Service HQ have also developed highly functional operational procedures with the ministries specially Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Mission in UN, New York for an integrated approach of her role. To cope with challenges of the UNPKO, Bangladesh also need to regroup and retrain her

The seminar on nuclear power

ABDUL MATIN

THE Ministry of Science and Technology of the government of Bangladesh (MoST) and the State Atomic Energy Corporation of the Russian Federation (ROSATOM) are jointly organising an 'International Seminar on Nuclear Power: A Chance of Successful Economic and Socio-political Development' at a local hotel on May 29-30, 2013.

Most of the selected topics like the role of atomic energy, effects of nuclear radiation, nuclear regulation, nuclear power infrastructure, public acceptance, etc appear to be of general nature and do not address any of the specific concerns about the Rooppur Nuclear Power Project (RNPP) being raised in local news media.

It is my considered view that instead of presenting papers of general nature, it would be more appropriate if the following issues are specifically addressed at the seminar:

- 1.When is it intended to prepare the feasibility study on the RNPP and what is the time-frame for the construction of the plant? Will it be wise to spend US\$500 million, received as a loan from Russia, before the feasibility study?
- 2.Will it be feasible to start the work on the project in September, 2013, without a feasibility study? Should we go for VVER-1000 or VVER-1200 reactors considering their safety features?
- 3.What would be the total capital cost of the plant? How would the cost of generation of electricity from the nuclear plant compare with those from fossil fuel fired plants?

- 4.Is the Rooppur site suitable for a 2000 MWe or larger nuclear plant from safety and environmental considerations? Will the seismicity of the site or its soil condition pose any risk to the plant? What kind of cooling system is

necessary manpower for the top management of the project?

8.Concerns have been expressed about the safety of VVER reactors. I quote from a paper (*The Daily Star*, October 3, 2011): "In a report



STAR ARCHIVE

Will it be feasible to start the work on the project in September, 2013, without a feasibility study?

being contemplated for the plant?

5.In the case of a serious nuclear accident, will it be feasible to evacuate 3 million people from around the plant site within a radius of 30 km within a very short time? Where and how will they be rehabilitated?

6.Will a separate Nuclear Power Corporation, instead of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), be more appropriate for the implementation of the project?

7.The BAEC has a serious shortage of technical manpower for project management and plant operation. Will it be wise to delay the project implementation until the creation of

leaked to environmental organisations in June, an amalgam of Russian state agencies admitted that Russia's nuclear industry is extremely vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters. Some 31 security flaws were listed. The document amongst others questions the capacity of Russian reactors to continue functioning safely if cooling systems fail. It also pinpoints the risks of hydrogen explosions." Will the experts give an idea about the types of safety faults that were detected and the remedies they suggested to rectify them?

9.Why was it necessary for the Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant in China to incorporate a digital instrumentation & control (I&C) system supplied by a western consortium with the Russian VVER-1000 reactors? Why did the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) of India recommend 17 safety-related modifications for the VVER-1000 reactors now under construction in Kudankulam in India? Were any sub-standard equipment supplied to this plant, as reported in newspapers?

I sincerely believe that direct answers to the above mentioned questions will be more effective in removing the concerns about the Rooppur Project than delivering lectures of general nature at the seminar.

The writer is a former Chief Engineer of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.

Bias in the international media



I was watching the international TV news the other day when I realised something huge was missing: there was no mention of the Eastern half of the world, home of 60 per cent of the world's population.

A Malaysian friend watching with me agreed this was odd, and added that she'd been at a meeting of members of The Meeja, a shadowy international group of data-dealers whose mission is to shine the Bright Light of Truth and Justice into dark areas, preferably if celebrity cleavage is located therein.

At the time, a rainstorm had caused an ancient tower in China to tilt perilously over a school.

Discussion: Should the story be covered?

Naah, it's in Asia, they decided. "And it lacked a cleavage angle," she said.

Meeja professionals instead printed a news-in-brief paragraph and a tiny picture of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, thus leaving lots of room for really important items such as: "[Celebrity Name] Stuns Beachgoers by

Regaining Pre-Baby Bikini Bod," a dramatic follow-up to the previous week's megascoop, which was "[Celebrity Name] Stuns Beachgoers By Failing to Regain Pre-Baby Bikini Bod."

Meanwhile at the wobbly tower, Chinese officials snapped into action to issue an announcement saying (this is not a joke) no immediate action could be taken to stabilise it because "several departments are involved."

This is official-speak for: "It's not my job to catch falling buildings."

The following day, I heard music fans arguing over who was the industry's top producer. I suggested, Johnny Kitagawa, producer of Japanese band Kis-My-Ft2. They looked blank.



I showed them the Guinness Book of Records listing of Mr Kitagawa as the man responsible for 232 number one singles, some of which were almost, but not quite, listenable to by humans with functioning aural cavities.

For more, you may visit: www.mrjam.org

ACROSS

1 Poehler's pal
4 Alias letters
7 Envelope part
11 Frosty
13 Wire measure
14 "The Amazing..."
15 Killer whale
16 Everything
17 Basin accessory
18 Intended
20 Burg
22 Sedona auto-maker
24 Electronic dance music
28 George who played 007 once
32 Sandbank
33 Lotion additive
34 Massachusetts cape
36 Knitting stitch
37 Pays

DOWN

1 Gift tag
2 Ireland
3 Village
4 "I — Camera"
5 Scottish garment
6 Apportion
7 Dowa-ger's pet, maybe
8 Legisla-
9 High card
10 Apiece
12 Pony rider of song
19 Can metal
21 Horror
23 Kimmel's network
25 60 minutes
26 Drug dealer's foe
27 Earthen-ware pot
28 Dalai —
29 Came down
30 Region
31 — Kippur
35 Water barrier
38 Helios' realm
40 Coffee, slangily
42 Pudgy
45 Nutritious bean
47 Greek vowel
48 Talon
49 Story
50 Egos' counter-parts
51 Spy novel org.
52 Wapiti
54 Energy

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 4-22

CRYPTOQUIP

G DRFS'M FNURVGSC RLTM
MXRM PRKCU. FDRZNQ PRVU
TOMPUM SURK ZU. G
ZURSM MXU LRQTO LQ QTO.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: STRANGE NEW TYPES OF PICKLES WHICH ARE SHAPED SOMEWHAT LIKE SPRING FLOWERS: DAFFY DILLS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals M

BEETLE BAILY

"The budget should be balanced. The treasury should be refilled. Public debt should be reduced. The arrogance of officialdom should be controlled...assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest (we) become bankrupt..."

HENRY

SLAM!

by Mort Walker

CICERO, IN ROME, IN 55 B.C.

YOU MEAN CONGRESS IS STILL WORKING ON IT?

by Don Tranchte

QUOTABLE Quotes

"The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power. Because they control the minds of the masses."

Malcolm X