

2025

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BANGLADESH MARITIME LAW SOCIETY (BMLS) YEAR 2025

BANGLADESH MARITIME LAW SOCIETY

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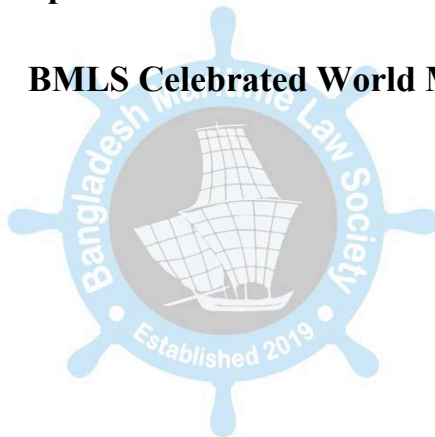
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BMLS
*Shaping Legislation for
Sustainable Blue Economy*

Executive Summary

As member of the Comité Maritime International (CMI), Bangladesh Maritime Law Society (BMLS), successfully executed four major events throughout 2025, fulfilling its mission to advance maritime law education and professional development in Bangladesh.

On 15th January 2025, BMLS organized its First International Seminar of the year on “Contemporary Issues of Marine Insurance Law” at CIRDAP International Conference Center, Dhaka, Bangladesh in collaboration with The Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) Bangladesh and with Technical Partner, MCLaw Services Ltd. The seminar featured presentations on marine hull war risks, P&I Club roles, and geopolitical sanctions, with participation from judges, maritime professionals, and students. In February 2025, BMLS conducted a two-day Special Short Certificate Course on “Introduction to Maritime Law, Shipping Industry and Admiralty Practice” at Khulna University, in collaboration with the Law Discipline, Khulna University. The course introduced law students to maritime law fundamentals, with sessions led by maritime law practitioners and academics. During 27th-29th August 2025, BMLS organized a three-day certificate course on “Introduction to Maritime Law and Marine Insurance for Marine Professionals” at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh in partnership with Association of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers (ANAMEB) and the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (NAME), BUET. The event was sponsored by Rahim Steel Mills Co. (Pvt.) Ltd. and provided naval architects and marine engineers with practical knowledge of maritime law and insurance. On 25th September 2025, BMLS celebrated World Maritime Day by hosting the seminar “Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity” at CIRDAP International Conference Centre, Dhaka, with support from MACN and with Technical Partner MCLaw Services Ltd. The seminar addressed the blue economy, seafarers' rights, sustainable shipping, and port digitalization, featuring distinguished speakers including retired justices, a former ambassador, and maritime experts.

Throughout these events, BMLS engaged diverse stakeholders including judges, lawyers, academics, shipowners, port authorities, insurers, students, and government agencies. The Society's consistent efforts in 2025 contributed significantly to maritime law education and professional capacity building in Bangladesh.

Major Activities and Events of 2025

International Seminar on Contemporary Issues of Marine Insurance Law

Bangladesh Maritime Law Society (BMLS), a member of Comité Maritime International (CMI) thrives for the development of Maritime Law in Bangladesh and established with the primary mission of advancing the field of Maritime Law within Bangladesh and on the international stage. In order to achieve its mission, BMLS organized the First International Seminar of 2025 on the topic of ‘Contemporary Issues of Marine Insurance Law’ on 15th January 2025 at CIRDAP International Conference Center, Dhaka, with Co-organizer Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) Bangladesh and the Technical Partner MCLaw Services Ltd.

The President of BMLS, Mr. Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh in his opening speech articulated the importance of Marine Insurance, Prevention of Corruption in Maritime Sector, inclusion of Preamble of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh at school curriculum, employment of students in P&I Club.



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Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury, The Hon'ble Judge, High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh as Chief Guest emphasised that education and awareness are key, as shipowners, operators, and relevant policymakers must have the tools and knowledge to effectively navigate the challenges of modern maritime operations.



Rear Admiral Mohammad Shahjahan, (N), NBP, NPP, BCGMS, ndc, psc, M Phil, BN (Retd), Former Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority as Special Guest emphasized the importance of collaboration and innovation in navigating complex maritime sector challenges through using of modern technologies such as maritime

autonomous surface ships (MASS). Esteemed Special Guest mentioned about using of digital payment system for reducing the corruption in maritime sector and encourage the students to learn about marine insurance law to implement the law efficiently.

Eminent Dignitaries on Dias included Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury, The Hon'ble Judge, High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh as Chief Guest; The President of BMLS, Mr. Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir (Capt. MAK) FNI FCILT FCI Arb, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh; Mr. Tom Walker, Director (Marine Division), Tysers Insurance Brokers Limited; Mr. Nahin Mustafiz, Claims Executive, Lawyer, Assuranceforeningen Skuld; Adv. Shweata Mishra, Head of Chambers, MCLaw Services Ltd and General Co-Ordinator of BMLS; Commodore Syed Ariful Islam, BN (Retd), Project Lead, Maritime Anti-Corruption

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Network (MACN) Bangladesh and Former Director General, Department of Shipping, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The President of BMLS, Mr. Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir presented his paper on 'Managing Geopolitical and Sanctions Risk from an Insurance Perspective'. He portrayed how contemporary geopolitical tensions and sanctions risks can affect the maritime trade and how through taking efficient marine insurance policy, the shipowners can protect themselves. He also seconded on Mr. Nahin Mustafiz's view regarding the need of accepting of P&I Club's Letter of Undertaking (LOU) in Bangladesh.



Mr. Tom Walker, Director (Marine Division), Tysers Insurance Brokers Limited gave his presentation on 'Marine Hull War Risks and Kidnap and Ransom Insurance Explored' where he addressed the War Risks and Kidnap and Ransom Insurance Policies of P&I club and how shipowners can safeguard themselves in volatile situations.

Mr. Nahin Mustafiz, Claims Executive, Lawyer, Assuranceforeningen Skuld as one of the Keynote Speakers delivered his presentation on 'Role of the P&I Club in Marine Insurance'. He emphasized the need of acceptance of P&I Club's Letter of Undertaking (LoU) as security against Maritime Claims to make Bangladesh a stronger jurisdiction.



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Commodore Syed Ariful Islam, BN (Retd.), Project Lead, Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) Bangladesh; and Former Director General, Department of Shipping addressed the challenges faced due to corruption in the Maritime Sector and underscored the critical role of transparency and integrity in Maritime Practices. He showcased MACN's pivotal contributions

to promoting a corruption-free Maritime Sector, emphasizing its work in ensuring ethical shipping practices and legislative support in Bangladesh. Through its partnership, the event successfully highlighted the intersection of Marine Insurance Law and Anti-Corruption efforts as key drivers of industry sustainability.



The seminar came to end with the closing remarks summarizing the key takeaways from all the deliberations held in the Seminar and thanking speech by Adv. Shweeta Mishra, Head of Chambers, MCLaw Services Ltd and General Co-Ordinator of BMLS.

This international seminar was attended both in person and on-line by a large number of shipowners, vessel charterers, port authorities, marine insurance companies, marine brokers, marine insurance providers, academicians, advocates of supreme court of Bangladesh, cargo owners, freight forwarders and Students of Department of Law from Top Leading Universities of Bangladesh.

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The interactive participations from the attendees by asking questions made the Seminar a scholarly platform. This informative seminar gave the participants food for thought and covered most of the concurrent topics concerning marine insurance laws.



Special Short Certificate Course at Khulna University

Bangladesh Maritime Law Society (BMLS), a member of Comité Maritime International (CMI), thrives for the development of Maritime Law in Bangladesh and established with the primary mission of advancing the field of Maritime Law within Bangladesh and on the international stage. Under its mission to introduce Law students of entire Bangladesh, to the world of Maritime Law and Shipping Industry, BMLS conducted short certificate courses in various universities for several years.



In this series, Bangladesh Maritime Law Society (BMLS) in collaboration with Law Discipline, Khulna University with Technical Support from MCLaw Services Ltd. is conducting the First 'Special Short Certificate Course' of 2025 titled 'Introduction to Maritime Law, Shipping Industry and Admiralty Practice' on 22nd and 23rd February 2025 at Khulna University.

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On the First Day of the Event, Professor Md. Nasif Ahsan, Dean, Law School, Khulna University graced the event as the Chief Guest of Opening Ceremony. Mr Kazi Murad Hossain, Head (in charge), Law Discipline, Khulna University was the esteemed Special Guest of Opening Ceremony who formally opened the event with his welcoming speech.



During both the Inaugural and Closing Ceremonies, the President of BMLS, Mr. Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, delivered inspiring speeches, motivating aspiring law students. He shared invaluable insights on the path to becoming a maritime lawyer as well as his practical experience as a Master Mariner. Furthermore, he

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highlighted One Bangladesh, a non-political and non-governmental movement dedicated to creating an egalitarian society and promoting harmony among people of all backgrounds and ethnicities in Bangladesh, urging everyone to contribute to the nation's progress. In his address, he also expressed gratitude to the Law Discipline of Khulna University and emphasized that students are the future of the country. He encouraged them to seize the opportunity to develop as maritime lawyers and BMLS is actively organizing various courses on maritime law to enrich their knowledge and skills.



The persons on Dias included Mr Ehshan Mazid Mustafa, Assistant Professor, Law Discipline, Khulna University; Professor Md. Nasif Ahsan, Dean, Law School, Khulna University; Mr. Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, President, Bangladesh Maritime Law Society (BMLS) and President, MCLaw Services Ltd.; Advocate Shweeta Mishra, Head of Chambers, MCLaw Services Ltd, Co-Ordinator of BMLS and Engr. Aatur Rahman, Adj. Assistant Professor, NAME, MIST, Ex-Senior Surveyor, DNV.G and Mr Kazi Murad Hossain, Head (in charge), Law Discipline, Khulna University.

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On the First Day of the Course, Advocate Kadir, delivered first Session of Special Short Certificate Course, on the topic of ‘Introduction to Admiralty Law and Maritime Claims’. The second Session was taken by Engr. Ataur Rahman on the topic of ‘Introduction to IMO Convention and its Implementation’. Advocate Shweata Mishra, Head of Chambers, MCLaw Services Ltd., took the session on the topics of ‘Introduction to Marine Insurance and Shipping Documents’.



The participants had interactive sessions with the course instructors and the questions raised by them, envisaged their passion for learning Maritime Law.



Special Short Certificate Course at BUET

Bangladesh Maritime Law Society (BMLS), a member of CMI – Comité Maritime International in collaboration with Association of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers, Bangladesh (ANAMEB), and with the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (NAME), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), as the institutional partner, organized a Special Three-Day Certificate Course titled ‘Introduction to Maritime Law and Marine Insurance for Marine Professionals’ on 27-29th August 2025 at NAME Auditorium, BUET. MCLaw Services Ltd. is providing technical support, and the event is sponsored by Rahim Steel Mills Co. (Pvt.) Ltd.-Rahim Group, a leading steel manufacturer in Bangladesh.



Prof. Dr. Abu Borhan Mohammad Badruzzaman (Borhan Badruzzaman), Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) graced the event as the Chief Guest of Inaugural Ceremony. Engr. Saiful Islam, President, Association of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers, Bangladesh (ANAMEB), was the Chair of Inaugural Ceremony, who formally opened the event with his welcoming speech.

The Dignitaries on Dias included, Prof. Dr. Abu Borhan Mohammad Badruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor, BUET; Engr. Saiful Islam, President, ANAMEB; Mr. Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, President, Bangladesh Maritime Law Society (BMLS) & MCLaw Services Ltd.; Adv. Shweata Mishra, Head of Chambers, MCLaw Services

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Ltd and Engr. Ataur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer, SEASHORE Maritime Services.



In the Inaugural Ceremony, the President of BMLS, Mr. Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh delivered a mesmerising speech stating the importance of Maritime Law and Marine Insurance for the Marine Professionals. The Naval Architects need to have knowledge of Maritime Law and Marine Insurance to effectively navigate legal challenges, ensure compliance with international regulations, and safeguard their projects against potential risks at sea. Thereafter, Advocate Kadir, delivered first Session of Special Short Certificate Course, on the topic of ‘Introduction to Maritime Law for Marine Professionals’.

On the Second Day of the Course, Advocate Shweeta Mishra, Head of Chambers, MCLaw Services Ltd., took a session on the topic of ‘Introduction to Marine Insurance and Shipping Documents’ and later also conducted an Interactive Group Exercise, engaging the participants. During the interactive session, the participants were divided into five groups, such as Charters,

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Ship Owners, Cargo Owners, Naval Architects and Insurers providing a Real-Life Case Scenario. Each parties made their own submissions regarding the case.

The second Session was taken by Engr. Ataur Rahman on the topic of ‘Introduction to IMO Convention and its Implementation’. Engr. Kazi Al-Amin Arefin, Head of Plants, Rahim Group made a Presentations regarding steel categories of Rahim Steel.

The Fifth Session was conducted by Mr. Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and President of BMLS, delivered an interactive presentation on the topic of ‘Carriage of Goods by Sea and International Trade’.



The event came to an end with an encouraging speech and certificate giving by the Hon'ble Chief Guest of Closing Ceremony, Mr. Justice AFM Abdur Rahman (Retd.), Former Justice of Admiralty Bench of High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Mr. Justice fiercely stated that the participants have gained the knowledge of Maritime Law beneficial for naval architects and harnessing the potential of Blue Economy of Bangladesh.

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The Dignitaries on Dias included Prof. Dr. Md. Mashiur Rahaman, Head of Department, NAME, BUET who was esteemed Special Guest of Closing Ceremony; Engr. Saiful Islam, President, ANAMEB, being the Chair of Closing Ceremony; Mr. Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, President, Bangladesh Maritime Law Society (BMLS) & MCLaw Services Ltd.; Advocate Shweeta Mishra, Head of Chambers, MCLaw Services Ltd who delivered the vote of thanks.

The participants had interactive sessions with the course instructors and the questions raised by them, envisaged their passion for learning Maritime Law and Marine Insurance. The participants shared their reviewed and expressed enthusiasm regarding the course. They stated that they have learnt the procedure of Maritime Law, Claim and Marine Insurance and eager to join more courses like this.



BMLS Celebrated World Maritime Day 2025

As a member of the CMI – Comité Maritime International, On 25 September 2025, the Bangladesh Maritime Law Society (BMLS) successfully hosted the seminar “Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity” at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre, Dhaka, in celebration of World Maritime Day 2025. This impactful event was organized with the technical support of MCLaw Services Ltd. and supported by the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN).

The Hon’ble Chair of the Seminar, Mr. Justice AFM Abdur Rahman (Retd.), Supreme Court of Bangladesh (High Court Division) opened the Seminar with his inspiring speech. Mr. Justice focused on the potential aspect of Blue Economy of Bangladesh. Bangladesh possesses vast maritime area and we need to protect our ocean as it is our responsibility.



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Rear Admiral Dr. Khandakar Akhter Hossain (K A Hossain, PhD), NUP, ndc, psc, Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Maritime University graced the Seminar as the Hon'ble Chief Guest. The Hon'ble Chief Guest highlighted the rapid pace of technological change. He stressed the urgent need to prepare for automation, robotics, and the latest technological advancements, underlining the importance of developing human-to-human resources alongside technical expertise to protect the maritime sector.



Commodore Syed Misbah Uddin Ahmad, (C), NUP, ndc, afwc, psc of Bangladesh Navy (BN) (ret'd), Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development (BIMRAD) joined the Seminar as Esteemed Special Guest. He underscored the importance of strengthening maritime research and knowledge systems. He stressed that investment in marine science, sustainable practices, and institutional collaboration would be critical to unlocking the potential of Bangladesh's maritime sector.

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As a Keynote-Speaker, our president Mr. Mohiuddin Abdul Kadir (Capt. MAK) FNI FCILT FCI Arb, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh gave presentation on 'Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity' showcasing the Challenges and Opportunity of Maritime Sector of Bangladesh.



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Being one of the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Mir Tareque Ali, Professor, Department of Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) gave presentation on ‘Confronting Marine Pollution to Protect our Oceans’ addressing the Marine Pollution and Possible Marine Environment Rehabilitation.



Mr. Mohammed Abdul Hye (Mohammed Hye), Former Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand, Government People’s Republic of Bangladesh gave a speech on Protection of Rights of Seafarers’ and possible way forward.

Shaping Legislation for Sustainable Blue Economy

Commodore Syed Ariful Islam (Retd.), Former Director General of Department of Shipping & Project Lead, Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) Bangladesh gave a presentation on ‘Strengthening Transparency: Turning Obligations into Opportunities for Sustainable Growth’ addressing the Challenges and Solutions of Maritime Corruptions.



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The Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks were delivered by Adv. Shweeta Mishra, Head of Chambers, MCLaw Services Ltd. & General Coordinator, BMLS, expressing appreciation to all speakers, partners, and participants for making the event a success.

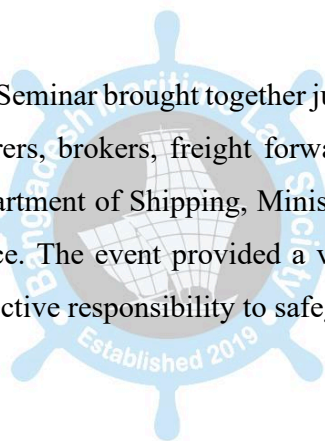
The seminar witnessed active participation from aspiring law students representing a diverse range of academic institutions across the country. Attendees included students from the Department of Law of Sonargaon University (SU), London College of Legal Studies South (LCLS South), North South University, Eastern University (Bangladesh), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Bangladesh Maritime University, and East West University.



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The Seminar brought together judges, lawyers, academics, shipowners, port authorities, marine insurers, brokers, freight forwarders, cargo interests, and government agencies such as the Department of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Coast Guard, BIWTA, and River Police. The event provided a valuable platform to discuss the role of maritime law and the collective responsibility to safeguard our oceans



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