

# Editorial

## Geopolitics in an Era of Uncertainty: Navigating through Uncharted Sea

Wars and conflicts have been a catastrophe for humanity throughout history. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has been a puzzle for experts because of its unprecedented ripple effect. The global ramifications of this conflict have been felt in every corner of the world and it is projected to get worse in the coming days. The Middle Eastern region has been at the centre of the great power struggle for decades. But the conflicts were nowhere near the current one in Ukraine in terms of their trans-border impacts across the globe. In one hand, the spill over effects may be attributed to the nature of interconnectedness in this highly globalized world. On the other hand, the causal analysis might point out the location of the theatre as conflicts in Europe have the innate ability to plunge the whole world into it.

The South Asian region has also been facing the brunt of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Sri Lankan case has been an early warning to its neighbouring nations, but the turmoil in the neighbourhood is increasingly threatening to be a domestic issue for the countries. The global geopolitical turmoil has triggered uncertainty about the stability of international shipping and global economic recovery. Seaborne trading has never been costlier than ever before and the consequential impacts can be felt in the skyrocketing prices of commodities. Inflation-hit national economies have been catastrophic for the people around the globe, despite being positioned thousands of miles away from the conflict. Bangladesh has been lauded for its success in possessing the potential to become an economic power in South Asia because of the realization of its development vision. The ongoing global challenges have affected Bangladesh's developmental journey. The ongoing mega projects are intertwined with the global economy; therefore, the future trajectory must be carefully planned and executed. In order to safeguard Bangladesh's national interests and ensure food and energy security, Bangladesh has to venture through complex and ever-changing geopolitical scenarios more cautiously than ever.

In this context, the theme of the present issue of PAAL is titled "Geopolitics in an Era of Uncertainty: Navigating through Uncharted Sea. " This issue has been designed to present different aspects of the global challenges and the varying levels of impact on different sectors of Bangladesh. From the conceptual understanding of the geopolitical complexities of the maritime domain to the policy-level implications of the geopolitical challenges, the current issue of PAAL covers a wide range of issues. Changing dynamics, due to the global challenges of different issues like the Rohingya refugee crisis, volatilities in the ocean shipping industry, the development of maritime infrastructures, etc, are discussed by respective subject-matter experts. The current PAAL issue depicts the domestic level reflection of the global challenges due to geopolitical conflicts. Articles also focus on the seaport, technological advancements in the shipping sector, marine resources, etc. Regular sections like BIMRAD Feats, Marine News and Coastal Window highlighted the most concurrent unique events.

We are convinced that this issue of PAAL will enable us to reach our goal of sharing knowledge and perspectives with our readers. We also wish our efforts will make the readers aware of the global challenges and their impacts on Bangladesh's maritime domain. Indeed, a better tomorrow awaits Bangladesh if we can bring out the best amidst the ongoing global challenges.

Thanking you  
Editorial Board