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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone of a bridge on Teesta river and the second Dharla Bridge at Kulaghat-Fulbari point in



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"I'm giving you commitment to make the country free from poverty and hunger by 2021"- Prime Minister

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her firm commitment to make the country free from poverty and bring economic freedom to people.

"Bangabandhu has given independence, and I am giving you commitment to make the country free from poverty and hunger by 2021," she said.

The Prime Minister made the remarks while addressing a public meeting in Lalmonirhat on September 20, 2012. She said, her government is trying to produce more food in the country's northern region, and for this reason the government had taken initiative for cultivation of maize in the area in large scale. She also said, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat are now free from Monga.

Earlier, the premier inaugurated the newly built Teesta Bridge, Burimari-Lalmonirhat rail line and

the building of Lalmonirhat Diabetic Association.

He also laid foundation stones of Lalmonirhat Nursing College, 850-meter PC Girder Bridge on Teesta river and the second Dharla Bridge at Kulaghat-Fulbari point. The last named two bridges will be constructed by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

The 850-meter bridge on the river Teesta will be constructed at a cost of Taka 121.65 crore within a couple of years. Nearly 15 lakh people of 4 upazilas of Lalmonirhat district and Gangachara upazila of Rangpur district will be benefited from this bridge.

The second Dharla Bridge at Kulaghat- Fulbari will be constructed at a cost of Taka 180 crore for the benefit of 10 lakh people of Nageswari and Bhurungamari upazilas of Kurigram district. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her firm commitment to make the country free



Editor's Note

Rubber Dam augments agricultural production

LGED introduced the rubber dam technology for the first time in Bangladesh in 1995 to conserve lean dry season water flow of the river for surface water irrigation. In 1995, two pilot rubber dam projects in Cox's Bazar district were undertaken by LGED with technical assistance from China. LGED also constructed a 100 meter long rubber dam on the river Bhogai at Nalitabari upazila of Sherpur district.

After an effective implementation of this project, LGED further constructed 11 more rubber dam from July 1999 to June 2008 in nine districts under "Construction of Rubber Dams in Small and Medium sized river Project" funded by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture again came forward to fund "Construction of Rubber Dams in Small and Medium sized rivers to Enhance Food Production Project" for the period from June 2009 to June 2014. This project is going to be implemented in 12 upazilas under 11 districts by LGED and BADC. LGED has been assigned to construct 10 out of 12 rubber dams under this project. During the financial year 2011-2012 construction works of 10 rubber dam is progressing and it is expected to be completed within the stipulated time of the project period. Besides, LGED has so far constructed 14 rubber dams under 'Ten Rubber Dams Project'. A total of 26 rubber dams including 9 rubber dams under Second Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project has been constructed in the country facilitating cultivation in an additional land of 14,890.00 hectares to produce 91,562.00 metric tones of crops and employment have been created for 1,99,136.00 person days.

Rubber dams in Bangladesh have now become a feasible alternative reality for irrigation in dry season giving a great relief to the farmers.



Minister for LGRD&C Syed Ashrafur Islam, MP, inaugurated the start-up workshop on LGED's Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project on 18 July 2012. Mr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, President IFAD was the guest of honour. Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary, LGD was the special guest. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED chaired the inaugural session.

'Govt. working for uplifting living standard of haor areas'

- Minister for LGRD & C

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives Syed Ashrafur Islam, MP said, "Government is working for uplifting living standard of the slum dwellers and char, haor, baor, coastal disadvantaged areas". He was speaking as the Chief Guest at the inaugural session of the two-day Start-up Workshop on LGED's Haor Infrastructure & Livelihood Improvement Project (HILIP) on 18 July 2012 at LGED Bhawan in Dhaka.

HILIP is a challenging project, funded by the Govt. of Bangladesh, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Spanish Trust Fund (STF) and is designed to contribute to the reduction of poverty in the Haor Basin.

Chaired by the Chief Engineer of LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, the inaugural session of the workshop was graced by the presence of, among others, His Excellency Mr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, President, IFAD as the Guest of Honour and Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Local Government Division as the Special Guest. Representatives from STF, Engineers of LGED also attended the session.

The Chief Guest, in his address said, as per Election Manifesto 2008 and Vision 2021, the present Government is engaged in establishing a happy and prosperous life in Bangladesh. He said, the main aim of the Government is to ensure food for all and make Bangladesh self-sufficient in food by 2013. The Minister also said, his Government is working for river excavation, water conservation, flood control, protection from river erosion, bio-diversity and irrigation expansion. He added, the Government has taken quite a few pragmatic measures relating to protection of Bangladesh against Climate Change and Global Warming Disaster. The Minister also said, the Government is bent upon building a 'Digital Bangladesh' which has been eloquently highlighted in the country's Sixth Five Year Plan.

Speaking on the occasion as the Guest of Honour, His Excellency Mr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, President, IFAD said, "I look forward to see the improvement of livelihood of men and women in Bangladesh". He said, HILIP provides opportunities to the rural poor in having the market access for small produces through improved rural communication infrastructures. Destitute women will find employment opportunities through this project, he added. Mr. Nwanze further said, the commitment of Bangladesh in rural infrastructure development has drawn the attention of IFAD and IFAD relies on the Government of

Local Government Division Secretary Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan in his address as Special Guest said, Haor Basin is one of the hot-spots of poverty in Bangladesh. Flash flood is the main disaster in haor areas which engulfs the primary production (agriculture and fisheries). This makes livelihoods extremely vulnerable and limits the potential for agriculture production and rural enterprise growth. He also said, HILIP project will improve rural infrastructures and livelihood of haor people. This is a huge task and LGED needs efficient steering of the wheel to reach the cherished goals, he said.

Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED delivered a presentation on "LGED and IFAD: Partnership in Poverty Reduction" in the course of his address as the chairperson. The Chief Engineer of LGED said, HILIP project is built on successful elements of the IFAD financed Community



Minister of LGRD&C Syed Ashrafur Islam, MP, presenting a crest to Mr. Kanayo Nwanze, President, IFAD at the inaugural session of the start-up workshop of LGED's Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project in Dhaka on 19 July 2012. Secretary, LGD Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan and Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman were present on the occasion.

CBRMP, LGED, who had played a vital role in the formative stage of HILIP project.

among others, the State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Advocate Jahangir Kabir

IFAD President impressed to see LGED's SCBRM & HILE Projects

In an exclusive letter, dated 10 August 2012, written to Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, the President of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze writes-

"I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the generous support and excellent organisation of my visit to Bangladesh, particularly for the visit to the Sunamganj Community-Based Resource Management Project and the start-up ceremony for the Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Enhancement Project.

I was impressed with what I saw during my visit to the Sunamganj Community-Based Resource Management Project and was particularly pleased to have had the opportunity to hear directly from the rural women and men what they can achieve, when given the knowledge, assets and tools, a testimony to our strong partnership.

I left Bangladesh convinced that if we continue to work in partnership, we can support small producers and entrepreneurs to benefit from improved value chains and increased access to markets, economically and socially empower marginalized groups, such as poor rural women and men.

I greatly appreciate the thoughtful gift you gave me and look forward to continuing our constructive collaboration.

Accept, Mr. Chief Engineer, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sd/- Kanayo F. Nwanze"

Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) and Market Infrastructure Development Project in Char Regions (MIDCPR) which have been operating in Haor and Char districts respectively. He said, the goal of HILIP project is to reduce poverty in the Haor Basin.

Earlier, an address of welcome was delivered by Mr. Sk. Md. Mohsin, Project Director,

LGED observes National Mourning Day

A special Doa Mahfil and Iftar programme was arranged by LGED on 08 August 2012 at LGED Bhawan in Dhaka to mark the National Mourning Day of August 15.

Presided over by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED the special Doa Mahfil and Iftar programme was attended by,

Nanak, MP and Secretary, Local Government Division Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan as the Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively.

The special prayer was offered for the salvation of the departed soul of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his near and dear ones in the family who were brutally killed on 15 August 1975. The killers were a group of

conspirators who countered the great Liberation War of 1971. The prayer also recalled the great contributions of Bangabandhu to the over-all development of a new-born state and to the cause of Islam, especially the establishment of Islamic Academy in Bangladesh. The prayer expressed the hope of realizing Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's dream of a Digital Bangladesh by transforming the mourning to strength and vigour.

The special Doa Mahfil and Iftar was largely participated by the senior officials of the Local Government Division and large number of officials and staff of LGED.

IDB to fund Taka 187 crore to construct school-cum-cyclone shelters in Bangladesh

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has agreed to provide Taka 187 crore (US \$ 23 million) to construct school-cum-cyclone shelters in the coastal belt of Bangladesh. The funding of the project will come from a Fael Khair (anonymous philanthropist) programme.

Three contracts to this effect were signed between Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and IDB on 12 July



A special Doa Mahfil was organized by LGED on 8 August 2012 to mark the National Mourning Day of August, 15. State Minister of LGRD & C, Advocate Jahangir Kabir Nanak, MP, Secretary, LGD, Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan and Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman participated in the Doa Mahfil, among others.

2012 at IDB Bhaban in Dhaka. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Robert Michael Hughes, Project Director and the Chairman, DPM Ltd. (a Bangladeshi firm) signed the contracts which represent the second phase of the construction of the school-cum-cyclone shelters in the districts of Pirojpur, Barguna and Patuakhali. The project, it is learnt, anticipates construction of 35 structures starting in September 2012 and plans to achieve the total number of around 200 school-cum-cyclone shelters, all under construction, before the end of the current year.

These school-cum-cyclone shelters will be strong enough to be used as shelters for the population living in the surrounding areas during any future cyclones, including providing shelters for the domestic pets of the local people.

UGIIP-2: LGED's major tool to gear up urban improvement

Urban population in Bangladesh is expected to reach nearly 51 million by 2015. The rapid growth of urban population and unabated urbanization reasonably escalate the need for expanded urban services.

Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project-2 (UGIIP-II), an on-going project of LGED, has adopted performance-based allocation of investment funds with defined performance criteria on governance improvement (GI). These criteria emphasize citizens' participation, accountability, urban planning and financial management as key areas for governance improvement.

The project area of UGIIP-2 includes 35 Pourashavas under Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Rangpur divisions. conspirators who countered the



Agreements were signed between LGED and IDB in Dhaka on 12 July 2012 relating to the construction of school-cum-cyclone shelters. Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Project Director, Fael Khair Programme Mr. Robert Michael Hughes and the Chairman, DPM Ltd. signed the contracts on behalf of their respective organizations.

UGIIP-2, assisted by Asian Development Bank (ADB), consists of three components - (A) Urban infrastructure & service delivery, (B) Urban governance improvement and capacity development; and component, and (C) Project Management & implementation support.

The output of Component A is developed infrastructure and improved service delivery, which include urban transport, drainage, solid waste management, water supply, sanitation, municipal facilities and basic services for the poor in slums.

The output of Component B is Governance Improvement (GI) and developed capacity of Pourashavas. Each Pourashava takes a series of reform activities in six key areas identified in the Urban Governance Improvement Action Program (UGIAP) and the doables are- citizen awareness and participation, urban planning, women's participation, integration of the urban poor, financial accountability and sustainability and administrative transparency.

In Component C, a Project Management Office (PMO) in LGED and a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in each Pourashava is to be established.

The highlights of achievement under UGIIP-2 could be traced significantly in revenue collection efforts. In the last fiscal year, all 35 Pourashavas exceeded a landmark level of 80% collection efficiency.



Secretary, Local Government Division Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman and Prof. Nazrul Islam, Chairman, Centre for Urban Studies, Bangladesh are seen attending a session of the World Urban Forum, held in Naples, Italy from 01 to 06 September 2012.

In all these contexts, UGIIP-2 has been able to inspire and make the Pourashavas aware of the very need for implementing the stated plans/intents and to adequately finance them from their own source.

Minister for Housing & PW, LGD Secretary & LGED Chief Engineer attend World Urban Forum in Italy

A 45-member government delegation led by the State Minister for Housing and Public

Works, Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan, MP attended the World Urban Forum held in Naples, Italy from 1 to 6 September 2012. The delegation consisted of 22 mayors, senior government officials and representatives from different donor agencies.

Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Project Director of UGIIP-2, LGED Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Akand, Project Director of UPPR, LGED Mr. Md. Abdur Rashid Khan and President, Municipal Association of Bangladesh, Advocate Azmatullah Khan were the key members of the delegation, among others.

Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Local Government Division highlighted the first Bangladesh Urban Forum (BUF) in a joint networking session arranged by GIZ. Germany and Palestine also participated demonstrating key issues of their respective national Vision Forum. Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan was among four panelists of the seminar. Hon'ble Deputy Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Palestine Dr. Khaled Qawsmi took part as one of the panelists. UGIIP-2, assisted by Asian



State Minister of LGRD&C Advocate Jahangir Kabir Nanak inaugurated LGED-constructed girder bridge over Bangali river in Dhunot upazila of Bogra district on 25 July 2012.

Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman presented a paper at the World Urban Forum on "Bangladesh Urbanizing Trend and Challenges - Recent Policy Reforms and Programme Experience." Secretary, Local Government Division Mr. Abul Alam Md. Shahid Khan presided over the session.

Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Akand, Project Director, UGIIP-II presented Gender Mainstreaming activities of the project in a networking session arranged by the Asian Development Bank. Experience of two other projects from Vietnam and Nepal was also presented in the session. Ms. Shireen Latif, Senior Gender Advisor of ADB, Manila presided over the session. She praised the laudable role of LGED in pioneering gender mainstreaming activities in implementing different development projects and highly appreciated the contribution of Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED in this regard. Mr. Md. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan also spoke at the session as a special guest. He expressed Bangladesh government's strong commitment to address gender issues in all spheres of development programmes of the government.

Over 100 member countries attended the World urban Forum.



Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan is seen discussing with Dr. Joan Clos, Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat in Dhaka on 7 August 2012.

Foreign Mission

LGD Secretary unfolds 'Master Plan' for 300 towns in B'desh to Executive Director of UN-Habitat:

Local Government Division (LGD) Secretary Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan briefed Dr. Joan Clos, Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat about the 'Master Plan' being prepared for 300 towns and cities in Bangladesh on 7 August 2012. Mr. Khan had extensive discussions with Dr. Clos and

requested him to extend technical assistance from UN-Habitat in this regard. Earlier, Dr. Clos visited Rahmat Camp, one of LGED's UPPR working areas of Dhaka city and talked to the community members there.

Dr. Clos came to Dhaka on 4 August 2012 to address the International Conference on Empowerment and Development that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 5 August 2012. Addressing the inaugural session of the Conference Dr. Clos stressed on the need to formulate a national urban policy which must clarify the legal delimitation of what is buildable. He added, we need a pragmatic and clear approach to city extensions.

Sri Lankan delegation visit LGED: An eleven-member delegation, led by Mr. R.A.A. Ranawake, Secretary, Ministry of Local Government & Provincial Councils, Government of Sri Lanka, visited LGED Headquarters in Dhaka on 24 September 2012. The delegation was received cordially by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED. The purpose of their visit to LGED HQ was primarily to get themselves acquainted with the activities of LGED's Second urban Governance & Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project.



Mr. R. A. A. Ranawake, Secretary, Ministry of Local Government & Provincial Councils, Government of Sri Lanka is seen addressing the officials of LGED during an experience sharing visit to LGED HQ on 24 September 2012. Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman and Mr. Nario Saito, Project Officer, SAD, ADB Manila, were present during the occasion, among others.

The members of the visiting Sri Lankan delegation were later introduced to LGED through a presentation delivered by Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Superintending Engineer,

LGED. The presentation highlighted LGED as a pro-people organization having result-oriented projects with proven tracks of performance and it is the key facilitator of LGs in Bangladesh. It focused that LGED's trained and committed manpower apply advanced technology blended with local knowledge.

The leader of the delegation Mr. Ranawake in his address said, they are grateful to the Govt. of Bangladesh for their cooperation and hospitality extended to them. He also said, further cooperations between the two countries would continue to grow from strength to strength in future.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer LGED said, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are identical countries with growing economy. He said, both countries have many things in common. He also said, the visit of the Sri Lankan delegation to LGED would create an opportunity for shared understanding and knowledge on the trends of rural, urban and water resources development in the two south Asian countries.

LGED's efforts to maintain "Rural Roads & Culverts"

Under LGED, there exists a total length of 3,00,000 kilometers of different types of roads throughout the country, of which 80,500 kilometers of roads are paved roads at present. Besides, LGED has been constructing around 4,000 kilometers of roads and 35,000 meters of bridges/culverts every year under Annual Development Programme. In consequence, an extensive network of paved roads is being woven in the rural scenarios of Bangladesh, which in turn is contributing, directly and in-directly, to the development of transport and communication system in the rural areas of the country and to the government's poverty reduction programme through creation of employment opportunities.

Maintenance of paved roads programme has been running since 1992-93 FY from the government's revenue budget to repair and maintain "Rural Roads and Culverts", Maintenance of paved roads has three categories- (i) Routine Maintenance, (ii) Periodic Maintenance and (iii) Emergency Maintenance. Routine Maintenance includes repairing of shoulders, slopes and small

potholes on the surface, which is being accomplished by LCS women workers and Mobile Maintenance Team. Periodic Maintenance includes dressing, overlaying and rehabilitation of the paved surface. Apart from these, 10% of the total maintenance budget is spent to repair the damages caused by natural calamities like floods, cyclones, excessive rains, etc.

For proper implementation of "Rural Roads & Culverts" Maintenance Programme, "Rural Roads & Culverts Repairing Programme Implementation Guidelines", prepared by LGED, is followed. According to the timetable stipulated in the Guideline, the next year's maintenance need is assessed by conducting Road Condition and Roughness Survey and submitted to the Ministry (from July to December). As per the allocation stated in the revenue budget the district-wise budget allocation is delivered to the offices of the District's Executive Engineer and informing Regional Superintending Engineer at the beginning of the new fiscal year, in the first week of July.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Regional Superintending Engineers give approval to Off Pavement and On Pavement Maintenance Schemes. The Executive Engineers and Upazila Engineers prepare a list of Periodic Maintenance Schemes on the basis of priority, under the supervision of the Regional Superintending Engineer, and begin to prepare the cost estimate. The Superintending Engineer can approve costs for Periodic Maintenance Schemes upto not more than 15 lakh taka. The Executive Engineers appoint contractors as per PPR2008. The quality of works in the implementation process is asserted by direct

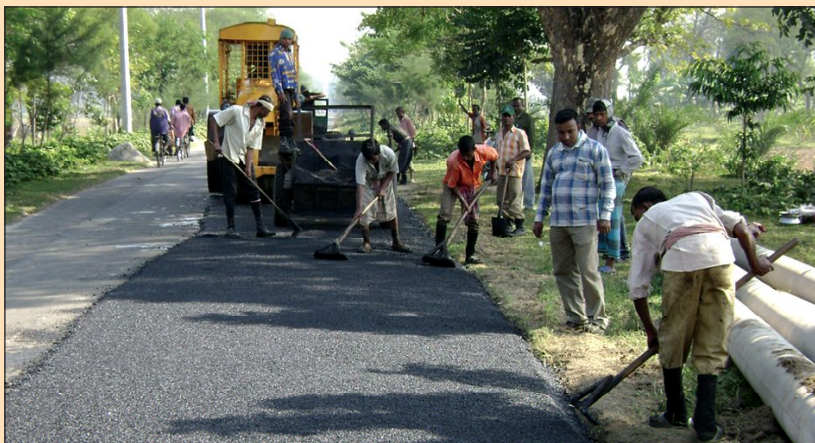
supervision of the Upazila Engineers. The implementation of schemes has to be completed by 30 June spending 100% of the budget allocation.

In FY 2001-2002, the total budget allocation for repairing and maintenance of "Rural Roads & Culverts" was 125 crore taka. With that money, Routine Maintenance of 20,194 km roads, Periodic Maintenance of 2,033 kms roads and 17,248 meters of structures were completed.

In FY 2011-2012, the total budget allocation for repairing and maintenance of "Rural Roads & Culverts" was 625 crore taka which was spent for Routine Maintenance of 19,500 kms roads, Periodic Maintenance of 4,600 kms roads and 12,000 meters of structures.

In FY 2012-2013, the total budget allocation for repairing and Maintenance of "Rural Roads & Culverts" is 730 crore taka with a target of Routine Maintenance of 15,500 kms roads and Periodic Maintenance of 4,800 kms roads and 11,500 meters of structures.

In the current fiscal year, 328.50 crore taka has been released from the Ministry in two instalments. The released money has been re-allocated to district level to meet the expenses for maintenance works. An amount of 65.10 crore taka has been allocated for Routine Maintenance throughout the country. In the month of July 2012, 1050 kms of roads has been completed by LCS women workers under Routine Maintenance Programme. Taka 7.6 crore has been allocated for On Pavement Maintenance and the repair works for small potholes on the paved surface of roads are on-going RRMP- an icon of LGED's maintenance of infrastructures. LGED. The



Picture shows LGED's efforts in maintenance of rural roads in Bangladesh.



Former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was in Dhaka to attend the 33rd founding anniversary of CIRDAP as a keynote speaker on 6 July 2012. Minister of LGRD&C Syed Ashrafur Islam, MP, and Advocate Jahangir Kabir Nanak, MP, are seen exchanging greetings with Dr. Kalam.

LGRD Minister suggests to equip villages with urban amenities

Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam suggested a holistic approach for development of rural areas in Bangladesh, providing livelihood opportunities and urban amenities to villages. He was speaking at the 33rd founding anniversary of Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific (CIRDAP) in Dhaka on 6 July 2012. The foundation-day lecture on "Sustainable Development System in Asia Pacific" was delivered by the former Indian President and an aerospace scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The Minister, in his brief address, termed Dr. Kalam as a great human soul who outlined his unique model of rural development under private-public ownership, run by local government bodies at the grassroots level.

LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam said, Dhaka city is growing at such a pace that services and infrastructure are unable to cope with. He said, the existing provisions in this megacity are not sufficient to meet the burgeoning demand. He further added, we in Bangladesh could also extend urban amenities to the villages keeping a village as a village.

In his much-hyped foundation-day lecture, the former Indian President Dr. Kalam asked the 15-nation inter-government organization of CIRDAP to take initiatives to promote

green economy and also outlined his model of rural development under the framework of his Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA), an institutional campaign. The lecture session was attended by leading economists, sociologists, development partners, diplomats and local elites. The model suggests a holistic approach for development of rural neighbourhoods, providing livelihood opportunities and urban amenities to villages. Dr. Kalam also identified "water resources to be another crucial area of bilateral cooperation, saying

the scarce resource, being shared by the two countries through common rivers, was being wasted. He further said that "now is the time to focus on bringing regional peace and spend more money for poverty alleviation and rural development."

Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives was also present and spoke on the occasion.

Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP delivered the address of welcome.



State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, MP, inaugurated a 286.66 meter long prestressed girder bridge on 25 July 2012 over Bangali river in Dhunot Upazila of Bogra district. The bridge has been constructed by LGED on Sonahata to Bagbari road at chainage 3450m under LGED's Grameen Infrastructure Development Project (GIDP). Local elites were also present on the occasion.

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