



# *Heritage to Horizon*

**Honouring the Pioneers**

**16 December 2017 - Academy Campus**



## **PIONEER MARINERS**

They created Bangladesh Maritime Heritage during 1940-50's and that is now a Maritime Horizon for us.

**...Let's Salute the Pioneer Mariners...**



## 1940's:

- "IMMTS (Indian Merchant Marine Training Ship) Dufferin" - a Cadet training centre established near Bombay, India.
- Training Curriculum was in line with those of H.M.S. Conway and H.M.S. Worcester of UK.



## 1st Group of Pioneer Mariners (1 Batch – 1945/46): 14 Cadets

### Excellence of Dufferin Ex-Cadets from East Bengal (later East Pakistan & then Bangladesh)

- **Late Commodore Abdur Rashid:**
  - (i) Chief of Naval Staff, Pakistan: 1954–1959.
- **Late Q. M. S. Zaman:**
  - (i) Served PRS & then PNSC;
  - (ii) Chairman & MD of BSC.
- **Late film-star Mohsin:**
  - (i) Popularly known as 'Fatty Mohsin';
  - (ii) Marine Pilot in CPA;
  - (iii) Marine Super, EPSC (East Pakistan Shipping Corporation).
- **Late Kabir Ahmed:**
  - (i) Served PRS;
  - (ii) First MD of EPSC.
- **Late Khawja S. Uddin:**
  - (i) While serving on a BI (British-India Shipping) ship survived after being torpedoed by Japanese Navy during the WWII;
  - (ii) Author of "My faith in God";
  - (iii) Son of late K. Shahabuddin and brother of late Lt.Gen. K. Wasiuddin.
- **Rear Admiral M. H. Khan:**
  - (i) Chief of Staff of Bangladesh Navy;
  - (ii) Dy. Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh.
- **Late Anwar Mustafa:**
  - (i) Served Pakistan Air Force; died in a plane crash near Karachi;
  - (ii) Son of late poet Golam Mustafa and father of late Capt. Prodeep Anwar [5th Batch BMA]).
- **Late Hemayet Chowdhury:**
  - (i) Served BI (British-India Shipping) ships;
  - (ii) Later served Pak Bay which was subsequently taken over by BIWTC;
  - (iii) Chairman of BIWTC;
  - (iv) hailed from Sylhet and died in 2014.



- **Late Mr. Anis Ahmed:**
  - (i) Served PRS;
  - (ii) Principal, Deck & Engine Personnel Training Centre, BIWTA.
- **Late Engr. Nurul Huda:**
  - (i) Member, Bangladesh Engineering & Shipbuilding Corporation (BESC);
  - (ii) elder brother of late Saiful Islam, Naval Architect.
- **Shaheed (1971) Capt. G. A. Kazi:**
  - (i) Nautical Surveyor, MMD;
  - (ii) Dy. Conservator & Harbour Master of CPA;
  - (iii) a very honest & strict officer – so, made many enemies which was the cause of why he was killed by Pakistan Army in 1971.
- **MarEngr. Imtiaz Ahmed:**
  - (i) Worked in Chittagong Port as Dredger Superintendent.
- **Late Mr. Samad**
  - Yet to collect information
- **Late Capt. Akram Khan:**
  - (i) Nautical Surveyor, MMD at Karachi;
  - (ii) brother of Rear Admiral M. H. Khan.
- **Late Lt. Cdr A. M. L. K. Siddiqui:**
  - (i) Served BIWTA
- **Cdr Shamsul Islam Chowdhury:**
  - (i) Served Navy.



## 2nd Group of Pioneer Mariners (4 Batches – 1951-56)

After 1947 partition, training in Dufferin could not continue. The Govt. of Pakistan decided under Colombo Plan to recruit 12 boys per year from all over Pakistan through competitive examination conducted by the Pakistan **Public Service Commission** and send them to UK for training as Nautical and Engineering Cadets. The PSC Cadet Training continued during 1951–1956 (included one year gap).

### PSC 1st Batch Cadets (1951): 5 Cadets

- Out of 12 Cadets, 10 embarked on a Polish Ocean Line passenger ship "S.S. Batory".
- SS Batory sailed from Karachi on 14 June 1952 for Southampton via Bombay, Aden & Port Said (through Suez Canal).
- Other 2 Cadets sailed on cargo ship SS Landura that used to carry 12 passengers.
- S.S. Batory reached Southampton on 6th July 1952.



- Five out of the 10 were from East Pakistan of which 4 were Engineering Cadets.
- Capt. Shafi was the only Nautical Cadet from East Pakistan.
- Engr. Cadets were divided between Thornycroft Shipyard in Southampton and Royal Navy Dockyard at Devonport near Plymouth for four years workshop training.
- Deck Cadets were sent to HMS Worcester moored in the river Thames near Tilbury and HMS Conway near Bangor in North Wales.
- Engr. Cadet Late Tareck Anis Ahmed & Engr. Cadet Late Shafiuddin Ahmed went to Royal Navy Technical College, Devonport for one year induction course before going for shipyard/workshop training and other two went to Southampton.

### **Late MarEngr. Shafiuddin Ahmed**

- Received the 1st prize from Admiral Superintendent of the dockyard in first year examination.
- After obtaining MOT First Class Certificate in 1965, he joined Mercantile Marine Academy, Jaldia as an Engineering Instructor.
- Later he joined MMD as Engineer & Ship Surveyor in Karachi.
- In 1969 he was awarded another scholarship to study Extra First Class Certificate in UK; he obtained the Certificate securing highest marks.
- He was awarded Silver Medal by the Institute of Marine Engineers and the Royal Society of Arts of which Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh has the President.
- **During the liberation war** he declared his allegiance to Bangladesh and refused to return to Pakistan. In 1971 he joined the marine division of UK Department of Transport as an engineer surveyor and examiner.
- In 1980 he was deputed to Bangladesh from IMO as a marine expert/advisor.
- During his stay in Bangladesh he helped in preparing the course and syllabus for marine engineering examinations and trained his local counterparts in the process of conducting examinations.
- On a trial basis he also conducted DOT Second Class examination in Bangladesh.
- He finally retired in 1997 as a Principal Surveyor & Examiner of the UK-MCA.
- MarEngr. Shafiuddin had versatile talents in several fields. He held a degree in law (LLB (Hons.) in 1976, BA (Hons.) in 1994 and M.Sc. in Astrophysics in 2002 from various UK universities.
- He was a prestigious award winning poet, winning First Prize in the UK Peterloo Poets Competition in 1992 for his poem "Bede" (on the lives of gypsies on Bangladesh Rivers).
- His interest in Tagore was profound and creative. His translation of eleven long poems and a song was published in England in 1986 with permission of Vishwa-Bharati and Macmillan.
- His major work of translating 124 selected songs of Tagore with rich embellishments in hard cover was published from Dhaka on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in 2010 earned critics' acclaim.
- His abiding interest in mathematics led him to delve deeply toward attempting at solving the riddle of Thermat's Theorem.
- His varied interests also included subjects like theory of universe and simplification of Islamic Calendar.



■ Prior to his death in 2012, he left a rich manuscript titled 'London Poems'. This has been now published as a limited edition for complimentary distribution with the hope that it may attract some attention from publishers in London.

### **Late MarEngr. Ali Asghar**

- After completion of apprenticeship, joined Ellerman Lines and stayed with them until obtaining the First Class Certificate.
- Returned to Pakistan to join as Deputy Engineer Superintendent of NSC at Chittagong.
- After liberation of Bangladesh he was the first Technical Manager of BSC in London. Later he resigned and joined in Japanese Classification Society NKK in its London office.

### **MarEngr. Nazir Hussein**

- Trained in Devonport near Plymouth later settled in Toronto, Canada.

### **Late MarEngr. Tareck Anis Ahmed**

- On completion of Dockyard service, returned to Pakistan to join Pan-Islamic Shipping.
- He later had a short spell with NSC as well.
- He then came ashore to join IWTA Workshop in Barisal.
- He also had a brief period of service with EPSC before joining as Principal Officer of the MMD at Chittagong.
- He was later transferred to BSC as its Technical Director; subsequently became Director General of Shipping and then finally MD of BSC.
- He died on 6 Feb 2017 in Dhaka.

### **Capt M Shafi**

- Joined Ellerman Lines after completion of pre-sea training at HMS Worcester.
- After obtaining Master Mariner Certificate returned to Pakistan to join the merchant fleet as a chief officer and later commanded M.V. Al-Hassan.
- Then, he came ashore to join IWTA.
- After the liberation of Bangladesh, he was appointed Director General of the Department of Shipping.
- He was later transferred to BSC as its Chairman & MD for 3 years and then again to the Department of Shipping as its DG.
- This was his final assignment before retirement.
- Afterwards, he carried out a few short term assignments on behalf of IMO and Commonwealth Secretariat that took him to Vietnam, Thailand, India, Bangladesh and Pacific Island States of Fiji and Samoa.
- Later he worked with some private shipping companies as advisor for some time and then started devoting his time for Rotary.
- He was honoured with Rotary District Governor's Gold Medal as Selfless Soul during Rotary Year Launching Ceremony by the Honourable President of the Republic at a function held in Hotel Sonargaon on 1st July 2014.





## PSC 2nd Batch Cadets (1952): 5 Cadets

***In the 2nd batch there were Five Cadets from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).***

### **Capt. Q A B M Rahman**

- After completion of pre-sea training on HMS Conway, joined British-India Shipping as a Cadet.
- After obtaining Master Mariner Certificate returned to Pakistan to command AL-AHMADI of Mohammadi Shipping Co.
- He then came ashore to join EPSC as its Marine Superintendent.
- Later he served as Secretary and Director of Planning for IWTA.
- He defected to India **in 1971 as a Freedom Fighter** to join the Mujibnagar Government as Director General of Ports, Shipping and Inland Waterways.
  
- After liberation of Bangladesh he had several important assignments – first of which as Director General of ports, shipping and inland water transport.
- It is on his initiative that President's Order No. 10 was promulgated **creating Bangladesh Shipping Corporation on 5 March 1972** (only 25 days after the home-coming of the President [**Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation**]).
- He became the first chairman and MD of BSC.
- Later he worked for IMCO in Bangkok for three years and another one year in Iran as a consultant. He returned to Bangladesh to become Chairman of BIWTC and then he tendered his resignation.
- For some time he operated ship-chartering business with some close associates.
- Capt. Rahman and Capt. Shafi were awarded Nautical Institute crests in recognition of our life-time services to shipping in Bangladesh.
- The name of Capt. Rahman shall always remain in the fore-front of the history of shipping in Bangladesh.
  
- Capt. Q A B M Rahman from his early days developed his liking for Rabindranath and Rabindra-sangeet.
- He came in contact with Late Wahidul Haque (Capt. Shafi's classmate in Armanitola High School) and got involved more with development of Bengali Culture.
- He and his family contributed in the construction of an auditorium in the Chhayanaut building. He named the Auditorium after his teacher and mentor, Late Ramesh Chandra Dutta.

### **Capt. S M A Islam**

- After completion of pre-sea training on HMS Conway, joined British-India Shipping as a Cadet.
- He later served on many Pakistani and Bangladeshi ships.
- Back ashore he was Port Director at Mongla, Principal Officer of MMD and then DG of Shipping.



### MarEngr. Zahedur Rahman

- Served PRS as Engineer Super & British Classification Society Lloyds Register as a surveyor.
- LR was kind enough to give his services on loan to Bangladesh when he served as Technical Director of BSC.
- During his service with LR he was posted to Philippines, UAE (Dubai), China (Shanghai), Iran and UK (London).

### MarEngr. A. Hasnat Khan

- After completion of apprenticeship in Devonport dockyard went to Manchester University on a PIDC scholarship to study engineering management for their upcoming shipbuilding, dry dock and repair projects in Karachi, Chittagong, Khulna and Narayanganj.
- Completed MS in mechanical engineering and joined Khulna Shipyard.
- Subsequently he moved to ICI and later to Bangladesh Oxygen Limited from where he retired after serving for 12 years as the MD.

### Late MarEngr. Salehuddin Ahmed

- Trained in Devonport dockyard, after sailing on British RFA ships for some time stayed back in the UK to sit for associate membership examination for Institute of Mechanical Engineers. This used to be considered equivalent to Engineering Degree.
- Then passed MOT Class-2 examination and worked for Baksh Line shipping in Pakistan.
- Later joined Karachi shipyard.
- After liberation of Bangladesh he came and joined BSC. The last job he held was in Chittagong dry dock. He could not continue due to unfortunate mental break down.
- He spent last two years of his life in family agricultural farm near Comilla and died in 2014.



### PSC 3rd Batch Cadets (1954): 5 Cadets

In the 3rd batch there were also Five Cadets from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). They were Saiful Islam, Sakhawat Hossain, Azizul Haq, Rashid Khan and M. Z. Khan Majlis. Those days engineering cadets after completing dockyard training in UK could avail PIDC scholarship to study degree in British universities in naval architecture, marine engineering or mechanical engineering.

### Late MarEngr. Saiful Islam

- After completing dockyard training in Thornycroft, Southampton, UK as an Engine Cadet, he was awarded PIDC scholarship and obtained degree in naval architecture from Newcastle University, UK.
- Served Khulna Shipyard and then was a Director in engineering and shipbuilding corporation (BESC).
- He was a renowned singer;
- He was father of famous TV Actress Sadia Islam Mou.



### **MarEngr. Sakhawat Hossain**

- After training in Devonport, served for 8 years in EPSC/BIWTC as Engineer Superintendent.
- Then served 13 years as Engineering Manager of ICI.

### **MarEngr. Khan Majlis**

- Joined IWTA and was in charge of Barisal workshop.
- Later he joined LR and served as country manager in Bangladesh and senior surveyor in Iran.

### **Late Capt. Rashid Khan (ex-Conway)**

- After liberation of Bangladesh, initially stayed back in Pakistan but later returned to Bangladesh in 1977.
- He commanded pilgrim ship Hijbul Bahr.
- Later he served as a consultant with a Finnish team and then migrated to United States.
- He died in 2012.

### **Capt. Azizul Haq (ex-Conway)**

- Following service at sea as a Captain, he returned ashore & served PNSC as a Cargo Superintendent
- Then migrated and settled in Kobe, Japan.



## **PSC 4th Batch Cadets (1955): 4 Cadets**

In the 4th (last) batch there were 7 Cadets selected from eastern wing. They were Faruq Ahmed, Micky Mirza, Sajjad Ahmed, Naval Brass, A. H. Kabir, Mirza Shaker Hossain and Raffat Zaheer. Six of them were Engineering Cadets and only one was Nautical. The first four were trained in Southampton and the other two in Devonport. Micky Mirza (Chief Engineer in PNSC ships), Sajjad Ahmed (worked in Narayanganj DEW till 1970), Mirza Shaker and Raffat Zaheer were non-Bengali and never returned to Bangladesh though they were selected from eastern wing.

### **Late MarEngr. A. H. Kabir**

- He had excellent academic record in Dockyard Technical College.
- Was awarded British state scholarship to study BSc Engineering.
- On completion of degree in mechanical engineering from Woolwich Polytechnic (now University of Greenwich) returned Pakistan and joined Pakistan Oxygen Limited, Khulna.
- Moved to Glaxo in Chittagong in 1965 as chief engineer.
- Was promoted to production director in 1978 and stayed there until 1988.
- Ahmed Kabir then moved to Dhaka and worked in different roles in the pharmaceutical industries.
- He eventually retired in 2010 as Country Head of RdeR Bangladesh Ltd. (a German inspection company).
- He died in 2012. . .



### MarEngr. Naval Brass

- (That was actually his name) He was the only non-Muslim recruited in all 4 PSC Batches.

### MarEngr. Faruq Ahmed

- Served Pakistan Merchant Marine as a Junior Engineer and then as a Certified Marine Engineer.
- Also became a mechanical engineer in UK and never returned to Pakistan.
- He worked for British Government Civil Engineering Department; looking after the maintenance of Royal Palaces.
- He was a Member of the UK Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

### Late Capt. Raffat Zaheer

- Became Commercial Director of NSC in Pakistan.
- He died recently in Karachi.



## 3rd group of Pioneer Mariners: 5 Cadets

### Late Captain Syed Yusuf Kamal

- Used to be known as Capt. S. Y. Kamal. His early sea-career is not so known.
- He joined Chittagong Port as Harbour Master just after liberation and then rose up to Chairman Chittagong Port Authority.
- He also had a spell as Chairman of Mongla Port Authority.
- Nautical Institute wanted to honour him this year (2016), posthumously, but could not as they failed to find any of his relatives to receive the award. All his relations have migrated to Canada.

### Late MarEngr. Shukur Mahmud

- Struggled his best in life as being a mechanical diploma holder went to UK and gradually got his MOT Class 2 and MOT Class 1 Certificate.
- Later he joined MMD Chittagong as Engineer & Ship Surveyor.
- Died in a plane crash (Dhaka – Chittagong in 1984).

### Late Capt M L Rahman

- He joined Pakistan Navy in 1950's
- He joined Pakistan Merchant Marine in 1960's as a 4th Mate in MV Ocean Ensign
- He served as the POMMD and as a Member in Chittagong Port Authority (CPA)
- He served as the Commandant of Bangladesh Marine Academy (1972 & 1985-90)

### Late Captain Shamsul Alam Chowdhury

- Popularly known as 'Pistol Chowdhury' as he used to carry his licensed pistol in his briefcase.
- He also struggled in his early life as he started as a rating helped by the then Commander Abdur Rashid of Pakistan Navy.



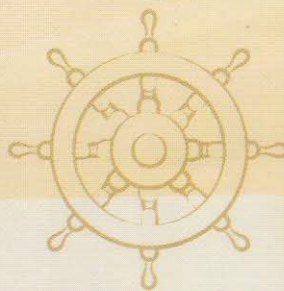
- Later others helped him to get job as a Cadet and once he got his 2nd Mate's MOT certificate then it became easy for him to get better opportunity.
- Then again he went through tough time passing Mate's and Master's exams because of his educational background.
- He joined BSC as Master of their first acquisition MV Banglar Doot in 1972.
- Then he came ashore as Marine Superintendent.
- Eventually he became Chairman of BIWTC from where he retired.

### **MarEngr. Ainul Haque (ex-LR)**

- Commenced as Engineer Apprentice in Karachi Shipyard for 4 years from (1958-62).
- Joined in passenger ship MV Shams as 5th Engineer.
- Served in British ships at various capacities
- Achieved UK CoC as Class I (Motor & Steam combined)
- Served in British ships as Chief Engineer.
- Finally served Lloyds Register of Shipping (Bangladesh, Singapore & Hong Kong).
- Retired in 2003 as Country Manager of LRS Bangladesh.
- He is a Chartered Engineer (UK Engineering Council).
- He now lives at Dhaka along with his better-half; they are blessed with 2 children



## **Conclusion**



The HERITAGE what was created by the Pioneer Mariners during 1940's & 50's acted as the FOUNDATION of today's Maritime Bangladesh through Bangladesh Marine Academy (Ex-Mercantile Marine Academy), Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Maritime Administration, Sea Ports, Inland Waterways Corp/Authorities, Ship Building, Ship Management, Marine Surveying and many more.

The Pioneer Mariners commenced the voyage of HERITAGE and so today we the new generation mariners are able to widen our HORIZON from coast to coast – country to country!





**Felicitations for information to:**

Capt. M Shafi (PSC 1st)

Capt. Q A B M Rahman (PSC 1st)

MarEngr. Zahedur Rahman (PSC 2nd)

MarEngr. A. Hasnat Khan (PSC 2nd)

MarEngr. Sakhawat Hossain (PSC 3rd)

Capt. Jaffrey (photo of SS Batory)

Capt. Fazlur Rahman (BMA 1st)

P/S: Reformatted presentation of the article of Capt. M. Shafi (A Great step by the Pioneers) for posting on wall and easy reading by:

**MarEngr. Sajid Hussain** CEng CMarEng FIMarEST (15th Batch),  
Commandant (2009...current), Bangladesh Marine Academy.

