

So with the annihilation of Musa's fleet, his resistance collapsed. Moreover, the imperial flotilla was organised very efficiently with all sorts of workers, officer, provisions and war materials. While on the other hand, Musa's fleet lacked proper organisation including war-materials although he was superior to the Mughals in respect of number of war-boats. Musa Khan had to depend to a great extent on the war-boats of his allies who, not always, proved loyal to his cause.

## (2) THE NAVAL BATTLE OF SALKA WITH PRATAPADITYA—1612 A.D.

Raja Pratapaditya of Jessore-Khulna stands out very prominent in the naval history of Bengal during the period under review. He was one of the prominent 'bhuiyas' of Bengal during the Mughal rule. The Baharistan and the travel diary of Abdul Latif and the contemporary European travellers—all testify to his personal ability, political pre-eminence, material resources and martial strength particularly in war-boats. Like Musa Khan, Raja Pratapaditya also rightly understood the effectiveness of a naval power in the riverine tracts of Bengal as a means of best self-defence against the Magh and Feringhi pirates of Sondwip and Chittagong as well as against the aggressions of the Mughals from within. As a matter of fact, it was the onward march of the Mughals on Pratapaditya's kingdom from the north-west in the beginning of the 17th century, the incursions of the Magh and Feringhi pirates from the south-east and his natural thirst for conquest that prompted Pratapaditya to build up a naval power on a grand scale. It does not appear that the Raja utilised his naval power for commercial purposes. It would not be out of place to say a few words about Pratapaditya's navy and naval organisation.

**Pratapaditya's Navy and naval organisation :** Pratapaditya had the advantage of building boats and organising naval strategy. He put much emphasis on naval strategy, the various types of war-boats furnished with guns, the dockyards and naval fortresses. There was no dearth of wood for constructing boats in the Sunderbans. Of the oaks, 'Sundari Oak' is