

Save Maritime University of Bangladesh

Maritime University has not opened its door yet; but the decision by the government has aroused highest degree of emotions from the Maritime Community; specifically from the alumni of Bangladesh Marine Academy.

Fazlu Bhai (First batch) has stated; “We certainly expected a wide ranging consultation with all concerned. On 27-October-2013 a gazette notification published, for the benefit of the public, Act Number 47 of 2013 to bring an abrupt end to all speculations. The marine community were shocked and deeply disappointed the same way as they were delighted and excited with the original announcement of the prime minister.”

He further indicated; “Now let us look at the remaining part of the act. The Vice-chancellor, Pro-VC, Dean, Treasurer and Registrar shall all be appointed from the Navy. For quite some time I thought it was all about a Naval University. It was because of this reason that I had to read the title several times. If the Government had done even the minimum public consultation then they would not have proved themselves so stupid. I ask them to find out the manning of the World Maritime University, Dalian/China Maritime University, Southampton University and Liverpool J M University; and they will realize how stupid or intelligent they are. In the UK there are several marine colleges such as the ones at South Shield, Glasgow and Black Pool; none of them employ any naval officer because they understand very well that merchant marine and navy are two different things. I have nothing against the navy. They are doing an excellent job in their own field. Yes, there are exceptional cases where a highly educated naval officer can be a Vice-chancellor but that cannot be the only option.”

JMAAA has taken a constructive action. We have formed a committee with a well-known jurists to provide advice as what course of action to be taken. We urge the entire maritime community and the educationists to join hands with us to provide a united action program and halt the procedures just adopted by the government. JMAAA strongly believes that there should have been a wider public discussion before jumping into a decision that is bound to become counterproductive. JMAAA will form a study committee to evaluate the maritime study and training sector and come up with a report by 2014. The study will cover all aspects of the demand and supply and the quality of education provided in various institutions. We in JMAAA strongly believe the Bangladesh Marine Academy should get all the assistance and attention to keep its quality at the highest. With the unhealthy competition from below quality private institutions, BMA's role has been undermined to a great extent. It is a historical institution and it is the duty and obligation of all alumni to uphold this piece of history.