



PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Fax Message

To : Principal Information Officer, PID, Dhaka.
Copy : Armed Forces Division (with the request to transmission to ISPR)
From : Second Secretary.
Date : 30 May 2007

May I forward herewith the following with a request for arranging appropriate coverage. Mentionable, two photographs related to this press release is being sent via email.


Toufiq Islam Shatil 30.05.07

Press Release

New York, 30 May 2007

The United Nations honours eight deceased Bangladeshi Peacekeepers

Eight deceased Bangladeshi Peacekeepers who sacrificed their life last year in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan, received today the "Dag Hammarskjöld Medal Awards" during the "Dag Hammarskjöld Medal Awards Ceremony" held today morning in the United Nations Library Auditorium in New York. Brigadier General Ilyas Iftekhar Rasul, ndc, psc, Defence Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York, received the medal awards on behalf of them from Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations.

Under-Secretary-General Mr. Guéhenno expressed his profound gratitude to the deceased 107 Peacekeepers from 46 countries during the year 2006 for their courage and selflessness.

Acclaiming the United Nations Peacekeeping as a powerful expression of the extraordinary vision of international solidarity for peace, Mr. Guéhenno extended his gratitude to the Troop Contributing Member States for their unique and vital endeavour.

Earlier yesterday, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, paid tribute to the memory of 107 United Nations Peacekeepers who lost their lives in the cause of peace during the year 2006 and pledged to safeguard the security of those now working in operations across the world. At a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the world body's Headquarters in New York held in connection with the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, Mr. Ban pointed out that UN operations are a model of burden-sharing among countries "but we must never forget that the brunt of this burden is borne by individuals."

Among the 107 peacekeepers who were who were honoured posthumously by Secretary - General Ban Ki-moon yesterday and also received the Medal Award today, were eight peacekeepers from Bangladesh. Six of them died in August 2006 in Côte d'Ivoire: Lance Corporal SM Miraz Ahmed, Lance Corporal Abdul Halim, Private Kamrozzaman Khan, Private Mohammed Miah, Private MD Mizanur Rahman and Lance Corporal Abdus Sattar. Private Amir Hossain killed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in April 2006 and Lance Corporal Faruk Miah lost his life while serving in the Sudan in August.

UN Peacekeepers Day was established in 2002 by a General Assembly resolution designating 29 May - the date in 1948 when the first United Nations peacekeeping mission, UNTSO, began Operations in Palestine.

At this time, there are more than 9,600 soldiers and police officers from Bangladesh serving in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Georgia, Kosovo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Tomor-Leste and the Western Sahara.
