



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Tungipara Upazila Parishad Bhaban on 15 January 2014.



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PM inaugurates Tungipara Upazila Parishad Bhaban

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Tungipara Upazila Parishad Bhaban, constructed by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), in Gopalganj district on 15 January 2014.

The present government has been working to ensure planned development and good governance through strengthening local government system. Various development projects are being taken up to develop institutional capacities of local government institutions. In a bid to facilitate the local people's access to services through extension of infrastructural facilities of the Upazila Parishads, 'Upazila Complex Extension Project' has been taken up. Under the project, the reconstruction programme of the worn-out old Upazila Complex Bhaban at Tungipara has been accomplished.

Tungipara Upazila Complex has an area of 36000 sq ft. It includes the residential accommodation of UP Chairman, the UNO, 2 twin quarters, a dormitory building and a hallroom of 4000 sq ft. Besides, as per the directive of the Honourable Prime Minister the provision of Rain Water Harvesting and power technology through solar panel have also been provided.

The implementation of the project will facilitate the community people to have easy access to services, increase the capacity of the local government institution and contribute to the establishment of good governance.

Earlier, the Premier paid rich tributes to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a wreath at the Mazar of Bangabandhu at Tungipara after her assumption of office for the third time.



LGED's Commitment to establish Gender Equity

Ever since its inception Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been keen to dedicate itself in promoting women's participation in development. To institutionalize gender, LGED has developed its strategy and tools. For achieving gender equality in LGED's projects, women's participation is highly encouraged at all stages of the project cycle.

LGED has been aptly mainstreaming gender at its central and project management levels. LGED's rural development activities have created significant scope of employment for destitute rural women through Labour Contracting Society (LCS) ensuring equal opportunities comparing with men. This has brought a radical change in the lives and livelihoods of rural women. In Small Scale Water Sector Projects of LGED, women are playing important roles in the Water Management Cooperative Associations (WMCA) and its sub-committees. In the urban sector, LGED has made provisions of income generating activities for the poor women through introducing credit and savings schemes. Another approach LGED adopted towards gender equity is the involvement of women in its Project Implementation Committees.

LGED is also active in promoting women entrepreneurs by introducing women's corner in all rural markets constructed by LGED. Apart from that, involvement of poor fisherwomen in beel resource management initiated by Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) at Sunamganj is a big initiative of LGED towards ensuring women's entitlement in natural resources.



Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED is seen chairing the two-day Review Meeting of LGED held at LGED HQ in Dhaka on 27 January 2014.

LGED reviews progress of its on-going projects

A two-day Review Meeting of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) for the year 2013-14 began at LGED Headquarters in Dhaka on 27 January 2014.

LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman inaugurated the meeting and also chaired the inaugural session. Speaking on the occasion, LGED Chief Engineer said, because of political unrest in the country during the last few months the review meeting of LGED had to be deferred. As calm prevails now, he said, everything will hopefully be settled down gradually.

In his address as Chairperson at the inaugural session Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said, LGED has been contributing significantly to rural and urban infrastructure development of the country. He stressed on the importance of introducing 'service lanes' enabling the slow-moving vehicles to ply on. He also sounded a cautionary note to strictly maintain fairness and neutrality in dealing with

development works during the ensuring upazila elections. Once the election schedule is proclaimed, no development activity should be exhibited, he said.

The Chief Engineer asked the LGED engineers to go for constructing RCC roads in phases, in lieu of bituminous roads, because bituminous roads are more prone to damage by rains. He also ruefully said, in some districts, there has been found lack of supervision in construction works and poor maintenance in LGED activities. Such lapses will not be tolerated, he cautioned.

LGED Chief Engineer further added, a good number of major bridges, some measuring beyond 1000 meters each, are about to be constructed by LGED. He asked the field engineers to take adequate care to ensure quality.

All Additional Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Project Directors, Deputy Project Directors and Upazila Engineers of LGED at the Headquarters and at field levels were present there to participate in the review meeting. Earlier, an address of welcome was delivered by Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Superintending Engineer, LGED.

LGED's project UGIIP-2 gets 'Best Project Team Award-2013'

Second Urban Governance & Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project (UGIIP-2) of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been awarded the "Best Project Team Award-2013" by ADB. Mr. Stefan Ekland, Officer-in Charge of ADB Bangladesh Resident Mission handed over the award to Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Akand, Project Director of UGIIP-2 and his team.

UGIIP-2, a project funded by ADB, is at present in its final phase of implementation. Placing governance ahead of and importantly, linking infrastructure allocations with performance of the Pourashavas on a continuous basis underlines the project philosophy and strategy. This performance based approach is characterized by demand-driven allocations, which hinges on certain clearly defined performance criteria and commitment of undertaking reforms.

UGIIP-2 has met with explicitly substantial success on several fronts. Starting with 35 Pourashavas (PSs), later expanded to 47, the 'sector project' attempted to seed into the PS-purview the very elements of good governance and efficiency in their functioning and service-delivery.



Mr. Stefan Ekland, Officer-in-Charge of ADB Bangladesh Resident Mission is handing over the "Best Project Team Award-2013" to Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Akand, Project Director of UGIIP-2 and his team.

Inter-Agency Agreement signed between AIS & LGED

An Inter-Agency Agreement (IAA) was signed in between Agriculture Information Service (AIS) under Ministry of Agriculture and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) to enhance the use of radio in development initiatives. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Mr. Md. Rezwanul Islam, Director, Agriculture Information Service (AIS) signed the agreement to implement the Rural Radio Initiatives (RRI) under Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (CCRIP). In the context of the IAA, CCRIP, LGED and AIS agreed on a working plan for the years

2014 to 2016 aiming at enhancing communication for development skills of rural broadcasters and improving access to information for rural audience especially on climate change adaptation, market price, cropping pattern, fishery, livestock, poultry production and food security. The media will act as a two-way process, which calls for the active participation of the community in the planning and production activities of the radio broadcasts. The initiative will promote the exchange of views bringing people closer together by stimulating information and enhancing the value of local knowledge. The signing ceremony was held at the office of Chief Engineer in Local Government Engineering Department on Wednesday 8th January, 2014. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Md. Iftekhar Ahmed, Superintending Engineer (Planning), Mr. A.K.M. Lutfur Rahman, Project Director, Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project of LGED. This is yet another challenge and a programme that will inspire increased participation of the beneficiary communities in the development initiatives. The programme implementation is expected to begin in the months of January, 2014 and will continue up to January 2016. The project will be financed by the allocated grant of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).



Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED and Mr. Md. Rezwanul Islam, Director, Agricultural Information Service Signed an Inter-Agency Agreement on 8 January 2014 at LGED HQ in Dhaka.

investments for the agricultural development of that area is the key to bring back the southern Bangladesh as 'the food basket.' We have to explore the synergies of water, seeds and technologies related to increase production in fishery, livestock, poultry and saline tolerance crops. During its course of implementation, AIS will take lead, support and assist Rural Radio to produce a number of significant outputs/deliverables within the project period. With this agreement with AIS, LGED entered into a new horizon of innovation to implement the communication strategies at project level including the provision of policy advice for the institutionalization of RRI or services for rural development. I think we would be able to come out with a desired result for the betterment of rural community in the next days to come" said Mr. Md. Iftekhar Ahmed, Superintending Engineer, LGED.

LGED's project RERMP-2 UJJIBTO to reduce hunger and poverty

The Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Programme-2 (RERMP-2) Ujjibito, co-funded by European Union and GoB is being implemented by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). The overall objective of the project is to bring in



The ultra-poor female beneficiaries of LGED's project RERMP-2-Ujjibito are being motivated to go for developing their entrepreneurship and income-generation.

sustainable reduced hunger and poverty in Bangladesh. The duration of the project is four years from July 2013 to June 2017.

Specifically speaking, RERMP-2 Ujjibito is committed to improve the status of 59,180 vulnerable women-headed houses from ultra-poverty and to maintain 90,960 km rural roads round the year. Besides, the project ensures food access of ultra-poor, particularly women and their dependents. It also ensures nutrition, health status and better food utilization.

RERMP-2 Ujjibito has been working to develop skills for entrepreneurship and

income generation for ultra-poor female beneficiaries, providing training in non-agricultural employment opportunities for young women members of UPP families and vocational training for youths of UPP families.

Regular counseling and awareness building on practical nutrition, homestead vegetable production, hygiene, etc for beneficiaries in the focal areas are being provided by the project. Practical nutrition and reproductive health orientation courses for adolescent girls (12-18), newly-wed women, pregnant women and young mothers are included in the project activities.

It is expected that once the project gets properly implemented, 59,180 ultra-poor beneficiaries including women and their families will have the means to enjoy a decent standard of living. The health and physical well-being of ultra-poor beneficiary women and their families will be significantly enhanced. Empowerment of women and their participation in socio-economic development efforts will be improved. The maintenance of 90,960 km rural road network will create easy access to markets and service centres.



A training course on Road Accident Data Collection under RTIP-II.

Workshop on Gender Equality Results in Bangladesh held

A day-long knowledge dissemination and sharing workshop on Gender Equity Results in Bangladesh was held on 18 March 2014 at RDEC Building, LGED, Dhaka. Organized by Asian Development Bank (ADB) Bangladesh the workshop was participated by the representatives of different ministries, representatives of the Local Government Division, representatives of ADB, senior engineers and project directors of LGED and stakeholders of ADB funded projects.

The inaugural session of the workshop was attended by Mr. Monzur Hossain, Secretary, Local Government Division as the chief guest, while Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Chief Engineer (In-charge), LGED as the special guest. Besides, Mr. Francesco Tornieri, Principal Social Development Specialist (Gender), South Asia Department, ADB, Ms. Rina Sengupta, Social Development (GAD) Implementation Adviser, ADB and Ms. Nasheeba Selim, Social Development and Gender Specialist, BRM, ADB were also present on the occasion among others.

Speaking as the chief guest Mr. Monzur Hossain, Secretary, Local Government Division said, if the women cannot participate in development works the society remains half-paralysed. He said, women in our society have less access



Mr. Monzur Hossain, Secretary, Local Government Division is seen delivering his speech as the chief guest at the inaugural session of "knowledge Dissemination and Sharing Workshop on Gender Equality Results in Bangladesh" held on 18 March 2014 at RDEC Building in LGED HQ in Dhaka. Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Chief Engineer (In-charge), LGED is seen seated on the dais as the special guest among others.

than men to resources and opportunities and as such they are deprived of rights and privileges. They are more vulnerable to violence, conflicts and natural disaster. He said, the question of empowering women and establishing gender equality in Bangladesh is being nurtured by ADB through their different interventions. He however hopefully said that if gender issues are properly addressed and gender equality is established, the outcome would be better human development.

Speaking on the occasion as the special guest Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Chief Engineer (In-charge), LGED said, we have obligations to gender equity and

fundamental rights as per the dictates of the our Constitution. He said, LGED is committed to promote women's equality in all spheres. It has its strategy for that with short and long term interventions. The strategy is being continuously reviewed by a Gender Forum dedicated to monitoring and implementing the gender strategy and action plan of LGED.

Earlier, an address of welcome was delivered by Mr. Zahid Hossain, Principal Country Economist, Bangladesh Resident Mission, ADB.



Community Based Beel Fisheries under CBRMP of LGED.

Community Based Beel Fisheries Management: a sustainable wetland resource management

Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) with funding from IFAD has been implementing an integrated rural development programme in Sunamganj haor area since 2003 aiming at poverty reduction of 90,000 poor households. Among those programmes ensuring access to beel fisheries of fishers is a major intervention of the project. The project has a target of handing over of 300 Beels of above and below 20 acres with a total coverage of 6,500 acres.

Beels are being transferred from Ministry of Land to Local Government Division under MoU for a period of 10 years and later those are entrusted to project for distributing to fishers community. The community under set rules maintain the management of Beels being gathered in Beel Users-Group (BUG).

The project by this time has handed over 229 beels to same number of BUGs that comprise a total number of 7,304 members of which 1808 are women (24.75%). Out of those under fish habitat restoration, 115 beels have been demarcated with pillars, 190 Beels have been brought under re-excavation, 264,170 swamp trees have been planted covering 111.00 acres of land, 58 nos of sanctuaries have been established and 57 canals have been re-excavated for restoration of Beel connectivity. All those activities are being carried out by BUG members under guidance of project, department of fisheries, and local administration.

The impact of all those interventions is very positive in terms of increased production and improvement of fish biodiversity, and that has been resulting in increased income of the BUG members. Fish production in Beels under community management has risen to 720 kg per hectares (Worldfish Fish Biodiversity Report), when the national production of Beel fisheries in 714kg per hectares (Worldfish Fish Biodiversity Report- Jun 2012). During 2012-2013, 229 beels have been

harvested with a total catch of 320,103kg, and that was sold at Tk. 3,939,941. Fishers could sell at relatively increased rate due to post auction sorting of fish and mobilization of a good number of auctioneers that made the auctions competitive. The fish biodiversity has risen from 80 to 117 between 2009 -2012 and the trend of rising in continuing with appearance of a good number of species those were not available in local haors for the last few years (Worldfish Fish Biodiversity Report- Jun 2012).

Almost all Beels that have gone into production have become profitable and financially sustained. After giving the lease value and maintaining other regular cost the members are getting a substantial amount of benefit. In some Beels the benefit has risen to Tk. 30,000 per year that initially started with Tk. 8,000.

According to the BUG members livelihood monitoring report conducted by Worldfish Center, 2012, the yearly earnings from beels has substantially contributed to the betterment of poor fishers in the manner of building capital to invest in seasonal business, improving their houses and household assets, utilizing in children's education, improvement of health, food security and so on. The continued income from Beel will certainly have significant impact on improved well-being of fisheries, particularly the women fishers.

Community Based Beel Fisheries introduced by CBRMP is viewed as a unique and replicable approach for sustainable open water fisheries management. It has given the access of real poor fishers to productive resource that was not possible earlier for local vested interests. Now, although there are some social and other problems in the process of their access, it is persistently being challenged by them collectively, and those problems are getting declined. For better management it would be required to have a conducive cooperative policy in favor of fisher community that will enable them to hold their occupancy on Beel resource and assist them in building their capacity for better management.

Self-reliant UPPR women members awarded

LGED has all along been rewarding the women of Bangladesh to increase gender awareness. The objective of such rewards is to evaluate the contributions of women in the country's well-being and progress through recognition of women's roles in economic emancipation and socio-economic development. In the recent past, Sonia Begum, a community member of Dholpur slum in Dhaka and Nargis Begum of Naogaon Chakmuktar Poschimpara CDC under LGED's Urban Partnership & Poverty Reduction (UPPR) Project have been honoured as self-reliant women.

Sonia, divorced by her husband, joined UPPR in 2009. In 2010, she received a grant of Taka 10,000/- to do tailoring business. In a family of 8 members she happens to be the lone person to earn an income. She has been increasing her income through tailoring and also kitchen gardening. By virtue of hardwork and determination Sonia could aptly turn her tailoring business into a small industry of handicrafts. People in the community elected her as their team leader as a mark of



a) A self-reliant CDC member Sonia Begum of Dhaka Dholpur slum under UPPR Project and (b) Nargis Begum, CDC member of Naogaon Chakmuktar Poschimpara honoured as self-reliant women.

recognition to her capability and mind set. In about a year she was selected as the Chairperson of the Community Development Committee.

Nargis, on the other hand, was dependent on her day-labourer husband's irregular earnings. Quite often she had to remain to go without food along with her husband and children. To get rid of this situation, Nargis began saving 5 Taka a day from her household expenditures. Her goal was to start a petty business. When her savings amounted to Taka 300/-, she took to poultry farming. But she failed to achieve a success. Later, at one stage she got an assistance of Taka 5000/- from UPPR Project for small trading. She started trading of 'Khor' (a kind of local fuel made from cow-dung) with that money. In association with her husband she has by now reached a situation of earning recurring incomes out of this trading.

LGED constructed 1.5 km road at Malopara in Jessore

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) constructed a one-and-a-half kilometre road from violence-affected Malopara village to Jessore-Khulna highway. The engineers and workers of LGED were busy round the clock to finish at least 500 metres to the village on topmost priority basis as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was set to visit the area on January 23, 2014.

As per directives of the Prime Minister, members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) also rebuilt 65 houses at Malopara village apart from renovating temples and club houses damaged during the post election violence in the recent past.

After January 5 election BNP-Jamaat men purportedly attacked Hindu families of Malopara for their participation in the election. The Prime Minister during her visit warned that those involved in these attacks on the Hindu



Md. Raushan Ali Pramanik, SE, Dinajpur zone is seen handing over the instrument of Nimai Khari Subproject to the Secretary of the Nimai Khari WMCA Ltd.

people will surely be punished. Terming Hindus the children of this sacred soil the Prime Minister said, "This is your birth place and you'll live here equally enjoying every right like other people. We're beside you and you'll remain there always."

Nimai Khari Subproject handed over to the WMCA

The Nimai Khari DR&WC subproject, Sadar, Dinajpur has been handed over on 20 February, 2014 to Nimai Khari Water Management Cooperative Association Ltd, an Association formed by the local beneficiaries. Mr. Md. Raushan Ali Pramanik, Superintending Engineer, LGED Dinajpur zone handed over the instrument of handover, containing the terms of reference of both the parties handing over and taking over the responsibilities of the O&M of the said subproject, to the Chairman and Secretary of the WMCA. It is worth mentioning that this is the first subproject that has been handed over to the WMCA for its post project operation, maintenance and management.

The subproject has been implemented by the ADB-IFAD jointly funded Participatory Small Scale Water Resources Sector Project (PSSWRSP) of LGED. The subproject infrastructure includes a

7-vent regulator, 3 vent Box Culvert, O&M shed and 8.0 km khal re-excavation. The subproject, implemented to provide drainage and water conservation benefit to about 673 ha. agricultural land, cost about Tk. 2 crore. In presence of a number of WMCA members, Mr. Md. Raushan Ali Pramanik in his speech termed the day as a red letter day for the WMCA. From now onwards, he told, the subproject beneficiaries organized under the canopy of WMCA, the local stakeholders organization, would be responsible for operation, maintenance and management of the subproject infrastructures that would lead to a successful sustainable stakeholder driven water management system in the long run. At the same time the WMCA would carry out various income generating activities (IGA) with a view to improve livelihood like micro credit operation for the poor members of the WMCA, tree plantation on the dyke of the khal and seasonal fish culture in the khal with the capital accumulated by WMCA, he added.

The subproject handover program was attended, among others, by the Executive Engineer, LGED, Dinajpur, Upazila Engineer, Sadar, Dinajpur, Team Leader of PIC, PSSWRSP, other PMO and PIC staffs and the general members of WMCA.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated development projects including school-cum-cyclone shelters constructed by LGED and laid foundation for other projects in Satkhira on 20 January 2014.

PM inaugurates and lays foundation stones of Development projects in Satkhira and Gaibandha

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated and lays foundation stones of a number of development projects on 20 January 2014 in Satkhira. The projects include Community Primary School cum Cyclone Shelter and Government Primary school cum Cyclone Shelter projects implemented by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). She also distributed cheques among families of AL activists who were recently killed in violence unleashed by BNP-Jamaat.

Later, addressing a rally at Satkhira Boys High School premises the Prime Minister sounded a strong note of caution to the militants and terrorists responsible in the recent attacks on minority community and pro-Awami League men. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, none of them will be spared and everyone will have to face the punishment.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of a number of development projects in Gaibandha on 25 January

2014. That included, among others, a 1490m PC Girder Bridge on the Teesta river under Sundarganj Upazila and a 360m PC Girder Bridge on the Katakhal river under Saghata Upazila, constructed by LGED. Speaking at rally in the district she expressed her firm resolve to build Bangladesh a hunger and poverty-free middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. She also said, "There will be no place for terrorism and militancy on Bangladesh soil."



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated and laid foundation stones of a number of development projects in Gaibandha on 25 January 2014 including 1490m PC girder bridge on the Teesta river and 360m PC girder bridge on the Katakhal river constructed by LGED.

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