

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

millennium, United Nations peacekeeping has not only grown in size but it has also become increasingly complex. Beyond simply monitoring ceasefires, today's multi-dimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon to facilitate the political process through the promotion of national dialogue and reconciliation, protection of civilians, assisting in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants, supporting the organization of elections, protecting and promoting human rights, and assisting in restoring the rule of law.

In order to meet the challenges posed by the unprecedented scale and scope of today's missions, the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) have embarked on a major reform effort aimed at strengthening and professionalizing the planning, management and conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations.. This aspect calls for astute professional diplomacy, and our diplomats have been able to do their part.

The Spectrum of Diplomacy in Peace and Security Activities include (1) Conflict Prevention, (2) Peacemaking, (3) Peace enforcement and (4) Peacebuilding.

- \* Conflict Prevention :Involves the application of structural or diplomatic measures to keep intra-state or inter-state tensions and disputes from escalating into violent conflict.

- \* Peacemaking : Generally includes measures to address conflicts in progress and usually involves diplomatic action to bring hostile parties to a negotiated agreement upon the request of the United Nations' Secretary General.

- \* Peacekeeping is a technique designed to preserve the peace, however fragile, when fighting has been halted, and to assist in implementing agreements achieved by the peacemakers.

- \* Peace enforcement involves the application, with the authorization of the Security Council, of a range of coercive measures, including the use of military force.

- \* Peacebuilding is a complex, long-term process of creating the necessary conditions for sustainable peace. It works by addressing the deep-rooted, structural causes of violent conflict in a comprehensive manner.

Bangladeshi diplomats at the United Nations have demonstrated exceptional professionalism in advancing the importance of peacekeeping within the UN and mobilizing support for peacekeeping missions in general. They keep vigil of emerging trends and developments in UN peacekeeping operations, and coordinate the evolving Bangladesh position on such issues in consultation with UN DPKO and the UNDP and others concerned, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Armed Forces Division and the Police Headquarters. Our diplomats have actively participated in all Peacekeeping debates both in the GA and at the Security Council, underscoring our position in the various crisis situations and contributing with recommendations and initiating resolutions. Bangladesh diplomats have also been active in the

Fifth Committee in relation to the programme and budget for UN peacekeeping operations and played a critical role in the review of the reimbursement and compensation rates for peacekeepers. During Bangladesh's term in the Security Council as a non-permanent member in 2000-2001, our diplomats at the Permanent Mission to the UN in New York played a major role in developing the Kimberly Process as an effective way to address the notorious issue of "Blood Diamonds" that had caused mass killings in Liberia and Sierra Leone, rape and recruitment of child soldiers.

I would be remiss if I do not mention a unique act of our peacekeeping diplomacy . Distinguished Peacekeeping Commanders assembled here will surely recall the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1994, especially in Srebrenica, and the sorry plight of UN peacekeepers as to take action in

at the meeting. Ambassador Holbrooke who was the Chief Diplomatic negotiator of the NATO, welcomed us at his office in the US State Department and immediately opened the communication channels to arrange a video conference with the top US Generals at the NATO Headquarters and other forward positions and gave the floor to Ambassador Humayun Kabir to state our concerns to the NATO Commanders. The Generals listened very carefully to the Bangladesh Ambassador. They had all praise for the bravery of the Bangladeshi soldiers and assured Ambassador Humayun Kabir of their full support to ensure the release of Bangladesh hostages in Bihac by all appropriate means.

Bangladesh took a proactive role in the establishment of the The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), to address the lacuna in the UN structure

recognition of the success of Bangladesh's peacekeeping diplomacy.

As the Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in 2012, Bangladesh organized the first ever Summit level meeting of the Commission in New York on the sideline of 67th UNGA session. The meeting Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina mobilized support of global political leadership towards incorporation of a peacebuilding perspective in the mandates of the peacekeeping operations to ensure longer-term peacebuilding and sustainable development.

The concept of a "Culture of Peace" mooted by Bangladesh in the United Nations in 1997 at the United Nations was a major initiative to take UN's Multidimensional Peacekeeping forward. On 13 September 1999, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, by consensus, its landmark, pioneering and norm-setting resolution



absence of any effective rules of engagement, to take retaliatory action in preventing the genocide. This, of course, led to the intervention of NATO. You will, of course, recall that 43 British soldiers out of about 450 United Nations peacekeeping troops including some Bangladeshi Peacekeeping soldiers were taken hostage for over 10 days and put in harms way in Bihac. The International London Meeting held at the time to address the crisis, in which Bangladesh was represented by the Foreign Minister, endorsed the use of Air strikes against the Serbs. I remember that under instructions from the Foreign Secretary, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to the USA, late Humayun Kabir, met with the US Ambassador Richard Holbrooke at the US State Department with a demarche requesting US airstrikes for freeing our captive Peacekeepers. I happened to be present

in reducing post-conflict country's risks of relapsing into the quagmire of conflict and crisis. The PBC in its maiden two ventures in Sierra Leone and Burundi have made significant and tangible contributions towards consolidation of peace in these two countries. As regards the work of PBC, Bangladesh, from the very outset has been advocating that post-conflict societies must take charge of their own destiny and that the PBC's work should be based on national ownership. It is gratifying that the PBC has subscribed to an inclusive and nationally-driven process aimed at maximizing the involvement of all relevant actors on the ground.

The invitation extended to Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, to the meeting of the top Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) by US President Obama in New York on 23 September 2009 was an important

53/243 on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. Bangladesh actively participate in Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (popularly known as C-34) focusing on both policy and operational issues and often lead issue-specific negotiations on behalf of Non-Aligned Movements (NAM).

Bangladesh has also contributed towards the adoption of the Security Council resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security" during Bangladesh's membership (2000-2001) to the Council. This resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction.

The women peacekeepers from Bangladesh have played an exemplary role

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12