



With death lurking in every corner, the soldiers of Bangladesh Army brave all the risks of jungles and hilly terrains in the unstable regions of Democratic Republic of Congo. They are on a mission to establish peace.

Earning love and respect in a faraway land

Bangladeshi peacekeepers excel in the line of duty

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA, from Democratic Republic of Congo

Major Hossain Mohammad Maruf of the Bangladesh Army had to leave for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of the Bangladesh contingent with the UN peacekeeping mission only 17 days after his first child was born.

"It was tough for me but such is the life of a soldier. Living to keep others safe and in peace is what we do. At the end of the day, I'm happy that I am being of some service to mankind," said Major Maruf at his field station in Bunia, under Ituri province of DRC.

It was a long, tiresome 6,915 km flight, back in February, when Major Maruf and his flight-mates were sent to the Zghou area of Ituri -- only a few hours after they had landed in DRC to help pacify a raging civil war between two rival, armed ethnic groups.

They spent the next 14 days under just a tarpaulin. "I had no contact with my family back home for two weeks. I

couldn't stop thinking about my newborn son. But we were taught to control our emotions while on duty," he said.

When they are not on field duty in the conflict zones, they live in humble military camps -- small huts, which only have a small bed and a mosquito net inside,



and there are common toilets.

The first thing many of them do after returning from a mission in a remote area in DRC is get busy with their smartphones, trying to connect with their families through social media in a place where internet is

almost a luxury.

One of their favourite pastimes when not on duty is growing vegetables and flowers in the yard of their camp. The vegetables satiate the craving for a touch of home, in the form of desi dishes on the dinner table.

"Bangladeshi peacekeepers have been doing a great job. They have set up makeshift camps in some of the more conflict-prone areas. They are fearless and thanks to them, we feel a sense of security amid all the unrest," said Cecilia Piazza, head of office, MONSCU in Bunia.

She also mentioned that the Bangladesh army personnel are actively involved with the local authorities as well, bringing communities together for the sake of sustainable peace and stability.

A typical day of a Bangladesh army personnel stationed in DRC begins at 4:00am with a field operation in some remote area. Despite being on official rotational duty, on most days it becomes

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No heavy vehicles on highways for 3 days before Eid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said trucks, lorries and covered-vans will not ply highways across the country for three days before Eid-ul-Fitr to ease travel of vacationers.

However, the vehicles carrying medicines, and perishable and garment items will remain out of the purview of the order, he said.

Quader, also the general secretary of the ruling Awami League, was talking to reporters in Kaliakoir of Gazipur following a meeting with the deputy commissioner and police officials of the district on facilitating Eid trips.

In addition, the engineers concerned were asked to finish all repair works on the highways by June 8, he said.

Talking about the recently-held Khulna City Corporation election, Quader asked BNP to take preparation for the next general election.

"We'll have nothing to do if BNP does not join the next general election like the one on January 5, 2014," he said, adding the parliamentary polls will be held in due time.

Law violators must not get impunity

Bangladesh urges UN regarding Rohingya persecution

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has called upon the United Nations to make sure that no one enjoys impunity despite full violation of international laws related to humanitarian and human rights issues while treating Rohingyas.

Bangladesh has also said it needs to be ensured that no one gets impunity for crimes against

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QUOTA REFORM MOVEMENT

Boycott withdrawn from exams, not classes

DU CORRESPONDENT

The quota reform demonstrators yesterday postponed their decision of boycotting examinations at all universities and colleges across the country considering Ramadan and the prospect of "session jams" the strike may cause.

Nurul Haque Nur, joint convener of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, which leads the movement, made the announcement at a press conference on Dhaka University campus. "We postponed the decision (of exam boycott) for an indefinite period... but the class boycott would continue," he said.

The platform started an indefinite boycott of classes and examinations at all universities and colleges on May 14 after the government failed to issue a gazette notification on the prime minister's April 11 announcement of quota abolition in

government jobs. It gave an ultimatum for publication of the notification by May 13.

Meanwhile, referring to the incident of giving show cause notices to 25 students of Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall, the protest leader said the DU vice-chancellor and the proctor easily fall prey to rumours.

The university authorities had expelled BCL's Sufia Kamal Hall unit president Iffat Jahan Isha without scrutinising the April 10 night incident of "severing the tendons" of a student of the hall and said they found her guilty. "But later they made a U-turn and gave contradictory speeches to the journalists," he added.

Isha had been expelled from the university and Bangladesh Chhatra League, but both withdrew their orders later.

The platform convener, Hasan Al Mamun, said the protestors of different colleges and universities were being intimidated and threatened with torture and eviction from

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Leaders of the quota reform movement speak at a press conference on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

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