



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is seen addressing a delegation of the Executive Committee of the Engineers Institution, Bangladesh (IEB) in Dhaka on 25 August, 2010.



Inside Pages

- Editor's Note
- Special Munazat offered in LGED to mark National Mourning Day
- State Minister of Liberation War Affairs laid the foundation stone of 66 m long bridge in Sunamganj
- ADB Country Director's visit to LGED HQ
- Rubber Dam in Ramu
- Poverty Reduction Project of UPPR
- JICA Expert in RDEC Project-2 given farewell
- LGED's WMCA contributing socio-economic development
- Workshop on dropouts at secondary level
- CBRMP's Poverty reduction programme
- Workshop on gender mainstreaming on EDDRSP
- Foreign Training/Overseas visit

PM asks engineers to implement projects in time

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the engineers to implement all development projects within the stipulated time frame for the greater interest of the nation. She said her government would not allow anybody to delay the implementation process of various development projects across the country.

The Prime Minister gave the directive when a 12-member delegation of the Executive Committee of the Engineers Institution, Bangladesh (IEB) paid a courtesy call on her at her office in Dhaka on 25 August 2010. President of the IEB Dr. S.M. Nazrul Islam led the delegation.

The delegation members apprised the Prime Minister on various problems of IEB and the Prime Minister gave them a patient hearing. During the meeting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government is working ceaselessly for improvement of the lot of the common people. Mentioning complexities of some existing laws, she said her government

would take steps to make the law easier for the welfare of the people. She said law is for the people and ensured welfare of the commoners by allowing them to work smoothly. She said, no law could deter the implementation of any project.

Prime Minister called upon the engineers to work with honesty, sincerity and utmost devotion for the welfare of the country. Stressing on the significance of professional skill she said, her government is keen to place proper persons in the proper posts. No partisanship is being patronized by the present government, she added. Referring to certain projects taken by the government, she further said that her government is committed to realize the fruits of independence by changing fate of the people.

The members of the IEB delegation expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for allotting a plot of land to the Engineers Institution for its development.



Editor's Note

LGED's CDSP improves livelihood of coastal people

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) had been one of the key implementing agencies in three successive phases of Char Development & Settlement Project (CDSP) from 1994 to 2010. The project areas included the districts of Noakhali, Chittagong, Lakshmipur and Feni. Main activities in CDSP included construction of rural roads, bridges and culverts, multipurpose cyclone shelters and community ponds. In the first phase of project (1994-99), deep tube-wells and sanitary latrines were installed in three 'chars'- Char Majid, Char Batirtek and Char Baggar Dona II.

An incisive effort to improve the socio-economic condition of the landless and destitute 'char' people of Bangladesh had been in progress under CDSP-II, running from 1999-2005.

CDSP-III began in FY 2005-06 with the target of constructing 55 kilometers of rural roads, 69 bridges/culverts, 18.75 kilometers of paved roads, 20 cyclone shelters, 50 community ponds and 1 bus stand.

The physical achievements of LGED in CDSP-I, II and III may be summed up in the construction of 64 multipurpose cyclone shelters, 228 bridges/culverts, 384 kms of rural roads, installation of 229 deep tube-wells and 4000 sanitary latrines, 49 community ponds and 1 bus stand.

A core activity of CDSP is the settlement of landless households on khas land in the project areas. Under CDSP-I, 5785 acres of land were distributed among 4,450 families and in CDSP-II the target was set at 10,118 acres of land for allotment to 6,848 landless households. CDSP-III aims at distributing around 11,000 acres of land to 9,500 households.

LGED activities through CDSP have improved communication linking up remote coastal areas with upazila and district towns. It is believed that with the successful implementation of CDSP-III the lives and livelihood of the char people would be improved socially and economically.



State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt. (Retd) A.B. Tajul Islam, MP, laid the foundation stone of the 66 m bridge over Bagli Chora river in Tahirpur upazila under Sunamganj district on July 28, 2010 and later on the day attended a public meeting as the chief guest. Picture shows Engr. Mosharraf Hossain Ratan, MP, Sunamganj-1 presenting a crest to Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED in presence of the chief guest in recognition of LGED's development efforts.

'LGED is playing an important role towards infrastructure development in Bangladesh'

- ADB Country Director

'LGED has a wide mandate and is playing a critical and important role towards infrastructure development in Bangladesh' - this was observed by Mr. Thevakumar Kandiah, the newly appointed Country Director, Bangladesh Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank (ADB) during his maiden visit to Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Headquarters in Dhaka on 04 July 2010.

In a formal gathering of LGED's senior engineers and Project Directors arranged in honour of ADB Country Director, a presentation was delivered by Mr. Md. Roushan Kabir, Superintending Engineer

(In-charge), LGED to apprise the visiting guest on the growth and evolutionary development of LGED as one of the largest public sector organisations in Bangladesh.

Welcoming the ADB Country Director in LGED Headquarters Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED said, a lot of development has been achieved in Bangladesh because of ADB assistance. He said, at present eight on-going projects in LGED are getting support from ADB. Policies like Gender-Equity and Gender Action Plan are progressing smoothly because of ADB support, he said. He concluded expressing his gratitude to ADB.



Mr. Thevakumar Kandiah, the newly appointed Country Director, BRM, ADB, is seen addressing the Engineers and Project Directors of LGED Headquarters in Dhaka on 04 July 2010. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Nurul Huda, Deputy Country Director and Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Senior Project Implementation Officer, ADB were present on the occasion, among others.

Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) Project

The project aims at improving the livelihoods and living conditions of 3 million urban poor and extreme poor people in 30 towns in Bangladesh, especially women and girls, during the period 2007-2015. US \$120 million are being provided for this purpose on a cost sharing basis, by UKAid, UNDP, GoB and the community. The implementing partners are LGED, UNDP, UN-Habitat and respective Municipalities and City Corporations.

The Community participation in identification and prioritization of their needs and practical actions taken by the community to solve the problems tapping resources from their own and others worked as the main ignition of the project. This factor helps the project to be sustainable in the long run.

Rehana Sharmin Munni, a Community Development Committee (CDC) member in Rajshahi city said, "CDC has brought a very big change in my life. It has brought solvency, and now we are more aware; now we can talk in different forums. The women are getting empowered."

"My children are getting proper education, they are getting adequate food after I join the Community Development Committee (CDC) - I am very happy now", said Nasrin Begum, a CDC member in Rajshahi city.

The unmet demands of the urban poor have been addressed by the project. Community driven approach and local government representation have materialized the process. While meeting the demands, the following challenges have been faced and overcome so far:

Covering new settlements and populations; dealing with evictions and threats of eviction; increasing participation in primary groups; improving performance of savings and credit groups; improving infrastructure design.

As of July 2010, the following achievements have been accomplished by the project:

Homeless mapping of urban poor has been completed in 20 towns. 23 towns covered with 460,618 households and 2,006,244 populations. 15,506 primary groups have been formed consisting of 296,753 members from 1,310,439 populations (64.4% of HHs).



Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman is seen visiting the UPPR CDC at Gopalganj recently. Mayor of Gopalganj Pourashava Mr. Hasmot Ali Shikder Chunnu, National Project Director of UPPR Project Mr. Ali Ahmed and senior officials of LGED and the Project were present during the occasion.

1,498 Community Development Committees (CDC) have been formed, 12,300 savings-credit groups have been formed involving 204,000 members, 6176 new tube-wells have been installed with 514 improved TW platforms, 98 new water reservoirs and 516 bathing facilities (for women) have been created, 53,673 shared-latrines, 7 community-latrines, 322 kms paved and raised footpaths, 101 kms storm water drains, 1,570 streetlight posts, 40 multi-purpose centres, 20 market shading structures, 3 pond excavation and stair have been constructed, 17,439 people got apprenticeship training, 7,675 people got business startup grant, 9,617 students got education support, 7,999 poor households were involved with urban food production activities and 18,127 extreme poor women started agribusiness with grants of Tk. 4,500 having average earning Tk. 1,226 per month.

The project, it is evident, is contributing to the poverty reduction of urban poor people and empowerment of women.

A rubber dam in Ramu brings 600 acres fallow land under cultivation

A rubber dam has changed the socio-economic condition of Joarianala union under Ramu Upazila in Cox's Bazar coastal district.

Several hundred acres of land of the said union had remained uncultivable due to shortage of water during the lean season before setting up of the dam under Second Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP-2) of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) only seven years ago.

Local inhabitants told that farmers of 13 neighbourhoods of the union earlier cultivated about 125 acres of land by creating temporary earthen cross dam on Sonaichhari canal at Ilishiyapara point. At that time, the expenditure for irrigation was high and the cultivation was disrupted as the



View of a rubber dam installed by LGED in Ramu upazila under Cox's Bazar district.

dam had often broken leaving the canal dry, they said.

"After construction of the dam, over 600 acres of land came under cultivation. Besides, farmers of the area can use water uninterrupted in the lean season at a comparatively lower rate to produce boro paddy and robi crops," said Motaharul Haque Sikder, a former UP Chairman and a pioneer organiser of the project.

Habibur Rahman, 50, a farmer of Ilshiyapara, said the rubber dam had brought fortune for the farmers of the areas along with the canal flowing from nearby hills about 8 kilometres upstream.

"We had been charged Tk. 2,000 to 2,200 per acre of land for irrigation before. Now, we only pay Tk. 400 for that and there is no uncertainty of water after setting up the rubber dam," he said.

Md. Awrangajeb, Secretary of Sonaichhari Canal Water Management Cooperative Society Limited, formed earlier by the LGED comprising local people, said the socio-economic condition of the area has been upgraded after construction of the 30 metre long rubber dam.

He said, the rubber dam is being maintained by the society that accumulated a capital of Tk. 47,82,574 till March 24, 2010. Memberships of the society now stands at 1,898, including 686 female, he said.

The society provided loan amounting to Tk.2,55,18,000 among 1,936 persons by rotation. The rate of recovery of loan is cent per cent, he said.

Absar Kamal, President of the Society said, there were a large number of beggars in Joarianala union before introducing the project in 2003. Now beggars are almost invisible, he said.

He said, farmers of 13 neighbourhood areas under the union, both members and non-members of the society are being benefited from the rubber dam which is inflated in December and is deflated in May every year.

The neighbourhoods include Ilshiyapara, East Nonachhari, West Nonachhari, North Mithachhari, Saidagor para, Sikderpara, Ghinarpara, Bora charakul, Purbapara, Malapara, Gorjaniapara, Nonar beel and Naddakhali.

Absar Kamal said, five small canals have been dug for supplying water to the area. The canals are leased out every year and the lessees realise money from the farmers against supply of water to their land.

Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Netherlands and Bangladesh Government, the dam was constructed under SSWRDSP of LGED at a cost of Tk. 1,45,05,385 and an embankment was built at a cost of Tk. 7,20,000.

The beneficiaries also deposited a local donation of Tk.2,54,000 as part of their involvement with the project from which the dam is maintained.

LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said the project had created a lot of employment opportunities and was helping poverty alleviation from the rural areas in the country.

[Extract from a recent report published in the daily New Nation by Mr. Rafiqul Islam Azad]

JICA Expert in RDEC Project-2 given farewell

JICA Coordinator/Expert on Training in LGED's Strengthening of Activities in RDEC Project (Phase-2), Mr. Takeo Oshima, was given a formal farewell on 16 September 2010 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka after expiry of his tenure of services.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer LGED and project Director, RDEC Project-2, the meeting was addressed by a host of speakers from LGED and JICA. The chairperson in his address expressed deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Oshima for his sincerity, hardwork and high sense of professionalism.

Mr. Oshima in his farewell address said, he felt very proud to have the rare opportunity to work in LGED under the outstanding leadership of Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, the present Chief Engineer and under the deceased towering personality in rural infrastructure development of Bangladesh late Quamrul Islam Siddique. He said, he would be going back in Japan leaving behind many professional and personal friends in Bangladesh.

The successor of Mr. Oshima, Mr. Kenji Yokoi who joined earlier in September 2010, also spoke on the occasion.

LGED's WMCA brings fortune to the stakeholders

[The Inter Ministerial Committee, headed by the Division Chief of Agriculture, Water Resource and Rural Institution of the Planning Commission, constituted for evaluating LGED's Second Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project brought out an evaluation report recently. The report dealt extensively on the multifarious beneficial aspects of the Water Management Cooperative Association, WMCA, especially its impact on agricultural production. Some extracts of the report is reproduced below:]

Water Management Cooperative Associations (WMCA) is formed involving local people for post project operation, maintenance and management of the subproject after completion of the subproject. The WMCAs are formed and registered under existing cooperative law. Users' right of the subprojects, after completion of construction, is handed over to the WMCAs through a handover lease agreement between LGED and WMCA. All the WMCAs in the visited subprojects were found present and their activities appeared encouraging to the committee members.

The potential of agricultural development is assessed and is indicated in the land use map of the subproject considering the necessity and effectiveness of the infrastructures in the Water Resources Management of the subproject. Meetings are organized involving the beneficiary farmers of the subproject area. A 5-member agriculture subcommittee is formed among the farmers in every WMCA. Besides, the Agriculture subcommittee in cooperation with the concerned departments organizes agriculture extension programs and arranges training programs for farmers. The local people opined that the food production, in consequence, has been increased in the area.

To mitigate the adverse impact on open water fisheries due to implementation of water

resource structures for agricultural development different types of fisheries programs have been taken to support fish production in the safe and controlled water body within the subproject area in all the subprojects implemented and under implementation. As a result the WMCAs are rendering positive role for increasing fish production alongside increase in agricultural production. The impact on fish production appeared quite acceptable.

Cultivation of huge land has been possible through efficient management of surface water due to implementation of the Project. It's been possible to cultivate three crops (Aus, Amon, Boro) instead of earlier one crop in a year. Besides, fish culture and vegetable production are being possible all the year round. As a result, production of rice, vegetables and fish has been increased. A significant amount of uncultivated land has been brought under the project area and therefore livelihood of the poor segment has been improved. Rate of education has been increased as trainings on different issues have made the people more aware and knowledgeable.

The Water Management Cooperative Associations formed by LGED in the grassroot levels is a very successful intervention and it is expected that it would continue to play a substantial role in sustaining the development initiative. The socio-economic development will be more effective and will render positive contribution to the rural poverty reduction effort if the participatory development process of its kind is undertaken in all the development initiatives of the Government. The WMCAs members remain active and they organize meetings regularly. The WMCAs can be the focal point of activities of the other sectors.

The crops of cultivated land of a number of subprojects are being protected from early flood for implementation of the Project. As a result the poor farmers of the subproject areas have been recovered from poverty. In many subproject areas three crops are being produced now in comparison to the earlier one crop. The fisher folk, on the other hand, are being monetarily benefited carrying out fish culture in the subproject areas. The WMCAs are contributing to the socio-economic development of the area. The



Syed Ataur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Education at a workshop on Proxy Means Testing Operation held in Dhaka on 4 August 2010. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED.

farmers are benefited by having better produces and thus contributing to achieving the poverty reduction goals of the Government.

National Workshop puts emphasis on curbing dropouts by poor children at secondary level

Speakers at the inaugural session of the 3rd National Workshop on Proxy Means Testing (PMTA) held in Dhaka on 4 August 2010 under Secondary Education Quality & Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP) of the Ministry of Education, put emphasis on curbing dropouts by low-income group children from secondary level education.

Syed Ataur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh was the chief guest at the inaugural session. The special guests were Professor Nomanur Rashid, Director General, Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education (DSHE) and Mr. Md. Badiul Alam, Project Director, SEQAEP. Besides, Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, World Bank Representative was also present, among others, on the occasion.

Jointly organized by PMTA, LGED and SEQAEP, the inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED. Officials under DSHE and Upazila Engineers of LGED coming from 122 upazilas of 61 districts under the project attended the workshop.

Speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session, Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman said, the prime objective of SEQAEP is to enhance the quality of education and to build up a craze for education among the students. He said, we have to narrow down the dropout rate at secondary level. He pinpointed to say that poverty remains to be an outstanding factor for dropouts. He also said, through the innovative instrument of 'Proxy Means Testing', piloted by the Project, a challenging step has been taken to provide financial assistance to the children of genuine poor guardians in a bid to check dropouts.

Speaking on the occasion the World Bank Representative Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman said, 'Proxy Means Testing' is a poverty targeting instrument to determine the pecuniary condition. He said, PMT had been applied earlier in middle income group countries. Among the lower income group countries Bangladesh happens to be the first country to apply PMT, he said. Dr. Rahman further hoped to say, the project would be successful in providing incentives to genuine poor students at secondary level.

Professor Nomanur Rashid, Director General, DSHE, said, the rate of dropouts at secondary level in our country is alarming and the reason behind it is poverty. He further said, to determine the authentic poverty index is the aim of 'Proxy Means Testing'.

The Project Director of SEQAEP Mr. Badiul Alam said, measures have been taken to provide financial assistance to genuine poor

students through 'Proxy Means Testing' with an objective to enhance their devotion to secondary education.

Finally, speaking as the chairperson Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said, LGED has been dedicating itself to implement 'Proxy Means Testing' programme with a sense of ownership. He said, the first two cycles of the project have been accomplished and now the third cycle is going on. He said, this is a very significant project in the national scenario, for the country and for mankind.

Earlier, in an address of welcome Mr. Md. Ali Akhtar Hossain, Coordinator, PMT presented an overview of the progress of the Project.

CBRMP's Poverty reduction programme for the haor people

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 end by June 2014. The project has five components: 1) Labour intensive Infrastructure development; 2) Fisheries development; 3) Agriculture and Livestock development; 4) Microfinance; and 5) Institutional support. CBRMP by this time has completed its 1st phase successfully and now is close to the end of its 2nd phase. The project is working in 9 upazilas of Sunamganj district covering 62 unions and 1087 villages.

The status of the project progress as of June 30, 2010 of the components are as follows:

Under labour intensive infrastructural development component the project has built 163 roads measuring a total length of 213 Kms, of which 118 kms are concrete block road. The component has installed 2480 tube-wells for providing safe drinking water to more than 74000 households. Arsenic has been tested of suspected 1208 tube-wells and to address the arsenic problem 102 SONO filters have so far been distributed on piloting basis. For better sanitation a total of 65095 water-sealed latrines have been distributed to equal numbers of households. For road maintenance 277 poor women as length-person have been employed for a longer period of contract, and further the project has created 208847 labour-days of employment for the local poor by involving them in different construction works.

Under Fisheries development component a total of 161 beels (35 are above 20 acres and 108 are below 20 acres) have been transferred to the Beel Users Group (BUG) through an MoU with Ministry of Land. The project has meanwhile signed an MoU with MoL for 211 beels and has a target for more 89. A total of 161 numbers of BUGs have been formed having 5949 members, of which 22% are women. 128 beels have been re-excavated by LCS and that have given employment of 95000

labour-days. Initiative has been taken to ensure conservation of beel resources. To attain that, 21 sanctuaries have been established on pilot basis and 20 beels have been brought under plantation of swap trees.

Agriculture and Livestock production component has conducted around 5419 demonstrations to promote improved varieties of crops. Livestock and poultry birds numbering 180847 have been vaccinated and 39544 cattle have been brought under deworming programme by this component. A total of 76 nurseries have so far been raised and those have produced around 3 lac different varieties of plants.

Microfinance component has formed a total of 2968 Community Organisations (CO), of which 847 are for males and 2121 are for females and they have raised Tk. 952.33 lac as their own savings of which Tk. 632.46 lac by women and Tk.319.86 lac by men. An amount of Tk. 1023.23 has been disbursed as loan from savings to 16657 members, and they invested that amount in different income generating activities. From project credit line through Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), a total of 23960 members of which 8118 are men and 15842 are women have taken loan amounting to Tk. 2228.41 lac. The recovery rate of loan is 93%.

CBRMP is now very close to the end of its second phase. The activities of the first phase of the Project have duly been evaluated and assessed by IMED and the donor Agency IFAD. They have recognised it as one of the successful Project. The evaluation report of IMED has recommended to consider the programmes of the Project as a model and be replicated in haor areas of other districts. It is expected that if the present pace of development of the project persists, the programmes and the implementation mechanism of the project may be extended in other haor areas of the country in future for poverty reduction with cooperation and assistance from the concerned agencies.



A concrete block road constructed by CBRMP.

Foreign Training/ Overseas Visit

○ Mr. S.K. Amzad Hossain, Project Director, STIFPP-2, LGED participated in the workshop on Improving the Regional Distribution of CDM Project in Asia and the Pacific, held in Manila from 08 September to 09 September 2010.

○ Mr. Kazi Golam Mustafa, Executive Engineer, LGED attended a training course on Participatory Irrigation Management System for paddies for Asian countries held in Japan from 25 May to 23 July, 2010. The said training also covered Irrigation Techniques of Land Improvement Districts (LIDs) and Management and Organization of LIDs. The training was organized by JICA.

○ Mr. S.K. Amzad Hossain, Project Director, STIFPP-2, LGED, Mr. A.K.M. Shahadat Hossain, Project Director, Greater Faridpur Rural Infrastructure Development Project, LGED, Mr. Aminur Rashid Chowdhury, Assistant Engineer, LGED and Mr. Mamunur Rashid, Assistant Engineer, LGED attended the JSCE, Annual and International Round Table Meeting in Japan from 01 September to 02 September 2010.

○ Mr. S.K. Ariful Islam, Assistant Engineer, LGED participated in the 3rd International Joint Student Seminar, held at AIT Bangkok from 29 July to 30 July 2010.

Workshop on LGED's Gender Mainstreaming on Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation (Sector) Project held

A day-long workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation (Sector) Project of LGED under RETA-6143 was held in ADB, Dhaka on 18 August, 2010. The objective of the workshop was to explore findings and



View of the workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in LGED's EDDRSP Part-B and Part-C held in Dhaka on August 18, 2010.

lessons learned from establishing Gender Equity in Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation (Sector) Project Part-B: Rural Infrastructure and Part-C: Municipal Infrastructure. The keynote paper was presented by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Gender Development Consultant of ADB.

Mr. Stefan Ekelund, Senior Transport Specialist, Ms. Ferdausi Sultana, Gender Specialist and Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Project Implementation Officer from ADB, Dhaka participated in the workshop while Mr. Md. Zahidur Rahman Khan, Project Director of Part-B and Mr. Farazi Shahabuddin Ahmed, Project Director of Part-C of EDDRSP including key officials of PMU and DSC attended the workshop.

Special Munazat offered in LGED to mark National Mourning Day

In observance of August 15, the National Mourning Day, in memory of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, LGED arranged a session of recitation from the Holy Quoran, Milad Mahfil, and special Munazat at LGED Bhavan in Dhaka on August 17, 2010.

The Milad Mahfil and special Munazat session began after 'Zohr' prayer. The Imam of LGED mosque and his associates performed a Quoran Khatam before 'Asar' prayer had begun.

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally murdered along with most of his family members 35 years ago on August 15, 1975. Wife of Bangabandhu, Begum Fazilatunnessa Mujib, sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel, daughters-in-law Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal and brother Sheikh Nasser were close relatives among the martyrs. In one of the most barbaric carnages of human history staged on that day a number of other close associates including 18 family members of Bangabandhu were assassinated.

In observance of the 35th martyrdom anniversary of Bangabandhu and other members of his family, LGED employees, prayed for salvation of the martyrs' souls. The State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Monzur Hossain and Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman were present, among others, on the occasion. Almost all the employees of LGED attended the Milad Mahfil.



In observance of August 15, the National Mourning Day, in memory of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, LGED arranged a session of recitation from the Holy Quran, Milad Mahfil, and special Munazat at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka on August 17, 2010. State Minister for LGRD & Cooperatives Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Secretary, Local Government Division Mr. Monzur Hossain and Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman were present, among others, on the occasion.

Bangladesh - Denmark Friendship Bridge opens

The Bangladesh-Denmark Friendship Bridge constructed over Arpangashia river under Kalapara Upazila of Patuakhali district was opened to traffic on 7 July 2010 by State Minister for Water Resources Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman. Danish Ambassador in Bangladesh Mr. Einar Hebogard Jensen and Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer of LGED, were also present on the occasion, among others.

The bridge will benefit the people of Chakamaiya Union Parishad of Kalapara Upazila as well as people from 4 other Union Parishads of Amtali Upazila of Barguna district immensely.

After the inaugural ceremony, a meeting was held at the auditorium of Kalapara Upazila Parishad under the chairmanship of Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer of LGED. Speaking on the occasion, the State Minister for Water Resources said the Bangladesh-Denmark Friendship Bridge will contribute immensely to the improvement of the communication sector for the SIDR affected people of Kalapara Upazila. Ambassador Mr. Einar Hebogard Jensen in his speech said

with the construction of the bridge, the friendship between the people of Kalapara and Denmark has been strengthened further. The Ambassador also said his country is happy to work with the SIDR affected people of Bangladesh and hoped that the friendship between Denmark and Bangladesh will grow further in future. He also said that Denmark feels proud to associate herself in the development work of SIDR affected region.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said a huge development programme has been undertaken through LGED as per the directive of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



State Minister for Water Resources Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman opened the Bangladesh-Denmark Friendship bridge in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district on 7 July 2010. Danish Ambassador Mr. Einar Hebogard Jensen and Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman were present on the occasion, among others.