

# Bangla News

Newsletter  
Monthly

Vol-1, Issue-2, 19 Nov 2003, Bangladesh Air Contingent, MONUC, Bunia

## Inside this Issue

- Ramadan in Bunia.
- Message from the Contingent Commander.
- Aviation Unit Reaches 500 hrs mark.
- Achievements of ASU.
- SRS and other VIPs visited Bunia Ops area in MI-17.
- Flight Safety Meeting Held.
- Medical Review.

## Essence of Ramadan.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. The Month of Ramadan is also when it is believed the 'Holy Quran' was sent down from heaven, a guidance unto men, a declaration of direction, and a means of Salvation. Here is a pictorial representation of our Ramadan Celebration in Bunia.

## Aviation Unit Reaches 500 hrs mark.

Bangladesh Aviation Unit reached 500 hrs of flying in the month of October 03. Additionally, this unit has also made a number of noteworthy achievements in this month. Click here to read on.



Troops Insertion by MI-17 Hel



Pilot receives VIP in the Helipad

## Achievements of ASU

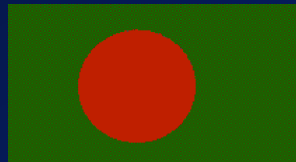
Personnel of Airfield Service Unit (ASU) are relentlessly working from dawn to dusk to fulfill the long-term objectives of MONUC. Here are a few quantitative representation of their achievements so far.

## VIPs Visit Ops Area

During the month of October, a number of VIPs including SRS, Force Commander, Chief of the Investigation Team visited Ops area. Here are the details.



Ramadan in Bunia



# Bangla News

Newsletter  
Monthly

Vol-1, Issue-2, 19 Nov 2003, Bangladesh Air Contingent, MONUC, Bunia

## The Essence of Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the lunar (Muslim) calendar. The Month of Ramadan is also when it is believed the 'Holy Quran' was sent down from heaven, a guidance unto men, a declaration of direction, and a means of Salvation.

It is during this month that Muslims fast. It is called the Fast of Ramadan and lasts the entire month. Ramadan is a time when Muslims concentrate on their faith and spend less time on the concerns of their everyday lives. It is a time of worship and contemplation.

During the Fast of Ramadan, strict restraints are placed on the daily lives of Muslims. They are not allowed to eat or drink during the daylight hours. Smoking and sexual relations are also forbidden during fasting. At the end of the day, the fast is broken with prayer and a meal called the Iftar.

According to the Holy Quran, one may eat and drink at any time during the night until you can plainly distinguish a white thread from a black thread by the daylight, then keep the fast until night.

After long one month of Salvation and contemplation, when the fast ends (the first day of the month of Shawwal) it is celebrated in a holiday called Eid-al-Fitr (the Feast of Fast Breaking). Gifts are exchanged. Friends and family gather to pray in congregation and for large meals. In some cities, fairs are held to celebrate the end of the Fast of Ramadan.

For us, this Ramadan and Eid is special as we are away from home and fasting in a new environment.

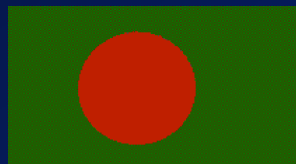


Iftar



Prayer before the Iftar





# Bangla News

Newsletter  
Monthly

*Vol-1, Issue-2, 19 Nov 2003, Bangladesh Air Contingent, MONUC, Bunia*

## Special Message from the Contingent Commander

The BAF contingent is passing through its fourth month since it established its foot hood in Bunia. Both the Aviation and Airfield Services Units have been meeting the tasks with commitment and dedication.

The month of November bears a special significance to the contingent. This is the month when Aviation Unit has crossed its first hallmark of having 500:00 hours of flying. So is the Airfield Services Unit which has been dedicatedly performing the duties of maintaining the airfield.

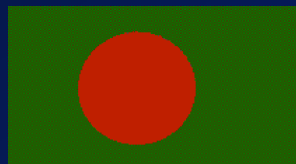
But none of the above achievements would have been possible without the positive support of MONUC both in terms of air operations and otherwise. The contingent pays its immense gratitude to the MONUC High Office in showing consideration and respect to the dead soul of one of its members named Shamsul Alam. The kindred gesture of SRSG, Force Commander, DOA and others to the event has greatly enhanced the morale of the contingent members in demonstrating that MONUC cares for every member that serves in the mission.

The contingent extends its best wishes and a happy EID MUBARAK to all the members of the MONUC and prays for their continued progress and prosperity in life.

With best Regards.



**Gp Capt Mahmud Hussain, GD(P), The Contingent Commander.**



# Bangla News

Newsletter  
Monthly

Vol-1, Issue-2, 19 Nov 2003, Bangladesh Air Contingent, MONUC, Bunia

## VIPs Visit Ops Area

During the month of October, a number of VIPs including SRSG, Force Commander and Chief of the Investigation Team visited Ops area. Here are the details of their visit.

<u>Date</u>	<u>VIP</u>	<u>Route</u>
18 Oct 2003	Force Commander	BUNIA-IKABARRIER-FATAKI-BUNIA
25 Oct 2003	Investigation Team Lead by Lt Gen (Retd) Satish Nambiar	BUNIA-MANGBWALU-BUNIA
27 Oct 2003	SRSG	BUNIA-KACHELLE-BOGORO-BUNIA



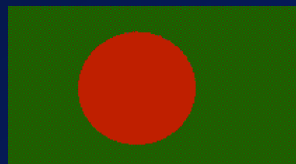
SRSG in MI-17

## Special Mission in Tchomiya

On 31 Oct 2003, MI-17s of Bangladesh Air Contingent carried out Troops Insertion Mission in Tchomiya, a place 15 nm south east of Bunia. All 05 MI-17s of the contingent took part in this massive Air Operation. Operation started early in the morning and continued till sunset. Despite heavy gun fire on ground, helicopters inserted 221 troops of BANBAT and NEPBAT in the area and carried around 1912 Kg of logistics for the operation. On that day, helicopters flew 21.74 hrs for this operation alone. This was an exceptional display of professionalism and dedication by pilots and all concerned personnel of Bangladesh Air Contingent. Well Done!!!



SRSG in Bogoro



# Bangla News

Newsletter  
Monthly

Vol-1, Issue-2, 19 Nov 2003, Bangladesh Air Contingent, MONUC, Bunia

## Achievements of ASU

Personnel of Airfield Services Unit (ASU) are relentlessly working from dawn to dusk to fulfill the long-term objectives of MONUC. Here are a few quantitative representation of their achievements so far.

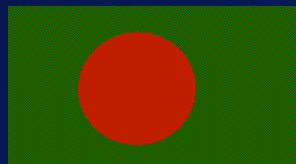
ATC and Flight Following Service (FFS)	Movement Control (MovCon)	Crash Fire and Rescue (CFR)	Marshalling and Security Check
Un Flight handled: 670	Flight handled: 329	De-fueling: 37	UN Flight Marshalled: 676
Civ Flt Handled: 333	Cargo Handled: 123688	Re-fueling: 280	Pax Sy Checked: 2701
<b>Total Flight Handled: 1133</b>	<b>Pax Handled: 2751</b>	<b>Total Flight Handled: 317</b>	



Security Officer confiscating unauthorized arms found during Security Check.



Morning Met Briefing by Met Officer of ASU.



# Bangla News

Newsletter  
Monthly

Vol-1, Issue-2, 19 Nov 2003, Bangladesh Air Contingent, MONUC, Bunia

## Aviation Unit Reaches 500 hrs mark.

Bangladesh Aviation Unit reached 500 hrs of flying in the month of October 03. Additionally, this unit has also made a number of noteworthy achievements in this month. Here are a few achievements of this unit in October 03.

<u>Role</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Pax</u>	<u>Load (Kg)</u>
Cargo	73	81.90	383	108558
Recce	19	26.94	27	0
Troops/Milobs Insertion/Extraction	113	180	2426	5888
Maintenance	06	3.31	0	0

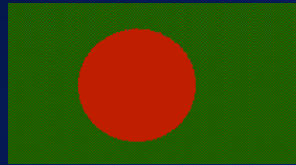


Signing Author book before taking up the mission.

<u>Total</u>	
Sorties	211
Hours for October	292.14
Pax	2836
Load	114446
Grand Total Hours till date	593.44



Troops returning from Ops Area by MI-17 hel.



# Bangla News

Newsletter  
Monthly

Vol-1, Issue-2, 19 Nov 2003, Bangladesh Air Contingent, MONUC, Bunia

## Flight Safety Meeting Held.

The first Flight Safety Meeting of Bangladesh Air Contingent was held on 02 Nov 2003 at 1035 Hrs in the Crew Room. The meeting was presided over by Wg Cdr M Abul Bashar, GD(P). In his opening address, the chairman said " Safety awareness and devotion to duty among the crew can reduce the rate of accidents and incidents." He urged upon everyone to participate in this meeting whole-heartedly and make the meeting a success.

During the meeting, a number of important points like the requirement of safety goggles for the Air Gunners, requirement of MT Shed, ICOM set for pilots, Dogs in the Helipad area etc were discussed. The chairman instructed concerned persons to take necessary actions to solve the problems.

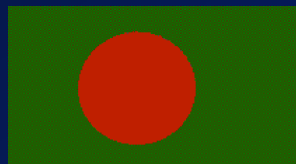
In the concluding speech, the chairman asked everyone to follow the correct procedures while handling armaments. He also advised everyone to take precautions against Malaria. The meeting was finally adjourned at 1200 hrs.



The Chairman presiding over the Flight Safety Meeting.



A partial view of the Flight Safety Meeting.



# Bangla News

Newsletter  
Monthly

Vol-1, Issue-2, 19 Nov 2003, Bangladesh Air Contingent, MONUC, Bunia

## Medical Review.

This contingent continues to maintain a very good record in preventing Malaria and combating other common diseases. In October, there were no records of malaria or any other common diseases amongst the contingent members.

## Medical Statistics (Patients treated)

MONUC Staff	30
Local Congolese	25

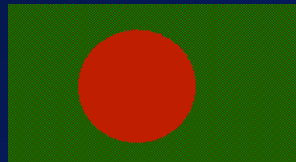


Treating an injured worker.



A Congolese worker with serious head injury gets medical treatment in the contingent MI Room. The patient was working in the Maintenance hangar when a steel bar fell on his head causing deep cut in the skull.





# Bangla News

Newsletter  
Monthly

Vol-1, Issue-2, 19 Nov 2003, Bangladesh Air Contingent, MONUC, Bunia

## Editorial

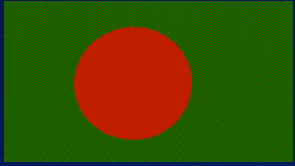
The Second issue of "Bangla News" as pledged before is replete with news and info on operations. The holy Ramadan has taken a lead news in this issue as one of holiest of the Muslim religious injunctions that is being practised in a sparsely Muslim-populated land and in an inhospitable environment.

The achievements of ASU and the landmark occasion of attaining 500 hrs mark of Bangladesh Aviation Unit have also been aptly portrayed here. The successful missions of the VIPs including that of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (SRSG) bear a special credit for both the units of Bangladesh Air Contingent.

Flight Safety is and has always been a crying need for any aviation activities anywhere in the world has been duly recognized by the first ever Flight Safety Meeting of the Air Contingent. The last but not the least is the medical coverage provided by the medics of the contingent have been rightly projected in this issue.

A warm Eid Greetings before the holy Eid-ul-Fitr and any constructive suggestions to improve the overall standard of this petite newsletter would be welcome.





# Bangla News

*Newsletter  
Monthly*

*Vol-1, Issue-2, 19 Nov 2003, Bangladesh Air Contingent, MONUC, Bunia*

## Credits

Chief Patron	Gp Capt Mahmud Hossain, GD(P)
Deputy Chief Patron	Gp Capt M Abul Bashar, GD(P)
Editor	Wg Cdr Kazi Abdul Matin, Edn
Planning, design and writing	Sqn Ldr Mustafa Touhidur Rahman Laskar, GD(P)

## Contact Address

Lotus Note:	MONUC-BUN-BANAIR-AVN OPS
Email:	banair_monuc@yahoo.com
Web:	<a href="http://www.angelfire.com/falcon/banairmonuc">http://www.angelfire.com/falcon/banairmonuc</a>

