



Minister for LGRD & C Syed Ashraful Islam MP is addressing a meeting of the district level officials in Kishoreganj on August 9, 2009. Chief Engineer LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman and Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj, Mr. Md. Shah Kamal are seen on the dais.

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## Concept of Digital Bangladesh to be disseminated into new generation - LGRD & C Minister

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives Syed Ashraful Islam, MP, directed the district level officials of Kishoreganj district to expedite the requisite development works of the district urgently. He was speaking as the chief guest in a meeting held on 9 August 2009 at the Conference Room of Kishoreganj Deputy Commissioner's Office.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Shah Kamal, Deputy Commissioner, Kishoreganj, the meeting was attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, Principal Dipak Kumar Nag of Govt. Gurudayal College, Mr. Serajul Islam, CEO, District Council, Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman, Chief Engineer of Public Health Engineering Department, Mr. Bhanulal Das, Superintendent of Police, Kishoreganj, Alhaj Abu Taher Mia, Mayor, Kishoreganj Paurashava and Dr. Abdul Haque, Civil Surgeon, Kishoreganj. The district level officials present in the meeting appraised the minister on the development and law & order situation of the district.

The minister said, law of the land will be equitably applicable for all and no hooliganism will be

tolerated. He however assured the people of Kishoreganj that arrangements for development of the district will be made.

The Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman in his address said, for the development of Kishoreganj district, LGED's efforts would be reflected in the implementation of Greater Mymensingh Development Project and ADB funded Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project-2 (RIIP-2). He also said, a proposal of Tk.804 crore project for the development of haors has already been submitted. Besides, Kishoreganj district will also be benefitted by the ongoing LGED's UGIIP and Small Scale Water Resources Sector Development Project of Greater Mymensingh, he said.

Later, in another meeting with the members of the District Lawyers' Association, the Minister for LGRD & Cooperatives said, the present government has come to power by giving slogans of changes and digital Bangladesh. He added, these concepts would have to be disseminated into the mindset of the younger generation. Earlier, he laid the foundation of the annexe building of Kishoreganj District Lawyers Association.





## Editor's Note

### LGED efforts to make 'char' people economically viable

A 'char' is a strip of sandy land rising out of the bed of rivers above water level. The eventual deposit of silts carried down by massive flow of water through Padma and Meghna river systems result in the formation of new landmass, popularly known as 'char' in Bangladesh. The victims of erosion in most cases settle down in 'chars' as settlers. They live in an adverse environment with limited economic buoyancy. This phenomenon had actually set the stage for 'char' development activities.

LGED was involved in the implementation of the First Char Development & Settlement Project (CDSP-I) that ran from 1994 to 1999 in three 'chars': Char Majid, Char Batirtek and Char Baggar Dona. Later, an incisive effort to improve the socio-economic condition of the landless and destitute 'Char' people of Bangladesh by creating employment opportunities had been in progress under CDSP-II of LGED. The project running from 1999-2005 included the districts of Noakhali, Feni, Lakshimpur and Chittagong.

Char Development & Settlement Project-III (CDSP-III) began in FY 2005-2006 and implemented the construction of 55 kilometers of rural roads, 4 bridges, 66 culverts, 18.75 kilometers of paved road, 20 cyclone shelters, 49 community ponds, 1 bus stand and 1 footbridge. CDSP-III has been implemented in the Boyar Char Island on the north of Hatiya Upazila under Noakhali district. The area of Boyar Char is around 6600 ha with 8500 families.

Just a decade ago, Boyar Char was a haven for the terrorists. Innocent people living in the area were treated as hostages by the terrorist groups. Extortions, murders, lootings and violence to women were the order of the day. The situation, however, got improved with concerted efforts taken by the local administration, police and community people.

Following the intervention by LGED's CDSP-III the communication network of Boyar Char has improved. Earlier, Boyar Char was detached from Noakhali mainland by the river Hatiya. At present, a couple of bridges constructed by LGED has linked the char with the mainland.

The improvement in the communication sector has enhanced the mobility of the 'Char' people. Transportation of commodities has become faster. Marketization of agricultural produces has been accelerated and livelihood standard of the local people has improved a lot.

## ECNEC approves 5 projects for implementation by LGED

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved five development projects of LGED during the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

At the meeting held on 2 July 2009, five Upazila Road Development Project with a total cost of Tk.4515.00 lakh, to be funded by JDCF, was approved. The following meeting held on 7 July 2009 approved Bridges/Culverts Approach Road Development Project of Tk.18470.00 lakh, funded by GOB. The ECNEC meeting held on 21 July 2009 approved the Newly Created & River Eroded Upazila Bhaban Project at a cost of Tk.6545.00 lakh and Greater Faridpur Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project at a cost of Tk.55300.00 lakh. Both the projects will be funded by GOB.

At the meeting held on 11 August 2009, ECNEC approved Greater Barisal District Rural Communication & Markets Infrastructure Improvement Project (Barisal, Pirozpur, Bhola and Jhalokati) costing Tk.39750.00, to be funded by GOB.

The meeting held on 8 September 2009 approved Rehabilitation of Old Modhumati River & Improvement of Surrounding Areas of Gopalganj Paurashava Project, to be funded by GOB, at a cost of Tk.5525.00 lakh.

## Agricultural production increased through SSWRDSP

In 1996 LGED took up quite a challenging project titled 'Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project' to increase

agricultural and fish production through development of surface water resources. In between 1996 and 2002, 280 subprojects had been implemented in 129 upazilas of 37 districts under Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions and Greater Faridpur district under Dhaka division. Construction of 612 water control structures of different sizes (regulators, sluice-gates and culverts), digging and re-excavation of 1162 kms canals, and construction of 946 kms flood-control embankments have been completed under 280 subprojects. These structures have made flood management possible, checked water logging and extended irrigation facilities to 165,000 hectares of cultivated land. In consequence, production of crops on these land have increased to a great extent. Statistical references from 1999 to 2005 indicate that the implemented subprojects yield an additional 4,42,178 tonnes of cotyledonous crops and 480,218 tonnes of seedless crops and in 2005 the intensity of crops was increased from 171% to 182%. Inundated water-bodies and community water-bodies produced an additional 900 tonnes and 819 tonnes of fish respectively. Having achieved success till 2002 in the first phase, the project has been extended to 61 districts in its second phase. During the second phase, 300 more sub-projects will be implemented all over Bangladesh by 2009. It is expected that 144530 families depending on agriculture and 180,000 hectares of land will be benefited through this project.

The outstanding feature of the project is that it emphasizes on effective participation of the people at its every level. The project has wide-ranging programmes to institutionalize peoples' participation.



Kalapara-Patuakhali irrigation canal constructed by SSWRDSP





Flood proof submersible road being constructed by SCBRMP of LGED

Currently till March 2009, a total amount of Tk.4,96,27,710.00 has been credited to O&M fund for 292 sub-project under Second Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project as grant from the beneficiaries. Similarly, an amount of Tk.33,496,000.00 was accumulated from the grants out of 280 sub-projects during the First Phase of the Project. It is to be mentioned here that all earthworks of the sub-projects are done by the Labour Contracting Society (LCS) or contracted labour squads. LCS is formed by the community landless people.

The Water Management Societies take over the responsibilities of managing and maintaining the sub-project structures. LGED hands over the structures to the societies in true sense. So far the management and maintenance of 105 sub-projects are concerned, those were handed over to local beneficiaries are being patronized by the societies on their own initiatives and wealth. Implemented subprojects are making multifarious contributions to the socio-economic development in the project areas. To be more specific, the increased production in agriculture and fisheries is noteworthy.

Apart from those, the societies have earned significant progress in production and marketization of improved seed, increased use of bio-fertilizers and in reducing use of pesticides. The societies have also been handling micro-finances of about Taka 9,61,31,855.00. The Water Management Cooperative Societies are also making substantial contributions to the development of water, agriculture, fisheries and child development. The total number of members in 572 societies so far formed during the First and Second phase of the project is estimated to be 2,63,401. Nearly one-third of them are women. Some of the societies have child and juvenile members as well.

With the beginning of the current fiscal year, the societies have formulated an annual plan to reduce poverty in their areas and the nation building departments of the government have been assisting the societies at upazila and union levels with their resources and technology.

### **Sustainable livelihood development and poverty reduction programme for the Haor people by CBRMP of LGED**

Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) is being implemented by LGED in Sunamganj with funding from IFAD for a period of around 12 years that started in January 2003 and will be ended by June 2014. The total project period is divided into three phases: 2003- 2007, 2007-2011 and 2011-2014). The project is mandated for poverty reduction of 135000 poor households holding land below 2.5 acre. It follows a participatory community-based approach and dedicated to build capacity of the community to become self-reliant. Along with other supports CBRMP gives them training, orient them to build capital by saving in group and make them skill to invest in alternative livelihoods taking loan from their group savings and project credit line. The project is implementing its activities through five components, these are: 1) Labour intensive Infrastructure programme; 2) Fisheries development programme; 3) Agriculture and Livestock production development programme; 4) Micro-finance; and 5) Institutional support programme. CBRMP has meantime completed its 1st phase successfully and now is implementing the 2nd phase being close to its end. The project

is working in 9 upazilas of Sunamganj district covering 57 unions and 559 villages. The statuses of the project progress of different components are as follows:

Until June 30, 2009 under labour intensive infrastructural component the project has built 163 numbers of roads comprising total 165 Kms. and installed 2,098 numbers of tube-wells for providing drinking water facility to more than 70,000 households. Arsenic has been tested of suspected 1,204 tube-wells and found with 635, and to address the arsenic problem 102 SONO filters have so far been distributed on piloting basis. For better sanitation a total 56,119 water sealed latrines have been distributed to similar numbers of households. In 20 unions 20 numbers of Multipurpose Village Centres (MVC) have been constructed for the community so that they can make social gathering and take shelter during flooding. For road maintenance 178 poor women as length-person have been employed for a longer period of contract, and further the project has created 78,720 labour-days of employment for the poor by involving them in different construction works. The rural roads have brought major changes in people's livelihoods with many alternative scopes in formal and informal sectors.

As of June 2009 the fisheries development component a total 76 numbers of beels (18 are above 20 acre and 58 are below 20 acre) have been transferred to the Beel Users Group (BUG) through MoU with Ministry of Land and Ministry of Youth and Sports. A total 82 numbers of BUGs have been formed in which 21% members are women. 56 numbers of beels have been re-excavated by LCS and that have given employment to poor for 95,000 labour-days. 21 numbers of sanctuaries have so far been established on pilot basis to promote fish biodiversity. 20 numbers of beels have been brought under promoting swap forestry in haor area. Meanwhile Tk.7,098,093 revenue/lease value has been given by the BUGs to government and Tk.19,898,689 has been raised by selling fish and wage earning. A total 2,350 BUG members have meantime been trained in group and community fisheries management by the project. The fishers are no more wage labours in beels those are owned by others, but they are now making their earning harvesting their own beels. The component is working in close cooperation of Department of Fisheries (DOF) and Local Administration and has a target to transfer 300 beels to fisher community by the year 2011.



Till to date the agriculture and livestock production component has conducted around 3,926 numbers of demonstrations to promote improved varieties of crops. 144,857 numbers of livestock and poultry birds have been vaccinated and 17,156 numbers of cattle have been brought under de-worming programme under this component. A total 51 nurseries have so far been raised and those produced around 3 lac different varieties of plants. A total 1,800 Jujube plants have undergone budding and transferred to Baukul, Thakul and Applekul. At village level 170 numbers of vaccinators have been developed to ensure services for the community at door-step. A total 52,574 farmers have so far been trained in different improved technologies and management by this component.

The microfinance component until June 2009 has formed a total 2,465 Community Organisations (CO) of which 749 are male and 1,716 are female and they have raised Tk.714.54 Lac as their own savings of which Tk. 450.07 lac by women and Tk.264.47 Lac by men. A good quantity of amount around Tk.753.62 has been disbursed as loan from savings to 15,175 members and they invested that amount in different income generating activities. From project credit line through Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), a total 34,923 members of which 11,621 are men and 23,302 are women have taken loan amounting to Tk.2,228.41 Lac. The recovery rate of loan is 91%. A total 14174 CO members have so far been trained in different aspects for raising their capacity to become self-managed group.

Meanwhile 1st phase project performance has been reviewed by donor and IMED in 2007 and they have recognized the project as one of the successful projects to address the poverty in a very comprehensive manner. IMED has recommended that the project may be the model for other haor districts. If the present progress is continued, the project also hopes that it would be a model for poverty alleviation of the poor in haor area.

### UGIIP's impressive performance : a cursory glance

It has been learnt from the experience that development made cannot be sustained unless the subtle issues of good governance are addressed. Hence came the performance based Urban Governance & Infrastructure Improvement project (UGIIP) of LGED, which is being implemented phase-wise since July, 2003.



Bituminous carpeting work is in progress on Bangabadhu Road under Narayanganj Paurashava being implemented by LGED's UGIIP.

UGIIP concentrated on three major components. These were: Urban Infrastructure Improvement, Urban Governance Improvement and Capacity Building and Implementation assistance.

In urban infrastructure improvement there were 107 contract packages including 1 package of public toilets and 5 packages of water supply schemes in Laxmipur Paurashava. The 101 packages comprised of total 143.025 km of roads and 85.456 km of drains. The physical implementation of civil works for 22 paurashavas in Phase-I had already been completed.

The different component of civil works in Phase-II were Roads and Bridges; Storm Water Drains; Low-cost Sanitation; Solid Waste Management, Municipal Facilities (e.g. bus and truck terminals, kitchen markets and slaughter houses); Slum Improvement Projects etc. About 95% of the physical implementations of civil works had been completed in this Phase under 30 project paurashavas.

For improvement of governance status of the Paurashavas a lot of activities have been undertaken under the project in 5 (five) key result areas, collectively known as Urban Governance Improvement Action Program (UGIAP). These are citizen awareness and participation; women's participation, integration of the urban poor, financial accountability and sustainability and administrative transparency. All the 30 project paurashavas established their respective Town Level Coordination Committee (TLCC) and Mass Communication Cell (MCC). Each project paurashava established Gender and Environment Sub Committee headed by a female ward counsellor. All the project paurashavas conducted poverty reduction activities. 231 Slum Improvement Committee

(SIC) / Community Development Committees (CDC) and 1540 Primary Groups had been formed in the project paurashavas which is considered to be hundred percent achievement of the target. Upto June 2008, the total savings in these groups stands at Tk.21,078,813/-. Besides, micro credit had been distributed to 24900 poor families amounting to Tk.80,000,000/- and the average recovery rate is 97%.

Under the Project Paurashavas of UGIIP the tax collection increased gradually and in June 2008 it rose upto 81%. So far the Project had arranged training on various issues where 514 participants of different level of paurashavas staff and public representatives attended. Ward Level Coordination Committee had been formed in all project paurashavas. About 20% of the participants attending the WLCC meetings are female. All the UGIIP paurashavas established computerized tax record and computerized accounting system. PMO organized various training and orientation programmes for Mayors and Counsellors as well as Paurashava officials.

UGIIP's impressive performance has brought the Project Paurashavas and the inhabitants of the town closer to each other through formation of a 65-member Town Level Coordination Committee (TLCC), increased management capacity of the Paurashava staff, brought back speed, transparency and accountability through computerization of 4 (four) Activities of the Paurashavas, improved environment of the project towns, particularly in the selected slums, increased revenue generation of the Paurashava, leading to paying up dues of other organizations and has increased income generating activities of the women of slum areas.





Ms. Sarah Begum Kabari, MP, inaugurated the 210.15 meter long bridge in Kashipur Union under Fatullah upazila in Narayanganj district on July 4, 2009. Local elite and high officials of the administration were present during the inaugural ceremony.

It is worthwhile to mention here that in continuation with the performance based approach of UGIIP and its successful implementation of Phase-I and Phase-II the second Urban Governance and Infrastructure Project (UGIIP-2) has been launched from January 2009. Thirty five municipalities of Bangladesh have been incorporated in this Project.

### Laudable progress achieved under RIIP (RDP-25)

Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RDP-25) is an ADB assisted rural infrastructure improvement project with the Federal Republic of German Government (through KfW and GTZ) as co-financier with a total cost of US\$ 120.00m which started from July 2003. The project began its activities with a view to reduce the rural poverty through sustainable economic growth, rural development and improved infrastructure in 16 districts of south-west Bangladesh covering Khulna and Barisal Divisions. The main scope of the project components were: improvement of rural communications in terms of Upazila and Union roads and structures upon them enhancing rural market facilities, boat landing facilities and strengthening of local governments particularly for Union Parishads by constructing some functional buildings, capacity building of LGED and other local government institutions through training, and encouraging women to participate in all development activities of this project.

Within the original project duration (July 2003 to June 2009) the project achieved about 99.5% overall progress with a financial

progress of more than 95.4%. By June 2009 the project achieved 1210 km of Upazila Road, 99 km Union Road, 7425 m bridge/culverts, 68 growth center/market development, construction of 100 Union Parishad Complex, 85 boat landing ghats, 3 small ferry installation and 800 km road side tree plantation. A few civil work contracts are going to fulfill the 100% physical completion within this financial period. Moreover, 152,335 trainee days were offered for the capacity building of Union Parishad Strengthening, Improvement of Road Maintenance at Headquarters, district and Upazila level, assisting Market Management Committees and training of female shop owners and LCS members, implementing road safety campaigns. Beside this, through this project 44 Nos. of Training Manual have been prepared. Following the Study Reports for LGED as well as rural development project this project also prepared (i) Results of Baseline Survey under RIIP (RDP-25) in 2004 and February 2005, (ii) Report on Short Term Assignment on Road Safety, April 2005, (iii) Report on Short Term Assignment on Gender/Women Development, July 2005 (iv)

Environmental Assessment Guidelines for LGED projects, Draft Final Report, August 2005, (v) Results of Mid-Term Surveys on Benefit Monitoring & Evaluation (BME), October 2006, (vi) Results of Terminal Surveys on BME, Final Report, August 2009, (vii) Project Completion Report (PCR) for Development Partners, August 2009. Based upon the above mentioned Study Reports, some findings are given below : (a) Direct Employment created under RIIP (RDP-25) is 40,000 person years by mid-2009 of which 22% are female workers, (b) roadside jobs have increased from 69 to 158 per km of improved roads, (c) motorized traffic increased 140% on average, non-motorized traffic increased by 57% and number of pedestrians increased 86%, (d) travel time has been 69% lower on improved project roads, (e) lease value of improved GC/markets increased 228% under Khulna and 191% under Barisal division, (f) average Land Value of improved project roads/markets increased 88%, (g) Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) actually achieved more than 30% in Khulna and more than 20% in Barisal division, (h) the own revenue collection in Pilot UPs increased on average by 104% between 2004-2008. In view of the overall outstanding performances, this project achieved three times the best Annual Performance Recognition Award from ADB in the year 2005, 2007 and 2008.

On the basis of these achievements, the Asian Development Bank and other development partners expressed their satisfaction and they were pleased to announce a Third Sustainable Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project. In this respect, a three-member Fact Finding Mission from ADB already visited Bangladesh in May 2009. The SRIIP is under process.



Boat landing site constructed by RDP-25 of LGED at Jhalokati Sadar Upazila.



## Foreign Mission

### ADB's Project Review Mission for EDDRSP (Part-B):

An ADB Project Review Mission visited project sites of the Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation (Sector) Project 2007, Part-B: (EDDRSP) from 9 to 23 August 2009 to review different aspects of project implementation. The Mission comprised of Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Senior Project Implementation Officer as Mission Leader and Mr. M. Nazrul Islam, Project Implementation Officer, BRM, ADB. The Mission visited 9 subprojects in 6 project districts. The Mission visited rehabilitation of roads, bridge culverts and protection works. Mission was happy to observe quality work in all project districts as well as physical and financial progress achieved. The Mission was appraised about addressing different loan covenant by Part B : Rural Infrastructure Component. They expressed their satisfaction with the performance of Part-B under EDDRSP.

**WB Mission's Aide Memoire of RTIP discussed in Wrap-up Meeting:** A Wrap-up Meeting was held on 2 September, 2009 to discuss World Bank (IDA) Mission's Aide Memoire of the Local Government Engineering Department's (LGED) Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP) with Mr. Monzur Hossain, Secretary, Local Government Division in the chair.

The World Bank Mission was consisted of Messrs. M. Quazi (Sr. Transport Engineer/Task Leader), B. Ahmed (Sr. Financial Management Specialist, Consultant), T.K. Barua (Sociologist, Consultant), A.R. Khan (Flood Consultant), T. Hossain (Programme Assistant), Ms. R. Sultana (Project Analyst), and Ms. S. Ferdousi (Environment Specialist). The Mission was fielded in Dhaka from August 24 to September 3, 2009 to prepare the draft Aide Memoire that summarizes the findings related to the status of project implementation. The Mission confirmed the achievement of the Project Development Objectives (PDO) to be satisfactory.

The wrap-up meeting was attended by, among others, high GOB officials including the Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman.

Vital issues like Social and Environmental Safeguards were discussed in details at the meeting. Besides, Mission Findings and Agreements on the project's Flood Rehabilitation Component, Operational Risk Assessment, Financial Management,



ADB's Project Review Mission headed by Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Senior Project Implementation Officer is seen visiting a project site of EDDRSP. Mr. M. Nazrul Islam, Project Implementation Officer, BRM, ADB and Mr. Md. Zahidur Rahman Khan, Project Director, Part-B :Rural Infrastructure, EDDRSP were present, among others, during the visit.

Institutional Development Component, Local Government Capacity Building, Civil Works Component and Procurement were also discussed.

IFAD Mission visits SCBRMP : International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) undertook an Implementation Support Mission for the Sunamganj Community Based Resource Management Project (SCBRMP) of LGED from 10 September to 17 September 2009. The Mission comprised of Mr. Dev Nathan (Mission Leader), Ms. Girija Srinivasan (Credit and Community Mobilization Specialist), Mr. Niaz Ahmed Apu (Fisheries Management Specialist), and Mr. N. M. Sudhir (Financial Management Specialist). Following initial meeting with the Project Director Sk. Md. Mohsin of SCBRMP the Mission, along with others, met Mr. M A Mannan, Member of Parliament from Sunamganj 3 constituency and Mr. Md. Zahiruddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj. The Mission also had a meeting with Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED to discuss the main issues of the Mission. The Wrap-up Meeting of the Mission was held on 16 September 2009 chaired by Mr. Prasanta Bhushan Barua, Joint Secretary (Development), Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives.

## Training/Overseas Visit

- Mr. Monzur Hossain, Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Md. Nazmul Hasan, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED, Messrs Md. Mosharraf Hossain Moni, Mayor, Mirzapur Paurashava, Ekramul Hoque, Mayor, Mymensingh Paurashava and Mohd. Shahjahan, Mayor, Borguna Paurashava, Mr. Md. Abu Taher Khan, Superintending

Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Harun-or-Rashid Biswas, Senior Assistant Secretary, Local Government Division, Messrs Md. Mominul Huq (Momin), Project Director, LGED and Md. Nurullah, Project Director, LGED Messrs Md. Nur Hossain Howlader, Deputy Project Director, LGED and Md. Mohirul Islam Khan, Deputy Project Director, LGED, Mr. Shah Imam Ali Reza, Senior Assistant Chief, Programming Division, Planning Commission, Messrs Md. Abdul Gaffar, Adviser on Urban Planning and Management, GTZ, Abul Kalam Md. Saifuzzaman, Adviser on Training and Curricula Development, GTZ and Mohammad Hamidul Islam Chowdhury, Advisor on Urban Governance GTZ, attended a training course on "Governance Improvement Strategies" held in Berlin, Germany from 18 July to 01 August, 2009.

- Messrs Iftekhar Ahmed, Project Director, LGED, Ashadul Haque, Deputy Director, CMSU, LGED, Abdul Wahid, Deputy Director, RMSU, LGED, Krishnapada Sarkar, Deputy Director, RMSU, LGED, Md. Tauhidul Islam, Assistant Director, CMSU, LGED, Messrs. Khaja Miah, Senior Assistant Secretary, Local Government Division and Md. Oliullah, Senior Assistant Secretary, Local Government Division, Messrs Md. Zasim Uddin Arzu, Assistant Engineer, Lalmohon Paurashava, Bhola and A.S.M. Salahuddin, Accountant, Nawapara Paurashava, Jessore participated in a study tour on "Short Span Study Trip" held in Thailand and Malaysia from 16 to 25 August 2009.

- Messrs Abul Monzur Md. Sadeque, Senior Assistant Engineer and Khan Muhammad Nazim Uddin, Assistant Engineer of LGED attended the training course on 'Participatory Irrigation Management System' in Japan from 26 May 2009 to 24 July 2009.





Alhaj Advocate Fazle Rabbi Miah, MP, laid the foundation stone of a 34-meter bridge at Saghata Upazila adjacent to Uttar Sathalia Model Village under Gaibandha district on 3 July 2009. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED was present on the occasion, among others. The bridge will be constructed by LGED

## Nationwide pro-poor secondary education to be ensured

Speakers at a National Orientation Workshop on Proxy Means Testing (PMT) under Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP) of the Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education (DSHE) unanimously stressed the significance of ensuring a nation-wide pro-poor quality secondary education in the country. Jointly organized by SEQAEP and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), the workshop was held on August 16, 2009 at RDEC Bhaban, LGED Headquarters in Dhaka. Chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED the inaugural session of the workshop was attended by, among others, Professor Md. Noman ur Rashid, Director General, DSHE, Mr. Nurul Hoque Mozumder, Chief (Planning), Ministry of Education, Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, Consultant (Education), World Bank and Mr. Md. Badiul Alam, Project Director, SEQAEP.

It may be mentioned here that after a pioneering and highly successful gender-targeted Female Secondary Stipends Program, the Government of Bangladesh has now decided to introduce a poverty-targeted stipend program to address large disparities across different income groups in secondary school access and quality in the new SEQAEP that covers 121 upazilas in the country. Proxy Means Testing (PMT) is a novel device to identify the poor girls and boys using a set of individual, household and community variables.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the workshop, the Director General of DSHE Professor. Md. Noman ur Rashid said, the prime objective of the project is to identify the authentic dropouts in the secondary education.

Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, Consultant (Education) of World Bank said, Bangladesh is the first country in the region to adopt Proxy Means Testing (PMT) as a rigorous and transparent targeting mechanism to identify poor beneficiaries.

In his address as the chairperson Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED said that the truly deserving poor boys and girls should be given stipend.

Mr. Nurul Hoque Mozumder, Chief (Planning), Ministry of Education, Mr. Badiul Alam, Project Director, SEQAEP and Mr. M.A. Akhtar Hossain, PMT Coordinator, PMTA, LGED, also spoke at the inaugural session of the workshop.



Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED is seen presiding over the inaugural session of a National Orientation Workshop on Proxy Means Testing under SEQAEP on 16-8-09 at LGED Headquarters.

## Training courses to improve local governance

The Institutional Support (IS) and Technical Cooperation (TC) components of LGED's Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP-2) had been entrusted with the task of improvement of local governance, particularly Union Parishad (UP). The project therefore designed massive training programmes for all UP Secretaries and UP Representatives.

Accordingly, a 4-day training course on 'UP Management' was given to 1833 UP Secretaries divided into 61 batches and a 2-day training course on 'UP Management' was given to 1833 UP Chairmen grouped in 57 batches. The same course will also be offered to all UP Members including the females. The training course included topics like UP Administrative Management, UP Financial Management, Scheme Preparation and Implementation, Maintenance of Local Infrastructures, People's Participation, Conducting Village Court, etc.

RIIP-2 also incorporated intensive coaching through its TC component. The areas of coaching included UP Administrative Management, UP Financial Management like UP Budgeting, Holding Tax Assessment and Tax Collection, Vertical & Horizontal LGI Coordination, and Good Governance at local level. The coaching ensured application of theoretical inputs in practical work situation. So far 46 open budget sessions and 46 motivational dramas on tax payment had been held in different UPs under RIIP-2 to stimulate community participation and accountability.

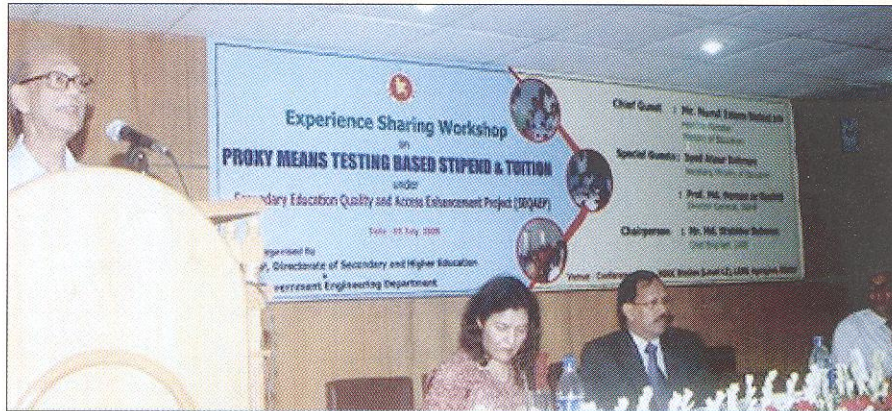


**"We have to accept the challenge of providing a standard education system for all by 2021"**  
- Education Minister

The Minister for Education Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid MP said, the people of the country gave an unprecedented mandate to Awami League's outstanding election manifesto for a changed mission in the last general election of 29 December 2008. He was speaking as the Chief Guest at the inaugural session of a workshop, jointly organized by the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) and the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), held at LGED Headquarters in Dhaka on 5 July 2009. The Minister said, the peoples' hope for a firm determination to achieve the goals of poverty reduction, food, education and health was reflected in that mandate.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED the inaugural session of the workshop was also attended by, among others, Professor Md. Noman ur Rashid, Director General, DSHE, as the special guest and Ms. Tahsina Syed Khan, Operation Advisor, World Bank.

The Minister for Education said in his address, the great majority of our people are deprived of education because of poverty and lack of opportunities. He said, the Secondary Education Quality & Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP) has been taken up with assistance from the World Bank under the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh in a bid to provide educational facilities to the children



An Experience Sharing Workshop on Proxy Means Testing Based Stipend and Tuition under the SEQAEP was held in Dhaka on 5 July, 2009. Jointly organized by the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education and LGED it was chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Minister for Education was the chief guest at the inaugural session.

of the poor and the extreme poor people on equity basis. He said, the first phase of the said project has been progressing to assess the authentic poor people at the upazila levels. The Minister further said, the government has decided to distribute text books free of cost to all secondary students in the country from the next academic session and for that reason the government will have to publish 21 crore books. He said, we have to march ahead accepting this titanic challenge.

Prof. Md. Noman ur Rashid, Director General of DSHE and Ms. Tahsina Syed Khan, Operation Advisor, World Bank also spoke on the occasion. Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman in his address as Chairperson said, the multi-dimensional experiences of LGED will help them to implement the project. Earlier, an welcome address was delivered by Mr. Md. Sirazul Islam, Project Director, SEQAEP.

**Former Secretary Engr Quamrul Islam Siddique's death anniversary observed in LGED HQ**

The first death anniversary of Engineer Quamrul Islam Siddique, a former Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh and the founder Chief Engineer of LGED, was observed at LGED Headquarters in Dhaka on 2 September 2009 at 4 pm. Former Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, MP, Local Government Division Secretary Mr. Monzur Hossain, Chief Engineer LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, former Chief Engineers of LGED Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan and Mr. Md. Nurul Islam were prominent among those who attended the Quran Khani, Milad Mahfil and Doa session arranged at LGED Auditorium to mark the day. They in their brief speeches described late Quamrul Islam Siddique as a legendary civil engineer and said, the requisite infrastructure that has been developed in support of effective communication network as a result of constructing roads, bridges and culverts throughout Bangladesh today is actually the realization of his dreams. They said, the invaluable contribution he made to LGED's technological advancement and human resource development would be recorded in history with golden letters. They also said, late Quamrul Islam Siddique's farsightedness and accountability had virtually turned LGED to become a self-sufficient and competent organization that could be quite capable to play a pioneering role in the implementation of the government's commitment to establish a digital Bangladesh. Engr. Siddique, a freedom fighter and the mastermind of rural and urban infrastructure development in Bangladesh, died of a massive heart attack in New Jersey, USA on 1 September 2008 at the age of 63.



In observance of the first death anniversary of Engr. Quamrul Islam Siddique, the founder Chief Engineer of LGED and a former Secretary to the Govt. of Bangladesh, Quran Khwani, Milad Mahfil and Doa were held in LGED HQ in Dhaka on 2 September, 2009. Mr. Md. Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, MP and former Chief Engineer of LGED paid homage to the departed soul. Mr. Monzur Hossain, Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan and Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, former Chief Engineers of LGED are seen in the picture, among others.

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