



## **BANGLADESH OBSERVED WORLD HYDROGRAPHIC DAY 2020**

1. Bangladesh observed World Hydrography Day (WHD) on 21 June 2020. Bangladesh started celebrating this day since last few years to increase public awareness of the vital role that hydrography plays in everyone's lives. This year the celebration took place with the theme '*Hydrography – enabling autonomous technologies*'. Being a major stakeholder, Bangladesh Navy (BN) took this opportunity to celebrate the day with following activities:

a. To mark the WHD, the Chief of the Naval Staff of Bangladesh Navy Admiral A M M M Aurangzeb Chowdhury, NBP, OSP, BCGM, ndc, psc sent a special signal message to all BN ships, establishments, training institutes and other important maritime stakeholders of the country. In his message, the Chief of the Naval Staff congratulated all BN hydrographic personnel for their excellent contribution in the maritime domain of Bangladesh. He briefly expressed the importance of hydrographic activities for the sustainable management of oceans. He also conveyed his appreciation to all personnel dedicated to hydrographic survey work in Bangladesh.

b. A special mobile SMS was generated as government information and sent to all cell phone users around the country stating the theme of this year's WHD to increase public awareness. For everyone's understanding the theme was translated to Bangla and expressed as “হাইড্রোগ্রাফি - স্বশক্তিপ্রাপ্তির উৎসর্গভাষ্য”।

c. The Chief Hydrographer of Bangladesh Navy, Commodore Sheikh Mahmudul Hassan, (H), NPP, aowc, psc, BN has organized a video tele-conference among the navy ships and naval bases. Online presentations followed by discussion were arranged on the following topics:

<b>Serial</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	BN Hydrographic Services – An Instrument for Efficient Sea Use	Keynote Presentation
2	Hydrographic Information Driving Marine Knowledge	-
3	Hydrography – Underpinning The Blue Economy	-
4	Hydrography – Enabling Autonomous Technologies	-

d. Hydrographers from various organization and interested naval officers from other branch have also participated in the interactive discussion sessions. Senior hydrographers have exchanged their views and expert opinions among the junior participants. All the participants have agreed upon the need for development of autonomous technologies in the hydrographic sector of Bangladesh which will have a significant impact in the future.

e. An enlightening press release was issued both in Bangla and English regarding the 'Celebration of WHD 2020 in Bangladesh' by Inter Service Public Relation Directorate of Bangladesh Armed Forces and a number of national daily newspapers highlighted the news in their online and print versions. The news emphasized the importance of relentless hydrographic work to enhance national hydrographic capacity and develop cooperation in science and techniques in acquiring sustainable development. Overall effort and achievements of Bangladesh Navy Hydrographic Department were also highlighted in the news. The press release and glimpses of some news coverage published by the national newspapers are attached herewith.

## **PRESS RELEASE ON WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2020**

Bangladesh celebrated 'World Hydrography Day' on 21 June 2020 with an aim to increase public awareness of the importance of hydrography in our lives. This year the theme of the day is '**Hydrography - enabling autonomous technologies**'. The World Hydrography Day theme for 2020 is intended to provide a broad range of opportunities to publicize the hydrographic work and services provided by national hydrographic offices, industry stakeholders, expert contributors, and the scientific community.

Bangladesh is the 70<sup>th</sup> member of International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). Bangladesh Navy (BN) acts as the focal point of all hydrographic matters in the sea area of Bangladesh. BN has been celebrating the World Hydrography Day, in cooperation with other government institutions and agencies. Established in 2001, the "National Hydrographic Committee", chaired by Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations), coordinates the activities of hydrographic offices and sets standards in order to promote uniformity in nautical charts and documents. The Committee relentlessly working to promote the use of hydrography, enhance national hydrographic capacity and develop cooperation in science and techniques.

BN has developed capability to produce International Standard Nautical Charts with strict adherence to the IHO standard. With high standard of professionalism, Bangladesh is already proficient to publish 09 International Series charts and 11 Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) for her seaports and sea area. BN has MoU with United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) by which UKHO is distributing BN products worldwide. BN has already signed 'Statement of Intent to Join' with International Centre for ENCs (IC-ENC) which is distributing our ENCs worldwide. Thus, BN Hydrographic Department is now the source of earning remittance.

Bangladesh Navy Chief Hydrographer Organization started functioning since 27 March 2019. To commemorate the World Hydrographic Day, Bangladesh Navy Chief Hydrographer has arranged a Video Conferencing (VTC). The conference is mainly focused on the theme of the World Hydrography Day '**Hydrography - enabling autonomous technologies**'. The hydrographers and interested personnel participated in the VTC, discussed on the key role that hydrography can play with the support of autonomous technologies. This includes autonomous surface and underwater vehicles as well as drones. Presently, Bangladesh Navy Hydrographers are being gradually trained to handle increasing levels of autonomous technologies and more widespread autonomous applications. The participants of the VTC also focused their awareness in importance and contribution of BN Hydrographic Service and capacity building to contribute in national and international level hydrographic activities.

The development of autonomous technologies need extent capacity building in this sector, which may make a significant impact in the field of hydrography of Bangladesh. Every year, celebration of 'World Hydrography Day' also reminds the hydrographers regarding their contribution in safety of navigation, resource exploitation including blue economic development, security and defence, national marine spatial data infrastructures, coastal zone management, scientific research, marine tourism, environmental protection and governance of the maritime sector. Besides, hydrographic services Bangladesh will play substantial role in promulgating the "Delta plan-2020" of Bangladesh Government. In doing so, whatever technology we develop and adopt, we must endeavor to inspire and attract the young professionals to ensure that autonomous hydrographic surveying will be beneficial and rewarding activity in future. This is a trend that will endure and may turn out to be even more vital in our hydrographic sector to secure a future with professional hydrographers.

## COVERAGE IN DAILY NEWSPAPERS

THE **ASIAN AGE**  
22 June 2020  
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### BN observes World Hydrography Day

► **AA News Desk**

Bangladesh Navy (BN) has observed World Hydrography Day highlighting the role of hydrographic in everyone's life.

As a part of the program, Bangladesh Navy (BN) organized a tele-con-

ference with different organizations, reports BSS.

The Navy said different issues covering the requirement of innovative supplementary data gathering initiatives for blue economy such as seaborne trade and commerce,

resource exploration and exploitation, ocean science and observation, and defence and security were highlighted in the seminar.

World Hydrography Day is observed on 21 June every year since 2006. This initiative was started by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) to increase awareness about the safe navigation, technical standards and protection of the marine environment.

This year the day was themed on "Hydrography - Enabling Autonomous Technologies".

Bangladesh is 70th member of the Internal Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the Navy acts as the focal point of all hydrographic matters in the maritime area of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Navy has developed the capability to produce International Standard Nautical Charts, those are being used for ocean navigation by the mariners worldwide.

TRUE AND IMPARTIAL  
**daily sun**  
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### World Hydrography Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 'World Hydrography Day' was observed in the country on Sunday as elsewhere across the globe.

To mark the day, Chief Hydrographer of Bangladesh Navy organised a video teleconferencing among the Navy Ships and Naval Bases.

As a member state of the World Hydrographic Organization, the day has been celebrated in Bangladesh since 2005. The theme of the day for this year is-"Hydrography-Enabling Autonomous Technologies".

Bangladesh is the 70th member of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Bangladesh Navy serves as the focal point for all hydrographic activities in the country's maritime region.