

UN honoures 250 Bangladeshi policemen

A total of 250 Bangladeshi police officials have received the United Nations Peacekeeping Medal in recognition of their contribution to the United Nations Operation in Cote D'ivoire (ONUCI), in helping stabilize the west African country, reports BSS. A ceremony was held in this regard at the headquarters of the Bangladeshi Formed Police Unit (BANFPU) in Bouake on June 11 at the headquarters of the Bangladeshi Formed Police Unit (BANFPU) in Bouake, according to a message received here from Abidjan Tuesday.

Commissioner of the United Nations Police (UNPOL), Colonel Pierre-Andre Campiche, who made a trip to Abidjan, attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion Campiche praised the dedication and sense of self-sacrifice of the Bangladeshi police officials. He said BANFPU's professionalism has "strengthened the capacity, efficiency and reaction force of the United Nations Police and all of ONUCI, enabling it to cope with unforeseen security challenges."

He also drew attention to the crucial role of the UN police in securing the electoral process ahead. "We have the duty to support our national partners from Cote d'ivoire to provide the necessary security during and after the elections," he added.

For its part, on behalf of Bangladesh police, superintendent of police Ahmad Zamil, the BANFPU Commander, reaffirmed the commitment of the Bangladeshi police to support the mandate of the United Nations to promote the reconciliation process and the return to peace.

The Formed Police Unit is a specialized unit of the United Nations Police, tasked with providing security of people and goods within UNOCI. It is also in charge of managing the problems associated with maintaining public order and has considerable means to control demonstrations crowds.

Bangladesh, the second largest troop contributor to the forces of UNOCI, has 250 police officers based at Yamoussoukro and Bouake.

Bangladesh is currently the world's second largest provider of troops and police to the United Nations with more than 9,000 serving in fourteen peacekeeping operations.

In addition to Cote D'ivoire, Bangladesh has major deployments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan (Darfur and Southern Sudan), Liberia and Timor- Leste.