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Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser, inaugurated the Banani-Gulshan connecting bridge over Gulshan Lake in Dhaka city on 7 December 2008. Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal, Adviser for LGRD & Cooperatives, Mr. Shaikh Khurshid Alam, Secretary, Local Government Division and Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer, LGED were also present on the occasion.

Inside Pages

- ➔ Editor's Note
- ➔ More Danish assistance for Sidr affected areas
- ➔ Handing over technical equipment to LGED by JICA
- ➔ Chief Engineer inaugurates training course
- ➔ Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman takes over as new Chief Engineer of LGED
- ➔ LGED bids farewell to former Chief Engineer Mr. Md. Nurul Islam
- ➔ ADB Country Director's visit to LGED
- ➔ Foreign Mission
- ➔ Overseas Visit / Foreign Training
- ➔ Academic Feat

Chief Adviser hopes to make Dhaka City more habitable

Chief Adviser Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed hoped for making the city of Dhaka more habitable by chalking out an integrated planning through concerted efforts and ideas of all concerned including the Rajuk, the City Corporation, urban planners, designers and environmentalists of public and private sectors, the social elites and the stakeholders. He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the LGED constructed Banani-Gulshan connecting bridge over Gulshan Lake in the metropolis on 7 December 2008.

Chaired by Mr. Shaikh Khurshid Alam, Secretary, Local Government Division, the ceremony was also attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal, Adviser for LGRD and Cooperatives as the special guest.

Speaking as the chief guest Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed said, "Combination of the 15-year Strategic Transport Plan (STP) and Detailed Area Plan (DAP) for Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) would make the capital city modern and more livable." He said, the Banani-Gulshan Connecting Bridge would address the existing communication hazards and insurmountable traffic jams at the more significant areas of Banani, Gulshan, Baridhara and Badda in the city. He said,

the government planned to construct bridges over Gulshan Lake at different points to minimize the tormenting traffic pressure at the said areas. He further said, the construction of Banani-Gulshan Connecting Bridge was a part of that planning. The new bridge initiated by the Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives, is expected to greatly lessen the heavy traffic pressure on existing Mohakhali and Kamal Ataturk Avenue connecting roads.

Earlier, the Chief Adviser unveiled a plaque on the 306-meter long bridge which began from the earlier dead-end of Road No.11 of Banani and gave an alternate access to Gulshan across the lake. The bridge, costing Tk.22 crore and funded by the Government of Bangladesh, connects Road No.11 of Banani with Road Nos. 41, 43, 35 and 34 of Gulshan. The construction of the bridge was completed about 6 months ahead of the targeted 18 months.

Adviser Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal and Local Government Division Secretary, Mr. Shaikh Khurshid Alam also spoke on the occasion. Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer, LGED delivered a vote of thanks. Advisers, Special Assistants to the Chief Adviser and senior government officials were present at the inaugural gathering.

Editor's Note

LGED to build more cyclone shelters

November 15, 2007 was a black Thursday! A hurricane grade cyclone named 'Sidr' struck coastal Bangladesh with devastating impact. Over two million people including thousands of fishermen and farmers lost their valuable possessions. They became destitute overnight. It is claimed however that fewer died this time around compared to that of 1970 and 1991 because of early warning and timely evacuation. An estimated 10 million people live in Bangladesh's coastal areas. Most ordinary houses in rural areas are made of thatch, wood and tin which seem to be vulnerable to Nature's fury.

Over the last two decades, Bangladesh has embarked on a comprehensive programme to build more cyclone shelters. LGED has been constructing cyclone shelters and earthen fortresses in the coastal regions over the years. LGED's Cyclone Shelter Project, funded by IFAD, was designed to help the cyclone hit rural families. Under the project, 40 cyclone shelters had been constructed in Kutubdia, Chokoria, Anwara and Banskhali upazila. One earthen fortress (killa) for each cyclone shelter had also been created to protect the cattleheads, pets and domestic goods.

After the devastating cyclone of 1991, the Government of Japan granted assistance to construct 40 multi-purpose cyclone shelters. Later, during the second phase of the project 41 cyclone shelters were constructed. Besides, 82.50 km connecting roads were constructed under the project.

LGED has constructed 198 cyclone shelters with assistance from ADB, 108 cyclone shelters from GTZ funding, 81 cyclone shelters with JICA assistance, 195 Union Parishad Complex-cum-cyclone shelters with GOB fund and 25 cyclone shelters from IDA-IFAD fund. LGED has constructed till date 607 cyclone shelters.

In near future, LGED is committed to construct 36 more cyclone shelters with JICA Grant and 50 more cyclone shelters to be funded by World Bank. Besides, 350 old cyclone shelters would be taken up for maintenance.

LGED believes in theory and practice of building better infrastructure – roads, bridges, shelters, embankments, communications and transportation – using appropriate technology and locally produced materials. LGED is committed to ensure the safety and security of the people in the coastal regions through building more and more cyclone shelters.

Denmark Govt. keen to rebuild Sidr-affected infrastructure

His Excellency Mr. Einar Hebogard Jensen, the Honorable Ambassador of Denmark in Bangladesh laid the foundation stone of Bangladesh-Denmark Friendship Bridge at Kalapara in Patuakhali district on 1 December 2008. The bridge would be constructed by LGED as part of Danish support to rehabilitate roads and bridges damaged by the devastating cyclone Sidr in November 2007. It may be mentioned here that 8 more large bridges in Patuakhali and Barguna districts are under construction under Sidr programme of the Govt. of Denmark. These bridges will be constructed by RRMAIDP of LGED.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, the Danish Ambassador said, immediately after last year's cyclone Sidr, the Embassy of Denmark together with development partners assessed the damages in a bid to provide support through the sector programmes in agriculture and rural roads as well as water sanitation for helping the Sidr affected people in Bangladesh. He said Bangladesh-Denmark Friendship Bridge would be one of the biggest bridges (around 100 m) under the Sidr rehabilitation programme.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer, LGED the foundation laying ceremony of Bangladesh-Denmark Friendship Bridge at Kalapara was also attended by, among others, Mr. Reaz Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Patuakhali, Mr. Harun-ur-Rashid, Senior Programme Officer, Danish Embassy, Dhaka and Mr. Humayun Sikdar, Chairman, Kalapara Pourashava.

In his address as chairperson Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer, LGED said, Denmark is a good friend of Bangladesh since long. He said, immediately after the severe devastation caused by the cyclone 'Sidr' in November 2007, DANIDA has been extending support to

the helpless people of the affected areas and declared to assist rebuilding the damaged infrastructure to restore the connectivity.

Earlier, in an address of welcome, Mr. Md. Matiar Rahman, Project Director, RRMAIDP, LGED said, in consideration of the plight of the SIDR-hit people of Patuakhali district the Government of Denmark took a prompt action to construct the 100-meter long RCC bridge at Kalapara. He said, the bridge would help improve the socio-economic condition of the people of 6 unions under Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

Mr. Md. Reaz Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Patuakhali and Mr. Humayun Sikdar, Chairman of Kalapara Pourashava also spoke on the occasion.

JICA hands-over technical equipment to LGED to strengthen Japan-Bangladesh Cooperation

The new JICA, a very recent amalgamation of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), handed over a number of sophisticated technical equipment to different units of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) on 23 October, 2008 at LGED Headquarters in Dhaka. Earlier, Mr. Eiichiro Cho, Additional Resident Representative, JICA Bangladesh and Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED, formally signed an agreement with the provision of handing over of equipment for the FY 2007-2008 at the 9th Working Group Meeting of Rural Development Engineering Centre (RDEC) Project (Phase-II).



Danish Ambassador in Bangladesh laid the foundation stone of Bangladesh-Denmark Friendship Bridge at Kalapara, Patuakhali on 1 December 2008



Adviser for Primary & Mass Education Begum Rasheda K. Choudhury inaugurated the PTI Complex in Panchagarh on 25 december 2008. The PTI Complex has been constructed by LGED within the stipulated time of 18 months at a cost of Tk. 778.69 lakh. Mr. Mohammad Nazrul Islam Khan Dorector General, PMED & Mr. Mohammad Lohkman Hakim, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Cho expressed his deep sorrows at the sad demise of Engr. Quamrul Islam Siddique who was the founder Chief Engineer of LGED and a champion of rural infrastructure development in Bangladesh. He said, in spite of the fact that our hearts bleed with the detachment of a personality like Quamrul Islam Siddique, we have to recover ourselves from the great shock to progress further. He also said, the prime objective of handing over equipment to LGED is to develop the capacity building of the engineers working in RDEC Project.

In response to Mr. Cho's observations, the Additional Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Rahman conveyed his gratitude to the new JICA for their generous cooperation to the requirements of the LGED for the upliftment of skill and performance of the LGED workforce. He also recalled that JICA actually began to initiate and provide technical assistance programmes to LGED ever since January 2003 to develop capacity building of the engineers and technicians. JICA has provided sophisticated technical equipment like GPS Receiver, HP A3 Printer, CBR cum Marshall, Digital Compression Machine,

Automatic Proctor Compactor, Software for pile and Pre-stressed Girder Design, etc. to the different units of LGED.

LGED Chief Engineer inaugurates a training course for design engineers

A week-long training course on 'Pile Foundation Design' was formally inaugurated by Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer, LGED on 16 November 2008 at RDEC Bhaban in LGED Headquarters premises in Dhaka. Jointly organized by LGED and JICA,



Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer, LGED is seen inaugurating a training course on 'Pile Foundation Design' organized by LGED and JICA for LGED engineers on 16 November 2008.



Mr. Eiichiro Cho, Additional Resident Representative, JICA Bangladesh is seen handing over documents of equipment to Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED on 23 October 2008

the inaugural session of the training course was also attended by, among others, Mr. Koji Yamada, Chief Project Advisor, Strengthening of Activities in RDEC Project, JICA and Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED and Project Director, Strengthening of Activities in RDEC Project, LGED. Speaking at the inaugural session Mr. Koji Yamada said, one of the major objectives of the Strengthening of Activities in RDEC Project was to develop the capacity building of the Design Engineers of LGED. He said, JICA had given priority to arrange the training course on pile foundation design to make the foundation works for any bridge construction more sound and durable.

Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said in his address, the prime objective of this special course is to equip the engineers of LGED in Design Unit with technical know-how of designing for better performance and skill to guard against failure of foundation in the construction of bridges in future. He also expressed his gratitude to JICA and said, this type of special training incurring a huge cost has been made feasible by JICA on their own initiatives. He urged upon the trainees to make the best use of the course.

In his address as chairperson of the session Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer, LGED said, pile foundation for construction of bridges should be durable and eco-friendly. In no way, bridges should hinder the flow of water and cause siltation at the river bed, he said.

A sizeable number of Assistant Engineers and Upazila Engineers of LGED from the field levels attended the said course.

Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman – New Chief Engineer of LGED



Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer assumed the charge of the post of Chief Engineer LGED with effect from 28 December 2008. Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, former Chief Engineer, LGED went on LPR with effect from 29 December 2008.

Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman was born on December 12, 1953 at village Joshpur, P.O. Meshtoli Bazar, Upazila Chouddagram, District Comilla. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Chittagong Engineering College in 1977. He did his Masters of Science in Irrigation Engineering from the Southampton University, UK in 1987.

Mr. Rahman joined LGED as an Executive Engineer in 1982. Later he became Project Director from 1993 to January 2002. He was promoted as Superintending Engineer in 2002 and became Additional Chief Engineer on 1 January 2008. Mr. Rahman received ADB's Performance Recognition Award as a Project Director of TRIDP in 2001, 2002 and 2003. He also received ADB's Annual Award for outstanding performance in project implementation as Project Coordinator of Emergency Flood Damaged Rehabilitation Project Part A: Rural Infrastructure in 2005.

Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman travelled to Australia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Tanzania, Pakistan, Italy, USA, Nepal, New Zealand, India, South Africa, Greece, UK., Sweden, Germany, France, Denmark and Indonesia to attend seminars, conferences and loan negotiation meetings on official assignments.

Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman is actively associated with many professional organisations. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh and was elected council member of the Central Committee of IEB in 2008. He is also a member of External Forum on Gender and Development, ADB, Manila and American Society of Civil Engineers, USA. Mr. Rahman is holding the post of Vice President of JICA Alumni Association, Bangladesh.



Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, the new Chief Engineer of LGED, is handing over a bouquet of flowers and a crest of honour to the outgoing Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Nurul Islam at a farewell meeting held on 28-12-2008.

LGED bids farewell to former Chief Engineer Mr. Md. Nurul Islam

Engineers and colleagues of former Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Nurul Islam bade him farewell at a formal meeting on 28 December 2008 at LGED Headquarters in Dhaka.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, the newly appointed Chief Engineer of LGED, the farewell meeting was also attended by, among others, Messrs. Md. Lokman Hakim, Md. Anwarul Haque, Md. Amirul Morshed and Najmul Hassan, Additional Chief Engineers, LGED. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, the outgoing Chief Engineer said, the appointment of Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman as the new Chief Engineer of LGED is very significant when a new political government of the country is going to fulfil the aspirations of the people. He said, LGED is a well-established organization and its goodwill has to be retained and shared by all concerned working in this organization. He confidently said that the new leadership of LGED would steer its management quite competently following the motto of team spirit.

Later, speaking as the chairperson, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said, LGED should march ahead keeping its hard-earned goodwill high up in the air. He however asked the employees to refrain from doing anything detrimental to the organization. He appealed to all in LGED to work hand in hand for the greater interest of the government and the people inspite of difference of opinions among themselves. The newly appointed Chief Engineer said, for proper implementation of every project a planning discipline has to be followed and cost effectivity and quality

control measures have to be guaranteed. He also spoke high on the professional excellence of his predecessor Mr. Md. Nurul Islam and prayed for his good health and peace of mind. Earlier, a bouquet of flowers and a crest of honour were handed over to the outgoing Chief Engineer Mr. Md. Nurul Islam on behalf of the engineers and employees of LGED by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman.

The farewell meeting, largely attended by the engineers and employees of LGED Headquarters, was rounded off with a 'doa' session led by the Pesh Imam of LGED mosque.

Obituary

Mr. Md. Shahriar Khan, Executive Engineer, IWRM, LGED died of cancer on 24 December 2008 in Dhaka (InnalillahiRajun). His mortal remains was brought to LGED HQ and later a Namaje Janaza was held after Johor prayer. He was buried in Dhaka.



Mr. Shahriar was born in Narsingdhi on March 14, 1964. He passed his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from CUET in 1987. Mr. Shahriar obtained his Masters degree in Water Resource Management from Netherlands. Mr. Shahriar joined LGED on November 4, 1989.

New ADB Country Director impressed to visit LGED

Mr. Paul J. Heytens, the new Country Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Bangladesh, visited the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Headquarters in Dhaka on 13 November 2008.

Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer, LGED welcomed Mr. Heytens warmly at an informal meeting and introduced the senior engineers and Project Directors of LGED to him and invited him to witness a modest presentation on LGED activities over the years.

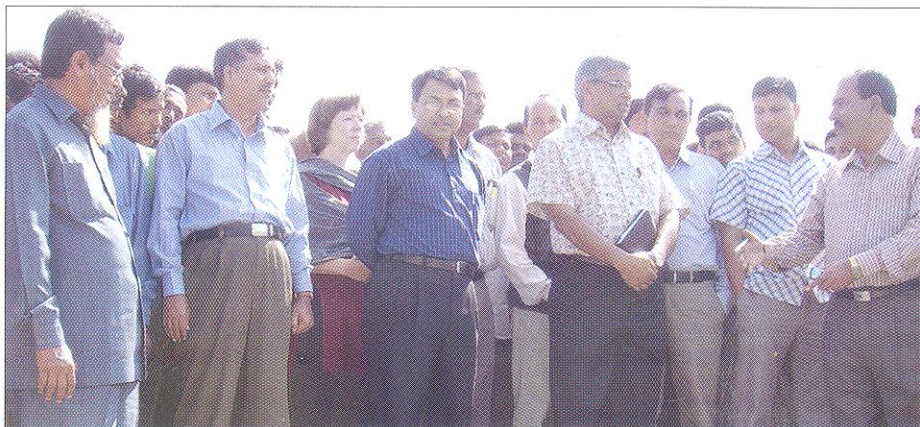


New ADB Country Director Mr. Paul J. Heytens visited LGED Headquarter to exchange views with the senior officials of LGED on 13 November 2008.

Speaking on the occasion, the Country Director of ADB said, LGED has the reputation of being the best executing agency in Bangladesh for the implementation of development projects. Mr. Heytens said, he has been pleased to learn that all the projects under ADB assistance were progressing well in LGED. He said, that the relationship between ADB and LGED would be

ADB's assistance in LGED's projects is very significant in terms of physical improvement, institutional development, empowerment of women, strengthening capacity of LGIs, generation of employment and establishment of good governance at local grassroot levels.

ADB's Country Director was later taken round various units of LGED Headquarters.



A four-member Joint Review Mission from ADB, KfW and GTZ are seen inspecting a Boat Landing Ghat constructed by RIIP-1 in Pirojpur district.

strengthened further in days to come.

Later, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer of LGED, delivered a presentation on the brief history of LGED's evolution from the Comilla Model of Rural Development of the 1960s down to its present status including current activities.

Mr. Rahman said, the activities of LGED are classified into 3 major sectors: (i) Rural Infrastructure Development, (ii) Small Scale Water Resources Development and (iii) Urban Infrastructure Development.

As regards ADB Assistance to LGED, Mr. Rahman said, at present a total number of 41 projects at a total cost of 1530.53 millions US dollars are being implemented by LGED. LGED has completed 24 projects already, while there are 10 on-going projects and 7 projects remain in the pipeline. He said,

the Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP-I) covering eight districts in Khulna and Barisal divisions from 20 November to 30 November 2008. Headed by Mr. Rafiqul Islam, ADB Project Implementation officer, the other members of the Mission were Ms. Ferdousi Sultana, Social Development and Gender Officer of ADB, Mr. Christoph Isenmann, KfW Regional Director and Ms. Stefanie Halfmann GTZ, Implementation officer.

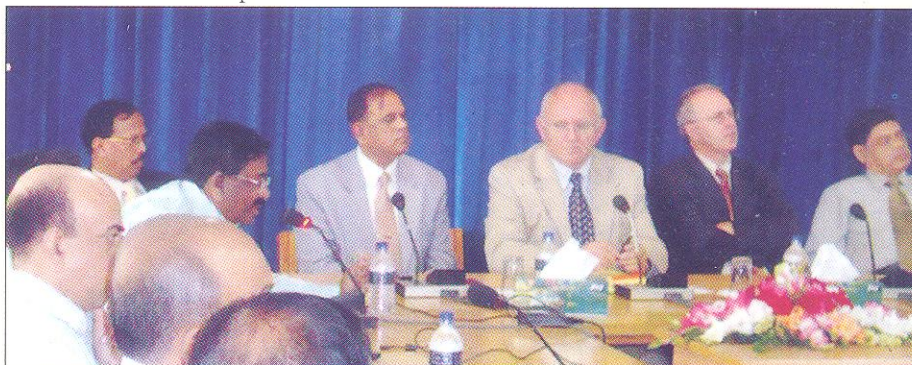
The Mission inspected the ongoing and completed road improvement and bridge construction works, performance-based maintenance schemes, district mobile maintenance teams, UP complexes and tree plantation/nursing procedures. The Mission also visited several Union Councils being strengthened under the RIIP-1 as well as growth centres (including women market sections) and boat landing ghats improved under this project. The Mission found that project implementation pace is on track and expressed satisfaction over the quality of works. The Mission also expressed its appreciation about the successful presentation of the women market sections, and the strengthening of local governance through coaching of 105 pilot Union Parishads.

World Bank Sector Manager (Transport), South Asia Region visits LGED HQ : During his tour to Bangladesh Mr. Michel, Sector Manager (Transport), South Asia Region paid a visit to the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Dhaka on 11 November 2008 to apprise himself of the diversified development activities of the organization.

Welcoming the Sector Manager Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer said World Bank and LGED have a long history of cooperation and friendship extended over more than twenty years in the field of rural development in Bangladesh in alleviating poverty. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED in his speech recollected with gratitude World Bank's consistent support in establishing rural accessibility. Mr. Rahman

Foreign Mission

Joint ADB/KfW/GTZ Review Mission visited LGED's RIIP-1 : A four member Joint Review Mission from ADB, KfW and GTZ carried out a comprehensive review of



Mr. Michel, Sector Manager, World Bank paid a visit to LGED Headquarters on 11 November 2008 and exchanged views with the officials of LGED.

also mentioned that World Bank was profusely generous in assisting institutional reforms and development.

Earlier, Mr. Md. Abdul Quader, Project Director, RTIP LGED delivered a brief and interpretative presentation on the evolution of the LGED dating back from the 'Comilla Model' of rural development as early as in the 1960s.

After the briefing session, Mr. Michel visited the different units of LGED, especially to see for himself the demonstration of Satellite Image Analysis at the GIS Unit and IRI Auto Data processing at the Maintenance Unit.

ADB's Special Project Administration Mission visited EDDRSP : An ADB Special Project Administration Mission visited LGED's EDDRSP: Part B to review different aspects of project implementation from 2nd to 14th December 2008. Headed by Mr. Ahmed Faruque, Senior Project Implementation Officer the Mission was comprised of Mr. Witton Tawisock, Transport Specialist and Mr. M. Nazrul Islam, Project Analyst, BRM, ADB. The Mission visited 8 subprojects in 3 project districts and observed rehabilitation programme of roads, bridges, culverts and protection works. The Mission was happy to observe the quality of works in all project districts. The ADB Mission expressed their satisfaction with the performance of Part-B under EDDRSP.

It may be mentioned here that the Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation (Sector) Project 2007, Part-B (EDDRSP) covers 23 districts under greater Barisal, Khulna, Jessore, Faridpur, Noakhali, Mymensingh and Rangpur districts. The major items of works in the project include rehabilitation of 5500 Km of Upazila and Union roads, rehabilitation of 5000 m of bridges/culverts on upazila and union roads and rehabilitation of 21 flood refuge/cyclone shelters and 30 km flood protection works.

Joint ADB, KfW and GTZ Mission Reviewed RIIP-II: A joint Project Review Mission of Asian Development Bank (ADB)



An ADB Mission is seen visiting a project site under EDDRSP of LGED.

and German Development Cooperation (KfW and GTZ) reviewed the overall progress of the Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP-II) from 23 September to 5 October, 2008.

Headed by Mr. Arun Kumar Saha, Project Implementation Officer, ADB, Dhaka, other members of the Mission were Mr. Christoph Isenmann, Director, Mr. Habibur Rahman, Senior Programme Manager, both are attached with KfW Dhaka and Ms. Stefanie Halfmann, Implementation Officer, GTZ Office, Dhaka. During their stay, the Mission members visited upazila roads, union roads, village roads, markets, UPCs and on-going UP coaching under TC in Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Dinajpur districts.

During the visit, the Mission held meetings with market traders and other stakeholders, Market Management Committees (MMC), UP representatives for their roles towards poverty reduction. The Mission also observed the TC training course on Gender and Development for LGED Officials at Lalmonirhat.

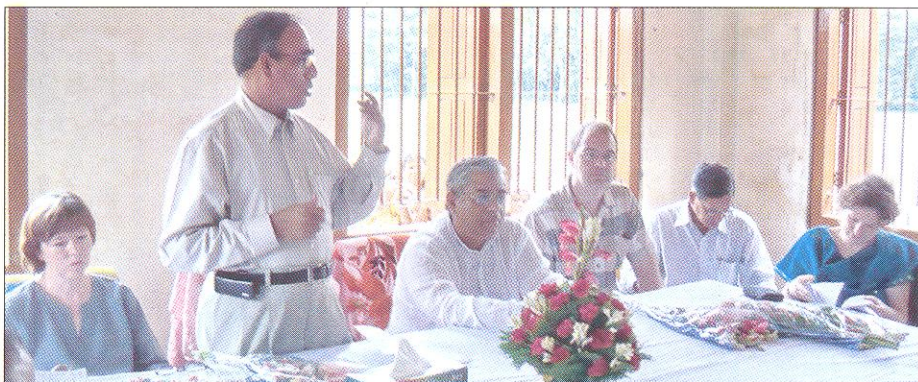
The Project Review Mission also had a meeting with the Chief Engineer of LGED, Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Additional Chief Engineer (Implementation) Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman and Additional Chief Engineer

(Maintenance) Mr. Mohammad Lokman Hakim. They discussed matters relating to project activities. The Mission also held discussions with project implementation officials, namely Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Project Director, Dr. Cornelia L. Kuhnle, Principal Adviser/TC Team Leader, Mr. Jan Bergdahl, Team Leader, DSM Consultant and Mr. A.M.M. Khairul Bashar, Team Leader, IS Consultant, RIIP-II.

The wrap-up meeting was held on 5 October, 2008 under the chairmanship of Shaikh Khurshed Alam, Secretary, Local Government Division, Ministry of LGRD&C participated by several Steering Committee members, all Mission members, LGED Chief Engineer and other high officials.

The Mission witnessed enthusiasm, commitment and determination amongst the implementing staff, consultants and project beneficiaries. The Mission expressed conviction that through proactive action and appropriate timely measures from LGED and the consultants the project will be able to make its headway.

Joint Review Mission Visited Second Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project : A joint loan review mission of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Embassy of the Netherlands, Dhaka reviewed the overall progress of the implementation of Second Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project from 17 November to 27 November 2008. The Mission visited five subprojects in Jessore, Khulna, Narail and Faridpur districts, discussed and exchanged views with the community people in the field and interacted closely with the Project employees and the Government officials of the Executing Agency. During the visit the Mission underscored the overall Project



A Joint Project Review Mission of ADB, KfW and GTZ are seen exchanging views with representatives of Bahagili UP at Kishoreganj upazila of Lalmonirhat district under RIIP-II.

progress, status of contract awards and disbursements, time extension for project completion, GON grant fund utilization, status of last action plan and new agreed time bound action plan and so on.

The Mission observed with satisfaction the improvement in physical progress since the last review mission. The Mission recommended that LGED should take necessary measures to expedite payments to LCS groups, that special effort be made to issue pending work orders for civil works for structures construction and to resolve all outstanding land acquisition problems and expedite all outstanding land payments to affected land owners. The Mission further recommended that LGED should take all necessary measures to fully utilize the upcoming dry season to complete 290 subprojects by 31 December 2009 to allow joint O&M works before they are handed over to the WMCAs. Later, on 27 November a wrap-up meeting was held with Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Joint Secretary, Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives in the Chair and the draft Aide-Memoire was finalized incorporating therein the comments of the participants.

Consultation Mission on Participatory Small Scale Water Resources Project :

The Government of Bangladesh has applied for a sector loan from the Asian Development Bank, grant cofinancing from the Government of the Netherlands and loan financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, for the implementation of the Participatory Small Scale Water Resources Project (PSSWRP). A Consultation Mission visited Dhaka on 23 November to review further progress of Project details following fact-finding Mission and to support loan processing. The Mission held meetings with key persons of LGED, Department of Co-operatives, and Bangladesh Water Partnership, and the co-financing partners from the Embassy of the Netherlands. The Mission focused on the issues on progress of Development Project Proforma (DPP), preparatory actions for establishing Project Implementation office, institutional strengthening of department of cooperatives, social safeguards-involuntary resettlement, advance action for recruitment of consultants and system performance enhancement and mobilizing potential of WMCAs and so on.



A Joint Review Mission of ADB and the Embassy of Netherlands in Bangladesh are exchanging views with the stakeholders on the implementation process of SSWRDSP-2.

Overseas Visit / Foreign Training

- Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Joint Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Md. Abu Syeed Fakir, Deputy Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Mr. Md. Nazmul Hasan and Mr. Md. Abu Taher Khan, Superintending Engineers, LGED and Mr S.K. Amzad Hossain, Project Director and Mr. Hasan Kabir Khasru, Deputy Project Director, LGED participated in the International Training Course on "Urban Drainage & Solid Waste Management" held in Australia from 01 to 12 November 2008.
- Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED participated in the Conference on "9th Session of the External Forum on Gender and Development (EFT)" held in Manila, Philippines from 15 to 17 October, 2008.
- Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed and Mr. Md. Nurullah, Project Directors of LGED participated in the Training Course on "The Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum" held in China from 03 to 06 November 2008.
- Mr. A.A.M. Nasihul Kamal, Deputy Secretary, Local Government Division, Messrs. Mohd. Azizul Haque, Director, Urban Management Support Unit, LGED, Ali Ahmed, Project Director and Ms. Sultana Naznin Afroze, Deputy Project Director, Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Project (UPPRP), LGED, participated in "The Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum" held in China from 03 to 06 November 2008.
- Messrs. Md Mominul Haque, Project Director, District Towns Infrastructure Development Project, Anwar Hossain, Project Director, Upazila Towns Infrastructure Development Project and Mr. Faruque Nurur Rashid, Deputy Project Director, LGED participated on the "Solid Waste Management Conference" held in Malaysia from 27 October to 04 November 2008.
- Messrs. Md. Jasim Uddin, Partha Pradip Sarker, Shamsuddin Molla, Assistant Engineers, LGED and Mr. Abdur Rahim, Sub Assistant Engineer, LGED attended the Training Course on "Passenger Lift Installation, Operation and Maintenance" in SCHINDLER, China from 04 to 13 October 2008.

Academic Feat



Kazi Saiful Kabir passed the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Programme from the Bangladesh Open University and obtained CGPA 2.85 out of 4. Mr. Kabir graduated in Civil Engineering from Khulna University of Engineering and Technology in 1001. He joined LGED in 1994.



Adviser for LGRD & Cooperatives Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal is seen enquiring the welfare of women workers of RERMP under LGED on 2 December 2008 during his visit to the project sites in Rangpur and Panchagarh districts.

Govt. keen to improve livelihood of women workers under RERMP

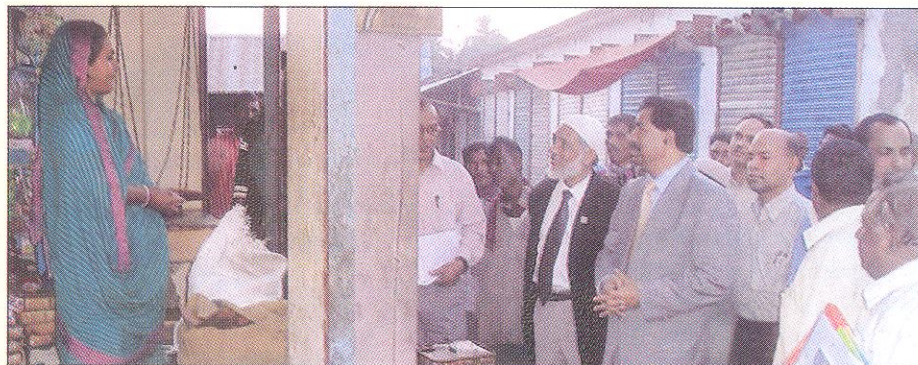
Adviser for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal visited Rangpur and Panchagarh districts on 2 December 2008 to see for himself the progress of Rural Employment & Road Maintenance Programme (RERMP) being implemented by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). During his visit the Adviser showed keen interest in inspecting the maintenance of Bamondighi-Harati road at Taraganj upazila of Rangpur district and enquired to know whether the distressed women employed under the project for road maintenance are getting their wages properly or not. The Adviser also had interacted with the women employees under the project at Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh district and wanted to know if the implementation of the said project has been wielding a positive impact on their livelihood. The women employees under the project expressed their deep sense of gratitude to the government for undertaking such a generous programme from the government's own fund.

RERMP began functioning from June 2008 in a bid to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDE) in the perspective of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan (PRSP) of the government. The five-year project (2008-2013) would create an employment opportunity for about 52 thousand distressed women for maintenance of roads measuring nearly 98 thousand kilometers at 4490 unions of the country at a cost of Tk.943 crore. The two-pronged objectives of the project is to maintain rural roads and to bolster income generating programmes and training.

The project proforma reveals that ten women from the each union of the country would work under this project. But for the poverty-prone districts in the northern zone of Bangladesh the mode of recruitment would be different. For 342 unions of 5 districts in northern Bangladesh, 30 distressed women from each union would be employed under the project. All the women workers in RERMP would get Tk.90/- as daily wage and they would undergo necessary training courses on income generation. But only 60% of the daily wage, that is Tk.54/-, would be given to them on every working day and the rest amount of Tk.36/- would be deposited everyday in a 5-year term savings account to be operated by each individual. The mandatory daily saving, it is said, would turn out to be a liquid asset of Tk.75,000/- including the interest after 5 years. On termination of the project, the women employees are expected to make the switch all by themselves to some other income generating profession and become self-sufficient with that accumulated saving.

Secretary Local Government Division visited project site of RDP-25

Mr. Shaikh Khurshid Alam paid a visit to different project sites of LGED's RDP-25 on 26 November 2008. The Secretary inspected Haibatpur Growth Centre and a newly built Union Parishad Complex in Jessore Sadar Upazila. This include an upazila road with roadside tree plantation, a growth centre with women market section, water supply connection from arsenic-free deep tube well. The Secretary was briefly apprised of the achievement of RDP-25. He held discussions with the shop owners, market users, Union Parishad Chairperson and members. The Secretary expressed his satisfaction regarding various measures taken by RDP-25 for the rural infrastructure development in Jessore Sadar Upazila.



Mr. Shaikh Khurshid Alam, Secretary, Local Government Division is seen visiting a women's corner of RDP-25 under LGED in Jessore Sadar Upazila on 26 November 2008.