

## **BLUE ECONOMY- PERSPECTIVE BANGLADESH NAVY**

In Bangladesh, discussions on Blue economy started after the settlement of maritime boundary delimitation with neighbours. Bangladesh has acquired 118,813 square km of maritime territory which has unlocked new opportunities in sectors like marine fisheries, mariculture, renewable energy, off-shore energy and minerals, marine biotechnology, maritime trade, shipping, tourism and various other marine ecosystem-based services.



Fig-1: Bangladesh Navy ship providing security in LNG terminal.

Blue Economy aims at sustainable economic development of the country utilizing the resources of the sea area as well as conservation of these resources. With expanding ocean activities, concerns of maritime safety would also come to light which falls under the blue economy. Without sufficient degrees of security, ocean resources cannot be utilized efficiently. Thus navy can play significant role in the development of Blue Economy in Bangladesh. However, apart from maritime security, there are other arenas of Blue Economy where Navy can contribute substantially.

**Establishment of Blue Economy Directorate and Cell.** A Blue Economy Cell was established in NHQ on 07 February 2017 to coordinate the matters with different ministries and agencies. Later a Blue Economy Directorate (Adhoc) was established in NHQ under Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations). An Area Blue Economy Cell and Local Blue Economy Cell have also started functioning for the smooth conduct of maritime security.

**Operation Blue Guard.** Bangladesh Navy (BN) has been assigned the duty of Lead organization for the security matters related to Blue Economy. BN has started “**Operation Blue Guard**” from 01 March 2017 for ensuring the security of ships and establishment engaged in Blue Economy projects. BN ships, high speed boats and naval contingents are deployed to perform the tasks. Presently, BN is providing security to vessels of 1200 MW coal based power plant project, LNG Terminal project of Excelerate Energy Bangladesh Limited, Summit LNG and Single Point Mooring (SPM) with Double Pipeline project.

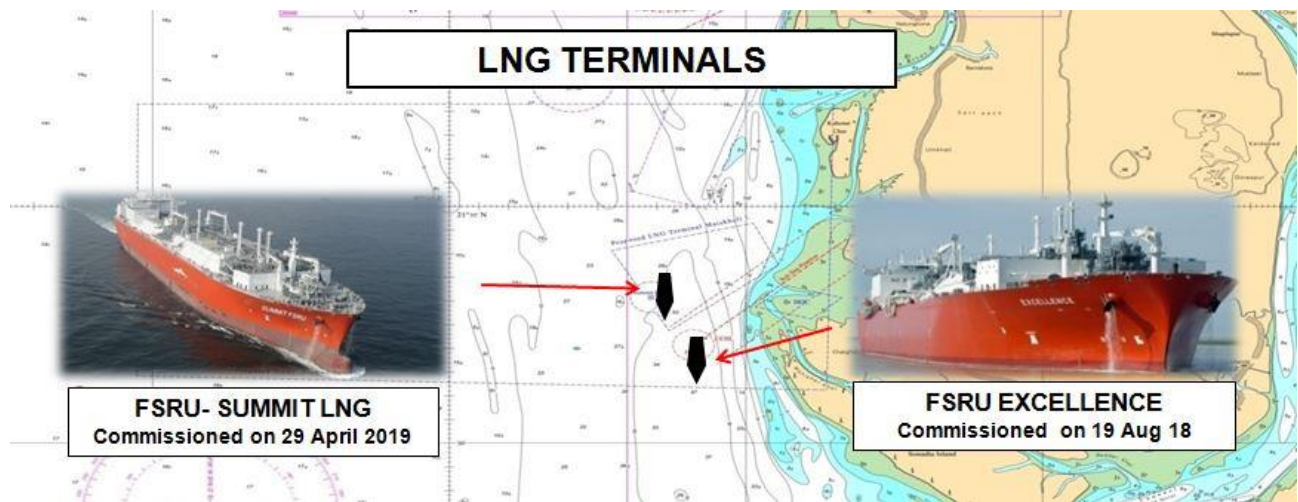


Fig-2: LNG Terminal at Matarbari coastal area.

Besides, Naval contingents are deployed in Moheshkhali area to provide security to the Blue Economy projects.

**Hydrography and Oceanography.** With the motto of "Hydrography - Underpinning Blue Economy", the hydrographic services of Bangladesh Navy conducts hydrographic survey to ensure safety of navigation, offshore works facilitation, coastal zone protection and so on. Hydrographic data from survey ships are used to create international standard paper and electronic charts. Hydrographic services also provide tidal, Meteorology and Maritime safety information (MSI) services. Besides, Naval ships are facilitating important oceanographic sample collection to many research students and teachers of different universities and institutions.

**Protection of Illegal Fishing.** BN carries out surveillance in the entire EEZ area including the North West EEZ area to prevent illegal fishing by foreign fishing vessels. Since 2014, 51 Indian fishing vessels, 08 Srilankan vessels, 09 Myanmar and 01 Thai fishing trawler were captured by BN while fishing illegally in Bangladesh sea area and handed over to the appropriate authority.



Fig-3: Protection of IUU fishing.

Besides, Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) has been started from 27 Jun 2018 between Bangladesh Navy and Indian Navy to protect piracy, smuggling, human trafficking and illegal fishing in the Bay of Bengal.

**Development of Fishery Resources.** BN has taken steps to explore deep sea potentials through Nou Kollan Foundation (NKF). NKF Trading Company Limited (NKFTCL) and Nou Kollan Shipping Lines Limited (NKSL) have obtained permission from Govt to procure two Long Liner and two Purse seiner trawler. This will contribute to the deep sea fishing potential of Bangladesh. Besides, BN is carrying out Operation Jatka, Operation Maa Hilsha Preservation and Fisheries Protection round the year to save our national asset Hilsha Fish and other fisheries resources at the bay.



Fig-4: Destroying illegal fishing net.

In 2020 BN captured and destroy a total amount of 8,76,60,250 (Eight crore seventy six lakh sixty thousand and two hundred fifty) meter illegal current net which was worth of Taka 254,33,96,550 (Taka two hundred fifty four crore thirty three lakh ninety six thousand and five hundred fifty only) and contributed significantly to stop catching of jatka fish, Maa hilsha and other fisheries resources.

**Research and Development:** Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development (BIMRAD) has been established with an aim to conduct research on maritime interests of the country. The institute is registered under The Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 and formally started its journey on 03 July 2018. The institute conduct research on maritime affairs, security, exploration and conservation of sea resources, maritime science & technology, maritime tourism, maritime pollution, biodiversity, ecology, coastal disaster, coastal renewable energy and climate change impact, food security, adaptation and so on. For research activities, BIMRAD has identified few areas as mentioned below:

**Maritime Affairs & Security:** Maritime Warfare, Maritime Governance, Maritime Terrorism and Piracy, Maritime Strategy and Security, Maritime History and Heritage, Maritime Environment and Pollution, Maritime Law, Convention and Protocol, Maritime Operation (Search & Rescue, Disaster Relief & Salvage).



Fig-5: Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development (BIMRAD) at NHQ

**Maritime Economy, Skillset & Sea Resources:** Inland Waterways, Maritime Tourism, H R and Skillset Development, Maritime Trade and Transport, Organization and Restructuring, Ports, Infrastructure and Logistics, Ship Building, Repair and Ship Recycling, Sea Resources Exploration and Exploitation, Marine Pollution, Biodiversity & Ecosystem, Coastal Disaster, Climate Change & Adaptation.

**Maritime Science & Technology:** Maritime Technology and Equipment Development, Ship Design, Weapons and Sensors, Hydro acoustics, Oceanography, Hydrology and Meteorology, Innovative Technology (Simulation, Robotics, Drone, Security Devices & Artificial Intelligence), Equipment/ Material Standardization.

**Development of Ship Building Industry.** Khulna Shipyard Limited (KSY), Dockyard and Engineering Works Limited Narayanganj have turned into profitable organization after being handed over to BN. They have been building vessels and crafts for many public and private organizations and significantly contributing to the economy of Bangladesh.



Fig-6: BN survey ship constructed by Khulna Shipyard Ltd

KSY has started building war ships for Bangladesh Navy. Chattogram Dry Dock Limited (CDDL) being the only dry dock in Bangladesh has been playing key role in maritime sector. All three Shipyard/ Dockyard Ltd run by Bangladesh Navy are continuously trying to maximize customer satisfaction by maintaining quality and time with a vision to become a world class Shipbuilding Company. Development of these Shipyard/ Dockyard will certainly help Bangladesh to enhance the Blue Economy effort and allow her a step forward in achieving her goals.