

## 2nd maritime varsity in Bangladesh planned

CHITTAGONG, May 30: The second maritime university of South Asia is going to be established in Bangladesh with a view to developing human resources in maritime sector, reports BSS.

It will not only bring an epoch-making change in marine education in Bangladesh, the world's largest delta enveloping 712 kms of the sea area but also enable the country's marine experts to carry out research and studies on the related field.

The project titled "Enhancement of Marine Academy into Maritime University and establishment of five new Marine Academies in Bangladesh" will be started at the beginning of next fiscal year and is expected to be completed by June 2013.

The cost of the project has been fixed at Taka 699.11 crore of which Taka 500 crore will be available from foreign aid and rest Taka 199.11 crore will be provided from the government fund.

Under this project, Marine Academy of Chittagong will be upgraded into Maritime University and five new marine academies will be established in Narayanganj, Rajshahi (Pakshi), Rangpur, Barisal and Khulna.

Project Director and

Marine Academy Engineer Sajid Hossain and Senior Education Officer of the academy Khalid Mahmud submitted the project profile to the Ministry of Shipping on May 20 which will be placed in parliament following approval by the ECNEC.

Joint Chief of the Shipping Ministry (Planning) Jayanta Kumar Nandi told BSS that they will take next step in this regard after preparing the draft project profile.

Every year, 200 nautical and marine engineering cadets accomplish the pre-sea training program from the Bangladesh Marine Academy, established in 1962 on the south bank of the Karnaphuli river.

When the Marine Academy will be upgraded to Bangladesh Maritime University, it will produce about 1,500 nautical and marine engineering cadets every year to serve the world marine sector.

In the pacific region, there are maritime universities in Japan, China, Australia, Korea, Vietnam and Philippines. But except in India, there is no maritime university in Southeast Asian countries including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Maldives.

The Indian Maritime University was established in

2008 and supervising marine and maritime studies of seven government educational institutions.

International Shipping Federation (ISF) in its survey report stated that there was a demand of 84,000 deck officer and marine engineers across the world in 2008 and at present the demand rose to over one lakh. The demand of deck officers and marine engineers will be doubled in 2012.

Bangladesh earns over Taka 1,000 crore from this sector annually.

Member of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Shipping Shamsul Haq Chowdhury told BSS that the government is making a plan to increase the number of graduating mariners from present 200 to 1,500 per year while India has planned to produce on an average of 11,000 to 12,000 mariners per year.

Bangladesh Marine Academy, since its establishment has produced 2,053 marine officers who have been working at home and abroad.

Bangladesh Marine Academy got affiliation of The World Maritime University, Malmö of Sweden in 1990 and it introduced "Bachelor of Science" course in 1994.