





বাণী


রষ্ট্রপতি  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ

সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস-২০২৫ উপলক্ষে আমি বাংলাদেশ সেনা, নৌ ও বিমান বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন। এই দিনে আমি মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে আত্মোৎসর্গকারী সাতজন বীরশ্রেষ্ঠসহ সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সকল বীর শহিদদের স্মৃতির প্রতি গভীর শ্রদ্ধা জানাই।

মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর বীরত্বগাথা জাতির ইতিহাসে এক গৌরবোজ্জ্বল অধ্যায়। ১৯৭১ সালের ২১ নভেম্বর পাকিস্তানি দখলদার বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে আমাদের সেনা, নৌ ও বিমান বাহিনীর সম্মিলিত পাল্টা আক্রমণ চূড়ান্ত বিজয়কে ত্বরান্বিত করে। মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর এই সম্মিলিত লড়াই দেশের সার্বভৌমত্বের ওপর যে কোনো আক্রমণ ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে প্রতিরোধে আমাদের সাহস ও প্রেরণা যোগায়।

সশস্ত্র বাহিনী আমাদের গর্ব ও আস্থার প্রতীক। স্বাধীনতা ও সার্বভৌমত্ব রক্ষার পাশাপাশি বিভিন্ন দুর্যোগ ও জাতীয় সংকট মোকাবিলা এবং জাতিগঠনমূলক কর্মকাণ্ডে সশস্ত্র বাহিনী উল্লেখযোগ্য ভূমিকা রেখে চলেছে। ২০২৪ সালের ছাত্র-জনতার গণঅভ্যুত্থান পরবর্তী সময়ে সারা দেশে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাসহ দুর্যোগ মোকাবিলায় সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর কার্যক্রম জনগণের প্রশংসা অর্জন করেছে। এছাড়া, জাতিসংঘ শান্তিরক্ষা মিশনে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর অংশগ্রহণ আন্তর্জাতিক পরিসরে দেশের মর্যাদা বৃদ্ধি করেছে। আমি বিশ্বাস করি, সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যগণ সর্বদা রাষ্ট্র ও নেতৃত্বের প্রতি পরিপূর্ণ অনুগত থেকে কঠোর অনুশীলন ও দেশপ্রেমের সমন্বয়ে নিজেদের গৌরব সম্মন্ন রাখবেন।

আমি সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর উত্তরোত্তর সমৃদ্ধি এবং বাহিনীসমূহের সকল সদস্য ও তাদের পরিবারবর্গের অব্যাহত সুখ, শান্তি ও সমৃদ্ধি কামনা করছি।

  
মোঃ সাহাবুদ্দিন  
রাষ্ট্রপতি ও সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সর্বাধিনায়ক



MESSAGE

CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF  
Bangladesh Army

21<sup>st</sup> November is a significant day in the history of Bangladesh Armed Forces, resplendent in the glory of unity and sacrifice. On this day in 1971, the valiant members of our Army, Navy and Air Force along with the Freedom Fighters of Bangladesh launched a combined offensive against the Pakistani occupation forces from land, sea and air which accelerated the final victory on 16 December 1971. On this great day, I extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to all members of Bangladesh Armed Forces.


Bangladesh achieved sovereignty, an independent map and a national flag by sacrificing millions of invaluable lives. The Armed Forces Day reminds us of those inspiring stories of selfless sacrifices, and revives the esprit-de-corps among the members of three services. On this special day, I pay homage to our greatest heroes who made supreme sacrifices for our independence. My special tribute to the valiant members of Bangladesh Armed Forces who laid down their lives during and after the Liberation War for the cause of our dear motherland. I pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of their departed souls, and convey my heartfelt gratitude and empathy to the members of all the bereaved families.

The Armed Forces is a symbol of unity, strength and pride of our nation. Besides, the primary role of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, members of Bangladesh Armed Forces, particularly Bangladesh Army are performing a wide variety of responsibilities including maintaining peace and stability in Chattogram Hill Tracts, national development activities, disaster management and assisting distressed people. Members of Bangladesh Army are deployed under 'In Aid to Civil Power' to maintain overall law and order in the country and are performing their duties with utmost professionalism. On this auspicious day, I like to thank the people of Bangladesh for keeping their trust on Bangladesh Army, and extending full support during all national development and disaster management activities. I like to mention with pleasure that our Armed Forces could earn the trust and respect of people beyond our borders.

Our Armed Forces personnel are also risking their lives every day to promote and sustain peace and stability in distant lands. Through our sincerity, dedication, relentless efforts and sheer professionalism, we have achieved our position as one of the top troops contributing countries in the United Nations which is a great accomplishment for all of us. Necessary steps are taken to modernize our Armed Force in order to achieve self-reliance utilizing our own manpower and indigenous technology. In the future, this efficient and active Bangladesh Army will continue to work dedicatedly with the firm conviction to play a more effective role as a symbol of the nation's trust, Insh'Allah.

On this auspicious day, I convey my heartfelt gratitude and felicitations to all the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces who bear the indomitable spirit of our Liberation War in their hearts. I also extend my thanks and gratitude to all who have worked at different levels for publishing the special supplement to national dailies to mark the Armed Forces Day-2025. I solicit the divine blessings for the continued progress and prosperity of Bangladesh Armed Forces.

May Allah bless us all.

  
WAKER-UZ-ZAMAN  
General

## ARMED FORCES DAY 2025

### Special Supplement

#### Armed Forces in the Liberation War

**ARMY:** Bangladesh Army's valiant role in the Liberation War of 1971 stands as an indelible chapter in the glorious history of Bangladesh. It was a time when the brave Bengali officers and soldiers of the then Pakistan Army, alongside civilians from all walks of life, courageously fought against the occupying forces of West Pakistan. The Bengali members of the Pakistan Army stood firmly against the brutalities and severe oppression inflicted on innocent and unarmed Bengalis during the "Operation Searchlight" on March 25, 1971. 8 East Bengal in Chattogram, 4 East Bengal in Brahmanbaria, 1 East Bengal in Jashore, 2 East Bengal in Joydebpur and 3 East Bengal in Saidpur organized armed resistance. This resistance by the East Bengal Regiment marked the first decisive step towards the Great Liberation Struggle. Colonel (later General) M. A. G. Osmani (Retd) was appointed as the Commander-in-Chief by the Provisional Government of Bangladesh in 1971. The country was divided into eleven sectors, most of which were commanded by Army personnel. 'Z' Force, 'S' Force, and 'K' Force, three regular Brigades of the Army, were formed to expedite victory. Besides, the Directorate of Medical Services was also established. The synergy of common people joining the fight, coupled with the unified and strategic actions of the newly formed Bangladesh Army, injected fresh vigor into the Liberation War. The indomitable officers and soldiers of Bangladesh Army as well as civilians from all walks of life achieved victory against the Pakistan Army through determined operations in various regions of the country during the nine month long conflict. Tragically, 1,460 Army personnel including 55 officers, sacrificed their lives for the independence of Bangladesh. In recognition of the heroic role in the Liberation War, 03 members of the Army were awarded 'Bir Sreshtho,' 39 'Bir Uttom,' 90 'Bir Bikrom' and 167 'Bir Protik' gallantry awards.

**NAVY:** The indelible contribution of Bangladesh Navy during the Great Liberation War played a vital role in accelerating the final victory of the nation. Bangladesh Navy formally started its journey in July 1971, following the historic declaration at the Sector Commanders' Conference amidst the ongoing struggle against the Pakistani forces. During this period, a notable number of Bengali officers and sailors serving in Pakistan Navy left West Pakistan with life risk and joined the Liberation War, engaging in both direct and guerrilla warfare. At that time, several Bengali submariners who were undergoing training in France returned to the motherland and formed a formidable Naval Commando Unit Comprising young freedom fighters. These valiant commandos carried out the daring "Operation Jackpot" in the country's major river ports, and sank around 26 enemy supply ships. Additionally, in "Operation Hotpants", 49 brave sailors along with two gunboats, PADMA and PALASH, launched a strategic attack in the Poshur River near Khulna, destroying enemy warships and supply vessels, thereby severely disrupting the logistic chain of the occupying forces. Until the nation was fully liberated, these naval commandos continued to conduct numerous successful operations across the country. These bold and strategic operations left the enemy forces completely disoriented along the waterways. Many heroic members of the Navy embraced martyrdom in the course of the war. In recognition of their supreme sacrifice, Shaheed Ruhul Amin (ERA-I) was awarded the highest gallantry title – 'Bir Sreshtho.' Additionally, 05 naval personnel were awarded 'Bir Uttom,' 08 'Bir Bikrom' and 07 'Bir Protik.'

**AIR FORCE:** On 28 September 1971, despite limited resources, multiple drawbacks, and a difficult atmosphere of extreme adversity, Bangladesh Air Force made its historic debut under the name 'Kilo Flight' in Dimapur, Nagaland, India. On this day, Air Force was established under the name 'Kilo Flight' in Dimapur, Nagaland, India, with an Otter aircraft, a Dakota aircraft, an Alouette helicopter and 57 dedicated members including Bengali pilots, civilian pilots and technicians. The main architect of 'Kilo Flight' was Group Captain A.K. Khandker. 'Kilo Flight' was aptly named after his initials 'K'. Later, the operation was expertly commanded by Squadron Leader Sultan Mahmud. The fearless members of this newly formed force transformed three ordinary aircraft and helicopter into devastating fighter aircraft. Then, on the midnight of December 3, the brave fighter conducted a very successful air attack on the Eastern Refinery in Chattogram through an Otter aircraft and on the Godnail fuel depot in Narayanang through an Alouette helicopter. Without any technology related to flying, with the help of only a compass and an altimeter, Kilo Flight conducted more than 50 successful air attacks on important installations of the Pakistani invading force. A total of 1,136 members of Bangladesh Air Force directly participated in the great Liberation War. In recognition of their outstanding contribution and heroic activities of Kilo Flight in the Liberation War, 01 member of Air Force was awarded 'Bir Sreshtho,' 06 'Bir Uttom,' 01 'Bir Bikrom' and 15 'Bir Protik' gallantry awards.



MESSAGE

CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF  
Bangladesh Navy

The 21<sup>st</sup> November is an important reminder of the unwavering courage, unity, and sacrifice of our Armed Forces members, whose relentless commitment rendered our aspiration for independence into a reality. On this day in 1971, the combined assault of Army, Navy and Air Force, in conjunction with the resolute spirit of our people, accelerated the defeat of occupying forces. This action ultimately resulted in enemy's surrender and the establishment of a sovereign and independent Bangladesh.

As we observe the 'Armed Forces Day 2025', I pay my deepest homage to our brave martyrs and freedom fighters, whose ultimate sacrifices have enabled us to stand as an independent nation. I also pay my solemn tribute to Bir Sreshtho Shaheed Ruhul Amin, along with all the valiant martyrs of the Armed Forces, whose patriotism and devotion will continue to inspire future generations. I extend my deepest condolences to the injured freedom fighters and the families of the martyrs of our Liberation War.

Bangladesh Navy is dedicated to the protection of nation's sovereignty, preservation of territorial integrity, and upholding the maritime interests. In response to the evolving needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, our three-dimensional navy is consistently modernising, integrating state-of-the-art equipment such as drones, helicopters, UAVs and warships, while striving for self-reliance. With the introduction of indigenous ships and craft, advanced surveillance, communication technologies and naval systems, BN has earned recognition as a professional navy in the region.

Apart from its core duties, Bangladesh Navy also plays a critical role in ensuring a stable law and order situation in designated areas and coastal regions to support civil administration. Navy also safeguards marine resources, combats smuggling and human trafficking, prevents illegal fishing activities and thereby contributes to the national economy. Furthermore, Chittagong Dry Dock Limited has established exceptional standards of professionalism, in the management of port operations at the New Mooring Container Terminal in Chittagong Port. Navy has also made significant contributions to disaster relief and humanitarian efforts, both domestically and internationally, by assisting affected communities. It recently dispatched immediate assistance to Myanmar in the aftermath of a catastrophic earthquake. Moreover, by participating in the United Nations peacekeeping missions, Bangladesh Navy consistently maintains extraordinary service standards, thereby enhancing country's international image in supporting global peace and stability.

On this solemn occasion, I express my sincere gratitude to all the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces. The courage and sacrifices of the Armed Forces personnel in securing our freedom will endure as a lasting symbol of inspiration. I also commend the efforts of the Armed Forces Division in publishing this special supplement, which underscores the significance and relevance of this day. I am confident that all members of the Armed Forces will pursue the commitment to serve our nation, guided by the spirit of 21<sup>st</sup> November. May Almighty Allah (SWT) bestow His divine blessings upon all of us.

  
M NAZMUL HASSAN  
Admiral



বাণী

প্রধান উপদেষ্টা  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

“সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস ২০২৫” উপলক্ষে সেনা, নৌ ও বিমান বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে আমি শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামে জীবন উত্সর্গকারী সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যসহ সকল বীর শহিদদের প্রতি গভীর শ্রদ্ধা জানাই।

আমাদের মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যরাই প্রথম প্রতিরোধযুদ্ধে এগিয়ে আসেন এবং দীর্ঘদিন লড়াইয়ে নেতৃত্ব দেন। সেনা, নৌ ও বিমান বাহিনীর অকুতোভয় সদস্যরা ২১ নভেম্বর সম্মিলিতভাবে দখলদার বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে পাল্টা আক্রমণের সূচনা করেন। মুক্তিবাহিনী, বিভিন্ন আধাসামরিক বাহিনীর সদস্যগণ ও দেশপ্রেমিক জনতা এই সমন্বিত আক্রমণে অংশ নেন। হানাদার বাহিনীকে পরাজিত করে ১৬ই ডিসেম্বর আমরা চূড়ান্ত বিজয় অর্জন করি। মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে আমাদের অগ্রযাত্রা ও বিজয়ের স্মারক হিসেবে প্রতি বছর ২১ নভেম্বর সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস পালন করা হয়।

ছাত্র-শ্রমিক-জনতার গণঅভ্যুত্থানসহ বিভিন্ন প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ মোকাবিলা, শিল্প কারখানায় নিরাপত্তা প্রদানসহ দেশের আইন-শৃঙ্খলা পরিস্থিতির নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও অস্ত্র উদ্ধারসহ সকল কার্যক্রমে বেসামরিক প্রশাসনকে সহায়তা প্রদানের জন্য আমি সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যদের ধন্যবাদ জানাই। গত ১৫ মাসে জনগণের পাশে দাঁড়িয়ে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যদের অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রমের ফলে দেশের সার্বিক পরিস্থিতির উন্নয়নসহ সাম্প্রদায়িক সম্প্রীতি বজায় রাখা সম্ভব হয়েছে। আমি আশা করি, সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যগণ দেশের স্বাধীনতা ও সার্বভৌমত্ব রক্ষার পাশাপাশি জনগণের সাথে একত্রে কাজ করে যাবে।

আমি “সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস ২০২৫” উপলক্ষে গৃহীত সকল কর্মসূচির সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

  
প্রফেসর মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস



MESSAGE

CHIEF OF AIR STAFF  
Bangladesh Air Force


21<sup>st</sup> November remains a glorious and defining milestone in the history of Bangladesh. On this day during the Liberation War, the valiant members of the Army, Navy and Air Force stood united with our people and launched a coordinated offensive against the occupying forces. Their patriotism, sacrifice and gallantry brought us ultimate victory and gifted us an independent and sovereign homeland under the proud red and green flag.

On this august occasion, I pay my deepest homage to all the brave freedom fighters whose supreme sacrifices paved the way for our independence. I solemnly recall the unparalleled courage of Bir Sreshtho Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman and the fearless members of the legendary Kilo Flight, whose contributions accelerated our long-awaited victory and laid the foundation of our beloved Air Force. Despite severe limitations in resources, the Kilo Flight heroes turned the tide of war through extraordinary courage, patriotism, tactical brilliance and successful strikes on the enemy. Their immortal legacy shall forever inspire generations of the Armed Forces to face any challenge with steadfast determination.

Born amid the flames of the Liberation War, Bangladesh Air Force today stands tall as a symbol of national pride and honour. Guided by its motto 'Banglar Akash Rakhibo Mukto' (Free shall we keep the sky of Bangladesh), the Air Force remains ever ready and committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of our skies. Since its inception, alongside its core responsibility of aerial defence, Bangladesh Air Force has tirelessly served the nation. During natural disasters, its personnel have carried out rescue operations, emergency evacuations, medical assistance and relief distribution using transport aircraft and helicopters. By extending support to the civil administration whenever required, the Air Force has also played a vital role in nation-building and humanitarian service. Despite limited resources, it has earned global recognition for its professionalism, patriotism and dedication. Through its continued contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions, Bangladesh Air Force has also upheld its commitment to global peace.

Though our journey began in 1971 with limited manpower and equipment, our objective was always crystal clear: to defend the independence and sovereignty of our motherland. For a long period after independence, however, the strategic necessity of modernizing the Air Force did not receive adequate priority. As a result, it could not achieve its aspired objectives in time. When the indispensability of a modern Air Force was finally realised, international instability and economic challenges constrained progress. But today, the context has changed. The evolving geopolitical landscape has reshaped the vision of the entire nation. Now, both policymakers and the people at large recognise the necessity of a powerful, modern Air Force—one that safeguards sovereignty while contributing to national development. In this regard, Bangladesh Air Force is planning to modernize its fleet with modern Multi-Role Combat Aircraft, Attack Helicopters, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile and Long-Range Radars in the near future. Our mission is clear: to ensure the absolute sovereignty of national airspace, safeguard independence, protect territorial integrity and contribute to public security, while simultaneously enhancing our role in national development during peacetime. I firmly believe that in the days ahead, Bangladesh Air Force will establish itself as a modern, technologically advanced and highly proficient force in the global arena.

In the history of our Liberation War, Armed Forces Day stands as a remarkable day, reminding us of our sacred oath to defend the freedom and sovereignty of our motherland. I am delighted to learn that the Armed Forces Division is publishing a special supplement in the national dailies to commemorate this historic day. On this solemn occasion, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to all members of our Armed Forces and their families. May Bangladesh Armed Forces continue their glorious march towards greater strength and prosperity. May Allah bless us all. Allah Hafez.

  
HASAN MAHMOOD KHAN  
Air Chief Marshal





BANGLADESH ARMED FORCES-DEDICATED TO THE COUNTRY

Bangladesh Armed Forces is Ever Ready to Safeguard the Sovereignty

**ARMY:** ‘In war and peace, we are everywhere for the country’ - this motto underscores the paramount duty of Bangladesh Army for safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation. Soon after the independence construction of new infrastructures, training and modernization of Bangladesh Army were started despite the limitations. As part of this, various Arms, Services and more than 100 units have been established in the Army. Besides, new cantonments have been established at Bogura, Savar, Mirpur, Mymensingh, Dighinala, Ruma and Alikadam. As part of the expansion of Bangladesh Army, 17 Infantry Divisions in Sylhet, 10 Infantry Divisions in Ramu, 98 Composite Brigade in Tangail and 7 Infantry Divisions in Lebukhali, Barisal have been established. To supervise the construction and security of Padma Bridge 99 Composite Brigade has been established. In addition, Special Works Organization, National Defence College, Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training (BIPSOT), Bangladesh Infantry Regimental Centre (BIRC), various Arms/Services Centers and Schools and Para Commando Brigade have been formed. With the aim of building a modern and advanced Army, this force has been equipped with modern weapons and equipment. With the passage of time, Bangladesh Army, today, has become a well-disciplined, efficient, experienced and exemplary force which is always ready to face any external enemy and protect the country’s sovereignty and geographical integrity.

**NAVY:** Guided by the motto ‘In war and peace invincible at sea’ - Bangladesh Navy remains steadfast in safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation and its vast maritime domain. To protect these maritime interests and ensure regional security, initiatives were undertaken after independence to build a modern, capable, and formidable naval force. Over the years, the Navy has expanded steadily, incorporating advanced warships such as Frigates, Corvettes, Offshore Patrol Vessels, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Helicopters, and Submarines. A highly trained and daring special force, SWADS has been formed with naval commandos and divers. Today, Bangladesh Navy stands proudly as a respected, professional, three-dimensional Maritime Force recognized across the world. To modernize training and enhance technological proficiency, the Navy reorganized the Navy Training and Doctrine Command (NATDOC) and established the Bangladesh Navy Dockyard Technical Institute. Moreover, the Navy’s own shipyards and Dry Docks are now building and repairing vessels using domestic expertise. The patrol craft BNS BISHKHALI, constructed at Khulna Shipyard, along with three Diving Boats - GANGCHIL, PANKOURI, and MASRANGA - has recently been inducted into the naval fleet. The establishment of the Centre for Naval Research and Development (CNRD) is playing a key role in technological advancement and indigenous innovation. Every sailor of the Bangladesh Navy remains resolute in defending the sovereignty of the nation and protecting its vast 118,813 square kilometers of maritime territory.

**AIR FORCE:** Bangladesh Air Force holding the glorious motto ‘Free shall we keep the sky of Bangladesh’ is always ready and dedicated to protect the country’s airspace with great vigilance and responsibility. Immediately after independence, supersonic fighter aircraft, transport aircraft, helicopters and air Defence radars were added in the inventory, which strengthened the foundation of a modern and well-organized Air Force. In a very short time, this force has built a strong Defence structure through reorganization, infrastructural development, modernization of the training system and reformation of manpower. As part of the continuous development activities, sophisticated fighter aircraft, transport aircraft, helicopters and air defence radar system have been added. In addition, the capabilities of this force has been increased manifold by adding various military technologies including modern radars, advanced air Defence systems, and advanced simulators to create an impenetrable Defence zone in the airspace of our country. Bangladesh Air Force has successfully built a basic trainer aircraft for the first time using its own technical knowledge and manpower, which is a unique example of technological self-reliance. All members of Bangladesh Air Force, inspired by the spirit of relentless hard work, dedication, sacrifice and patriotism, are firmly determined to protect the independence and sovereignty of the country through the proper use of modern fighter aircraft, helicopters and military equipment.

Bangladesh Armed Forces in Nation-Building and Development Activities

**ARMY:** Bangladesh Army has consistently played a highly efficient and successful role in responding to any form of national disaster. During natural calamities, Army conducts emergency evacuations, rescue operations, distribution of food and relief materials, medical assistance, housing support, and provides other essential humanitarian services. Bangladesh Army also ensures comprehensive security and cooperation for the people living in the Chattogram Hill Tracts. As part of these efforts, Army has been engaged in the seizure of illegal arms, ammunition, narcotics, and contraband items; organizing free medical camps and distributing medicines; providing sewing machines to underprivileged women; offering financial assistance for medical treatment; distributing solar panels and housing materials to distressed families; and supplying food to destitute children alongside providing critical assistance during various emergencies. Under the “In Aid to Civil Power,” Bangladesh Army continues to play a leading role across the country in maintaining law and order; recovering illegal weapons, ammunition, and narcotics; rescuing flood victims; distributing relief and medical support; and ensuring the safety of the lives and property of citizens as well as safeguarding critical state infrastructure. During the July uprising, Bangladesh Army ensured the treatment and essential medical support of injured fighters of July at the Combined Military Hospitals. By providing emergency care, surgeries and rehabilitation services, Bangladesh Army set a remarkable example of humanitarian assistance.

Bangladesh Army operates cadet colleges, cantonment public schools and colleges, cantonment English medium institutions, and cantonment board schools and colleges across the country. For higher education, Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) and the Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) offer graduate and postgraduate opportunities. Moreover, Army has established 12 specialized educational institutions under the name “Proyash” for children with special needs. To ensure optimal power generation and distribution, Bangladesh Army has been deployed to supervise several key national power plants. Army has also played a pivotal role in implementing nationwide projects such as the preparation of the photo-enlisted voter list and National Identity Cards as well as the Machine-Readable Passport (MRP) and e-Passport programs. Bangladesh Army ensured security for the Padma Bridge and played a central role in implementing the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project. It is also responsible for the physical protection and overall security of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. Furthermore, the construction of the ongoing Border Road Project under Army supervision is expected to revolutionize communication infrastructure in the hill districts. Alongside serving the nation at home, Bangladesh Army has extended humanitarian contributions abroad. Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar in March 2025, a 55-member rescue and medical team led by Bangladesh Army was deployed. Bangladesh’s contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions have earned global respect. As one of the largest troop-contributing countries, Bangladesh continues to play a prominent and vital role in UN peace operations.

**NAVY:** Bangladesh Navy is actively engaged in the protection and sustainable extraction of marine resources, securing the maritime boundary, providing humanitarian assistance during natural disasters, contributing to national and socio-economic development, and participating in peacekeeping missions at the international level. In recognition of its significant contribution to the conservation and enhancement of fish resources, through various operations Bangladesh Navy was awarded the ‘National Fisheries Award’ on 18 August 2025. Furthermore, the establishment of a maritime university under the supervision of the Navy is contributing to the development of skilled human resources in the maritime sector and economic advancement. Naval shipyards engaged in the construction and repair of warships and commercial vessels are generating substantial revenue for the state treasury. By ensuring the security of seaports-the gateways of the national economy-Bangladesh Navy supports smooth and uninterrupted movement of domestic and international commercial vessels, thereby accelerating import and export activities. Additionally, by taking responsibility for operating the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) of Chattogram Port, the Navy has enhanced cargo handling efficiency and yard capacity, playing an active role in strengthening the country’s economic progress. To support the rehabilitation of families affected by floods, the Navy has constructed 85 newly built houses, distributed essential materials to damaged institutions, repaired embankments, and built walkways and bridges, thereby ensuring safe, normal living conditions. Through infrastructure development and the construction of planned housing for displaced Myanmar nationals in Bhashanchar, Bangladesh Navy has helped to ensure safe, organized, and dignified living conditions for them. This humanitarian initiative has greatly enhanced Bangladesh’s diplomatic standing and international reputation.

Under the mandate of ‘In Aid to Civil Power’, Bangladesh Navy plays an effective and continuous role in supporting the civil administration, particularly in coastal and assigned areas. Alongside national development activities, Bangladesh Navy plays a highly significant role in maintaining diplomatic relations with neighboring and friendly countries. In continuation of this commitment, the BNS SANGRAM is currently deployed in Lebanon under UNIFIL for United Nations peacekeeping operations. Additionally, naval contingents and personnel are serving under UNMISS in South Sudan, as well as in other peacekeeping missions around the world. To foster mutual cooperation and strengthen relations with friendly nations, the Navy regularly participates in Navy to Navy Staff Talks, Defence Dialogues, and joint international

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exercises such as LIMA, AMAN, MILAN, CARAT, CORPAT, BANGASAGOR and PASSEX. Beyond national borders, Bangladesh Navy has also carried out several humanitarian and disaster relief operations in the Philippines, Maldives, Sri-Lanka, and Myanmar. Whether in war or peace, the Bangladesh Navy remains steadfast in safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation’s vast maritime domain.

**AIR FORCE:** Bangladesh Air Force plays a significant and praiseworthy role in disaster management. Recently, in the sudden and severe floods that occurred in different regions of Cumilla, Chattogram, Feni and Noakhali, the fearless members of Bangladesh Air Force have professionally and humanely carried out various humanitarian and relief activities including rescue operations for helpless people trapped in the floods, urgent search, medical camping, emergency medical assistance and distribution of relief & emergency medicines through airdropping by helicopters. They have always played a vital role in saving the lives of affected people by risking their own lives and facing danger fearlessly. Bangladesh Air Force is entrusted for 02 important sectors out of 09 sectors of Dhaka city in the post-earthquake rescue work. This force regularly provides all-round support to the country’s civil administration in firefighting and rescue work. The specially trained members of this force play an important role in protecting lives and property with the utmost professionalism and efficiency in firefighting. Recently, Bangladesh Air Force members played an active role in extinguishing the terrible fire that broke out at Unity Accessories Limited in Chattogram EPZ, Zant Accessories Factory in Kamaphuli EPZ, and in rescuing those trapped in the fire, and when a terrible fire broke out at Mohakhali Eureka Enterprise Filling Station in Dhaka. In addition, when a humanitarian disaster occurred due to strong earthquakes in Myanmar and Afghanistan, rescue teams with humanitarian aid were sent as soon as possible through a C-130J transport aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force. Recently, Bangladesh National Football Team, which was stranded under unstable conditions in Nepal, was brought back home by transport aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force. Besides, Air Force members representing Bangladesh in various UN missions have brought an enviable achievement of glory and praise for the country and the nation. A total of 40,000 students study in 07 BAF Shaheen Colleges, 01 BAF Shaheen English Medium College and 02 secondary schools run by Air Force and achieve successful results in the SSC and HSC examinations every year. It has also played an important role in the expansion of education in the country by establishing ‘Golden Eagle Nursery’ and ‘Blue Sky School’ with modern facilities for special needs children. In line with modern science, the Aviation and Aerospace University Bangladesh has been established with the aim of rapidly advancing space research in Air Force and civil aviation. For a long time, Bangladesh Air Force has been actively providing assistance to Bangladesh Army and BGB, other law enforcement agencies and civil administration through helicopters to maintain peace and harmony in the remote mountainous areas of the Chattogram Hill Tracts. Recently, Bangladesh Air Force has been efficiently performing the security responsibilities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and other important airports to ensure uninterrupted security under the ‘In Aid to Civil Power’.




**IMPORTANCE OF ARMY COMMANDO COURSE  
IN BANGLADESH ARMY**

Captain Abdullah Al Nayim, Infantry




In Bangladesh Army anyone doing Army Commando Course is lucky to have basic Para trooping training beside commando training. So, the commando is a strong man with good physical and mental strength who is ever ready to take any challenge without any hesitation for nation at any time. Hardship is something most of the time people do not want to take it voluntarily. May be that is the reason why punishment, rewards and incentives came in army as part of command style. Initially announced rewards and incentives push an individual to take risks, later on his inner instinct of courage or fear comes in action. Those who are capable, they continue on risky and hard job like commando training. Those who are not capable they become eliminated. So, for a normal soldier, announced rewards and incentives make him signed in for the Army Commando Course and rest is done by course itself by helping him to understand his mind and knowing his limit of capacity. At present soldiers coming for Army Commando Course are also motivated by some motivating factors. These motivating factors vary from person to person. Whatever may be their motivating factor, at the end all of them are same in quality, fearlessness, robustness and determination after passing through six months of commando training under Special Warfare Wing, School of Infantry & Tactics. UN mission is a big welfare for Bangladeshi soldiers. A soldier needs to wait long 9 to 10 years or more time to be selected for an UN mission. Where as commando soldier gets this welfare within very short time of the completion of Army Commando Course. Beside early mission, there are commando NCOs and JCOs who went for three times mission in his service as a commando. Army Commando Course qualified and recommended soldiers can go for different foreign course to learn advance level. It is also a rare chance for a soldier to know about other country and widen their knowledge. Anything decorative in uniform bears a significant meaning and pride for the individual who puts it on. Brevet is one of the decorations of military uniform and among all golden wing of Army, Commando Course is a beautiful one. Commandos take pride of this brevet and try their best to uphold its honour. Those who are posted in Para Commando Battalion can put on ‘Cheetah’ in their uniform. Para Commando Battalion is the Battalion of the commandos. So, this decoration can also be achieved by doing Army Commando Course only.

In Bangladesh Army, four advance courses are run by Special Warfare Wing in School of Infantry & Tactics. Those are Jump Master, Rigger, Path Finder and Free Fall course. The letter ‘M’ represents Jump Master, ‘R’ represents Rigger ‘P’ represents Path Finder and these letters are encrypted beneath the wing once anyone completes an advance course. These letters beneath anyone’s wing offers him respect for his qualifications. There are soldiers who joined army with a hope of getting chance to do adventurous and exciting things in army. But after recruitment, many of them get involved in regular unit activities. After few days they discover that there is nothing exciting, adventurous or heroic to do so. To, to fulfill their dream they want to join Army Commando Course. In the organogram of Para Commando Battalion, there is a company named Counter Terrorism Company. Anyone loves to serve country like this in heroic way, needs be a commando first. A paratrooper jumps from thousands feet of height and see the earth like a flying bird. Anyone doing Army Commando Course can have that scope which a normal soldier does not get. A student of Army Commando Course participates in three speed march: 30, 40 and 50 kilometer speed march. This is very challenging for a soldier to complete with his personal weapon and heavy weight at the back within limited time. None can test his endurance by doing this but a student of Army Commando Course. Many people watch survival activities of Bear Grylls on Discovery channel and think of adventure in living that life. Army Commando Course students are also left in the jungle on operational purpose for seven days without any food. They need to survive there on ground following survival techniques and hunger makes every student Bear Grylls. Beside above mentioned events, a student of Army Commando Course undergoes many more exciting events like 20 kilometer run, Cross Country run, Adventure Run, Running through the Hilly Jungle, Ridge Line March, Battle Obstacle Crossing, Fast Roping and Heli-Rappelling from helicopter, Confidence Building Circuit, Artificial Rock Climbing, Jungle Lane Shooting, Reflex Action Shooting etc. There are soldiers who want to take all these challenge in their military life and they join Army Commando Course. No one is born as commando, paratrooper or a pilot. Everywhere it needs courage and determination. Still, people can do all these things once he discovers himself. Before someone discovers his ability or limit of capacity, this is where motivation comes in action and leads him to take challenges as a pilot, paratrooper or a commando. Whatever may be one’s motivating factors of doing Army Commando Course, it can only give him entry in the course, does not make him a commando. To become a commando, he has to possess the quality of a real commando who will not hesitate to undergo any difficult situation and perform effectively. Interest of getting rewards or incentives is not a fault but interest for only rewards and incentives without valuing nation’s need in time is a fault.



**SIGNIFICANCE OF ARMED FORCES DAY AND  
INSPIRATION FOR CREDIBLE ARMED FORCES OF  
BANGLADESH**

Lieutenant Commander Sadman Sakib Aikyo, (X), BN



Armed Forces Day is celebrated in Bangladesh on 21<sup>st</sup> November every year. This date holds immense historical and emotional significance as it commemorates the first unified military action by Army, Navy and Air Force against Pakistani occupation forces during the 1971 Liberation War. This coordinated joint offensive marked a decisive moment in Bangladesh’s journey to independence. The day is a solemn reminder of the valour, unity and strategic brilliance demonstrated by our Armed Forces. Commemorative events are held across military installations and public venues throughout the country, showcasing Bangladesh’s military legacy.

Additionally, Defence Attachés stationed in foreign missions organize events to represent Bangladesh’s military history and strengthen diplomatic relations. Beyond celebration, Armed Forces Day serves to reinforce national pride and collective memory, inspiring both the military and civilians to uphold the values of patriotism, service and sacrifice that defined the Liberation War which was triggered by Operation Searchlight-a brutal crackdown by Pakistani forces on 25 March 1971. Under the leadership of Colonel M. A. G. Osmani, the Bangladesh Forces formally began organizing in April 1971. Guerrilla warfare dominated the early months, as freedom fighters used hit-and-run tactics to destabilize the enemy. By September, with Indian support, the Armed Forces were reorganized into structured units including three brigade-sized formations and sector commands. The joint operation on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1971 was a game-changing moment. All three services launched a synchronized attack on Pakistani positions. Air Force achieved air superiority, providing cover for ground troops. Navy’s missile boats executed daring raids on Karachi, crippling the enemy’s naval capacity. Army executed heliborne assaults at Sylhet and para-dropped troops at Tangail to cut off enemy reinforcements. These actions significantly weakened Pakistani morale, disrupted their command infrastructure and accelerated the liberation process. On 16 December 1971, Pakistani Army surrendered, marking the birth of Bangladesh as an independent nation. The observance of Armed Forces Day has multi-dimensional significance. It is an occasion to honour the immense sacrifice of the military and civilian martyrs who laid down their lives during the Liberation War. The event revives national consciousness, fostering unity among different branches of the military and between the Armed Forces and civilians. It reminds the nation of the importance of a strong, disciplined and professional Armed Forces to safeguard sovereignty. Public displays, parades and exhibitions allow civilians to engage directly with service members, enhancing trust and transparency. Schools, colleges and universities host awareness programs that inform young citizens about the significance of the Armed Forces and the history of 1971. This day also provides an opportunity for introspection and strategic planning. Military leadership uses this occasion to renew their commitment to professional development, modernization, and ethical conduct. These reflections are vital in maintaining operational readiness and aligning the military with national development goals. It is essential that all ranks from soldiers to senior officers, remain grounded in the ethical foundations of military service. The courage and discipline of the martyrs should inspire present-day service members to maintain integrity, honour and loyalty to the constitution. Programs commemorating the martyrs’ contributions strengthen this resolve and encourage a culture of respect and sacrifice. Modern warfare has evolved to include cyber threats, psychological operations, and hybrid tactics. Armed Forces must adapt to these challenges without compromising on core values. Training in advanced technologies, intelligence analysis and inter-agency collaboration should be pursued aggressively. Leadership must foster a culture of accountability, inclusivity and mental resilience. Regular mentoring, performance reviews and moral education will help nurture a confident and ethically sound force. It is also crucial to engage the families of service members as they are an integral part of the military community. Civil-military cooperation is another critical area. Armed Forces personnel routinely assist in disaster relief operations, infrastructure development and vaccination drives. Such roles require empathy, cultural sensitivity and a people-first approach. Participation in these activities not only builds credibility but also strengthens national unity. Every personnel must understand that their duty extends beyond combat. It includes upholding human dignity, supporting democratic institutions and contributing to peace both nationally and globally. This holistic view of service is what makes an Armed Force credible and admired. Armed Forces Day stands as a lasting tribute to the bravery, unity and sacrifice that led to the birth of Bangladesh. It reflects the transformative journey of our Armed Forces from guerrilla fighters to a modern, respected military force committed to peace and development. By commemorating this day, we not only remember history but also chart a path for the future. The Armed Forces must continue to evolve, embracing modern tools and ethical frameworks while staying true to their foundational values. Armed Forces must remain a symbol of hope, unity, and resilience. With the spirit of 1971 as their guiding light, they will continue to serve the nation with distinction, ensuring Bangladesh’s journey toward a prosperous and peaceful future.



**AIR POWER: ROLE OF BANGLADESH AIR FORCE  
AND NEED FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

Air Commodore Abul Fazal Muhammad Atiquzzaman, BSP, GUP, ndc, psc, GD(P)



Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) is a key component of military force in ensuring national defence, sovereignty and effective humanitarian operations. Since its birth during the War of Liberation in 1971, BAF has transformed from a tiny unit with minimal resources into a modern air force equipped to serve strategic defence, support aid to civil power during national crises and contribute significantly to global peacekeeping efforts. Moving forward, BAF’s modernisation and the need for additional air assets are vital to meeting future national and international obligations. The primary role of BAF is to secure Bangladesh’s airspace through air defence, tactical operations and aerial reconnaissance. These roles ensure deterrence against external threats and offer rapid response capabilities during emergencies. Secondary roles have grown in significance over the decades, including participation in humanitarian relief, disaster response, search and rescue operations, and United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions. These multifaceted roles demand continuous modernisation and resource augmentation. Operation Kilo Flight, December 3, 1971, was a turning point in Bangladesh’s liberation war narrative. A few brave Bengali conducted this operation with makeshift aircraft and limited resources. This operation targeted enemy forces fuel depots in Chattogram and Narayanganj, severely disrupting enemy logistics. It symbolized the inception of BAF’s operational role. It demonstrated the tactical ingenuity and determination of the newly emerging air force. Operation Kilo Flight became a beacon of national pride and resilience, inspiring future military leadership and doctrine. BAF’s capability to rapidly deploy across the country has branded it as a firsthand responder during any natural disasters and emergencies. BAF is frequently called upon to airlift relief materials, evacuate injured civilians, and conduct aerial reconnaissance. BAF used its air assets to inspect affected areas, estimate requirements, evacuate casualties, and help with relief efforts during Cyclone Amphan. BAF has provided assistance in post-disaster recovery, including restoring infrastructure, medical aid and logistical support. After Cyclone Amphan, more than 100 people were sent to places like Sathkira to help the community. BAF has also conducted relief operations beyond national boundaries. Some important things that have been done are helping people in India after an earthquake (2001), Pakistan after an earthquake (2005), Sri Lanka and the Maldives after a tsunami (2005). In collaboration with the Armed Forces Division, the BAF has established disaster response coordination and operation cells that work with civil agencies, military branches, and NGOs to ensure an effective approach to crisis management. BAF is globally recognised for its role in UN peacekeeping missions. BAF aviation units have been stationed in Kuwait, East Timor, Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Haiti, and the Central African Republic. It is responsible for air logistical operations, aerial surveillance, CASEVAC, MEDEVAC, special air operations, moving VIPs, and helping ground soldiers. This participation not only increases Bangladesh’s diplomatic presence, but it also helps the country gain operational experience and work better with other countries’ forces. To remain effective, BAF must continue its modernization drive as part of Forces Goal 2030. To establish dominance in aerial operations, there’s a growing interest in acquiring advanced multi-role fighter jets such as the Eurofighter Typhoon, Dassault Rafale, F-16 Block 70, or J-10C. Strengthening command, control, and real-time battlefield visibility could be achieved through Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) assets-options like the SAAB Global Eye or E-2D Hawkeye are under consideration. BAF has a few assets for strategic mobility, but bolstering logistical and humanitarian reach may involve increasing the fleet of C-130J transport aircraft or integrating platforms like the Airbus A400M for swift, high-volume deployment. Incorporating modern Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) such as the MQ-9 Reaper or Bayraktar TB2 would elevate capabilities in surveillance, precision engagement, and perimeter security. To secure the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), aircraft such as the P-8 Poseidon or ATR 72 MP are necessary. Helicopters like AH-64 Apache, T129 ATAK or Mi-35P can strengthen the BAF’s close air support and counter-insurgency capabilities. Acquisition of tankers such as the Airbus A330 MRTT or KC-130 would extend the operational range of combat aircraft. More Yak-130 or M-346 Master aircraft will help prepare pilots for next-gen fighters. An air ambulance is an aircraft, either a fixed-wing aircraft or a helicopter, specifically equipped to transport sick or injured patients. Given the increasing need for emergency medical evacuation, Bangladesh does not have this essential asset. BAF would benefit from dedicated air ambulances equipped with intensive care units. This would enhance civil-military medical coordination during pandemics, accidents, or remote-area emergencies. Bangladesh Air Force has become a vital force for national defence, disaster management and international peacekeeping. As Bangladesh faces evolving regional and global challenges, the BAF’s future hinges on strategic acquisitions, advanced training, and robust technological integration. Air power remains central to Bangladesh’s military doctrine, and with the right assets and planning, BAF is poised to meet the country’s security and humanitarian objectives for decades to come.