



LGED Newsletter

A Quarterly Publication Of LGED {{ Issue No. 117 : April-June 2015 }} Regd. No. 24/87

Inside Pages

Editorial

LGED's success in ADP implementation

German Ambassador Inaugurates Primary School cum Cyclone Shelter

Design of 3rd Shitalakhya Bridge in NCC Area Completed

Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan updated under CRDP

Kuakata Tourism Development Master Plan Approved

CRDP Illuminates 26 Wards of GCC with Solar-Powered Lights

Handing Over of the SSWRD Sub-projects in 3 Greater Districts

Rubber-Dam-based Irrigation Activities starts on Vogai River

IGA Training for Improving Living Standard

Do'a Mahfil and Iftar at LGED

11th AGM of LKSS held

Vehicles to distribute to 18 Pourashavas under NOBIDEP

JICA Vice President Visited LGED



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the 547m long "Sheikh Hasina Bridge" over river Mohanonda at Shaheber Ghat area of Sadar Upazila, Chapai Nawabganj on 16 May 2015. LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari is seen informing the Prime Minister about bridge related information.

Inauguration of "Sheikh Hasina Bridge" over River Mohanonda in Chapai Nawabganj

Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the 547m long "Sheikh Hasina Bridge" over river Mohanonda at Shaheber Ghat area of Sadar Upazila under Chapai Nawabganj district on 16 May 2015. At the same time, she inaugurated five projects of other departments and also laid the foundation stone of another five development projects.

River Mohanonda flows through the heart of Chapai Nawabganj Sadar Upazila. The river keeps seven Unions separated from the main landmass of the Upazila. Every day, around 20 thousand people cross the river Mohanonda, using this road of Shaheber Ghat area, to travel onward to different places of the country including the Upazila and District HQ. Apart from physical suffering, much time is wasted owing to adverse communication. For that reason it becomes difficult to transport and market the area's agricultural products. Consequently, substantial quantity of mango and green vegetables often perish which results in

serious financial losses to the farmers. Besides, due to poor communication facilities, the people have hitherto remained deprived of required medical services. Many patients including pregnant women succumbed to death, having fallen prey to this suffering. With the construction of the Bridge, people are now able to reach the district town within an hour, which will make a huge contribution to the economic advancement of the region.

The "Sheikh Hasina Bridge" has been built under the Construction of Large Bridges on Upazila and Union Roads Project of LGED financed by the Government of Bangladesh. The construction work required four years using Bangladeshi technology and cost BDT 49.77 crores. The joint venture of WMCG and Navana constructed the bridge. A specialist team from BUET carried out the hydrological and morphological study of the bridge. Based on this the LGED Design Unit engineers completed the structural design.

Editorial

LGED in building Long Bridges

LGED has been working intensively on building a comprehensive network for the rural road communication system of Bangladesh. Among three different categories of roads in rural areas, LGED is entrusted with the responsibility of developing Upazila and Union connecting roads and keeping them in usable condition throughout the year, by installing proper maintenance. Strong and sustainable economic development of a country requires an uninterrupted transport network system.

In the eighties, the then LGED built earthen Growth Center Connecting Roads with small bridges/culverts under the World Food Program. Over more than last two decades, LGED has been developing, under different development projects, many Upazila and Union roads with bituminous carpeting and constructing bridges of required length on them. These long bridges have substantially improved the rural road network and hence eased the transport system.

In the context of a progressively increasing demand for long bridges, LGED, with GoB's own funding, started implementing Construction of Large Bridges on Upazila and Union Roads Project in 2010. Under this project, as many as 171 numbers of 100m or larger bridges have been planned for construction. Out of

those, 9 will have lengths of 500m and above; the longest one of those will measure 771m which is being under construction in Banchharampur Upazila of Brahmanbaria district.

With respect to building long bridges, LGED has already built an 810m long bridge at Gafargaon of Mymensingh district with the Government's own fund. This has already been opened to traffic. Apart from this, two more bridges are being built with GoB's own resources, one is 850m long at Rangpur under the Greater Rangpur-Dinajpur Project while the other one is 950m long over river Dharala of Kurigram. In Gaibandha, it has been planned to build a 1,490m long bridge. Recently, Honorable Prime Minister inaugurated a 547m long bridge over river Mohanonda at Shaheber Ghat of Sadar Upazila under Chapai Nawabganj district and two more bridges with lengths of 418m and 304m over river Kathalia in Meghna Upazila of Comilla district.

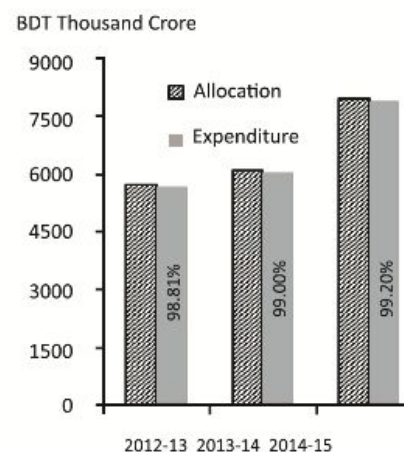
With a view to protect the environment, especially to sustain navigability of river and preserving bio-diversity, hydrological and morphological studies are carried out in cases of building long bridges in excess of 100m. The designs of these bridges are done under the supervision of the engineers of the LGED's Design Unit.

(See page- 7)

LGED's success in ADP implementation in FY 2014-15: Progress 99.20%

In course of implementing the Government's Annual Development Program (ADP), LGED achieved a progress of more than 99% in the recently-concluded financial Year 2014-15. The target of ADP implementation was set for LGED at BDT 6,611.57 crore. In the revised ADP, the target was scaled up to BDT 7,967.17 crore, where GoB's own contribution stands at BDT 5,613.37 crores and Project Aid BDT 2,353.80 crores. This fund was allocated for implementing a total of 101 (96 Investment and 5 Technical Assistance) projects. At the end of the FY on 30 June 2015, LGED has been able to utilize BDT 7,903.62 crores, which constitutes 99.20% of the total ADP allocation (Revised).

LGED's 101 development projects comprise of 74 rural, 24 urban and 3 small scale water resources sector projects. LGED also implemented 28 investment projects of Agriculture and other ministries. Works of 17 investment and 2 TA projects have been completed in FY 2014-15. It is worth mentioning that in FY 2012-13 and 2013-14, ADP allocation for LGED was BDT 5,738.18 crore and BDT 6,107.11 crore respectively. Corresponding expenditure was BDT 5,669.92 crore (98.81%) and BDT 6,046.14 crore (99%). Compared to ADP allocation in 2013-14, LGED's ADP allocation increased by BDT 1,860.06 crore in 2014-15.



ADP Allocation & Expenditure

LGED signs MoUs with three organizations for CALIP

Climate Adaptation and Livelihood Protection (CALIP) has been working towards achieving the objectives of Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project (HILIP) in Haor areas. With a view to improve life style in the future as well as through reducing poverty and socio-economic risks of Haor inhabitants CALIP works with the aim of improving their living standard. CALIP also works for raising awareness and skill in combating the impact of climate change. With the intention of implementing CALIP's works in a planned manner, LGED signed three MoUs with Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Bangladesh Metrological Department (BMD) and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). The signatories of these accords had been – Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Chief Engineer, LGED; Dr. G.M. Tarekul Islam for IWFm, BUET and Mr. Abdul Khaleq, Secretary, BWDB.

LGED Signs MoU with Fisheries Department

On 27 May 2015, an MoU was signed between the Local Government Engineering Department and the Directorate of Fisheries for transfer of technology and provision of technical assistance between them. Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Chief Engineer, LGED and Dr Syed Arif Azad, Director General, Fisheries Directorate signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. With a view to raising income of the landless, small and marginal farmers of the Haor areas of Sunamganj, Habiganj, Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj and Netrokona districts, LGED is implementing Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project (HILIP) with joint funding of GoB and JICA. One of the three components of the project is the development of fisheries resources. The stated MoU between LGED and the Directorate of Fisheries was signed with the objective of transferring technology and providing training assistance among the beneficiaries of the project area including landless and destitute women for development of fisheries resources.



The German Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr. Thomas Prinz inaugurated the recently built Langolkata Government Primary School cum Cyclone Shelter on 20 May 2015.

German Ambassador Inaugurates Primary School cum Cyclone Shelter

The German Ambassador to Bangladesh H.E. Dr. Thomas Prinz inaugurated the recently built Langolkata Government Primary School cum Cyclone Shelter jointly funded by GoB, KfW and IDA, at Sadar Upazila of Borguna district. Constructed under the Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Rehabilitation Project (ECRRP), the expenditure for building the school was BDT 3.18 crore. At the inauguration ceremony, present among others, were the Project Director Mr. Md. Abdur Rashid Khan, Director of the KfW's Regional office for Bangladesh and Nepal Mr. David Kuntze, different district level officers and eminent persons including the Mayor of Borguna Pourashavas. Mr. Md.

Mir Johurul Islam, Deputy Commissioner, Borguna chaired the inaugural ceremony. The German Ambassador looked at different areas of the cyclone shelter and expressed satisfaction over the presence of facilities like separate room for pregnant women along with toilet, separate toilet facilities for male and female, harvesting arrangement for rain water and its use, provision of solar panel for power supply during disaster. Apart from these, he also expressed his satisfaction over the association of the School Management Committee (SMC) in the O&M of the building along with construction of the cyclone shelter.



LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari delivering his speech in the workshop on Implementation of Capacity Development Plan (CDP) under Bangladesh Agricultural Infrastructure Development Program (BAIDP) at LGED HQ on 27 May 2015. Addl. Chief Engineer (Maintenance) Mr. Md. Mohsin, Superintending Engineer (Planning) Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, UNOPS Team Leader Mr. Joy J. Balen and Project Director, BAIDP Mr. Md. Jashimuddin are seen on the dais.



LGED Secretary Mr. Abdul Malek is speaking as chief guest in the orientation workshop organized by UGIIP-III at LGED HQ. LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari was present as the chairperson of the session.

Orientation Workshop of Third Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project

Third Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project (UGIIP-III) organized an orientation workshop on 22 April 2015 at the LGED Head Quarters. LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari chaired the inaugural session of the workshop. Local Government Division Secretary Mr. Abdul Malek and Additional Secretary Mr. Ashok Madhab Roy were present as the chief guest and special guest respectively. DPHE Chief Engineer Ms. Khaleda Ahsan and Mr. Norio Saito, Urban Specialist, Asian Development Bank were also present among others.

In the welcome-speech the Project Director Mr. Shafiqul Islam Akand informed that the project will be implemented in 31 Pourashavas of the country. The implementation period of the project is from July 2014 to June 2020 with an estimate of BDT 2,600.48 crore. ADB representative Mr. Norio Saito stated that LGED successfully implemented two similar projects prior to UGIIP-III. DPHE Chief Engineer Ms. Khaleda Ahsan said in her speech that through this project, efforts are being made to provide poura citizens with safe potable water and ensure hygienic sanitation service. She added that people's participation is an imperative for development.

Additional Secretary Mr. Ashok Madhab Roy said that in all developed countries, local government institutions are operated with their own income, but we cannot do so in our country. We have to run these entities depending on the block allocation from ADP of the central government. He asserted that the Pourashavas would need to expand their revenue base and would essentially need to be self-reliant.

In the chairperson's speech, LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari said, LGED has been working on the improvement of urban infrastructure since early nineties. At present, several projects including CRDP, MGSP and Inclusive City Governance Project are working on urban development. He pointed out that by 2025, urban services will need to be expanded to cover around 50 percent of the country's total population.

The Chief Guest Mr. Abdul Malek stated that urbanization in Bangladesh started around 150 years ago with four Pourashavas. These were Dhaka, Chittagong, Comilla and Mymensingh. Currently, the number stands at 324. With these, there are 11 city corporations. He mentioned that the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has relentlessly been working for bringing about positive changes in the fate of the people. Laudable development has taken place all over the country. Local Government Act 2009 has been approved with a consequent improvement of transparency and accountability in municipal activities.



Design of 3rd Shitalakhya Bridge in Narayanganj City Corporation Area Completed

Contribution of Narayanganj to the economy of Bangladesh is substantial. Renowned as an industrial and commercial city and based on its population, economy and growth, Narayanganj was elevated to the status of a City Corporation in 2011. Narayanganj Pourashava, combined with Sadar Upazila and a part of Bondar Upazila has an area of 72 square km which constitutes the territorial jurisdiction of the city corporation. Inhabited by over 14 lakh dwellers, this town is split into halves by river Shitalakhya. Every day, over hundred thousand people cross the river by boat in connection with their job, trade and commerce, education, health and other purposes. Owing to plying of larger river crafts, the commuting people remain vulnerable to risks. Given this reality, building a bridge within the confines of the town has been a long-time demand of the people of this area. In this context and at the behest of City Mayor, an effort was made to carry out the feasibility study and prepare technical design for a bridge under the Upazila Town Infrastructure Development Project (UTIDP) of LGED. The Institute of Water and Flood Management of BUET worked as the consultant for the Feasibility study (FS) for the bridge. Consequent upon completion of the FS in April 2014, a consultancy assignment for developing the design for the bridge was awarded to the joint venture of JPZ Consultants (Bangladesh) Ltd. and Environment Quality and Management Systems. By December 2014, the design of the bridge was completed.

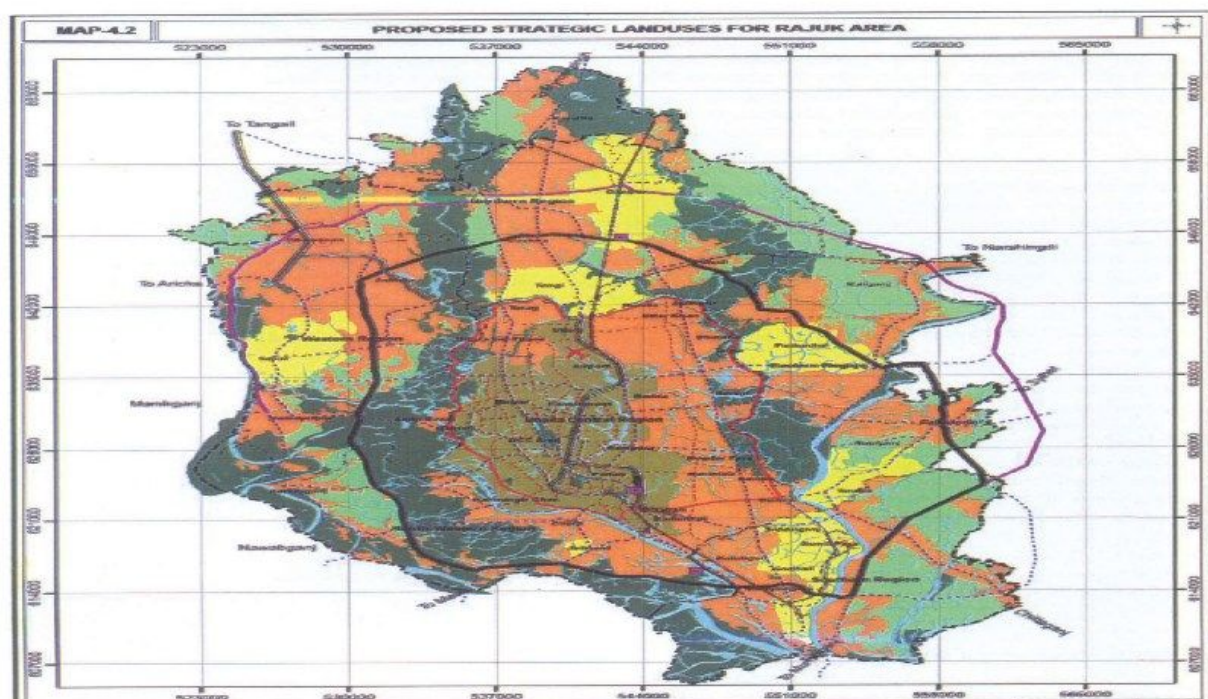


3-D model of Third Shitalakhya Bridge.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) 1995-2015, prepared by RAJUK, has been updated for 2016-35 in the form of Dhaka Structure Plan. With the assistance of LGED's City Region Development Project (CRDP), the consultants engaged for this sub-project prepared the Draft Final Structure Plan and handed it over to RAJUK. Subsequently, a national level seminar and meeting of the Technical Management Committee (TMC) were held on the Draft Structure Plan. Along with the comments of TMC, the draft Final Report was subsequently sent to the Ministry for according approval. Simultaneously, RAJUK has also requested the Ministry for issuing a Notification for public hearing on the draft report. The Dhaka Structure Plan will be finalized taking into consideration the comments and observations of the public hearing, and the comments of TMC. It is worth noting that a feasibility study was carried out for a satellite-city in Dhaka metropolis under the sub-project.

LGED has prepared the Master Plan for Kuakata Tourism Development. This is prepared along with formulation of Master Plan for 222 Upazila-level Pourashavas under the Upazila Town Infrastructure Development Project (UTIDP) of LGED. At the request of Bangladesh Tourism Development Corporation and Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, this Master Plan has been prepared for an area spreading over 82.5 square km. Several discussion and view-exchange meetings were held at different stages of the Master Plan preparation under the chairmanship of the Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister with the participation of multiple

ministries and directorates. In these meetings, detailed discussions were held on the Master Plan. Once the Draft Master Plan was prepared, it was placed before the Parliamentary Standing Committee and before the Honorable Prime Minister in presence of a number of ministers. In this process, their valued recommendations and directions were received. Subsequently, in December 2014, the Ministry for Housing and Works approved the Master Plan and released it for public notification. As a positive consequence of this, planned development will usher in the Kuakata Tourism area.



Proposed Strategic Land-use Map of RAJUK area.

Mission



ADB Mid-term Review Mission of City Region Development Project visited Narayanganj City Corporation. Mayor Dr. Salina Hayat Ivy and members of the mission are inspecting the implementation of physical infrastructure works.

Mid-term Review Mission of CRDP

Mid-term Review Mission of Asian Development Bank (ADB) visited and reviewed the activities of the City Region Development Project (CRDP) during 15-23 April, 2015. The Mission was led by the Senior Project Officer (urban infrastructure) of ADB, BRM Ms Elma Morsheda and was joined by ADB officer Mr. Javed Hossain and Consultant Ms. Rina Sengupta as Mission-members. Representatives of KfW and Swedish SIDA, who are the two other joint

financiers to the project, also took part in the Mission. Several discussion meetings were held with the officials of LGED, DPHE, RAJUK and project City Corporations. The Mission visited the on-going physical infrastructure works in Gazipur and Narayanganj City Corporations. The Mission was concluded through a wrap-up meeting held on 23 April 2015 at the Ministry chaired by the Secretary, Local Government Division Mr. Abdul Malek.

Implementation-Support Supervision Mission of MGSP

Led by Mr. Christopher T. Pablo, Task Team Leader of the World Bank (WB), an Implementation Support Supervision Mission reviewed, from 17 to 28 May 2015, the activities of the Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP). The Mission made detailed review of the progress of work and further actions that need to be undertaken. The Supervision Mission also discussed in detail different matters of the project with the LGD

Secretary, LGED Chief Engineer and the project officials. They also visited Gopalganj, Madaripur, Moulavibazar, Habiganj, Madhabpur Pourashavas and Sylhet City Corporation. In course of these, the Mission exchanged views with the Mayors and officials. Activities of the Mission ended up with a wrap-up meeting on 28 May 2015 which was chaired by LGD Secretary Mr. Abdul Malek.



The WB Implementation Support Supervision Mission of MGSP met LGED officials in a discussion meeting at LGED HQ.

CRDP Illuminates 26 Wards of GCC with Solar-Powered Lights

Twenty six wards of Tongi, Gacha and Pubail area under the Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) have been illuminated through installation of solar-powered street lights. Under the City Region Development Project (CRDP), these lights have been installed beside different roads of the 26 Wards of GCC. Although they are parts of the City Corporation, in quite a few areas, there had not been adequate and in some cases, no street lights at all. Consequently, as evening sets in, these areas plunged into darkness and often, burglary and snatching occurrences were commonplace. CRDP, through its subproject entailing solar power-based street light supply and installation program, set up street lights over 3,000 light posts along 114 km road length. These environment-friendly lights, alongside removing darkness in these areas, are also contributing to reducing power-shortfall of the country. Owing to presence of light in these areas after dusk, the traders are now able to work longer hours in the evening which, in turn, is contributing to economic development of the area. Residents of these well-lit areas are now content with the situation as recurrence of crime during night time has substantially come down.



Solar-powered street lights installed in Gazipur City Corporation area.

World Bank Representative Team Visits MGSP Activities

With a view to reviewing the progress of Municipal Governance and Services Project (MGSP) activities, a World Bank team, led by Mr. Christopher T. Pablo, Senior Urban Specialist, World Bank Head Office and Task Team Leader, visited the Patiya, Chakoria, Mirsarai, Sitakund and Feni Pourashavas and the Comilla City Corporation from 16 to 18 May 2015. During this period, they reviewed progress of different development activities taken up under the project and also visited the on-going physical infrastructure works. Project Director of MGSP Mr. Mujakka Jaher, Deputy Project Director Mr. Anwar Hossain, concerned Mayors of the City Corporation and the Pourashavas, Councilors and other officials were present during their visit.

Long Bridges...

contd. from page 2

Recently, discussion was held with the World Bank on formulation of a project to include building of important bridges on Upazila and Union roads and reconstruction of already built but weak bridges, and overall maintenance. In this context, a PDPP (Preliminary Development Project Proposal) has been prepared at an estimated cost of BDT 4,500 crores with an implementation time-frame of 2017-2021. Subsequently, the PDPP has been sent to the Planning Commission.

Construction of long bridges is an imperative for completing road communication network in the rural areas of Bangladesh. LGED has been working relentlessly towards bringing the entire country under a road communication network through constructing long bridges, built by its engineers, in the remote areas of the country. These bridges will make a large contribution to the country's economic development through improving the rural road transport network.

Training Workshop on Gender Action Plan under UGIIP III



Addl. Chief Engineer (Urban) Mr. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer (Urban) Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman and Project Director, UGIIP-III Mr. Shafiqul Islam Akand are seen in the training workshop on Preparation and Implementation of Gender Action Plan (GAP).

Implementation of Third Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project (UGIIP-III) has started in 31 Pourashavas of Bangladesh. The project is a 'Gender-category' intervention of ADB. Aiming to ensure gender equality, gender issues are required to be intensively integrated with the functioning and activities of all project-Pourashavas. With this objective in view, all project-Pourashavas are required to prepare their individual Gender Action Plans (GAPs) and implement them. In this backdrop, two-day workshops on formulation and implementation of GAP

were organized in four batches at Bogra on 20 May, at Comilla on 27 May and at Dhaka Regional office on 9 and 14 June 2015. In these workshops, reflection of the project objectives, process of preparation of GAP and its implementation were explained and discussed in detail in order to give the participants an idea of GAP and to make preparation and implementation of GAP easier at the Pourashava level. The event was participated by the Chairperson of the Pourashava's Standing Committee for Women and Children affairs (Female Councilor), a male Councilor (a member), the Pourashava secretary and the consultants.

CRDP Imparts Gender-related Training to the Female Councilors

Female Councilors, Secretaries and Slum Development Officers of Jessore, Jhikorgacha, Nowapara and Mongla Port Pourashavas in Khulna Region were imparted gender-related training from the City Region Development Project (CRDP). On 12 May 2015, the stated day-long training event was organized at the Jessore Regional Training Centre of LGED. The training event was inaugurated by the LGED's regional Superintending Engineer of Jessore

Region Mr. Md. Mosharraf Hossain. Detailed conceptual ideas were given in the training on different gender-related issues, implementation of Gender Action Plan (GAP) and the responsibilities and duties of Female Councilors. In all, 18 persons participated in the training program, including 11 Female Councilors. Consequent upon learning in detail about their responsibilities, the Female Councilors requested arranging more similar training for them.



Regional Superintending Engineer, Jessore Region, Mr. Md. Mosharraf Hossain is speaking in the training on Gender Activities.



The 5th meeting of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) under 'Participatory Water Management through Integrated Rural Development' TA project was held at LGED HQ on 22 June 2015. LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari was present among others as the Chairman.

Mid-Term Review of "Participatory Water Management through Integrated Rural Development" Technical Assistance Project

JICA Review Mission visited Bangladesh during 5-22 June 2015 to review the latest progress and achievement of "Participatory Water Management through Integrated Rural Development" TA project. The project is being implemented through joint JICA-GoB funding that spans a five year period (2012-17).

In order to effectively carryout the project's review, a joint review team was formed, comprising representatives of JICA, Ministry of Agriculture, ERD, LGD and LGED. The joint review team, after visiting the pilot site, audited all papers and documents of the project. The fifth meeting of the project-related Joint

Coordination Committee (JCC) was convened on 22 June 2015 with the Chief Engineer, LGED, in the chair. The joint review team placed in the meeting its comments and recommendations for final review and making pertinent decisions.

As achievements of the project, the Mission considered that Water Management Cooperative Association (WMCA) and Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC), through establishment of a mutual relationship, have increased the scope for rendering greater services by GoB in desired areas and are playing a special role in motivating the beneficiaries in the development of small-scale water resources.

Handing Over of the SSWRD Sub-projects in 3 Greater Districts

During April to June 2015, 12 sub-projects of Small Scale Water Resources Development were handed over to the Water Management Cooperative Association (WMCA). In greater Mymensingh, Sylhet and Faridpur districts, these sub-projects have been implemented under the JICA-assisted Small Scale Water Resource Development Project. Among the handed-over sub-projects, 3 are in Faridpur, 1 in Habiganj, 4 in Moulavi bazar, 1 in Sunamganj and 3 in Mymensingh districts. With the transfer of these sub-projects, a total of 97 sub-projects have been handed over to the beneficiaries. Works of another 68 sub-projects have been completed which would be handed-over soon.

Rubber-Dam-based Irrigation Activities starts on Vogai River

With the objective of effective management of surface water, LGED for the first time started building rubber dam in 1994-95. To date, LGED has built 38 rubber dams under different projects and handed them over to Water Management Cooperative Association (WMCA). In the areas of agriculture, these rubber dams have opened up a new dimension to conventional and cooperative-based irrigation system.

In recent times, a 100m long rubber dam has been built on Vogai river in Nakla Upazila of Sherpur entirely with GoB financing. As a result of building of this dam, 9 villages – Tarakanda, Hasonkhila, Pislakuri, Urfa, Mujakanda, Loikha, Charpara, Chakmokamia and Mokamia – will fully or partially come under irrigation range and 900 acres of agricultural land can be irrigated from it. Of this, around 400 acres can be irrigated without the use of pumping, while the remaining 500 acres could be irrigated through use of pumps. It is expected that once the rubber dam gets operational, the production of Boro rice in the sub-project area will rise by around 1500 tons whose value stands at nearly BDT 2 crores. Out of the aggregate 735 families in the sub-project area, the number of beneficiary families would be 625. Gradually, the number of beneficiary families will increase over time. Preparation for handing over the project is under way. The importance of rubber dam in the pursuit of socio-economic development of the poor groups is progressively on the increase.



Rubber Dam on Vogai River in Nakhla Upazila of Sherpur district.

Different Training Programs under SSWRDP

With a view to developing skills in cooperative and micro-credit activities, a sizeable number of training-events have been conducted by JICA-funded Small Scale Water Resources Development Project (SSWRDP) during April – June 2015. The training programs included a course named “Basic Cooperative Management and Micro-credit Activities”, organized at the Regional Training Institutes of the Cooperative Directorate. In this course, members of 36 sub-project management committees participated in 12 batches.

For proper operation and maintenance (O&M) of the sub-project infrastructure, O&M training was imparted to the O&M Committees of 42 Water Management Cooperative Association (WMCA). These trainings were organized in 6 batches in Mymensingh, Sylhet, Habiganj and Faridpur districts. In addition to this, at the field level in 5 project-districts, training on ‘gender development and environment-related awareness raising’ were imparted to 240 members of 6 WMCAs.

In a program organized at the Rural Development Academy (RDA) at Bogra, members of 30 sub-projects in 5 batches were given training on increasing agricultural production and sustainable water management. With the objective of raising efficiency in fish production, training was given to 78 sub-project members in 13 batches on fisheries program management and fish production techniques. These trained members further train other farmer-members of their individual sub-projects. Consequently, the beneficiaries through sustainable and skillful use of water resources management infrastructure built in the sub-project area would be able to make a positive effect on reducing flood, improvement of drainage, water conservation and expansion of irrigated areas.



IGA Training for Improving Living Standard



A 25-day long sewing training was imparted to the selected female WMCA members of Moharoshi sub-project under Jhenaigati Upazila.

Small Scale Water Resource Development Project (SSWRDP): In order to increase the participation of women in the Water Management Cooperative Association (WMCA) of the sub-projects and to improve economic condition through women's inclusion in income generating activities (IGA), training on enhancing skill in income-generating activities was organized under SSWRDP at greater Mymensingh, Sylhet and Faridpur districts. In FY 2014-15, under the training organized for elected female members of the sub-projects, 333 female members of 15 sub-projects participated in the events. Included in the 18-batch training, 7 courses had been on animal-resource, fisheries and vegetable production-related, while 11 were sartorial-science related. The training events of different time-spans created an aggregate 3,623 training-days.

In the 25-day long and 11-batch training on sartorial science, there had been 130 female participants. Priority was given to the participants who were interested in tailoring works and had some experience in the profession. Among the participant female-trainees, 73 individuals, who did not have their own sewing machines, added their own money with the training allowance or accessed loan from the society to procure new sewing machines. Prior to this, in FY 2013-14, 94 out of 110 training recipients purchased new sewing machines. Under the project, till date, 742 female members were imparted skill-raising training on income generating activities. Almost all these training-recipient female members have been engaged in self-employment activities and are moving towards visible success. One survey shows that of the 409 training recipient female members

of 32 sub-projects in 2013-14, average monthly income of 25 are above BDT 10,000, that of 133 is in the range of BDT 5,000-10,000 and 200 earn below BDT 5,000. These women, who are engaged in IGAs, have been substantially able to reduce the nutrition-shortfall of family members. The women, especially through production of vegetables, eggs and milk or handicrafts, earned well which have raised their faith in their own ability. They are now having a better control over their own income. A good many of them, through spending a part of their income for family purposes, have been able to enhance their dignity within their families.

Participatory Small Water Resources Sector Project (PASWRSP): With the aim of scaling up standard of living of the female members of WMCA, two days IGA training was given. In all, 960 female members from 160 WMCA (picking 6 from each WMCA) were trained on this. Departing from conventional trends and through exchange of views and experience, case studies and role-play, all relevant issues were presented before the trainees so as to make those issues easily comprehensible. Clear ideas were conveyed to the trainees regarding the areas on which one has to have expertise, when he/she contemplates starting an income generating activity. Emphasis was given on capital and income-expenditure management, demand for products and their marketing parameters, etc. Over and above, ideas were also disseminated on the types of income generating activities that can be convenient to carry out should one get loan from the WMCA. Furthermore, information was made available regarding assistance provided by different Government and non-government agencies in respect of IGAs.

Do'a Mahfil and Iftar at LGED

On the occasion of Holy Ramadan, a special Do'a Mahfil and Iftar was organized at LGED HQ. LGD Secretary Mr. Abdul Malek was present as the chief guest. All officers/employees of LGED and consultants participated in the Do'a Mahfil. Also present on the occasion had been ex-Secretary, LGD Mr.



LGED Secretary Mr. Abdul Malek was present as chief guest in the Do'a Mahfil & Iftar organised by LGED.

Akhtar. The Chief Guest, Mr. Abdul Malek in his speech applauded this kind of event. He expressed his best wishes for the prosperity of LGED. The Chief Engineer of LGED thanked all guests present and the officers/employees of all levels of LGED for participating in the event. Through the Do'a Mahfil, supplication was

Monzur Hossain, LGED's ex-Chief Chowdhury and Mr. Wahidur Rahman made for the prosperity, happiness and peace of the country. Engineers Mr. Monwar Hossain and Addl. Secretary, LGD, Ms Nasreen

made for the prosperity, happiness and peace of the country.

11th AGM of LKSS held

11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of LGED Kalyan Somobai Somity (LKSS) for 2015 was convened on 18 April 2015 at LGED HQ. The event was chaired by the Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, who is also the President of LKSS Ltd.

In the welcome speech, the Convener of the Preparatory Committee for the 11th AGM and the Addl. Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad said, through investing the share and savings deposit of 9,810 respected members of the Somity, the profit accrued has made LKSS a financially self-reliant and profitable entity. Annual Report of LKSS for 2014-15 was presented by the Managing Director and LGED's Superintending Engineer Mr. Farazi Shahabuddin Ahmed. Later, Mr. Noor Mohammad, LGED's Project Director

and Director (Finance) of LKSS placed the revised budget for 2014-15 and the proposed budget for 2015-16.

In the speech of the President, LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari stated that LKSS has completed eleven years of its existence. He mentioned that the benefits of the explicit and implicit involvement and utmost efforts of all the members of the Society are now clearly visible. Through investment into different profitable commercial activities, the organizational and financial footing of the society is increasingly becoming firm. However, the objective of the Somity is not just limited to becoming financially profitable; logically, its objectives essentially expand to include carrying out different responsibilities such as standing beside

LGED families at difficult times, provision of medical treatment, disaster-time assistance, educational stipend and assistance to meritorious students.

On that day, a reception was given to the children of LGED officers and employees who secured GPA 5 in SSC, HSC and equivalent exams. The high performing students were awarded certificates and crests by the Chief Engineer, LGED. Senior officials of LGED and respected members of LKSS were present in the event.

Review Meeting

contd. from page 12

Divisional Addl. Chief Engineers, Regional Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Upazila Engineers and Sub-Assistant Engineers from field level and Superintending Engineers and respective Project Directors from LGED head quarters were present in those meetings. In the meetings, detailed discussions were held on the progress of works under different projects, quality parameters, financial management and administrative matters. If problems were faced with implementation of works or if there were any administrative problems, the Chief Engineer gave directions to resolve them.



LGED Chief Engineer and the Chairman of LKSS Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari speaking in the 11th AGM of LKSS as chief guest on 18 April 2015.

Vehicles distributed to 18 Pourashavas under NOBIDEP

Intending to usher dynamism in the activities of the Pourashavas and also to ensure quality in implementation, JICA-funded Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project (NOBIDEP) has provided vehicles to 18 Pourashavas. NOBIDEP of LGED is being implemented in 117 Upazilas of 14 districts and 18 Pourashavas. It is the first project of its kind through which an attempt has been made for integrated development of rural and urban areas. Rural physical infrastructure at Upazila level and roads, drain, culverts and other urban infrastructure are being built under the project. Simultaneously, with the objective to bring about dynamism and raise transparency in Pourashava management, different programs have been contemplated. The stated vehicles were provided to the project-Pourashavas with the objective of maintaining quality in the construction of physical infrastructure and to speed up delivery of Municipalservices. On 27 May 2015, an event for handing over of keys of



LGD Secretary Mr. Abdul Malek is handing over the keys of vehicles to the Mayors of project Pourashava under the auspices of NOBIDEP. LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari was present on the occasion.

vehicles was organized at LGED HQ which was chaired by LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari. Local Government Division Secretary Mr. Abdul Malek was present on the occasion as the chief guest.

LGED Chief Engineer stated that "Leader of the People" Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has set the country's wheel of development to motion. By 2021, Bangladesh will be a middle-income country and hopefully, by 2041, it will transform into a developed country. He stated that the government is fully conscious, and as Pourashava Mayors,

you need to be conscious as well, and the country has to be developed as a self-reliant one. He stressed upon increasing the quantum of Pourashava holding tax collection.

The Chief Guest Mr. Abdul Malek stated that the present government is a development-friendly government. The vehicles are being provided to speed up the development works in

these 18 Pourashavas. He said, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has affection towards the people of the country which is why, she has taken up different development projects all over the country. At present, Bangladesh is well ahead of India and Pakistan on different socio-economic indicators. He felicitated JICA as a development-partner and ally of Bangladesh.

At the outset of the event, Project Director, NOBIDEP Mr. A. N. M. Enayetullah delivered a welcome speech. Melandaha Pourashava Mayor Mr. Md. Deedar Pasha spoke on behalf of the Pourashava Mayors.

JICA Vice President Visited LGED

JICA Vice President Mr. Hiroshi Kato visited LGED HQ on 17 May 2015. On the occasion, a brief discussion meeting was held, with Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, the Chief Engineer, LGED in the chair. Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Superintending Engineer (Planning) made a power-point presentation depicting the projects being implemented by LGED with the financial assistance of all development partners including JICA.

Applauding the success of LGED in development endeavors, the Vice President stated that LGED's achievement of success in different sectors have been possible due to the leadership of the Chief Engineer. The Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, stated that JICA is a development

partner and friend of Bangladesh. He conveyed thanks to JICA for strengthening LGED by supporting it. The event was participated by Addl. Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers

and the Project Directors of different projects of LGED. Later, the Vice President was taken around important units of LGED.



LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari and JICA Vice President Mr. Hiroshi Kato were present in a discussion meeting at LGED HQ on 17 May 2015.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated two bridges constructed by LGED over Kathalia River of Meghna Upazila along with several projects of other organizations.

Inauguration of Two Bridges over Kathalia River on Comilla-Meghna Road

On 25 May 2015, Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated two newly built bridges, measuring 418m and 304m length, over Kathalia River on Homna-Manikar char-Meghna road under Meghna Upazila. At the same time, she inaugurated multiple projects of other organizations. Planning Minister Mr. A. H. M. Mustafa Kamal, MP; Railway Minister Mr. Mujibul Haq, MP; Cultural Affairs Minister Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, MP; Liberation War Affairs Minister Mr. A. K. M. Mozammel Haq, MP and Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Chief Engineer, LGED and other high-level government

officials were present on the occasion.

Meghna is a newly created Upazila of Comilla district. Towards the end of 1998, Meghna Upazila was created comprising a total of 8 Unions, taking 4 Unions from each of Homna and Daudkandi Upazila. Up till now, river route was the only means of transportation for the people of Meghna Upazila. Construction of these two bridges over Kathalia River has opened up a new chapter for the people of the char areas in respect of their long-cherished dream of having a communication with the capital city and the district head quarters. The agricultural produces

and fish from the area could now be conveniently transported to the capital city and other areas of the country much faster and at a much less expense.

The two bridges were built under Rural Infrastructure Development (Public Priority Rural Commutations and Rural Market Development and Rehabilitation) Project: Part-II. The Joint Venture (JV) of M/S Columbia and Ishrat Enterprise constructed the 418m bridge with a cost of BDT 25.77 crore while JV of M/S Modhukon and Rockville Metco built the 304m bridge with a cost of BDT 21.90 crore.

Chief Engineer Reviews the Development Activities of LGED in Regional Offices

With the objective of speeding up the pace of development works of LGED, improve the quality of works and importantly to establish an environment of sanctity in LGED's overall milieu, LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, subsequent to assuming his responsibility, sequentially convened review meetings with field level engineers at all regional offices of LGED throughout the country. As a part of the stated events, review meetings were held at Chittagong and Comilla regions in April 2015, Rajshahi and Bogra, Rangpur and Dinajpur, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Faridpur regions in May 2015. (See page- 10)



LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari speaking in the Review Meeting held at LGED HQ on 24 April 2015.