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About the Cover

The 7 Principles of "Ocean Literacy" provide a framework to understand the ocean's influence on humans and humans' influence on the ocean, as coined by NOAA.

Disclaimer

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PAAL Editorial

Maritime Literacy in Bangladesh: Cut the Gordian Knot

The vast expanse of the ocean has always been integral to human life—shaping civilizations, economies, and the environment. The Bay of Bengal, the world's largest bay, holds particular significance as it is critical to sustainable development for Bangladesh. The destiny of maritime Bangladesh is intricately linked to this water body.

The Bengal Delta, formed by the confluence of the mighty Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers, is a geographical marvel and a lifeline for more than one-third of Bangladesh's population. Understanding the ocean and its influence on us—what we term "Ocean Literacy"—becomes paramount in this context.

Maritime Bangladesh, with the direct and indirect influence on its entire population, is deeply connected to the rhythms of the sea. Mainly, the coastal communities rely on the ocean for their livelihood, from aqua farming to fishing, from travel to trade; their prosperity is directly tied to the well-being of the ocean. Ocean literacy is more than just knowledge about the sea; it is an awareness of how the ocean affects our lives and how our actions impact the ocean. This understanding is crucial for sustaining these communities' economic and environmental well-being and, by extension, the nation. It becomes essential to comprehend these limits to maintain the economic and environmentally suitable conditions in these communities and, consequently, the nation.

However, Bangladesh's current ocean knowledge level has some limitations and weaknesses. There is a pressing need to address the gross lack of awareness towards oceanic matters, even though the Bay of Bengal has been largely appended to our identity and economy. Most never receive education about this equilibrium in the oceans and the threats which endanger their ecological surroundings, e.g., water pollution, excessive fishing, and changes in climate. This lack of awareness is a "Gordian Knot" that is to be untied to protect the future of Maritime Bangladesh.

From this urge, this edition of "PAAL Magazine" has selected the theme "Maritime Literacy in Bangladesh: Cut the Gordian Knot." It aims to understand and inspire people from all walks of life that "Ocean Literacy" is one of the keys to a prosperous future. Our contributors look into the options using the prisms of the historical legacy of ocean literacy, literature, linguistic value, future expansion, governance etc., and the urgency to protect our seas and promote the use of the resources. Their opinions are likely to assist in developing a better perception of the ocean and what needs to be done to conserve it. Through our collective efforts, it is hoped that we can significantly foster the prospect of ocean literacy in Bangladesh.

As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, the importance of the ocean in human life cannot be overstated. Ocean literacy is essential for maritime Bangladesh because of its unique geographical and cultural ties to the Bay of Bengal. It is time for us to deepen our understanding of the sea and embrace our identity as a maritime nation. By doing so, BIMRAD is confident to secure a prosperous future for all who call this land home.

Thank You for boarding the "PAAL" to join a magnificent journey with BIMRAD!

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