

## THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF BANGLADESHI MARINERS (2)

This is the continuation of my previous article on the above topic (dated 03.03.2017)

The first good news is that Mr. Moin Ahmed, on completion of his first term, has been re-elected as Director General of International Mobile Satellite Organisation. It is commendable to note that there was no other candidate except Mr. Moin Ahmed for this prestigious Post. To celebrate, a function comprising of delicious food, speeches and music was held at the Woolston Manor Country Club, Chigwell, near London on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. It was indeed a memorable event which was enjoyed fully by all participants.

Another Bangladeshi Mariner is Mr. Mohammed Islam (Tareq ) 23E, who lives in Baltimore, USA and is running a company specialising in postal sorting machine. He is well known in software related electronics engineering. His latest invention is WATER LEVEL CONTROLLER which is now being marketed in Bangladesh. Mr. Tareq is no doubt a real Innovator.

A prominent BD Mariner, Mr. Zillur Rahman has been promoted as Global Engineering Manager in Shell. Well done Mr. Zillur. It is heartening to note that the Internal Magazine of UK Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) has praised the dedicated services of our dear friend, Mr Furkanul Quader (6N).

With reference to my previous article, I have received feedback from a number of BD mariners. The important point raised is that a good number of prominent and senior mariners have not been mentioned. I humbly accept that the article was just tip of the iceberg. In my forthcoming articles, I shall Insha'Allah try to cover as many BD mariners as possible.

Captain Hussain Imam (2N), writes,

1. "I was an honours student of Chemistry at Dhaka University before moving to Juldia Marine Academy.

2. I was probably the only candidate from Bangladesh who studied at the Southshields Marine and Technical College ( now South Tyneside College),UK as a British Council Scholar before doing my First Mate and Master Mariner from England.
3. I have had the experience of working in the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport sector for nearly 8 years as Marine Officer/Marine Superintendent.
4. I ran an export oriented private business as Managing Director of two Deep Sea Fishing Companies for almost 20 years before retirement.
5. I have been working as freelance contributor (Columnist) to the Bangladesh National Dailies like The Daily Star, The Financial Express, The New Age, The Observer, The Daily Sun and Dainic Songbad for one decade or so.”

Our friend Choudhury C. F. Zaman (2E), writes,

“I have served in GL for 25 years and was the Country Manager from 1999 to 2011, concurrently the Managing Director of GL Bangladesh Ltd. for this period. For the last 3 years of my service in GL, I was appointed as the Deputy Regional Manager for Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh. I can proudly say that I was instrumental in initiating, promoting and commencing ship new building under class in Bangladesh for export to other nations through the good offices of GL. When I retired in August 2011, GL had become the largest Classification Society in Bangladesh and this region with 10 Surveyors including myself. Since April 2013, I have been working as full time Technical Consultant to an NGO called FRIENDSHIP which owns and operates 3 floating hospital ships in the riverine and coastal regions of Bangladesh. These ships provide primary and secondary health care services to the ultra poor and marginalised people in these regions free of cost. Five more floating hospitals are going to be constructed starting in May 2017 under my supervision.”

Our friend Captain Kazi Ali Imam writes,

“I have served as General Manager of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) for 13 years. I was Commandant of Bangladesh Marine Academy for a period of 2 years and also served as Principal, NMI and Chief Nautical Surveyor in the Deptt. of Shipping. After retirement, I joined the NMCI Office in

Bangladesh as Executive Director. It is a US based company owned by Mr. Ghulam Suharwardy, a prominent Bangladeshi mariner and writer. I also served as Principle and Project In-charge of International Maritime Academy (IMA), a private Institution located in Pubail, Gazipur. I am the founder Chairman of the Bangladesh Branch of the Nautical Institute (UK).”

Captain Qazi Ali Imam also mentions a number of early pioneer mariners who were at the helm of maritime affairs in Bangladesh. Under their leadership, shipping grew up in the newly independent country. Most of them were trained under the Columbo fellowship before the Liberation of Bangladesh. The names of these prominent mariners are as follows.

Captain Q B M Rahman who served as Maritime Advisor to the PM, Shiekh Mujibur Rahman. He then became the Managing Director of BSC and Director General of DOS, a regulatory body of the Ministry of Shipping. Captain Mohammad Shafi was Director General of Shipping and also served as MD of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation. Captain Shamsul Alam Chowdhury ( widely known as Pistol Chowdhury), was Chairman of BIWTC, apart from holding key post in BSC. Captain S Y Kamal was Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA). Engr. Zahidu Rahman was Country Manager of Lloyds Register of Shipping and later became Technical Director of BSC. Captain Shafat Ahmad Khan also played a major role in BSC at its infancy stage as Marine Superintendent , guiding this Organisation to make progress. Captain M A Jalil (1N) who became shipowner is now running his private business. Captain Azizul Islam, (known as Ustad Bashi Azizul Islam), is a mariner but turned legend flute player entertaining audience all over the world. He was awarded EKUSHE PADAK by the Prime Minister in recognition of his contribution to music. Other mariners who held key posts in Chittagong and Mongla Port Authorities and served efficiently were Captain Ramzan Ali, Captain Zaheeruddin Mahmood (1N) and Engr. S. Atiqur Raman (2E).

One prominent BD Mariner is Captain Mohammad Mustafa Kamal who, at present is serving as Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Maritime Studies, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He encourages other BD mariners to apply for joining the University as lecturers/professors. It is a good example of how BD mariners help one another in getting jobs / employments. I have seen personally several messages of new job

opportunities for BD mariners on their website. One quality of BD mariners which I appreciate is that they are well organised not only in Bangladesh but in foreign countries also. In several countries, they have set up associations and hold get-together meetings on regular basis. I have written in my previous article that BD mariners are heroes who work tirelessly behind the scene and contribute immensely to the welfare of Bangladesh and simultaneously earn a good name for their country.

Other outstanding BD Mariners I remember are Captain M Zakaria (1N) Captain Mozammil Hussain (1N), A F Mohammadullah (1E), Captain Hilaluddin (3N) and Captain Fateh Lohani (6N). I have received feedback from Captain Zaki Ahad (14N), the Commandant of International Maritime Academy. I am grateful to him for his comments. Khan Majlis and Ainul Haq were Surveyors with the Lloyds Register of Shipping, stationed in Chittagong. I was in touch with both of them when serving with BSC as Chief Engineer (1981—1983).

I have to write with heavy heart that recently we have lost two BD mariners. Captain Sirajul Huda (4N) passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 . May his soul rest in eternity. S M Islam (5E) expired on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018. We pray that may God Almighty bless him with Jannah. Our condolence and sympathies are with the family members of both mariners. ( to be continued)

With best wishes to all BD mariners.

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