

LGED Newsletter

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the "Sheikh Hasina Dharla Bridge" on the river Dharla at Phulbari upazila under Kurigram district through a video conference.

Sheikh Hasina Dharla Bridge

Prime Minister's "Eid Gift" for the people of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat

Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the 950 meter long second Dharla bridge at Phulbari Upazila under Kurigram district built on the river Dharla. It has been named as "Sheikh Hasina Dharla Bridge." Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally opened the bridge to traffic through a video conferencing from the Prime Minister's official residence Gonobhaban in Dhaka on 3rd June 2018. Addressing the function, the Prime Minister said the bridge was an Eid gift for the people of Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur. She urged them to look after the bridge so that it can be properly used by them. She further said her government has proved that country's progress can be attained if there is sincerity and continuation of regime.

Detailing the achievements of the present government, the Prime Minister said it is possible to translate into reality the dream of building Bangladesh as a developed country. None can stop this continued development process, she added. She said, "I may not see those days of prosperity but our posterity will enjoy the fruits of development." Sheikh Hasina hoped that the new bridge will expedite overall socio economic development of the region including expansion of trade and commerce. The

bridge connects Lalmonirhat and Kurigram by road. The Prime Minister said that Awami League fulfils the pledges it makes and added the first bridge on the river Dharla was also constructed by her government during the 1996-2001 tenure. Afterwards, BNP while in power took the credit by just opening the bridge within a couple of months. They made contradictory remarks by telling people that their previous government did not do development works though BNP inaugurated the bridge constructed by the government led by Awami League. She said the present government is working for the welfare of the farmers of Rangpur region including those of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat. The honourable Prime Minister said Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts were affected by seasonal food crisis and unemployment in the past known as Monga but now it has been solved. Farmers are getting multiple crops whereas they used to get single crop annually in the past. She urged the people to make best use of every inch of land. Referring to the settlement of enclave issue with India, the honourable Prime Minister said after the independence of the country, Mujib-Indira agreement was signed to this end. Father of the nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had undertaken a bold initiative for the implementation of the accord. But afterwards, Ziaur Rahman, Ershad and Khaleda Zia who were in power did not take any step to bring an end to the enclave problem. The longstanding enclave issue has been resolved. She said it is rare in the history of the world that a problem related to the exchange of enclave has been resolved so peacefully.

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP also spoke on the occasion. State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Md. Mashiur Rahman Ranga, MP was also present. The ceremony was moderated by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Md. Nojibur Rahman. Senior Secretary of the Local Government Division Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan gave a video presentation on the newly built bridge. There had been huge enthusiasm in Phulbari, Nageshwari and Bhurungamari upazillas and elsewhere in the Kurigram district on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the bridge. The entire ceremony including the opening plaque and the video conferencing was shown on big screen set up by the side of South Maranadi Government School on the east bank of the river Dharla.

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Editorial

LGED'S success in large bridge construction

"I am on this bank while you are on the other and we are separated by the river flowing in the middle." This is an expression in a Bangla lyrics expressing an urge to be united or may be considered as a desire to be in proximity. Criss crossed by many rivers and canals, Bangladesh's economy is largely dependent on water. For faster communication, the country also needs bridges on these water bodies. Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, soon after the liberation of the country, thorough his visionary leadership took up measures for constructing a bridge on the mighty river Jamuna. It was essential as the flowing water had bifurcated the northern region with the rest of the country. After the brutal killing of Bangabandhu on 15th August 1975, utter negligence was shown to the project. It is a matter of satisfaction that after her election as the Prime Minister in 1996, the daughter of the Father of the Nation, Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the bridge which was a long felt demand of the people.

The government has listed roads under various categories. Under this classification, LGED has been given the responsibility for the construction of bridges on rural roads of three categories namely upazila, union and village road while the Roads and Highways Department will build bridges upto 1500 meters on national and regional highways and on district roads. The Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEBC) back in 1984 and the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) set up in 1992 had built small bridges and culverts. As the LGED maintained a proven track record of success in its task, they are now building large bridges across the country.

About 110 million people live in villages in Bangladesh and if this huge population is to be brought into the mainstream of development, there is an imperative need to build a strong communication network. It is said where road ends, bridge opens a new window of possibilities.

Construction of large bridges is a reality now and LGED has already completed the task of building several big bridges which stands as the manifestation of its engineering and project management capability. Some of

these include the 950 meter long Sheikh Hasina Dharla bridge on the river Dharla in Kurigram, 504 meter Sheikh Russel Kushtia-Haripur connecting bridge on the Gorai river in Kushtia, Chapail bridge on the river Madhumati having a length of 588 meter, 546 meter Sheikh Hasina bridge on Mahananda river in Chapainawabganj and 850 meter long bridge on the river Teesta in Rangpur. LGED is also constructing a 1490 meter pre-stressed concrete bridge on the Teesta river at Sundarganj upazila under Gaibandha district. Side by side, LGED has also built approach roads for the bridges and has installed electric lights for safe use of the infrastructures. The new bridges attract huge people to spend their leisure time thus becoming entertainment spots. A huge programme titled "Supporting Rural Bridges" with the help of the World Bank awaits approval which aims at ensuring maintenance and rehabilitation of the bridges built across the country.

Prior to undertaking large bridge projects, LGED conducts survey and feasibility study on the flow of the river, navigability and movement of riverine vessels and environmental aspects. LGED plans and designs bridges above 100 meters after conducting hydrological and morphological study. Bridges below 100 meter are built after the approval of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) relating to navigation clearance. The large bridges are now a lifeline of the socio-economic activities of the country. The bridges have also brought positive changes in the lifestyle in the rural community.

LGED has built these bridges maintaining high professional standard and innovative outlook. These infrastructures have added impetus to the overall development of the country and contributed enormously in the establishment and improvement of rural road network. As the country aspires to establish itself as a middle income country by the year 2021 and elevation into a developed country by the year 2041, these bridges stand as symbol of unbroken communication system to realise those goals. These bridges will take the nation to a new height of progress and bringing the people closer. In fact the people are near to each other than before.

Sheikh Hasina Dharla Bridge

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A public meeting was also organised on the occasion at the venue. The Prime Minister talked to the State Minister for Social Welfare Nuruzzaman Ahmed, MP, Chairman of Kurigram District Council and General Secretary of district Awami League Zafar Ali, Member of the Parliament from reserved seat for women in Lalmonirhat Safura Begum, Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram Sultana Pervin, Vocalist Rasheduzzaman Babu and a resident of enclave Hoimonti Shukla at the Kurigram end through video conferencing. Among others, Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Director General of Local Government (Monitoring, Inspection and Evaluation) ASM Mahbulul Alam and Additional Secretary of the Local Government Division Md. Rois Uddin were present during video conferencing at Kurigram end.

It may be mentioned that the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had laid the foundation stone of the bridge on 12th April 2012. The 950 meter long and 9.80 meter wide Sheikh Hasina Dharla Bridge has been built by LGED. The engineering features of the structure include 19 spans, 2,919 meter connecting road and 3,494 meter river training along both the banks. There is provision for footpath for pedestrians and electric lights for safe movement at night. The total construction cost of the bridge including river training and connecting road was 194.98 crore taka.

LGED relentlessly working for the implementation of vision 2021

- Senior Secretary, Local Government Division



Senior Secretary of the Local Government Division Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan exchanging views with LGED officials. Chief Engineer, LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad was also present.

LGED is putting its best to realize the vision 2021 of the present government aimed at materialising the dream of the Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of building the Golden Bangla. Recognition to the achievements of the agencies working for the welfare of the people can further boost their zeal and encourage them to render better services. Senior Secretary of the Local Government Division Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan said this while speaking as the chief guest at a view

exchange meeting held at LGED on 16th April, 2018. Praising various activities of the LGED, he said honiurable Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP had established this department. He also mentioned the contribution of late Chief Engineer of LGED Quamrul Islam Siddique for the expansion of the organisation. The Senior Secretary assured of all possible steps for solving various problems of

LGED including the shortage of manpower. LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad who presided over the session gave a resume about the activities of the department. He said despite shortage of manpower, LGED officers and staff are working with sincerity and dedication. He said LGED has built a vast road network across the country but the annual allocation for its maintenance is meager as compared to the requirement. As a result a large portion of the road network remains out of maintenance works. The Chief Engineer stressed the need for increased allocation for road maintenance work.

Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) of LGED Iftekhar Ahmed gave a power point presentation on the inception stage, its expansion and various activities of the department. Additional Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Project Directors and senior officers of LGED were present at the views exchange meeting. Later Senior Secretary of the Local Government Division Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan went round various units of LGED.

Agreement on the construction of 600 meter bridge on Kaliganga river in Pirojpur signed

An agreement was initialled between LGED and the Navana Construction. The bridge is being built under the project "Construction of Important Bridges on Rural Roads" (CIBRRP) at Nesarabad upazila of Pirojpur district. The 12 span bridge will include 7.3 meter wide carriage way for vehicular movement with one meter wide footpath on both sides. 1465 meter approach road has been planned while the bridge will be connected to electricity facility for illumination at night. The total cost of the bridge is estimated at 115 crore taka.

Executive Engineer, LGED Pirojpur, Shusanta Ranjon Ray and the Executive Director of Navana Construction Limited, Engineer Md. Shahidullah signed the agreement on



LGED Chief Engineer at the agreement signing ceremony

their respective behalf. Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Project Director Md. Allah Hafiz, Chairman of Navana Construction Limited Saiful Islam Kamal and senior officials of LGED and Navana Construcion Limited were present on the occasion. The

bridge will facilitate better communications in the area including prospect for higher economic growth. It may be mentioned that LGED is constructing similar type of large bridges across the country for achieving overall socio-economic development.



Chief Engineer, LGED talking to local people during his visit to see the flood damaged infrastructures in Moulvibazar

LGED Chief Engineer urges for speedy rehabilitation of flood-damaged roads

Flood situation in Moulvibazar took a serious turn on 16th June 2018 following heavy rain and onrush of hilly waters from the upstream causing severe damage to road infrastructure in the district. Moulvibazar town protection embankment was washed away partially by unusual pressure of water in the Monu river on the 16th June 2018 night. As a result, the 6, 8 and 9 ward of the municipality was inundated and the internal road communication remain disrupted. Flood Waters remained static till 19th June 2018. LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad visited Moulvibazar district on 24th June 2018 to take stock of the situation including the flood damaged road infrastructures.

During the tour the Chief Engineer saw for himself the damaged road infrastructures within the municipal area and the breach developed in the Moulvibazar town protection embankment built under the Monu river project of the Water Development Board. He also visited Kamalganj upazila to see the damaged roads between Adampur-Banugach and Bhandargaon-Hamham as well as Kadamhata-Malikana portion of the damaged embankment under Rajnagar upazila. He also visited the barrage built over Manu river by the Water Development Board and exchanged views with local people.

According to the primary assessment

made by the LGED Executive Engineer of Moulvibazar, of the total 374.22 kilometer metaled road, 135.75 kilometer have been severely damaged by the floods while the total length of culverts damaged is estimated at 100 meter. Cost for rehabilitation is estimated at 38 crore taka.

After the tour, the Chief Engineer of LGED directed the officials concerned of LGED to undertake earth-filling work of the damaged roads and restore communications through rehabilitation by using HBB where necessary. He also asked them to repair the less important roads through earth filling and erect bamboo made pools for plying of light vehicles. He also urged the officials to finalise the work plan for road maintenance, construction and reconstruction on the basis of the latest flood situation.

The Chief Engineer also instructed the officials concerned to take necessary steps for beautification of the Moulvibazar municipal lake and the town and improvement of the drainage system. Additional Chief Engineer, LGED of Sylhet zone, Superintending Engineer and LGED headquarters officials were present on the occasion. It may be mentioned that a committee has been formed at the LGED headquarters headed by the Additional Chief Engineer (Maintenance) to monitor the overall flood situation.

Continued success of LGED in ADP implementation

The Local Government Engineering Department has maintained consistent success in the implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the 2017-18 fiscal. The utilization rate was 99.60 percent. Country's one of the largest engineering organisations LGED, since its emergence, has proved its efficiency in the smooth implementation of projects thus earning the confidence of the government. Because of the accomplishment, allocation of ADP for LGED is on the rise. The gradual capacity development and incremental efficiency of LGED is worth mentioning. Once known as Rural Works Programme, the organization was renamed as Local Government Engineering Bureau (LGEb) in 1984 while it came into being as Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in 1992. With the passage of time, both the area of work as well as budgetary allocation in favour of LGED for implementing various development projects is ever increasing. It is evident from the analysis that the ADP implementation by LGED during the past five financial years (2012-13 to 2017-18) that the allocation has been doubled in the revised ADP and the progress of implementation is about one hundred percent.

The target for ADP implementation during 2017-18 was set at 11631.94 crore taka while it was revised to the tune of 11,879.57 crore taka showing an increase of 247.63 crore taka. Of the allocation, LGED could utilize a total of 11,829.04 crore taka which is 99.57 percent of the total allocation (revised ADP). The fund was given by the Government of Bangladesh for 144 investment and four technical assistance projects.

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Heavy downpour and onrush of waters from upstream in 2017 caused extensive damage to road network across the country. LGED has already made an assessment of the flood damaged rural roads and infrastructures. Primary data shows that about ten thousand kilometer rural roads have been affected by floods, landslides and cyclone of 2017 and cyclones of 2016. Cost of rehabilitation of these infrastructures is estimated at 6,600 crore taka. The assessment report also mentioned about the road infrastructures damaged by these natural disasters which is about 23 thousand meters for which the repairment cost has been estimated at 1,852 crore taka.

Bangladesh Government requested the World Bank for providing additional financing for meeting the cost of damaged road network rehabilitation and the bank agreed to extend an assistance of 100 million dollars as loan through the LGED's Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-2). A mission was conducted from 15 th to 19th April 2018 led by

World Bank mission at RTIP-2

Additional financing for rehabilitation of flood damaged roads



World Bank delegation calls on Chief Engineer, LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad

Senior Transport Specialist of the World Bank Dung Anh Hong to work out the details of the task, probable cost, review of the project activities as well as fixing result framework and procurement strategy of evaluation and monitoring of the project activities. Members of the mission met Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) Iftekhar Ahmed, Superintending Engineer (Planning) Md. Ali Akhtar Hossain, Project Director of RTIP-2 Md. Enamul Haque and senior officials of LGED. Besides, the mission also held discussion with the

Director General (Monitoring, Inspection and Evaluation) of the Local Government Division ASM Mahbubul Alam and Joint Secretary of the External Relations Division Sarwar Mahmud and other senior officials.

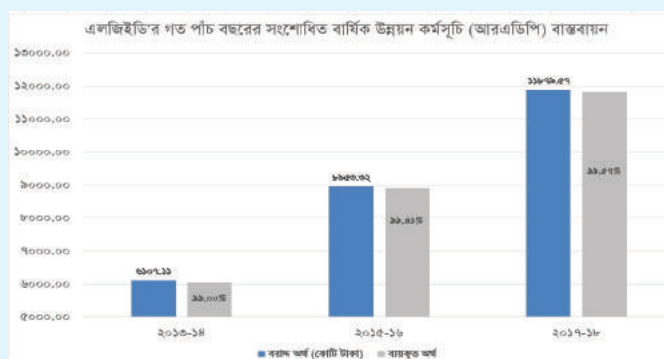
Of the 26 districts included under the RTIP-2 project, upazila and union roads of 18 districts will be rehabilitated under the additional financing. Road rehabilitation will be undertaken by LGED in rest of the 8 districts under the RTIP-2 with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank.

Continued success of LGED in ADP implementation

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Meanwhile, 1730.20 crore taka under the budgetary allocation of 2017-18 fiscal was utilized for rural road maintenance which is 472.20 crore taka and 37.54 percent more than the amount spent during the 2016-17 fiscal. Regular maintenance work of 8,100 kilometer road, periodic maintenance of 9200 kilometer road and maintenance of 5,681 meter bridge/culvert have been completed during 2017-18 financial year.

LGED is involved in rural, urban and small-scale water resources development sectors. A new impetus



has been added to the country's socio-economic development with the massive expansion of rural road network and its development while positive results have been achieved in increased food production, creation of

employment and improvement in nutritional intake. The urban development projects have brought about a revolutionary change in the urban management and municipal services. LGED implemented projects have largely contributed in addressing the basic five requirements of

human life. LGED is making consistent contribution in the completion of annual development programme and in achieving the targets of the Seventh Five Year Plan of the government and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Chief Engineer, LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad speaking at the workshop

Sustainable waste management: essential for improved urban life - Chief Engineer

Sustainable waste management is essential for healthy and improved urban life. Integrated approach is essential for proper waste management and the experience gathered from the municipalities should be applied to address the issue. Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad said this at a workshop titled “Solid Waste and Fecal Sludge Management” held at the LGED headquarters on 14th May 2018 organised by Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project (UGIIP-3) of LGED. The Chief Engineer said block grant might be considered for the municipalities with credible track record of proper waste

management. He said necessary work force and fund allocation should be available for waste management in the municipalities. He said serious consideration should be given on waste management in the municipalities after completion of the projects there. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Engineer (Urban Management) Noor Mohammad said that before undertaking development projects, environmental aspects should match the engineering component. He suggested for incorporating compost plant in the sanitary landfill design under UGIIP-3. He said community based organisations can be catalytic agents in

the overall waste management. In his welcome address Superintending Engineer (Urban Management) Md. Shafiqul Islam Akand said with fast pace of urbanization, the issue of solid waste disposal has posed a serious challenge in the overall development paradigm. He said sanitary landfill development component under UGIIP-3 is at the design stage and added that several municipalities in the meantime have completed the land acquisition process. The key note paper was presented by Professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) who is also Chairman of Dhaka Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (WASA) Prof. Dr. M. Habibur Rahman. He mainly dwelt on separation of waste, adopting 3R method i.e. reduction, re use and recycling as well as production of bio gas and organic fertilizer.

A detailed presentation on solid waste management under UGIIP-3 was given by Project Director A. K. M. Rezaul Islam. Speaking at the workshop Senior Project Officer of the ADB Bangladesh Resident Mission Md. Shahidul Alam said planners should attach importance on ways and means of sustainable and effective waste management prior to infrastructural development. Officials from LGED, DPHE and various municipalities took part in the workshop.

Coastal Town Environmental Infrastructure Project (CTEIP): Major facelift of Galachipa municipality

The southern coastal municipal town of Galachipa under Patuakhali now gives a new look as the roads and other infrastructures like College Road, WAPDA Road, Sadar Road, Banani Road and Shantibagh Road have been further developed under the Coastal Town Environmental Infrastructure Project (CTEIP). It has facilitated faster and easier movement of the vehicles and brought comfort for the commuters. New employments have been created for the drivers while number of passengers are on the rise. Several new shops and trading outlets are coming up and the business transactions are increasing. People living in the municipal are satisfied while the revenue earning of Galachipa municipality is showing upward trend. Local rickshaw puller Razzak Mridha said that before the completion of the



Newly constructed roads under CTEIP

road improvement works, it was very difficult to run the tri wheelers as there used to be accident almost daily injuring passengers and damage to the vehicle. Women and sick ones were scared of riding the rickshaws. “Earlier we could

barely make 100 to 150 taka per day and it was very laborious but now the income has increased manifold, which is 500 to 600 taka per day”, he said.

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Professor Dr. Mohammad Shariful Islam of Civil Engineering Department of BUET gave a presentation on "Dredged Soil Management and Making Earthen Block"

Seminar on dredged soil management and making earthen block

Every year country's rivers are clogged by siltation caused by increasing upstream rivers. There is a directive by the Honourable Prime Minister to remove sediment through capital dredging and make use of the sludge by making bricks or blocks or for other useful purposes.

In light of the Honourable Prime Minister's instruction, a seminar titled "Dredged Soil Management: Potentials of Brick/Block Making" was held at the LGED headquarters on 25th April, 2018. Additional Chief Engineer (Implementation) Md. Khalilur Rahman who presided over the session mentioned about LGED officials' visit to the Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI), the agency conducting research on the subject. He said after proper evaluation, the use of blocks developed by HBRI may be included in the rate schedule for the construction of schools and roads. It will also encourage the private sector for the use of these materials. He said a database might be prepared on the quality and characteristics of the dredged soil of the rivers and emphasized on undertaking research on making blocks based on the quality of the alluvial soil. Two separate presentations were given by Prof. Dr. Shariful Islam of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Deputy Executive Director of The Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) Dr.

Maminul Haque Sarker, Dr. Shariful Islam in his presentation gave a resume on the use of soil made blocks in the construction of the building with low height and said it is in practice in countries like Nepal and India. He further mentioned that clay made houses are also found in various parts of Bangladesh. The low cost clay blocks are environment friendly and suitable for use in Bangladesh. He said burning of clay for brick making causes harmful green house effect in the environment. Deputy Executive Director of the Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) Dr. Maminul Haque Sarker said deposition of alluvial soil doesn't occur in all the rivers and the quality of sludge is not uniform and as such block making by sludge is selective.

Taking part in the open discussion session Retired Director of HBRI Abu Sadeq said research is underway on making block with the mixture of dredged soil and other element. He said mixing of jute with dredged soil and other materials can be helpful in making blocks having more strength. HBRI has already completed research on dredged soil of Padma river and rivers of Jashore region. Superintending Engineer of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Mizanur Rahman said his organization is facing serious problem with the management of siltation and dredged soil and added BIWTA will extend all possible

assistance to LGED and HBRI if they want to use it. The meeting was attended by representatives of LGED, BUET, CEGIS, HBRI and BIWTA.

Galachipa municipality

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Local business person Md. Khalil Khalifa said sale of various commodities in the municipal area is also brisk because the people of the adjoining areas particularly those living in the char or mud islands of river throng to Galachipa town which has now better roads and other municipal services. The business transactions earlier per day were between 2 to 3 thousand taka while it is now between 15 to 20 thousand taka thus creating an environment of enhanced income. The present government is pledge bound for planned urbanization through addressing the ever-increasing challenges of urban living. In view of this reality, LGED is extending assistance to the city corporations and the municipalities for developing better governance and providing quality services to the people. A project titled "Coastal Town Environmental Infrastructure Project" (CTEIP) is now under implementation by LGED to address these issues. Jointly funded by the Government of Bangladesh and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the area of operation of the project spans over 9 coastal towns under 5 districts of Barishal division namely Amtali, Galachipa, Pirojpur, Mathbaria, Barguna, Kalapara, Bhola, Daulatkhan and Patuakhali as well as municipal town Bagerhat under Khulna division. The main objective of CTEIP is construction of climate resilient physical infrastructures and raising awareness. It also aims to improve local government governance and expansion of basic municipal services, maintenance, harnessing local resources, financial management and municipal operation management through people's participation. Besides, the project also provides assistance towards institutional capacity building, planning, financial management and implementation for sustainable development. The physical works are being implemented in line with the environmental and social safeguard guidelines of Bangladesh government and the development partners.

Annual Performance Agreement (APA) for 2018-2019 signed



LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad signing the APA for 2018-19 with the Executive Engineers

The government has introduced the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) since 2014-15 to ensure more transparency and accountability in the implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP). Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad signed separate APAs with the Executive Engineers of the 64 districts for the 2018-19 financial year. Speaking on the

occasion, the Chief Engineer said hundred percent implementation of the work as laid down in the ADP has to be achieved in every district within the stipulated time. He also emphasized on enhancing the capacity of the LGED officials and staff for proper implementation of the projects. He said a help desk may be opened under APA to monitor the progress of the works and

invite suggestions for overcoming the hindrances, if any, faced by the field level officials. He also stressed on evaluation of the APA progress alongside the monitoring. The Chief Engineer directed the officials to chalk out an integrated work plan for monitoring the progress of the APA taking into account the four tier of the LGED functioning i.e. headquarters, zone, district and upazila. Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) of LGED Iftekhar Ahmed said officers and staff of the organization should have clear idea about APA. He said better is the efficiency level of the staff members, higher is the implementation progress. The agreement signing ceremony was attended among others by Additional Chief Engineer (Integrated Water Resource Management) P.K. Chowdhury, Additional Chief Engineer (Dhaka division) Khondaker Alinoor, Project Directors and Executive Engineers.

Four LGED Engineers take charge as IEB office bearers

Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) is one of the largest professional bodies in the country. Four engineers of LGED have taken over as office bearers for the year 2018-19 at the 58th convention held on 3rd March 2018. The posts they are currently holding are Engineer Md. Mamunur Rashid- Central Honorary Assistant General Secretary (S & W), Engineer Reshma Akhter- Central Council Member, Engineer Sheikh Tajul Islam Tuhin- Secretary, Civil Engineering Division and Engineer Md. Akhtaruzzaman Hasan- Member, Civil Division.



Engineer Md. Mamunur Rashid: Working in LGED for the last 23 years and currently Project Director, Engineer Md. Mamunur Rashid is working in protecting the professional interests of the engineers particularly in solving the problems faced by them, demanding job security and salary structure of the engineers working in private sector and put forward various proposals related to professional development of the engineers. He obtained degree in Civil Engineering discipline in 1990 and later received postgraduate degree in Environmental Science. Engineer Md. Mamunur Rashid who is involved with IEB for 26 years, also served as Central Honorary Assistant General Secretary (Human Resource) in the last term of IEB and was an elected Vice Chairman of Dhaka centre in 2011-12 term.



Engineer Reshma Akhter: She has been elected to the post of Central Council Member of IEB. Engineer Reshma Akhter is working as Senior Assistant Engineer at the LGED headquarters. She is also organizing secretary of Bangabandhu Prokoushohi Porishod (Bangabandhu Engineers Association). Earlier, she was a member of IEB Central Council and an elected Council member of Dhaka centre.



Engineer Sheikh Tajul Islam Tuhin: Engineer Sheikh Tajul Islam Tuhin now working as Senior Assistant Engineer at LGED Headquarters has taken over as Honorary Secretary of the Civil Engineering Division of IEB for the 2018-19 term. He was elected as Local Council Member of Dhaka center for 2015-17 term. He also worked as Senior Assistant Engineer and Upazila Engineer at field level. Sheikh Tajul Islam Tuhin is a member of the editorial board of "Engineering News" a regular publication of IEB and Member Secretary of the editorial board of the journal "Projukti" published by IEB Dhaka centre.



Engineer Md. Akhtaruzzaman Hasan: An elected member of the Civil Engineering Division, Engineer Md. Akhtaruzzaman Hasan is working as a Senior Assistant Engineer at the Audit and Accounts Cell at LGED headquarters. He was also elected to the same post for 2015-17 term. He received degree in Structural Engineering in 2015.



4-vent regulator at Dhunarkhal, Jashore

Swarupdaha-Dhunarkhal Flood Management and Water Drainage Sub Project: Pisciculture brings improvement in lifestyle

Pisciculture under Swarupdaha-Dhunarkhal Flood Management and Water Drainage Sub Project has brought about a positive change in the lifestyle in the locality. The project implemented by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at Swarupdaha union under Chowgacha upazila in Jashore has helped in increased fish production. The project was completed in 2013-14 fiscal year at a cost of one crore sixty nine lakh taka under the Participatory Small Scale Water Resources Sector Project (PSSWRSP) of LGED jointly funded by ADB-IFAD. Swarupdaha-Dhunarkhal Water Management Cooperative Association (WMCA) has been formed comprising of the beneficiaries for the maintenance and operation of the infrastructures built under the sub project.

The command area under the sub project is 1600 hectares of which 980 hectares are directly getting irrigation facility. The main crops produced here are high yielding varieties of Aman and Boro paddy and the interim crops (Rabi crop). Earlier farmers used to cultivate aman paddy during the rainy seasons. Every year during the July-September months, standing aman crops were damaged by the flood waters from Kunar canal and Shukra canal of the Kopotakkho river before completion of the sub project. Besides, local farmers had to bear the losses caused by inundation of their crop fields and fish

farms in the sub project areas as 4 huge water bodies (Beel), 108 ponds, Harincha Baor, Kumar Khal and Shukra Khal (canal) used to swell during the monsoon. Local people requested for the construction of two regulators at the mouth of the two canals and re-excavation of Dhunar canal and the Shukra canal for protecting crops from floods, water conservation and drainage system improvement.

Under this sub project, a four-vent regulator on Dhunar canal while another two vent regulator on Shukra canal have been built. Meanwhile, 960 meter of Dhunar canal and 280 meter of Shukra canal have been re-excavated while a building has been constructed for WMCA's office while furnitures have been procured. The infrastructural development has been completed on 11th May 2014 and it has been handed over to the Swarupdaha-Dhunar Canal WMCA Limited on 17th August 2016 for operation and maintenance.

With the completion of the sub project, the area has been protected from floods. During this year's flood, the villages outside the sub project area were affected but there had been no damage in the areas under the command area of the sub project. The crop production in the area has gone up to 45.3 percent from 39.5 percent. At the same time phenomenal changes have taken place in pisciculture in that area as various species of local and foreign

varieties of fishes are being cultured in ponds, beels (large water bodies) and Baors (water accumulated in a depressed land). It has resulted in increased fish production. Earlier the production of fish species like ruhi, catla, mrigal was about one ton per acre, while it is now 2.2 tons. Similarly, the production of fishes of carp varieties like silver carp, mirror carp, tilapias etc. was about 1.5 tons per acre and now it stands at about 2.8 tons. This year 42 lakh taka (4.2 million) was deposited in the government exchequer earned from pisciculture which is 24 lakh taka higher than deposited earlier.

665 families who live in the sub project area are the main beneficiaries. There are 318 members in the WMCA, of which 213 are male and 105 are female. The association has already accumulated a capital of 1,92,780 taka through sale of share of 34,550 taka and collection of savings of 1,58,230 taka. A credit worth 1.75 lac taka have been distributed among 20 male and 18 female members of the society for the improvement of their livelihood. The relatively poor members of the society are running various income generating activities utilizing this loan. Local people have expressed their gratitude to the LGED for the welfare being delivered to them through the implementation of the sub project.

Narrating her experience about the benefits reaped from the sub project, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (Sub district Executive Officer) of Chowgacha upazila Nargis Parvin said that the intervention of the scheme has protected the area from floods this year and added that similar development projects will help in minimizing the flood damages and will help in higher agricultural production thus achieving the target of food security. Upazila parishad (Sub district council) Chairman stated that five villages have been protected from floods as a result of the implementation of the sub project by LGED. As flood water could not enter into the crop fields, there had been no damage to paddy, jute and vegetables.

Successful completion of the Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project (ECRRP)

The devastating cyclone SIDR that swept over Bangladesh's southwest coastal areas in 2007 had left a trail of devastation. About 3,500 people were reportedly dead and caused huge damage to infrastructures and properties. As a quick response to address the situation, Government of Bangladesh with the assistance of the World Bank undertook a project in 2008 titled "Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project (ECRRP)". Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) successfully completed the massive task.

The main object of the project was to increased protection for the vulnerable population and livestock in 9 (Nine) districts of the cyclone prone areas during disasters. Other objectives of the project were to help expand universal primary education as the shelters have been built on the existing primary schools, create short term employment opportunities during the construction period and create facilities for holding social and community functions like expanded programme of immunization.

The physical works of the "Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project (ECRRP)" included construction of cyclone shelters, improvement of existing shelters including additional toilets, construction/re-construction of roads with bridges/culverts to connect cyclone shelters and construction of killas (earthen mounds) as safe shelters. The 64 sub districts (upazila) covered under the project are in the coastal districts of Barguna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barishal, Jhalakathi, Khulna and Satkhira.

Physical works completed under the project: Construction of 352 new primary school cum cyclone shelters, rehabilitation of 459 shelters, 343 kilometer connecting roads, 1,459 meter bridges/culverts and 15 earthen mounds (Matir Killa).

Facilities ensured: Ground floor of the shelters have been kept open as the may get inundated during high tide or floods. Provision of keeping livestock during disasters. Ramps attached to first floor for differently abled, sick and aged and as well as livestock. In the second floor, adequate number of furniture for class rooms have been provided while separate toilets for male



Constructed No. of 30 North-East Shibpur Rokeya Govt. Primary School cum Cyclone Shelter at Sadar upazila under Bhola district

and female users, earmarked room with attached toilet for pregnant inmates and new born, labour room and store room are in place.

Water and electricity: Arrangements have been made for safe drinking water and uninterrupted electricity supply during natural disasters. These include installation of tubewell, centrifugal pump and solar lamps in each shelter. Besides additional 57 toilets have been constructed in various shelters as per requirements. For maintaining environmental balance, plantation works have been done around the shelters.

Capacity of each shelter: Each shelter can accommodate between 1,300 to 1,500 people while each of the shelters rehabilitated can provide space for one thousand people. 200 livestock can also be sheltered in each of these primary school cum cyclone shelters.

Shelters stand as a symbol hope: Local UP Chairman who was present at Haqtullah Primary School cum Cyclone Shelter said the people didn't look so

helpless during the 2013 cyclone Mahasen while they were desperate to find a place for refuge during the 2007 super cyclone SIDR. The people could take shelter in 2013 cyclone Mohasen at this school cum cyclone shelter along with their cattle heads. A local religious leader (Imam of a Mosque) said during an Eid celebration, one of the biggest religious festival, people were worried as they apprehended that they won't be able to say prayer at the congregation that takes place usually at a local field because the locality was submerged by water. It was very difficult to find an alternative location. But later it was found that the ground floor of the shelter can be a choice since there had been no water stagnation. As such the local people could offer their prayer there.

It can be said in a nutshell that LGED not only designed a safe shelter for people during natural disasters, the agency also took serious consideration of the needs of the locality. The task was accomplished with all sincerity, creativity and innovative ideas.



Constructed No. of 6 Char Batamara Govt. Primary School cum Cyclone Shelter at Muladi upazila under Barishal district



LKSS President and LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad addressing the AGM

LGED Welfare Cooperative Society Limited holds Annual General Meeting

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the LGED Welfare Cooperative Society Limited (LKSS) was held at the LGED headquarters on 12th May 2018 with Chief Engineer of LGED who is also the President of the LGED Kalyan Samabay Samity (LKSS) Limited Md. Abul Kalam Azad in the chair. At the very outset, the convener of the preparatory committee for the 14th Annual General Meeting and Additional Chief Engineer (Implementation) Md. Khalilur Rahman welcomed the members who had assembled at the venue from remote places of the country. Managing Director of the society Md. Moslah Uddin presented the minutes of the 13th AGM and the annual report for the 14th AGM. Director (Finance) of the society Mohamamd Nazmul Hasan Chowdhury placed before the meeting the revised budget of 2017-18 and the proposed budget for the year 2018-19 which were later adopted unanimously by voice vote of the members of the society. In his address as the chair, Md. Abul Kalam

Azad said the LGED Welfare Cooperative Society Limited (LKSS) has completed its 14th year of its existence and added the foundation of the society is now stronger as a result of the integrated cooperation and untiring efforts of its members from the very beginning. The society is running seven profitable initiatives. He also expressed satisfaction at the successful execution of its programmes.



LKSS President handed over the citations and crests to a meritorious students

Reception to GPA-5 recipients

After the Annual General Meeting, a reception was awarded to the children of the officers and staff of LGED who got GPA-5 in the SSC, HSC and equivalent examinations in 2017. LKSS President Md. Abul Kalam Azad handed over the citations and crests to the meritorious students. The students narrated in brief the guidance and care they received from their parents and guardians in achieving good results in the exams. They said that they feel proud of their parents as they serve the nation by working in LGED and added that they have the desire to work for the welfare of the country and nation and its development.

Speaking on the occasion, LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad expressed his satisfaction at the academic feat of the students and said it would encourage those appearing in the next public examinations. He urged them to acquire knowledge not only from the books but from nature and the society. The function was attended among others by senior officials of LGED and office bearers of the society.

Foundation stone of the “Shah Arefin-Adoitya Moitree Bridge” laid at Tahirpur, Sunamganj



LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP laid the foundation stone of Arefin-Adoitya Moitree bridge at Tahirpur upazila under Sunamganj district

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP said Bangladesh has emerged as a developing country. Under the dynamic leadership of honourable Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina the nation will achieve progress like those of Europe and America and to reach that target the Awami League government is implementing massive development works across the county. He said this

while speaking as the chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of the 750 meter long “Shah Arefin-Adoitya Moitree Bridge” on the frontier river Jadukata at Badaghat union under Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj on 12th April, 2018. LGED will build the bridge at an estimated cost of 90 crore taka. A public meeting was organized on the occasion at the Binnakuli Lamashrom Madrasha Maidan by Tahirpur upazila Awami League. It was addressed among others by upazila Awami League President Abul Hossain Khan, Senior Secretary of the Local Government Division Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad, members of parliament Moazzem Hossain Ratan, Joya Sengupta and Muhibur Rahman Manik.

Iftar and Doa Mahfil at LGED

A doa mahfil and Iftar (Breaking fast at sun set) was held at the LGED auditorium at Agargaon in the capital on 23rd May 2018 to mark the holy month of Ramadan. Honourable Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP was the chief guest while State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Md. Mashiur Rahman Ranga, MP attended the function as

special guest. Among others former Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Monowar Hossain Chowdhury and the daughter of the honourable minister Mrs. Sharita Millat was present. Officers, staff and consultants of LGED attended the Iftar and Doa (seeking divine blessings) mahfil where special prayers were offered seeking peace, prosperity and progress of the country and greater glory of the Muslim ummah.



Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP, State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Md. Mashiur Rahman Ranga, MP, LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad, former Chief Engineer Md. Monowar Hossain Chowdhury and Mrs. Sharita Millat attended the Iftar and Doa Mahfil.

Obituary



Former Additional Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Awlad Hossain died of liver disease on 11th June 2018. (Inna.....Rajeun). He was 60. Namaze Janaza of late Md. Awlad Hossain was held at LGED headquarters after Zohr prayer on 12th June 2018. Chief Engineer Md. Abul Kalam Azad and officers and employees of LGED attended the Janaza and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul. Late Md. Awlad Hossain was buried at his family graveyard in Dighulia village under Tangail sadar upazila. Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abul Kalam Azad expressed his deep shock and sorrow at the death of the former Additional Chief Engineer and consoled the bereaved family. Late Md. Awlad Hossain left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of friends, relatives and well wishers to mourn his death.