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Adviser for LGED & Cooperatives Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal, Chief Election Commissioner Mr. A.T.M. Shamsul Huda, Secretary, Local Government Division, Shaikh Khurshid Alam and others are seen attending the Namaz-e-Janaza of Engineer Quamrul Islam Siddique at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka on 4 September 2008.

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## Engr. Quamrul Islam Siddique

- architect of LGED laid to rest

Engineer Quamrul Islam Siddique, a former Secretary to the government, an architect of LGED, a freedom fighter, the mastermind of rural and urban infrastructure development in Bangladesh and an internationally known personality in the water and energy sector, was laid to eternal rest at the Banani Graveyard in Dhaka city on 5 September 2008. Mr. Siddique succumbed to a massive cardiac arrest in New Jersey, USA on 1 September 2008 at the age of 63. (Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajeun). More than ten thousand members of the workforce in LGED and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers expressed their deepest sorrows on the untimely and sudden passing away of Engineer Quamrul Islam Siddique.

The mortal remains of Engineer Siddique was air-dashed from the USA to Dhaka on the morning of 4 September 2008. The coffin of Engineer

Siddique was carried straight to the LGED Bhaban premises at Shere Bangla Nagar at around 11 a.m. It was placed at the open lounge of the ground floor of LGED Bhaban for sometime allowing the mourners at large and the LGED employees in particular to have the last glance and to shower their love and reverence to the legendary figure in the field of building up rural infrastructure and strengthening the rural government institutions in Bangladesh.

Immediately before the first Namaz-e-Janaza was held at LGED Bhaban, a brief life-sketch of the deceased was read out for public consumption and the Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Nurul Islam delivered a short speech to solicit everybody's blessing for the departed soul. Mr. Badrul Islam Siddique and Mr. Saiful Islam Siddique, elder brother and the only son of Engineer Siddique respectively, also spoke on the occasion. (see page 2 col 2)





## Editor's Note

### Gender Equity Strategy in LGED

Since LGED has been endowed with the responsibility of reducing poverty to improve the socio-economic condition of the urban and rural poor and developing the infrastructure, quite evidently the organization enjoys a great opportunity to nurture the gender equity issues all by itself. LGED has therefore become a frontbencher in the gender equity programmes of the government and has been able to make a significant breakthrough in involving and empowering the rural women in infrastructure development.

LGED's maiden Gender Equity Strategy & Workplan was formulated in 2002. It was framed in the light of experiences gathered from the effective implementation of different projects of LGED through equal participation of men and women. The workplan was implemented during 2002-2007.

A revised Strategy and Workplan (Phase-II) has again been prepared for the period from 2008 to 2015. It is expected that the revised workplan would facilitate the LGED's core office, Rural Development Sector, Water Resources Sector and Urban Development Sector to streamline the back-footed women generation of our country. The prime focus of the revised Strategy and Workplan is beamed towards bringing in gender issues in the mainstream of LGED's development programmes. During the time-frame of seven years the ever-increasing rate of women's participation at all levels of LGED's development programmes would bear out the truth that the gender equity issues have been properly dealt within LGED's programme.

In fact, LGED has created employment opportunities for thousands of women over the years throughout the country through labour contracting societies. This is aimed at promoting wider participation and recognition of women in development activities. LGED is judicious in removing the wage disparity variation between male and female workers as well.

In the Small Scale Water Sector, women are playing important roles in the Water Management Cooperative Association. In the Urban Sector, LGED has taken special care to involve women and also to make special provisions for income generating activities for the poor women through arranging credit and saving schemes. Women are also being involved in the project implementation committees. LGED has been promoting women's participation in non-traditional economic activities outside the household, especially in trade and commerce.

LGED's move to develop a comprehensive and wide-ranging gender equity strategy is indeed quite meaningful. The revised strategy and workplan would obviously guide LGED's work over the coming years and ensure a more equitable provision of resources for both men and women.

## Engr. Quamrul Islam Siddique

(from page 1)

After the Namaz-e-Janaza was over at the LGED Bhaban, a smart contingent of Dhaka Metropolitan Police performed the formal guard of honour to pay due respect to a freedom fighter.

Prominent among those who attended the Namaz-e-Janaza at LGED Bhaban were Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal, Adviser for LGRD & Cooperatives, Mr. ATM Shamsul Huda, Chief Election Commissioner, Shaikh Kurshid Alam, Secretary, Local Government Division, the two Election Commissioners Mr. Sohul Hossain and Brig. Gen. Sakhawat Hossain, former Secretaries to the government Mr. Hasnat Abdul Hye and Mr. Alamgir Faruque Chowdhury, former ILO Expert Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, and Mr. Nurul Huda, Deputy Country Director, ADB, Dhaka. Ms. Nobuko Suzuki Kayashima, Resident Representative of JICA was also present on the occasion. The former Chief Engineers of LGED Mr. Ataulah Bhuiyan, Mr. Md. Monowar Hossain Chowdhury and Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan also attended the Namaz-e-Janaza.

After the first Namaz-e-Janaza, the coffin was brought to the premises of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh for the second Namaz-e-Janaza at around 1:15 p.m. Later, the third Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Asar prayer the same day.

The coffin of Engineer Siddique was also taken to his home town Kushtia in the early hours of 5 September 2008 where another Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Central Eidgah Maidan at 10 a.m. The coffin was then brought back to Dhaka for burial at Banani Graveyard at 4 p.m. the same day.

Mr. Quamrul Islam Siddique was born in Kushtia on 20 January, 1945. He was graduated in Civil Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka in 1966 and did his Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Sheffield, UK in 1974.

Engineer Quamrul Islam held many important posts of the government. He was the Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing and Chairman, Power Development Board and Executive Director, Dhaka Transport Coordination Board. He was also the first Chairperson of the Global Water Partnership, South Asian Region in 2003 and 2004. Lately, he was holding the post of Chairman, Bangladesh Water Partnership. Mr. Quamrul Islam Siddique was also the President of the

Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Mr. Siddique joined the Works Programme Wing as an Assistant Engineer in 1967 and served as Executive Engineer, Ministry of Local Government from 1975-76. He became the Engineering Adviser of Local Government Engineering Bureau from 1985-92. In 1992, LGED was turned into a department known as LGED and Mr. Siddique was appointed as its first Chief Engineer and continued till 1999.

During his tenure of service as Chief Engineer of LGED, Mr. Siddique was the mastermind of rural and urban infrastructure development in Bangladesh. He championed the cause of implementing development projects and earned the rare goodwill for LGED as a model public sector institution. The LGIs, as it stand today within the edifices of UP Complexes constructed throughout Bangladesh by LGED, are the resultant effects of Mr. Siddique's untiring efforts to realize his dream. He negotiated many projects with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, JICA, JBIC, KfW, Saudi Development Fund, OPEC Fund, IDB, IFAD and all other leading development partners operating in Bangladesh. He introduced Rubber Dam Technology for dry season water conservation to meet the irrigation need in Bangladesh. He also established a nationwide GIS based rural infrastructure planning network for all the upazilas and the districts. He was also instrumental in introducing hill specific technologies in Chittagong Hill Tracts Region.

In recognition of his unparalleled contribution to the development of rural infrastructure Mr. Quamrul Islam Siddique was awarded Poet Jasimuddin Gold Medal, Sher-e-Bangla Gold Medal, Bangabandhu Proukoushali Gold Medal and JICA merit award. The World Bank in 1999 conferred on him the 'International Road Federation Person of the year' award.

During the War of Liberation in 1971 Mr. Siddique took an active part in freedom fighting.

Engineer Siddique left behind his wife, one son, three daughters, his mother and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

Quamrul Islam Siddique, popularly known as 'QI', will be greatly missed by his admirers for his wisdom and commitment related to rural infrastructure development, growth and progress of LGED and global water and environmental issues.





Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, the new Chief Engineer of LGED is seen handing over a crest to the outgoing Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan on 27 August 2008 at LGED Headquarter, Dhaka.

### **'I worked as the custodian of services delivered to the beneficiaries'**

- Former Chief Engineer Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan

Former Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan delivered almost an hour-long open-hearted eloquence at an informal gathering of more than fifteen hundred members of staff who assembled themselves on the occasion of his last working day on 27 August 2008 at the grand conference hall of LGED Bhaban in Dhaka. Mr. Hassan went on a Leave Preparatory to Retirement on the afternoon of that day.

Mr. Hassan said, during his long career of 35 years in LGED he remained at the helm of it as the Chief Engineer for 7 years and 9 months. He said, he worked as the custodian of certain services delivered to the beneficiaries during that period.

The former Chief Engineer narrated in brief the legendary evolution of LGED from its impoverished Works Programme Wing status down to its present empirical structure. He said, institutional capacity of an organization could never be grown without a sound organizational structure.

Mr. Hassan said, LGED introduced a revolutionary change in the rural infrastructure of our country. He said, the extent and magnitude of works within LGED have multiplied further. The need for proper maintenance of the built-up rural infrastructure has now posed to become one more challenge for LGED, he said.

He further added, a team spirit is necessary to create a healthy working environment where all can work together in a family tie. To conclude his ad-lib valedictory speech Mr. Hassan said, 'I was with you and I would continue to remain with you.'

Earlier, the four Additional Chief Engineers of LGED, Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Mr. Md. Lokman Hakim and Mr. Anwarul Haque also spoke on the occasion.

Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, the successor of the outgoing Chief Engineer, said, the goodwill of LGED as the most vibrant public sector agency has been achieved by the great contributions of Mr. Quamrul Islam Siddique and Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan. He however underscored the importance of making an informal relationship with other agencies, especially the print and electronic media, to bolster the cause of LGED's interests and goals.

In his deliberations Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said, LGED is passing through a very critical period. He said, they have to retain the goodwill of LGED at any cost. "We have to make a united effort to ensure our existence. We may develop differences of opinion, but in spite of that we have to work hand in hand," he said.

Mr. Md. Lokman Hakim and Mr. Anwarul Haque wished the outgoing Chief Engineer good health and a purposeful retired life to be dedicated to the cause of suffering humanity. The former Chief Engineer's informal way of saying good bye to his colleagues was seemingly very touching and it was rounded off with a solemn 'doa' conducted by Hafez Mohammad Abdul Jabbar, Pesh Imam, LGED Mosque.

### **Mr. Md. Nurul Islam takes over as new Chief Engineer of LGED**



Consequent upon leave preparatory to retirement of Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Additional Chief Engineer took over as the new Chief Engineer of LGED with effect from the afternoon of 27 August, 2008.

Mr. Islam was born on 30 December 1951 at the village Kachipara under Bauphal upazila of Patuakhali district. He got his graduation in Civil Engineering from Rajshahi Engineering College in 1975 and later did his Masters Degree in Irrigation Engineering from Southampton University, UK in 1988.

Mr. Islam began his career as an Assistant Engineer in a project under PWD in 1975. He worked in Ashuganj Fertilizer & Chemical Company Ltd. as an Assistant Engineer from August 1977 to October 1978. He then joined as an Executive Engineer on 26 October 1978 under the Works Programme Wing, which was transformed to LGED later. He became a Project Director in 1991 and worked in different projects under LGED till 2002. In January 24, 2002 he was promoted to the post of Superintending Engineer of LGED and performed as Head of Integrated Water Resources Management Unit of LGED. In 2007, he became the Additional Chief Engineer of LGED.

Mr. Islam attended a number of international training courses, workshops, seminars, conferences and loan negotiation meetings in UK, USA, Canada, Australia, China, Nepal, Korea, Sweden, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and India.



## "Strengthen LGIs to establish good governance . ."

----- Advisor for LGRD & Cooperatives

The Adviser for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mr. M. Anwarul Iqbal said, the government has constituted Local government Commission to strengthen the local government institutions (LGIs) to establish good governance in the country. He said, the LGIs would have to be financially self-sufficient and for that reason they have to be more careful in increasing their revenue earning.

The Adviser was speaking as the chief guest at a meeting held on 22 July 2008 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka for reviewing the annual budgets of District Councils and approval of the budget for 2008-09. In order to evaluate the activities of the District Councils the meeting of this nature is held every year.

Chaired by Shaikh Khurshid Alam, Secretary, Local Government Division, the meeting was also attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Kabir Ashraf, Director General, NILG and Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED. They also spoke on the occasion later. A good number of senior officials from NILG, LGD and LGED were present in the meeting.

The Adviser said, the earning at the District Councils has been increased significantly during the last few years. He however asked the officials to ensure appropriate utilization of the money allocated to the District Councils by taking pragmatic projects and implementing those in a proper way. He also



Advisor for LGRD & Cooperatives Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal is seen speaking as the Chief Guest at a meeting held on 22 July 2008 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka to review the Annual Budgets of the District Councils. Shaikh Khurshid Alam, Secretary, Local Government Division presided over the meeting.

said, the government would build memorials for all martyrs of the Language Movement and the Birshresthas. Some of the memorials have already been built at village home of the martyrs and construction of the rest of the memorials would be completed by December next, he said.

The Adviser further said that the government has undertaken a plan to construct a monument for the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at Dhaka University Campus and another memorial for Michael Modhusudan Dutt at Sagardari in Jessore.

Chief Executive Officers, Secretaries and Assistant Engineers of the District Councils attended the meeting and presented their respective activities at the field level. The meeting advised them to prepare development plans before the fiscal year begins and implement the development programmes right from the beginning of the fiscal year. Besides, they were also advised

to issue work orders for development plans within December 15 of every year.

The meeting approved Taka 1,038.60 crore revised budget for the District Councils for FY 2007-08 and Taka 630 crore budget for FY 2008-09.

## Review Meeting of Development Activities under LGED held

The two-day Review Meeting of Development Activities under LGED during the FY 2007-08 was held on 30 and 31 July 2008 at RDEC Bhaban in LGED Headquarters in Dhaka. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED.

Speaking on the occasion as the Chairperson Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan said, the current fiscal year poses to be of great significance in the sense that a new political government is expected to take over after the coming general election in December 2008. He further said that a new leadership is also likely to administer LGED after his retirement from the service in August 2008. Mr. Hassan said, construction of infrastructure is a hard task indeed and proper maintenance of the constructed infrastructure is a far more hardwork. He appealed to the engineers of LGED to uphold its goodwill in producing quality works at a minimum cost. He however sounded a note of warning to the engineers to prove their worth in future.

Earlier, an address of welcome was delivered by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED. He said, whatever the situation might be LGED would have to implement the development projects in spite



Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED chaired the inaugural session of the Review Meeting of Development Activities under LGED during FY 2007-08 on 30 July 2008 at RDEC Bhaban in LGED Headquarters.



of all bottlenecks. He recalled that the development activities under LGED in the recent past were impeded to a certain extent because of the prevailing political situation, soaring price index of construction materials and contractors hibernating in hideouts. He however turned optimistic to say that LGED would be able to overcome the appalling situation in near future.

The Review Meeting discussed at length on divergent issues including Progress Review on Rural Road and Culvert Maintenance, Administrative Issues, Revenue Income, District and Project-wise Audit Status, Mechanical Issues, Approachless Bridges / Culverts, GIS, Road Inventory, Mapping, National Road Safety Strategic Action Plan, Projects as Urban and Rural Water Sectors, Progress Review on Primary School Construction Project and PEDP-II, Planning Activities, Design on Road Structure and LKSS Activities.

Besides, there were presentations on Training, Quality Control, Completed and on-going projects and Tree Plantation of 2007. LGED related news published in the national dailies were also reviewed in the Meeting.

The closing session of the Review Meeting was chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED on 31 July 2008. In his closing remarks Mr. Rahman said, involvement of the beneficiaries and importance of the local government institutions are to be taken care of in the process of implementation of all the development projects. He said, better management is necessary to maintain the quality of works. He cautioned his colleagues to say that there is no scope to overlook the software component of the development projects. The targets of MDG and PRSP are also to be achieved, he said.



A 15-member Japanese ODA Monitoring Team headed by Mr. Shiro SAWAI visited the EBRIDP activities in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong districts on 23 July 2008.

The Review Meeting was attended by all the Additional Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers coming from all the districts, Project Directors, Deputy Project Directors and all the Executive Engineers and assistant Engineers from the Headquarters.

## Foreign Mission

**Japanese ODA Monitoring Team visits EBRIDP in Greater Chittagong District :** A fifteen member Japanese ODA Monitoring Team headed by Mr. Shiro SAWAI visited the EBRIDP activities in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong districts on 23 July 2008 to observe the benefits and achievement of EBRIDP being executed under ODA Loan. Mr. Y. Fujita, Chief Representative, JBIC Dhaka Office, Mr. Ehara Keiji, Deputy Resident Representative, JICA and Mr. Yuchi Inagaki, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan, Dhaka also accompanied the team.

In Cox's Bazar, the team inspected Banglabazar GC -Khuruskul GC road work, tree plantation and off-pavement maintenance activities carried out by LCS women groups. The team was very much keen to know, how the LCS women groups are organized and run on a cooperative basis by the destitute and disadvantaged women who live in the vicinity of the roads. The team appreciated the LCS activities, which provides immediate employment of about 1950 destitute women. The team visited the Banglabazar Growth Center under Sadar Upazila and expressed their satisfaction for constructing the Women Market Section, which motivate other women's participation in small trading activities in rural areas. The team also visited Jangailkhan UP complex under Patiya Upazila in Chittagong district. During the inspection, the team held discussions with the concerned UP Chairman & members in UP complex, Market Management Committee in GCM and also with other beneficiaries. The UP members, Market Management Committee and local people expressed gratefulness to the team and also to the Japanese Govt. for their supports which provides immense benefits to them.

The JBIC team expressed their satisfaction with the overall progress and quality of works achieved in the project and also appreciated the participation of local beneficiaries in the development works under the project. Mr. M. Azizul Haque, Project Director and Mr. Mike Huges, Team Leader, EBRIDP accompanied the Team.

**ADB Mission visited SSWRDSP in Gazipur and Patuakhali district :** A Loan Fact-Finding Mission led by Ms. Yasmin Siddiqui, Water Resources Management Specialist of the Participatory Small Scale Water Resources Project, a follow-on project of the on-going SSWRDSP visited Bangladesh from 2 to 22 September 2008.



The visiting ADB Mission joined the workshop on Operation and Maintenance of Small Scale Water Resources Project held in Dhaka on September 8, 2008. The workshop was chaired by the Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Nurul Islam. The Team Leader of the ADB missions Ms. Yasmin Siddiqui is seen attending the workshop.



The Mission visited on-going and proposed Small Scale Water Resources Sub-projects in Gazipur and Patuakhali districts. On 8 September 2008, the Mission participated in a workshop on "Operation and Maintenance of Small Scale Water Resources Project" organized by LGED. Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer, LGED chaired the workshop.

The other members of the Mission were Mr. Zahir Uddin Ahmed, Project Implementation Officer, BRM, Ms. Ferdousi Sultana, Social Development and Gender Officer, BRM, Mr. Firoz Ahmed, Senior Governance Officer, BRM, Mr. E. Mallorie, Consultant, IFAD, Mr. M. A. Quassem, Institutional Specialist.

## Academic Feat



Mr. Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, Upazila Engineer, LGED Sadar, Munshiganj completed his MBA programme offered by Bangladesh Open University (BOU), in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Vancouver, Canada. He attained CGPA 3.17 on a scale of 4.00 in his commonwealth Executive MBA degree. Mr. Shafiq was graduated in Civil Engineering from BIT, Khulna in 2000. He joined LGED in 2005.



Mr. B.M. Shahed, Community Organizer, Upazila Engineer's Office, Mujibnagar, Meherpur obtained the degree of Masters of Business

Administration majoring in Human Resource Management from the Southeast University, Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2007. His CGPA was 3.28 on a scale of 4.00.

## Foreign Training / Overseas Visit

Mr. Md. Zahangir Alam, Superintending Engineer, LGED, Messrs Md. Nur Hossain Hawlader, Md. Abul Kalam Pramanik and Prokash Chandra Biswas, Executive Engineers of LGED, Dewan Abdus Sabur, Upazila Engineer, Mr. A.K.M. Akhtaruzzaman and Mr. Mohammed Adnan Akhtarul Azam, Assistant Engineers of LGED and Mr. Mohd. Sher Ali, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of LGRD&C, attended the International Training Course on "Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Application of IT" held in AIT, Thailand from 20 to 31 July 2008.

Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Project Director, LGED participated the "ADB Transport Forum" held at ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines from 9 to 12 September 2008.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Project Director, LGED, Syed Shahbaz Hossain, Project Director, DPHE and Syed Qumarul Ahsan, Project Director, Dhaka WASA participated the Regional Seminar on "Project Implementation and Administration" held in Manila, Philippines from 21 July to 1st August 2008.

Executive Engineers of LGED Messrs. Enamul Kabir Ahmed, Abdul Quddus Mondal, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, A.N.M. Enayet Ullah, Md. Nur Hossain Howlader, Md. Abdus Salam, Mohammed Rafiqul Alam and K.M. Abdullah Ad-dad, Deputy Director Mr. Md. Mokbul Hossain, Upazila Engineer Mr. Md. Asaduzzaman, Senior Assistant Engineer Ms. Nayeema Nazneen Naz, Assistant Engineers of LGED Messrs Md. Aminul Islam, Md. Mosarraf Hossain and Md. Feroz Alam Talukder participated in a Training Course on "Design, Fabrication, Erection and Maintenance of Portable Steel Bridges" held in Japan from 3 to 9 August 2008.

Mr. Sayeed Ahmed Baset and Mr. Md. Ansar Ali, Assistant Engineers of IWRM Unit, LGED attended a Training Course on "Sustainable Management of Irrigation and Drainage Project" held in Japan from 24 June 2008 to 22 November 2008.

Messrs Kabir Ahamed, Senior Assistant Secretary, Local Government Division, Md. Jan-E-Alam, Deputy Director, IMED, Md. Abu Yousuf Miah, Senior Assistant Chief, Planning Commission, Muhammed Mehedi Hassan, Deputy Registrar, Department of Co-operatives, Dr. Nitya Nanda Das, District Fisheries Officer, Mr. Moshir Rahman, Project Director, LGED, Executive Engineers of LGED Messrs A.K.M. Harun-Ur-Rashid, Md. Abdul Wadud, Md. Allah Hafiz, Md. Rafiqul Islam, Kazi Mizanur Rahman (Mizan) and Mr. S.M. Suhrab Uddin, Agronomist, LGED attended a "Seminar and Study Tour" in Bangkok, Thailand from 14 to 25 July 2008.

Mr. A.N. Shamsuddin Azad Chowdhury, Deputy Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Md. Abu Taher Khan,

Superintending Engineer, LGED, Mr. S.M. Abdus Salam, Executive Engineer, LGED, Upazila Engineers of LGED Messrs Shahab Uddin, Muhammad Shariful Islam, Md. Mehedi Hassan Khan, Masum Al Mamun and Assistant Engineer Md. Zulfikar Hossain attended the Training Course on "Planning and Implementation of Rural Roads" held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 7 to 18 July 2008.

## LGED Chapai Nawabganj awarded 1st Prize in Anti-Corruption Information Fair

An Anti-Corruption Information Fair, jointly organized by ACA & TIB, was held at Chapai Nawabganj from 21 to 23 July 2008. LGED Chapai Nawabganj, participating in that fair, was awarded the First Prize, a crest and a certificate for their stall that exhibited models of different development activities of LGED, information packages on development programmes and video-films. The award has obviously enhanced the goodwill of LGED.

## LGED engineers bid farewell to 3 retiring colleagues

Mr. Bashiruddin Ahmed, former Project Director, SSWRDSP, LGED, Mr. Torab Ali Khan, former Project Director, RTIP, LGED and Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed, former Executive Engineer, LGED Nilphamari were accorded a farewell reception by the engineers of LGED on 30 July 2008 at RDEC Bhaban in Dhaka on their retirement from the service. All the three retiring engineers are now enjoying a Leave Preparatory to Retirement.

Presided over by Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED the farewell meeting was also attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer (Implementation), LGED.

Speaking on the occasion as the chairperson Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan said, retiring from government services as per rules is a factual phase of life. He said, retirement from services is not an end in itself. Rather, it is a pleasant means to make a transit journey to another phase of life, he said. He also urged upon the retiring engineers to extend their knowledge, experience and acumen to the ever increasing development of LGED as and





Mr. Bashiruddin Ahmed, former PD, SSWRDSP, LGED, Mr. Torab Ali Khan, former PD, RTIP, LGED and Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed, former Executive Engineer, LGED were given a farewell reception on 30 July 2008 on their retirement from the service. Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED is seen delivering his address as Chairperson at RDEC Bhaban in Dhaka

when required. The Chief Engineer later handed over a bouquet of flowers and a token of gifts to each of them.

Earlier, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Allah Hafez, Executive Engineer, LGED Bogra, Mr. Abdul Quader, Project Director, RDP-25, Mr. Sayeedul Haque, Superintending Engineer (Admin), LGED, Mr. Md. Moshihur Rahman, Project Director, SSWRDSP, LGED spoke on the occasion highlighting the professional career and personal demeanour of the outgoing colleagues.

The three retiring senior engineers were also given the floor to make a trip down the memory lane of their long association with LGED and they recollected a good number of interesting anecdotes from the past.

### Govt. introduces poverty targeted stipend programme to address disparity in school access

After a pioneering and highly successful gender-targeted Female Secondary Stipend Programme, the Government of Bangladesh has now decided to introduce a poverty-targeted stipend programme to address large disparities across different income groups in secondary school access and quality in the new Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP) that covers 121 upazilas in the country under the Ministry of Education. To increase access and retention of poor girls and boys, SEQAEP will implement a pro-poor targeting of stipends and tuition programme through Proxy Means Testing (PMT). This was disclosed at a National Workshop on Proxy Means Testing held on 25 August 2008 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka.

It would be necessary to mention that PMT provides an alternative targeting scheme through a set of variables that are highly correlated with household poverty status but can be relatively measured and verified with ease.

Mr. A.T.K.M. Ismail, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education was the chief guest at the inaugural session of the workshop, while Mr. Xian Zhu, Country Director, the World Bank and Mr. Md. Mesbahuddin, Chief (Planning), Ministry of Education were present as special guests.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED, the inaugural session was also attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Sirajul Islam, Project Director, SEQAEP, Mr. M.A. Akhtar Hossain, PMT Coordinator, PMT Administration, LGED and Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED.

Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest Mr. A.T.K.M. Ismail said, the people of Bangladesh are mostly poor. The

government has therefore decided to introduce the PMT-based pro-poor targeting of beneficiaries to ascertain the appropriate poor people for their access to education, he said. He also said that LGED has been given the responsibility to serve as the PMT administrator, while Upazila Administration and Ministry of Education would remain as vital implementing partners.

Mr. Xian Zhu, in his address as the special guest said, it is an honour on the part of the World Bank to become a partner in the programme of PMT. He said, the workshop arranged happens to be very timely and relevant. He however hoped that the workshop would be able to disseminate the key messages of PMT on all stakeholders.

The other special guest Mr. Md. Mesbahuddin, Chief (Planning), Ministry of Education said, incentives for education to first generation people is very important.

Mr. Md. Sirajul Islam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education & Project Director, SEQAEP, said, involvement of the community people is very much needed to implement the PMT Project successfully.

Speaking as the chairperson Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED said, PMT is a computer based tool to identify the really poor students. He also said, LGED has already acquired the expertise and knowledge for data collection quite effectively in the past and would be able to do that in future as well.

Earlier, an address of welcome was delivered by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED. The workshop was largely attended by the engineers of LGED and representatives from DSHE who are directly involved in PMT.



Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED, chaired the National Workshop on Proxy Means Testing under SEQAEP on 25 August 2008 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka.





Adviser for LGRD&C, Labour & Employment, Textiles & Jute Ministries Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal is seen addressing as the chief guest at a seminar held in Dhaka on 11 August 2008. Mr. Md. Abdur Rashid Sarker, Secretary for Textiles & Jute was present as the Special Guest. The seminar on "Rural Roads Maintenance & Employment" was presided over by Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED.

### Seminar speakers stressed on production of mushroom and palm-oil for poverty reduction

Adviser for LGRD&C, Labour and Employment, Textiles and Jute Ministries Mr. M. Anwarul Iqbal speaking as the chief guest at a seminar held in Dhaka on August 11, 2008 said, to improve the pecuniary condition of the poverty stricken people of the country, co-operations from all quarters is needed. He said the government has taken measures to reinstate the defunct jute industries of the country for improvement of the jute industries and creation of employment opportunities. He further advocated for cultivation of mushroom and production of palm-oil in the country.

Mr. Md. Abdur Rashid Sarker, Secretary for Textiles & Jute was present on the occasion as the special guest. The seminar on "Rural Roads Maintenance & Employment," presided over by Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED was held at LGED HQs. The Adviser further said, cultivation of mushroom and production of palm oil could be made possible in Bangladesh if proper mass awareness is created and the products are made cost effective.

Speaking as the special guest at the seminar Mr. Abdur Rashid Sarker said it is expected that jute will regain its past tradition in the progress of economic welfare in the country. He said, we have to think over the future prospects of jute. He also said mass awareness is necessary for the cultivation and patronization of palm oil and mushroom.



A Landing Jetty, constructed at Shah Pari Island by LGED Cox's Bazar to facilitate the tourists travelling between Teknaf and St. Martin is shown above in the picture. The proper utilization of the jetty at Shah Pari Island has cut down the travel time by 3 hours.

The import expenditure on edible oil would be reduced to a great extent if we could establish the accessibility of palm oil produced in the country, he said.

Sheikh Md. Ruhul Amin, Project Director, Mushroom Development Project, Ministry of Agriculture presented a keynote paper on 'Development of Mushroom Cultivation in Bangladesh and Poverty Reduction'. Mr. Saif Ahmed, Project Director, Bangladesh Palm oil Development Project, Dhaka presented another paper on the project activities. Mr. Akmal Hossain, Project Director, REOPA Project, Local Government Division and Mr. Abu Taher Khan, Project Director, RERMP, LGED, presented two separate papers on 'Rural Employment in Public Properties' and 'Poverty Reduction through Rural Employment and Road Maintenance' respectively.

Later, Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer, LGED said as the chairperson, concerted efforts are necessary to achieve a success. He said, the interactive participation of the members attending the present seminar reflect a positive attitude towards the changed dissemination of ideas leading to creation of employment opportunities and increase of production.

The seminar was largely attended by the engineers of LGED, representatives of different NGOs and mediamen.

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