



SIPG



Summary Report of the

National Seminar on

The Role of Bangladesh in Global Peace

to observe the International Day of Peace 2022



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A National Seminar on the “Role of Bangladesh in Global Peace” to observe the International Day of Peace 2022 was held on 21 September 2022 at Sena Malancha, Dhaka Cantonment. It was jointly organized by the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of North South University, and the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT), of the Bangladesh Army. The chief guest was Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP, Honorable Speaker, National Parliament, Bangladesh. And the keynote speakers were General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, SBP, OSP, ndu, psc, Ph.D., Chief of Army Staff, Bangladesh Army, and Ambassador Shahidul Haque, Professorial Fellow, SIPG, NSU, and former Senior Secretary and Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh.

**National Seminar on
The Role of Bangladesh in Global Peace**
Celebrating International Day of Peace 2022

Chief Guest:
Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP
Honorable Speaker, National Parliament, Bangladesh

Keynote Speaker:
General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed,
SBP, OSP, ndu, psc, Ph.D.
Chief of Army Staff, Bangladesh Army

Keynote Speaker:
Ambassador Shahidul Haque
Professorial Fellow,
SIPG, North South University, Bangladesh

Wednesday, 21 September 2022 | 10 AM [Dhaka time] | Sena Malancha, Dhaka Cantonment

Jointly Organized By: Bangladesh Army and North South University

Logos: Bangladesh Army, SIPG, CPS, NSU, and a globe with a dove.





Highlights from the Keynote speech of General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, SBP, OSP, ndu, psc, Ph.D., Chief of Army Staff, Bangladesh Army

The image of Bangladesh as a peace-loving nation is hailed for our sincere commitment to establishing global peace and harmony. The philosophical backbone of our peace-loving nation was built by our father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The guidelines in our constitution are the basis of our peacekeeping initiatives and efforts. Thereby, Bangladesh has always responded positively and promptly to any calls by the United Nations to maintain global peace.

Role of Armed forces in preserving global peace



Our journey of peacekeeping is firmly based on the philosophical guidelines of our father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the honest efforts of the current political leadership. Bangladesh has already participated in 55 UN Peacekeeping Missions and presently we have 7,000 peacekeepers participating in 9 missions. Out of this 5,738 are from the Army, 346 are from the Navy, 540 are from the Airforce, and 502 are from the Police. We are currently the top troop-contributing country in the UN Peacekeeping Mission and previously also held this position a number of times. This was made possible due to the utmost support from our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh has been involved in the UN peacekeeping mission since 1988. Over time, Bangladesh's peacekeepers endured and succeeded in very difficult and dangerous situations in several peace operations around the globe. But success stories do come with sacrifices. So far, as on today 162 Bangladeshi peacekeepers out of which 126 from the Army, 4 from the Navy, 9 from the Airforce, and 23 from the police made supreme sacrifices. And 258 peacekeepers were seriously injured for the sake of global peace. Bangladesh soldiers

are remembered for their discipline and dedication. Bangladesh does not pursue any agenda in responding to UN calls. Our foreign policy says, "Friendship to all, Malice to None", which put us in a position of unbiased neutrality.

Despite being a Muslim-majority country, our practice of religious tolerance and coexistence of open-minded culture and tradition bless us with better overall acceptance and reliability.

Bangladesh Armed Forces strictly practice the culture of impartiality and zero tolerance against immoral acts. This is highly valued in the UN environment. Over the period, sacrifices made by our senior leadership in the UN missions gave a positive image of Bangladesh. Their contributions are highly acknowledged by the UN and ambassadors to Bangladesh.

BIPSOT actively cooperates with the integrated training service of the UN's department of Peace Operations, the global peace operation initiative, and many other international training partners to provide quality training to the peacekeepers. BIPSOT conducts pre-deployment training for all mission-going persons before their deployment so that they are well-equipped to perform after deployment. The efforts of BIPSOT allow our peacekeepers to remain updated with changing dynamics of the challenges and prepare accordingly. Our sound logistics systems and our commitment to global peace make us different from other nations in performing tasks. We ensure that all equipment deployed to UN missions is functional and well-maintained. Our troops are given 20% advance payment so that they can manage urgent cases. Our motivational effort is another area that gives us an edge over other countries. We use state-of-the-art equipment and systems such as modern helicopters, ambush-protected vehicles, and so on in different UN missions. Our peacekeepers are now better equipped and trained to perform their duties proficiently. Apart from this, our positive and prompt response to the UN with troops and equipment during their need has earned their respect and confidence in the UN headquarters. Therefore, it can be said that our impartiality, discipline, prompt response to UN calls, training, and high standard of professionalism have inspired the UN to employ the highest number of peacekeepers from Bangladesh.

We have some challenges too. Those are mostly related to keeping pace with the evolving trends of the peacekeeping environment. Peacekeepers are deliberately targeted in some cases. Most governments impose restrictions on freedom of movement in certain countries. Terrorists and extremist groups add a new dimension to the peacekeeping environment such as in Mali. UN approaches to address these threats also pose challenges from the perspective of international coordination and collaboration. We need to work more on providing adaptable training for peacekeepers by incorporating IT education to enhance their technical skills. We have recently put our focus on robust peacekeeping which is needed to ensure self-protection and effective mandate implementation - which is a recent requirement of the UN for

greater participation of women peacekeepers beyond the domain of engagement with peace. Women are now expected to participate in peacekeeping missions to facilitate community outreach and gender awareness. We plan to widen our recruitment sphere to provide more female peacekeepers in the future.

Participation in the UN peacekeeping mission is the brightest episode in Bangladesh's relationship with the United Nations. Standing as the highest troop contributor for consecutive years, we may now combine our efforts to understand how our challenges can be better supported by UN efforts.

Highlights from the Keynote speech of Ambassador Shahidul Haque, Professorial Fellow, SIPG, NSU, and former Senior Secretary and Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh



The world continues to suffer from a series of destabilizing shocks. Effects of the pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia war on commodity markets, oil prices, supply chains, inflation, debts, and financial condition have slowed down the global economy. This global economic fallout is compounded by labor market imbalances, education and skills gaps, and technological disruptions that risks splitting the world into divergent trajectory (Global Risks Report, 2022/WEF). State-based conflicts (54 conflicts) and non-state-based conflicts (67 conflicts) as well as general political violence have been on the rise. 35 million people in 26 countries have been displaced over the past 10 years (3 million in 2022). Multilateralism is under question, less respected, and often abandoned which weakens the UN system.

Bangladesh in Preserving Peace:

Amb Haque cited a statement made by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the UNSC in New York in 1974: "The Bengali people have fought over the centuries so that they may secure for themselves the right to live in freedom and with dignity as free citizens of a free country. They have aspired to live in peace and be friendly with all nations in the world."

He also quoted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's speech to the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 2022: "Let us intensify global efforts towards the total elimination of all forms of racial discrimination for realizing an inclusive, resilient, peaceful, and tolerant world where no one will be left behind."

Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding Commission, and Bangladesh:

Bangladesh is a leading troop-contributing country. Bangladesh is an active member of the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operation (C34) established in 1965. Bangladesh was instrumental in establishing the Peacebuilding Commission and along with Lithuania worked to adopt twin resolutions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in 2018 subsequently Bangladesh chaired the peacebuilding commission (PBC) in 2012 and now in 2022.

Bangladesh has been the flag bearer of norms-setting resolutions on the UN "Culture of Peace" in the GA (September 13, 1999) and followed by a resolution "Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace". Bangladesh adopted the "National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security" in 2019. SDG Goal 16- "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions"- has close connections with peacebuilding. It demands peaceful inclusive societies that ensure access to justice for all and the building of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions for all.

Challenges to Peace in the Context of Diplomacy:

- Increasing tensions, rifts, and strategic competition between and among big powers.
- Balancing between state interest, people's aspirations, and international responsibility.
- Changing apparatus and machinery of diplomatic practices (AI-enabled apparatus).

Amb. Haque also mentioned that the international System is rapidly transforming (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and the ambiguity-VUCA world). So, the diplomacy of Bangladesh is continuously being realigned keeping national interests and national security (and principles) in the context of Foreign Policy. Changing regional and sub-regional geopolitics and geo-economics also demand a continuous review of foreign policy and diplomacy. Bangladeshi Diplomats should be taking more agile and innovative roles in humanitarian crises (Humanitarian Diplomacy) and peace diplomacy.

Bangladesh continues to provide leadership in certain global issues such as peacebuilding, SDGs, gender, migration, and climate change. A credible and balanced foreign policy proactively seeking and innovatively engaging diplomatically with global players is critical for Bangladesh while simultaneously ensuring the protection of its national interests, and peace and responding to international obligations. Diplomacy is strategically managing unthinkable, unknown, and unknowable factors/forces to protect national interests as well as the protection of the people and the planet (larger peace).

Highlights from the speech of Chief Guest, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP, Honorable Speaker, National Parliament, Bangladesh



Amid the evolving national, regional, and global realities, while looking around us we have to consider the daunting ramifications of long-drawn conflicts and violence that continue to reign in different parts of the world today. It is an irony that the wars after declining for many years have again revived around the world. After World War II, it was thought that humanity has won over the wars, but now the world is engulfed with endless wars against terror driven by conflict and violence. This brings forward the pertinent

question, of whether international laws, human rights, democracy, rule of law, etc. can make the world more peaceful. The reality is that there are predominant factors; like nationalism, authoritarianism, racism, populism, nuclear arms proliferation, militarism, and terrorism that lead to a breach of peace.

It is in this global context we need to ascertain the role of Bangladesh in global peace. Nils Petter Gleditsch presents a variety of peace, democratic peace, liberal peace, capitalist peace, development peace, and social-democratic peace. He defined social-democratic peace as including democracy and a market economy, an active and competent state, close international cooperation, and reduction of discrimination and group-based inequality.

Some emphasize institution building, and socio-economic and political transformation, as necessary components of peace. While some said peace depends on promoting democratic institutions. Woodrow Wilson said, "a steadfast concert for peace can never be maintained except by a partnership of democratic nations. It must be a league of honor, a partnership of opinion." market economy, an active and competent state, close international cooperation, and reduction of discrimination and group-based inequality.

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So there is a great need for international cooperation at all levels for bringing about sustainable peace. Peace has long been the absence of war but it must include the absence of all forms of violence and discrimination too. Kennedy in his speech in 1963 talked about the wider concept of peace. He said, "I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, the

kind that enables men and nations to grow and to hope and to build a better life for their children- peace for all men and women and peace for all time." Bangladesh plays a commendable role in UN peacekeeping missions. The role of the military in peacekeeping is to contain the spread of violence, limit the loss and ensure the security of the people. Our impartiality, discipline, and professionalism have encouraged the UN to employ the highest number of peacekeepers from Bangladesh. I also congratulate the women peacekeepers of our country.

Bangladesh also pursues well-balanced diplomacy in resolving real-time regional issues by balancing between state interests, changing apparatus, and reforming diplomatic practices. A well-balanced comprehensive military and diplomatic approach are essential for our role in global peacekeeping.

It is worth mentioning that the concept of parliamentary diplomacy is gaining a lot of importance nowadays. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) now invites members of parliaments to various forums to discuss various topics. There are Interparliamentary Union and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association where parliamentarians have a role to play in issues like climate change, gender equality, food security, peace, and many more that affect lives and policies.

Now our task is to build a common platform for all stakeholders to engage and address all emerging challenges and find solutions in our endeavor to build peace. So, it is important for all of us to combine our efforts and take a comprehensive approach to attain sustainable global peace.

Bangladesh in its role in global peace draws inspiration from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's conviction on peace. Our father of the nation struggled all his life, to free the people from the clutches of poverty, hunger, and inequality and establish peace, equity, democracy, and justice. His foreign policy- 'Friendship to all, Malice to None' and vision towards mankind is the basic foundation of our constitution. We will all work hard to keep this foundation alive. We hope that Bangladeshi peacekeepers and partners at all levels will continue their concerted efforts to establish world peace by upholding this vision of the father of the nation and the constitution of Bangladesh.

Highlights from the speech of Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, North South University



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. As a peace research institute, the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) commemorates this day each year. The 2022 theme for the International Day of Peace is "End racism. Build peace." True peace requires much more than laying down arms. It necessitates the formation of societies in which all members believe they can thrive. What exactly do we mean when we speak of peace? Many people believe that it is when everyone feels safe and accepted in their communities, and this is correct. I believe it goes beyond that. To each of us, peace looks different. When I think of peace, I think of how important it is to accept and celebrate people's differences. You might think the same thing when you think of peace, or you might think of something else. Perhaps your definition of peace is the ability of children all over the world to attend school. Every action you take, or every action you choose not to take, has the potential to either build or destroy peace. You make your definition of peace a reality when you stand up to a bully or make an effort to include someone. All of these small actions add up to big results.

We're accustomed to thinking of peace as the result of truly monumental acts, such as marching in protests that help achieve peace for an entire nation, as Martin Luther King did. We engage in so many of these big movements that bringing about world peace seems unachievable. So, begin small. Begin at your school or at home. What can you do to make this a more peaceful place? Perhaps it's standing up for someone who is being bullied or dispelling a rumor. These small details ensure that everyone feels safe and accepted.

We can't expect to awaken to an "accomplished peace" in the globe one day. It is up to us. The heroes we admire, such as Mahatma Gandhi, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Martin Luther King Jr., and Mother Teresa - didn't have a comprehensive strategy to bring about world peace. It happens bit by bit. It involves everyone on the earth working together. Not only because of what you do but also because of what you encourage others to do, your actions play a significant role in bringing about peace.

Role of Bangladesh in Global Peacekeeping

Bangladesh's contribution to UN Peacekeeping is a story of glory and success. Nearly all of the world's difficult regions can now be found where Bangladeshi peacekeepers have left their footprints.

Bangladesh has adopted a value-driven strategy to contribute to world peace and stability, inspired by the foreign policy doctrine of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's, "Friendship to all and malice towards none," and constitutional obligation.

Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has consistently been a steadfast advocate for UN peacekeeping operations around the world. Bangladesh has been the leading troops contributing country in 2011, 2014, 2015, 2021, and 2022.

At the 46th Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS) opening ceremony on Monday, September 12, 2022, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina correctly noted that a nation's army is one of the most important components for preserving sovereignty. She mentioned that Bangladesh Army is always ready to serve the country and for world peace in UN missions and anywhere in the world.

Conclusion

We are all aware that maintaining world peace now is considerably more difficult than it was in the past due to the current state of the world and the rapid spread of technology, while vested interests among states and non-state actors are evolving into new threats. The peacekeepers in UN peacekeeping missions must therefore deal with complex and dangerous conditions. Our peacekeepers should always be adequately trained and equipped in order to handle the new issues that emerge during peacekeeping deployments.

The speakers participating in the event, the visiting guests, and the question and answer session of the students of various universities made the seminar lively. At that time, great interest was observed among all. Members of Parliament, military advisors and defense attachés of various countries assigned to Bangladesh, Vice Chancellors of reputed universities of Bangladesh, senior officers invited from armed forces, Bangladesh police and various ministries, ex-army chiefs, various international organizations based in Bangladesh, UN and UN resident representatives, eminent educational personalities, media personalities and students of reputed universities of Bangladesh were present at the seminar.

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