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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessed a presentation on Tongipara and Kotalipara Development Master Plan at her office in Dhaka on 31 July 2011. After the presentation the Prime Minister is seen listening to a briefing on the short-term, mid-term and long-term development plans under Upazila Complex Extension Project for those two areas in the district of Gopalganj.



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Prime Minister witnesses Tongipara and Kotalipara Development Master Plan

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessed Tongipara and Kotalipara Development Master Plan through a powerpoint presentation at her office in Dhaka on 31 July 2011. The Chief Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman delivered the presentation. The Prime Minister was briefed on the short-term, mid-term and long-term development plans under Upazila Complex Extension Project taken for those two areas in the district of Gopalganj. It is worthwhile to mention here that the upazilas of Tongipara and Kotalipara in Gopalganj district are bedecked with many memoirs of the Father of the Nation Bangabadhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Prime Minister however instructed the engineers of LGED present on the occasion to prepare the master plan in a way to make an easy access of adequate light and air into the would-be constructed upazila bhabans. The LGED Chief Engineer assured the Prime

Minister to implement the project as per her instruction.

Upazila Complex Extension Project, with a total cost of Taka 775 crore for the period from April 2011 to June 2015, got an approval from the Prime Minister at the ECNEC meeting held on 29 March 2011. The present government is keen to establish planned development and good governance through strengthening local government institutions. With that end in view, Upazila Complex Extension Project has been taken up to facilitate the access of the community people to divergent services rendered by the Upazila Complexes.

Under Upazila Complex Extension Project, as many as 200 upazilas will be developed and out of those Tongipara and Kotalipara Upazila Parishad Bhabans will be reconstructed.



Editor's Note

Environmental issues get priority in selecting LGED Projects

Bangladesh observed the World Environment Day on June 5, 2011. The theme of the day this year was "Forests: Nature at Your Service". Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the World Environment Day-2011 Programme and a three day Environment Fair on June 5, 2011 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka. In observance of the Day, LGED, along with other organizations, set up a stall highlighting different aspects of LGED's environment activities.

LGED emphasize proper attention to the environmental issues during identification of scheme and project preparation. Tree Plantation on slope of roads and embankment is an important activity of LGED, contributing towards stability of the LGED built infrastructures with the overriding objectives of improving environment through reduction of soil erosion.

It is now an established fact that incorporation of environmental dimensions in the planning process ensure development and environmentally sound projects. LGED's environmental guidelines enable the engineers to carryout Environmental Impact Assessment and incorporate the environmental parameters in the project preparation process. The guidelines are planned to enable the Thana Engineers to analyse the environmental consequences of the project and adopt appropriate measures to eliminate or reduce to acceptable levels through proper planning and design and thus to optimize overall socio-economic benefits. Realising the poor environmental sanitation, a number of projects namely UGIP-I&II, UPPR & MSP under LGED adopted effective measures to redress the situation.

As development activities are gaining momentum, it is becoming all the more necessary to be increasingly eco-conscious. Environment and development have, therefore, become synonymous.



Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, MP, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives is seen addressing as the chief guest at a review meeting on 'Development Projects and Maintenance Programmes under LGED' held at LGED Headquarters in Dhaka on 23 August 2011. Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Local Government Division was present on the occasion as the special guest. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, presided over the meeting.

LGED uses hi-tech device to monitor road roughness

Road roughness survey is an important element in the management of road network. The road condition survey provides valuable information for pavement performance analysis, forecasts pavement performance, anticipates maintenance and

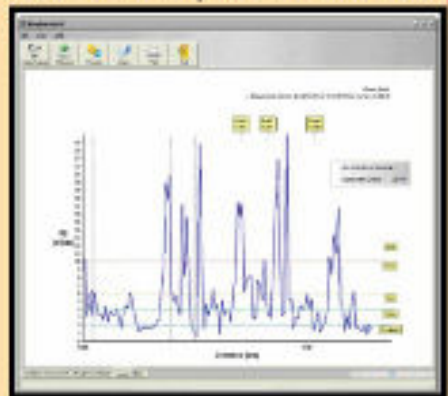
face of a rear wheel. The transducer detects small increments of axle movement relative to the vehicle body. The output data consists of a strip chart plot of the actual axle body movement versus travel length.

LGED started roughness survey on pilot basis in the year 2005 with technical assistance of Rural Development Engineering Center (RDEC) and financial assistance of Japan Debt Cancellation



rehabilitation needs, assesses priorities for maintenance and rehabilitation, and allocates funding. Road roughness survey helps in identifying a road into various categories according to the condition of the road surface - good, fair, poor and bad.

Of late, LGED has been using a hi-tech device to conduct road roughness survey. The device is known as 'roughometer'. The roughness meter is installed in vehicles with a displacement transducer (roughness sensor) on the body located between the middle of the rear axle and distance measuring unit is to be installed at the outer



Fund (JDFC). This pilot basis survey continued upto 2009. Under head of Operation and Maintenance for survey and necessary equipment, GOB allocated Tk. 5.00 million for Procurement & Maintenance of Equipment and Tk. 1.00 million for Survey in the financial year 2010-2011. LGED has been conducting road roughness survey independently for about 31,798 km of paved (flexible) upazila and union roads which is about 78% of total paved roads. LGED's trained field engineers are now in a position to conduct roughness survey with competence and accuracy.

"Development Programmes to be implemented for less privileged people"

-Primary & Mass Education Minister

At the inaugural session of a two-day review meeting of Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP) being implemented by LGED under the Ministry of primary & Mass Education, the Hon'ble Minister for primary & Mass Education Dr. Afsarul Ameen, MP said to day, 20 September 2011 - "If development programmes are planned and implemented in accordance with the needs of the less privileged common people at the grassroots level, a wave of exultation flicker in their hearts. If not, they become frustrated and heart-broken."

The inaugural session of the said review meeting, chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED and held at LGED Headquarters in Dhaka, was attended by, among others, the State Minister for Primary & Mass Education Mr. Md. Motahar Hossain, MP and Secretary, Ministry of Primary & Mass Education Mr. AKM Abdul Awal Mazumder as special guests.

The chief guest Dr. Afsarul Ameen also said, in the present review meeting we will have to find out the errors in the implementation of Primary Education Development Programme and redress them. He said, it is essential to implement development programmes with firm determinations and not surrendering to



Dr. Afsarul Ameen, Minister for Primary and Mass Education is seen addressing the Review Meeting of the Primary Education Development Programme being Implemented by LGED under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education on 20 September 2011 in Dhaka. State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Mr. Md. Motahar Hossain, MP and Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman are seen on the dais.

any kind of pressure. He further appealed to all concerned to establish a glaring example of people's welfare by bringing in necessary changes in the quality of civil engineering within the next two years ahead.

Later, in his address as the special guest the State Minister for Primary & Mass Education Mr. Md. Motahar Hossain, MP, said, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had nationalized our education system in 1973. But we have not yet been able to reach the coveted goals of a sound education system. He said, Sheikh Hasina had pronounced the commitments for a Digital Bangladesh and the Charter of Changes in her election manifestoes in the

parliamentary election of 2008. He added, all of us are morally responsible to realize those commitments. He however stressed on the point to ensure construction of quality infrastructures.

The other special guest Mr. AKM Abdul Awal Mazumder, Secretary, Ministry of Primary & Mass Education said, development programmes are to be taken and implemented in tune with the government's desires and commitments. He said, transparency, sincerity and accountability of the officers and employees at the field level are necessary for proper implementation of primary Education Development Programme. He further said, Upazila Engineers and Upazila Education Officers are the real implementing authorities for PEDP. He however appealed to all of them to work hand in hand.

In his address as chairperson Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED said, the prime objective of this review meeting is to unearth new guidelines from past errors. He said, the people of Bangladesh are now adequately self-conscious. Any wrong-doing on their needs will not be acceptable to them as such. Risk of making errors may be resisted by strictly adhering to our responsibilities, he added.

The two-day review meeting on Primary Education Development Programme, being implemented by LGED under the Ministry of Primary & Mass Education, was largely participated by the field level officers of LGED and Primary Education Department.



In observance of the World Environment Day 2011 LGED was awarded the first prize for their stall at the Environment Fair held on 5-7 June 2011 in Dhaka. The picture shows Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED is receiving a prize-winning certificate and a crest for participating in Environment Fair from Dr. Mohammad Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for Forests and Environment on 16 September 2011 at a formal ceremony in Dhaka on the occasion of International Ozone Day.

"LGED engineers are powerful weapons to realise PM's dreams" - State Minister for LGRD&C

Terming LGED as the prime body to march ahead for development by salvaging Bangladesh from all sorts of conspiracy, the State Minister for Local government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, MP said, LGED engineers are powerful weapons to realise the dreams of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was speaking as the chief guest at a special Doa-Mahfil and Iftar programme arranged by LGED on 21 August 2011 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka to mark the National Mourning Day of August 15. The State Minister said, the forces that countered the great Liberation War of 1971 had killed Bangabandhu and his family members in a gruesome murder. He further said, the same conspirators against Bangladesh's independence committed again a well-planned grenade attack on Awami League rally in Dhaka on 21 August 2004 to kill Sheikh Hasina, the then Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament in a bid to make the Bangalees leaderless. He said Sheikh Hasina however escaped the attack by the grace of the Almighty, but 24 of AL party leaders and activists including Begum Ivy Rahman lost their lives. He also added,



State Minister for LGRD & C Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak along with officers and staff of LGED and LGD offering Munajat at a Doa Mahfil to mark the National Mourning Day of August 15 at the LGED HQ on 21 August 2011

the trial of the August 21 grenade attack must be held and the attackers must be punished. The special Doa-Mahfil and Iftar programme arranged by LGED at its headquarter was presided over Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED.

A special prayer was offered for the salvation of the departed soul of the Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members who were martyred on 15 August 1975 and Begum Ivy Rahman and others who lost their lives on 21 August 2004 in a grenade attack.

Earlier, in his address the Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said,

August 15 and August 21 are significant days in our national history. He said, August is a month for us to mourn. He however asked everybody to come forward to realise Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina's dream of Digital Bangladesh by transforming the mourning to vigour and strength. The special Doa-Mahfil and Iftar was participated by senior officials of the Local Govt. Division and a large number of LGED employees.

'JICA is keen to continue its support to LGED'
- Sr. Vice President, JICA



Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice President, JICA visited LGED HQ in Dhaka on 27 July 2011 and exchanged views with the engineers of LGED. Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman and other Senior Executives of JICA Bangladesh were present on the occasion, among others.

Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who in the course of an official visit to Bangladesh, said that JICA is very keen to continue its support to Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in the field of development in rural and urban sectors. He was speaking at a forum of senior engineers of LGED at LGED headquarters in Dhaka on 27 July 2011.

Mr. Oshima said, JICA takes pride in working with the engineers of LGED. He said, the participatory approach, initiated by LGED in its development programmes, has been appreciated by JICA. Another important factor, he said, is LGED's gender issue which is instrumental in the empowerment of women in rural areas. He further hoped to continue

working with LGED on an emphatic ground on those aspects.

Earlier, on his arrival at LGED Bhaban the JICA Senior Vice President was warmly received by the Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman. He was then introduced to a select gathering of LGED's senior engineers. After a brief introduction session the Chief Engineer of LGED delivered an impressive presentation narrating LGED's mission and vision for the development and management of rural infrastructures. The Chief Engineer, in his presentation, said, the goodwill of LGED's achievement is folded within certain key factors. Those are, he said, LGED is a pro-people organization, it has proven track records of performance, its projects and programmes are result-oriented and it practices advanced technology blended with local resources. Later, JICA Senior Vice President visited different units of LGED at its headquarter.

MOU signed to transfer beels to LGED

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Land and the Local Government Division for handing over of beels (water-body) on a long-term basis to the Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) on 28 July 2011 at LGED Headquarters in Dhaka. Mr. Md. Muazzam Hossain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Land



Mr. Md. Abdul Malek, Joint Secretary, Local Government Division and Mr. Md. Muazzam Hossain Joint Secretary, Ministry of Land are exchanging the signed Memorandum on transferring of 69 Beels to Community Based Resources Management Project-LGED. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer of LGED; Mr. Thomas Rath, Country Programme Manager of IFAD; Sk. Md. Mohsin, Project Director of CBRMP witnessed the occasion on 28 July 2011 at LGED Headquarter, Dhaka

and Mr. Md. Abdul Malek, Joint Secretary, Local Government Division signed the Memorandum on behalf of their respective organizations. The ceremony was witnessed by, among others, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Thomas Rath, Country Programme Manager, IFAD and Sk. Md. Mohsin, Project Director, CBRMP-LGED.

Under the signed MOU, 69 beels, measuring totally 1370 acres, have been handed over to CBRMP for a period of ten years for fisher communities living in different upazilas of Sunamganj district.

It may be mentioned here, CBRMP had received 211 beels, measuring totally 5395 acres, on the strength of two other earlier

MOUs. Those beels are being used by the poor fishers under a community based fisheries management system. The system is participatory on principle and has resulted significant improvement in wetland resource management. In consequence, it has provided substantial contribution to poverty reduction through increased fish cultivation and income.

Review Meeting on MSU/ UMSU programmes held

A review meeting on the on-going "Municipal Capacity Building Programme" under Municipal Support Unit/Urban Management Support Unit of ten administrative zones of LGED was held on 13 July 2011 at RDEC Building of LGED Headquarters in Dhaka. Chaired by Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer (Urban Management) and Director of MSU and UMSU, the meeting was attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED as the chief guest. The special guests on the occasion were Mr. Muhammad Azizul Haque, Additional Chief Engineer (Urban Management), LGED and Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Project Director, MSP. The meeting was largely attend by the Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and consultants of the central and regional units of MSU/UMSU.

Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said, modernized information technology has been inducted in



Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman Chief Engineer, LGED is seen addressing the Review Meeting on the on-going 'Municipal Capacity Programme' under MSP/MSU Programmes of LGED on 13 July 2011 in Dhaka. Also seen on the dais are Mr. Muhammad Azizul Haque, Additional Chief Engineer, Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer and Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Project Director, MSP, LGED.

the urban local governments of our country. In this respect, LGED has been playing a pivotal role. He said, the on-going Municipal Capacity Building Programme under MSU of MSP-II Project and UMSU of UGIIP-II Project is undoubtedly a timely and effective step forward. The dimension of this programme would be enhanced in future, he said. Mr. Rahman however reminded all concerned that the commencement and termination of a project are not the final words, the most significant points are that whether the community people are getting benefits of the project and the development whatever made tends to be quite sustainable or not. He also firmly assured to provide all assistances to sustain the activities of "Municipal Capacity Building Programme" within LGED's own periphery.

In his address as the special guest Mr. Muhammad Azizul Haque, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED said, LGED engineers would have to shun the concept of depending on Project Consultants, instead they would have to play the role of consultants themselves. He said, project assistance might not be available always and the appointment of consultants from the revenue budget would be difficult.

Earlier, Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Project Director, MSP and the special guest on the occasion delivered a brief presentation on the evolution of MSU and UMSU. In his presentation he also said that it is high time that LGED should develop a manpower of its own to run the programmes of capacity building.



Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun, MP inaugurated the Hathazari model thana complex on 16 July 2011. Mr. Dilip Barua, Minister for Industries, local MP Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmood, Mr. M.A. Karim, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office and Inspector General of Police, Mr. Hasan Mahmud Khandaker were present on the occasion, among others.

LGED Contributes to Police Reform Programme

Six model thana complexes, each of which is comprised of six components, have been implemented recently by LGED under Police Reform Programme (PRP) funded by UNDP.

The model thana complexes have been constructed at Hathazari, Sonagazi, Damurhuda, Gangachara, Katiadi and Bahubol. The state of the art architectural concept has been imparted in each model thana complex with a view to ensuring the delivering of best possible services as desired by the people. This will consequently develop a helping tie between the police and populace which will lead to establish sustainable social security and peace. Syed

Mahbubur Rahman, Project Director, RIIP-II, LGED coordinated the construction of the above thana complex.

On 16 July 2011, the Minister for Home Affairs Advocate Sahara Khatun, MP, laid the foundation stone of Hathazari model thana complex. The Minister for Industries Mr. Dilip Barua, local Member of Parliament Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmood, Mr. M.A. Karim, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, IGP, Mr. Hasan Mahmud Khandaker, local elites and other high officials were present on the occasion, among others.

LGD Secretary and LGED Chief Engineer made professional trips to USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia

A nine member delegation headed by Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Local Government Division, Ministry of LGRD&C visited New Zealand and Australia from 24 August to 02 September 2011 to acquaint themselves with the working system of the local government bodies in those countries. The other members of the delegation were Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, Alhaj Mazharul Islam Bhuyan, Mayor, Kishoreganj Municipality, Mr. Md. Ramzan Ali, Mayor, Manikganj Municipality, Mr. Md. Helal Uddin, Mayor, Brahmanbaria Municipality, Mr. Abdul Latif Mollah, Mayor, Shibchar Municipality, Mr. Saidul Karim Mintu, Mayor, Jhenaidaha Municipality, Mr. Md. Rafi Uddin Ahmed Ferdous, Mayor, Mathbaria Municipality, Mr. S M A Moin, Mayor, Thakurgaon Municipality who attended a short



Sheikh Mohammad Farid, Upazila Engineer, LGED Natore received the Prime Minister's Award for tree-plantation in the wake of National Tree Plantation Movement & Tree Fair 2011. LGED, Natore was adjudged as one of the best producers of coconut plantation and achieved the third position among the winners. The picture shows Sheikh Mohammad Farid receiving the award from Mr. Mesbah Ul Alam, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment in Dhaka.

course on "Urban Development Planning and Management".

Earlier, from June 25 to 6 July 2011 Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Local Government Division, Ministry of LGRD&C, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Ansar Ali Khan, Deputy Secretary, Local Government Division, Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Project Director, RIIP-2, LGED and Mr. Md. Jasim Uddin, Executive Engineer, LGED made another professional trip to USA and Canada to observe the result based project management in those countries.

CDSP Fourth Phase begins after its three successful phases

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 flood 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 steps for 'Char' development activities.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) had been one of the key implementing agencies in three successive phases of Char Development and Settlement Project (CDSP) from 1994 to 2010. The project areas included the districts of Noakhali, Chittagong, Lakshmipur and Feni. Main activities included in CDSP were construction of rural roads, bridges and culverts, multipurpose cyclone shelters and community ponds. In the first phase of the project, (1994-1999) deep tube-wells and sanitary latrines were installed in three 'Chars' - Char Majid, Char Baitirtek and Char Baggar Dona II. Later, an incisive effort was undertaken to improve the socio-economic conditions of the landless and destitute Char people of Bangladesh by creating employment opportunities.



A partial view of a bridge constructed under CDSP over Mamur Khal near Janata Bazar under Hatia Upazila

CDSP-III has been implemented in the Boyar Char Island on the north of Hatia upazila under Noakhali district. Physical security of the Boyar Char people has been enhanced by the construction of embankments and cyclone shelters. 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 Hatia. At present, a couple of bridges constructed by LGED has linked the char with the mainland.

The physical achievements of LGED in CDSP-I, II and III may be summed up in the construction of 69 multipurpose cyclone shelters, 185 bridges/culverts, 373 km of rural roads, installation of 229 deep tube-wells and 4000 sanitary latrines, 64 community ponds, 1 bus stand and 29 km of paved road. 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, 10,118 acres of land was allotted to 6,848 landless households. CDSP-III distributed around 11,000 acres to 95,000 households. Total costs for the three Phases of CDSP programme amount to approximately Taka 778.00 million. The government of Bangladesh contributed roughly 15%, while

the government of the Netherlands constructed 85%.

With the successful implementation of CDSP-III the government has launched CDSP-IV with effective from January 2011 and it will end on December 2016 under the Water Resources Ministry. LGED is one of the six implementing agencies of CDSP-IV. The project area of the CDSP-IV is Hatia, Companiganj, Subarnachar and Sandwip under Noakhali and Chittagong district. Government of Bangladesh, IFAD and the Government of the Netherlands are the main sources of funding for the project.

CDSP-IV has designed some major components to be constructed during the project period. They are 113 bridge/culverts, 60 cyclone shelters, 69.25 km rural roads, 294.10 km paved roads, 2 U.P. Complex Bhabans, 9 growth centres, 2 cluster villages, 9 boat landing ghats, 22 killahs and one accommodation for women staff. Tk.2336.05 million will be the approximate expenditure of the CDSP-IV under LGED part.

LGED's growing involvement in the CDSP activities will surely improve the socio-economic condition of the landless and destitute 'Char' people of Bangladesh.

ডিজিটাল উদ্ভাবনী মেলা ২০১১ এর উদ্বোধন অনুষ্ঠান

প্রধান অতিথি: মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী

শেখ হাসিনা

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

গোড়ায় সেবা
doorsteps



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated a three day Digital Innovation Fair 2011 at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman NOVO Theatre in Dhaka on 6 July 2011.

PM stressed importance on information technology

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, there is no alternative to using innovative power to provide best services to the people. "We have to ensure optimum use of technology and build skilled workforces to sustain in competition with the developed world in the present age of science and technology", the Prime Minister said this while inaugurating a three day "Digital Innovation Fair 2011" in Dhaka on July 6, 2011. The Prime Minister said, community E-centre would be set up at every upazila which will open new avenues for the rural people to get the internet services. She also declared that the much awaited E-commerce is expected to be introduced by 2012.

Community E-centres have already been opened at five upazilas, the Prime Minister said. These community E-centres will also be the centres of outsourcing for the interested people, particularly for the youth community, she said. The Prime Minister elaborated her government's four priorities towards implementing its vision of building Digital Bangladesh. These are- development of manpower through technology, involving people with government's activities, reaching public sector services to the doorsteps of people and boosting production by using information technology.

"Now, we can certainly say that sufferings of people in getting public sector services through digital system have been reduced significantly as many public institutions are going to doorsteps of the people with their services and technology", the Prime Minister added.

Referring to the recently introduced E-book, the Prime Minister said, the government is thinking to provide such devices to the students so that they do not need to carry so many books into their classes. Prime Minister further said to materialize the government's Vision-2021, it has started working to bring 1,000 unions under optical fibre network while infrastructure construction works for providing broadband internet facilities to 56 districts and 57 upazilas will be ended by the current fiscal year. Besides, E-centre for rural community will be set up at 8,500 union parishads, she said.

Sheikh Hasina later visited various stalls at the Digital Innovation Fair 2011. A total of 80 institutions under various ministries and departments and six private institutions exhibited their various E-services and products at the Fair. Tri-Dimensional digital aviation map, on line agriculture television, Mobile SMS-based health services, digital

land survey and management, digital holding tax management and online birth-death registration, digital signature, education GIS map, digital content for teachers, mobile banking and many e-services were exhibited at the Fair.

LGED's stall at the fair drew large number of visitors who evinced keen interest in the country's upazila and district maps in LGED website. Visitors got prints of their respective district and upazila maps from the LGED website at the fair. It is worthwhile to mention here that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally inaugurated country's upazila and district maps in LGED Website on June 12, 2011.

In line with the government's efforts to build a Digital Bangladesh, LGED has been striving hard to keep pace with the latest information communication technology. In 1992, Geographic Information System (GIS) and Management Information System (MIS) units were established in LGED HQ. LGED has not only institutionalized GIS within own institution, it has also been playing a leading role to disseminate the technology by providing database and technical support to other organizations in the country.

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