

Editorial

Post-Covid Augmentation: Optimum Use of Maritime Resources

The United Nations framework for Immediate Socio-Economic Response to the COVID-19 crisis has categorically signified that COVID-19 affects societies and economies at their core. Immediate development responses in this crisis should be undertaken with a clear and definite focus on the future. At the initial stage, the pandemic outbreak also shattered the socio-economic condition of Bangladesh. However, under the astute and prudent leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the government of Bangladesh took several prudent and far-sighted steps that enabled the country to remain resilient during the pandemic and protect lives and livelihood of the population. In addition, indomitable spirit and the innate ability of the people of Bangladesh promoted robustness and resiliency to invigorate and upheld the socio-economic life in a new normal. As per the prediction of the International Monetary Fund, the economy of Bangladesh would grow by 3.8% in the fiscal year 2020-21 while many of the South Asian countries would experience contraction.

Bangladesh has a long heritage and proud legacy of being a true Maritime Nation. Worldwide, the oceanic wealth is considered as a huge reservoir of resources or Development Space. Tapping the maritime resources and ensuring its optimum use can contribute towards a smooth and successful transition to a sustainable middle-income nation in the Post COVID era. An informative and contemporarily relevant article on 'Post-COVID-19: Maximum Utilisation of Maritime Resources to be Ascertained' would surely inspire the readers and shines a ray of hope.

Needless to say, the tourism industry is immense for the development and economic dynamism of any country. Bangladesh is a land of enormous natural beauty. It has long and fascinatingly pristine beaches, diverse hills, majestic Sundarbans with enormous biodiversity, scenic coral island, vast wildlife, glorious history and colourful culture. An informative article focusing on 'Marine Tourism in Cox's Bazar: Impact of COVID-19 and Measures to Recuperate' has been included which would make us aware about the huge potential of tourism in our country and also learn about the prevailing challenges.

Oceans and major rivers divide people, but they also connect them. Today, seaborne and riverine trade and investment connectivity became one of the key drivers of the national economy. An insightful article has been included in this issue, stressing upon the needs of the river and coastal connectivity between India and Bangladesh, which the readers would find interesting and informative.

Bangladesh has a long legacy of shipbuilding. An insightful look into the activities, operational capabilities and future potentials of the Khulna Shipyard Limited would undoubtedly go a long way in raising the awareness of the readers about the shipbuilding potentials of Bangladesh.

An article on 'ASEAN-Bangladesh Relation in Changing Geopolitical Setting' has been included in this issue so that our readers stay informed about the ongoing geostrategic development within the region and its implication for peace, stability and economic prosperity. An article on 'Cyclone Amphan and COVID-19: Double Challenges to the Coastal Fishers' has also been presented to update the reader about the livelihood challenges of the coastal people.

We wish that the 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.

Your conscientious opinions and reviews will make our effort worthwhile. We always consider your opinions valuable and beneficial.

Thanking you
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