

Editorial

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman The Architectural Pioneer of Maritime Bangladesh.

An independent, sovereign and a developed country is the much-cherished desire of every human being. The dream of such a free and developed country was conceived by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and articulated emphatically at Dhaka's Ramna Racecourse ground on March 07, 1971, through his historical and clarion call, "Ebarer Songram Amader Muktir Songram; Ebarer Songram Swadhinotar Songram" (Struggle this time is for our freedom, Struggle this time is for independence). Our country got independence after the sanguinary nine-months of war under the inspirational leadership of Bangabandhu. We earned our elated Red-Green flag of Bangladesh. Bangabandhu became the Father of liberated Bangladesh and the architect of a newly independent country.

Rebuilding the war-torn country into the Golden-Bengal was certainly a great challenge for Bangabandhu. Chaos, lack of resources and disorder were prevalent in almost all the sector of the country. Maritime sector was no exception. It was also not free from anarchy prevailing elsewhere. It is the visionary Bangabandhu, who realized that Bangladesh is truly a maritime nation, and ensuring the optimum usage of the oceanic wealth could accelerate the development of this country. He charted out a proactive strategy and a pragmatic roadmap for the development of maritime sector of Bangladesh. An informative article on Bangabandhu's maritime vision and strategic roadmap for the development of the maritime sector of Bangladesh would surely inspire the readers and shines a ray of hope. A point to note here; his maritime vision is highly relevant today as much as it was then.

A well thought out strategy would only pay optimal dividends when suitable legal instruments are in place to define and demarcate the maritime area under our jurisdiction and living and nonliving resources available in that area are well protected and nourished. A couple of article on Draft Maritime Zone Act 2019 of the Maritime Policy of the current government and Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing a threat to marine biodiversity have been included in this issue so that our readers stay informed and updated about the dynamic development of the maritime economy of Bangladesh. An insightful look into the activities, operational capabilities and future potentials of the Chittagong Dry Dock Limited would certainly go a long way in raising the awareness of the readers about the maritime potentials of Bangladesh.

Bangabandhu always pinned enormous hope on the youth; who according to him can play a vital role in the perdurable development of this coastal country. An inspirational composition on the participation of youth in the development activities of the maritime sector of Bangladesh has added much relevance and vibrancy to this issue of publication.

We wish that exciting news on the important marine events would entice the readers and keep them updated. Moreover, our regular feature "Window of the Coast/UPOKULER JANALA" is presented to highlight the intricacies of the lives of the people living on the coast and their real-life stories compiled by the coastal journalists.

We wish and hope that all our readers would remain safe and healthy during this corona pandemic. We also wish that this issue of PAAL would keep you updated on maritime issues and would also take away some of the psychological stress of during the pandemic.

Your conscientious opinions and reviews will make our effort worthwhile.

We always consider your opinions valuable and beneficial.

Thanking you
Board of Editorial