



Minister for LGRD & Cooperatives Syed Ashrafur Islam visited Narashunda River Rehabilitation & Kishoreganj Municipality Region Development Project on 5 August 2013.

LGRD Minister visits Narashunda River Rehabilitation Project in Kishoreganj

Local Government Engineering Development (LGED) has taken up the activities of Narashunda River Rehabilitation and Kishoreganj Municipality Region Development Project in a bid to mitigate urban water-logging and urban environment development through re-excavation of rivers. The Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Syed Ashrafur Islam, MP, visited to see the

progress of the project on 5 August 2013. During his visit the Minister gave instructions to speed up the progress. Mr. Md. Abdus Salam, Project Director, and other officials of LGED were present on the occasion. The Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives had earlier visited the project on a number of occasions and expressed his satisfaction on the progress.

The implementation of the project will lead to mitigation of

urban water-logging, development of urban environment, restoration of grabbed rivers/canals and improvement of communication system through development of physical infrastructure. In addition, there will be urban beautification along with scopes of recreation for the urban residents. It is expected that the project will be completed before the stipulated deadline of June 2014. ■



A panoramic view of the re-excavated Narashunda River.

Information technology reaches the doorstep of poor people

Economic development including industries, commerce and trade, communication and livelihood of the people in the modern world has become dependable on information technology. The Government of Bangladesh has also been attaching optimum significance to information technology with a firm determination to build up a digital Bangladesh. Measures have been taken to establish information and service centers at various administrative levels in the country with assistance from the Access to Information Project of the government. Birth registration, admission to colleges/universities, passports, applications for citizenship certificates, mobile banking, information and services related to education, health, agriculture, human rights, employment, etc are now accessible to public through e-services catered from the services centers of Union Parishads, City Corporations and Municipalities.

UPPR Project has been assisting the communities and the government since the last three years for establishing Community Resource Centers (CRC) in a bid to facilitate urban people's access to information service. UPPR Project and Access to Information Project signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 18 July 2013 in order to further the bondage between the government-run information and service centers, and CRC service centers. According to MoU, when developed, CRC will be turned into Town Information Service Center and Municipality Information Town Center. Rendering of services by the Mayors, Chief Executive Officers, Member Secretaries, Town Managers and stakeholders will be easier and effective.

The MoU will facilitate easy access of the urban poor to information and services centers of the government. It may be mentioned here that detailed information on e-information and service centers is available on <http://a2i.pmo.gov.bd/site>. (See picture at page 7)

Editorial

Urban Transport System: Bangladesh Perspectives

Rapid urbanization has been growing in Bangladesh since its independence. In 1974, urban population in Bangladesh was 6.27 million. It was increased to 28.81 million in 2001 and 39 million in 2011. It is expected that urban population in Bangladesh will mount to 50 million in 2021. Outstanding features behind the current trend of urbanization are the centripetal character of Dhaka city. Centralization of Dhaka city and incongruous growth are significant crises in urbanization in Bangladesh. Development of urban infrastructure is not at par with the pace of urbanization. The most vital point is that growth centers are being groomed up surrounding big cities which, in turn, are subsequently becoming urban centers or medium-sized towns. In the context of such urbanization processes, it is now essential to take up planned development for medium-sized towns, urban centers or production hubs in addition to development of big cities.

Transport system plays a pivotal role in the economic activities of all countries including the developing ones. Since time immemorial, towns and trading centers have been cropping up in those areas where transport links or access facilities such as waterways, roads and railways are available. Development of transport sector regulates disciplined urbanization, export-oriented growth, international trade, etc. Hence, cherished development in the transport sector requires being an integral part of future development policies and strategies that would be conducive to subsequent achievement of national growth. Urban transport sector is yet to get due patronization from urban management. Hence, it is essential to take effective programs to raise the qualitative standard of urban transport sector through taking the role of urban infrastructure improvement in national development.

Traffic congestion has been identified as the most outstanding crisis in the transport sector of the big and medium-sized cities in the Sixth Five Year Plan. This crisis seems to be gaining momentum because of dearth of infrastructures and weak traffic management. Besides, due to scarcity of roads and quality vehicles of modern/local technology, the standard of services, safety and, above all, the urban environment seem to be fraught with risks. Rapid explosion of urban population, poor traffic policies, simulations use of motorized and non-motorized vehicles, inadequate road facilities, absence of sustainable mass transport system, poor land

management and meager parking facilities have worsened the transport system in our cities. For those reasons the urban transport system has been failing to spur the requisite dynamism. The number of vehicles is at par with the rise of population in the main cities as well as in the medium-sized towns of the country. Road accidents, traffic jams and sound pollution have now become regular features. Due to lack of institutional capacities and skilled professionals such precarious incidents are frequently taking place. It is essential to formulate transport policies and strategies for the urban transport sector for the sake of socio-economic situation and safety. The outstanding problems in the transport sector are:

- 1) Rapid urbanization, increased after of population growth, increased traffic requirement;
- 2) Weak infrastructures and poor management of traffic congestion;
- 3) Inadequate infrastructure;
- 4) Poor and ill-planned land management;
- and 5) Lack of environment-related mass awareness.

Due to global economic boom and extensive urbanization during the fag end of the last century, people at large had to depend solely on road transportation to ensure consumer services and communication development. The impact of that trend was also visibly marked in our cities. Transportation of goods today largely depends on mechanized vehicles like trucks, lorries, haulers, vans, rickshaws, etc. People's dependence on mechanized vehicles is gradually increasing and as such transport management system had been failing to be strengthened. Moreover, land management is also causing an adverse impact on the ever increasing number of mechanized vehicles and the limited transport system. Socio-economic and environmental impacts, high cost of transport infrastructure, poor road conditions and lack of alternate means causing traffic jams, excessive wastage of energy and, above all, the urban environment are obviously marring our progress.

Development of a planned transport management in the urban transport sector now poses to be extremely important in a bid to sustain the on-going trend of national economic activities. It is now absolutely important to establish a sustainable urban transport system through effective application of traffic rules and traffic management in favor of pedestrians, the urban poor, and women and children. ■

held under CRDP

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Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED and Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Additional Chief Engineer (Urban Management), LGED were present at the inaugural session of the workshop. Besides, Mr. Md. Ahsan Habib, Project Director, CRDP, Mr. Alexander Fox, Senior Procurement Specialist, ADB, Mr. A.K.M. Firoze, Senior Procurement Officer, ADB and officials and consultants of the project were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the inaugural session Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED urged upon the participants to apply knowledge and inputs gained from the workshop effectively. ■

ICGP Interim Workshop held

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High level officials of LGED, Mayors of the City Corporations and others concerned are working in collaboration with a skilled and experienced Japanese team to spell out the mechanism of rendering more intimate services through good governance, infrastructure, administrative reshuffle, financial management and budget, and people's participation.

The Chairman of the inaugural session Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari sincerely thanked all concerned for the progress of works. He went on to remark that ICGP would play a positive and effective role in the urban sector. ■



Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED is seen attending as the chief guest at the Inception Workshop on Preparing Third Urban Governance & Infrastructure Improvement Project held on 2 September 2013 at RDEC Building of LGED Headquarter in Dhaka. Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer (Urban Management), LGED and officials of development partner agencies are also seen on the dais.

'Municipalities to work apace with needs of modern age'

—LGED Chief Engineer at the Inception Workshop of UGIIP-3

Changes in the life-style of mankind are visibly marked with the change of time. New needs are created. Bangladesh has also been progressing along the improved ways of life-style ever since its independence. The concept of the people has been changing as well with the change of time. The standard of living among the people in the principal cities of the country is at present comfortable. The citizens of medium sized towns are now habituated to modern living. So the needs of the people are now on the brink of changes. The municipalities are therefore now confronted with rendering services with new approaches. In view of such perspectives, the Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project (UGIIP) of LGED have been playing a much more effective role in the improvement of living standard of the municipal residents.

The government has taken up the Second Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project (UGIIP-2) in 2009 with 35 municipalities after the successful implementation of the First Urban Governance and

Infrastructure Improvement Project (UGIIP-1) which began in 2003 with 30 municipalities. At present, the third phase of UGIIP-2 is on the way to be completed with the continuing success of the on-going project, 16 more municipalities have been included in the project in its third phase.

In a bid to ensure services in accordance with the needs of the municipal residents, a formal Inception Workshop on Preparing Third Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project was held on 02 September 2013 at LGED's RDEC Bhaban in Dhaka. Speaking at the inaugural session of the Workshop as the chief guest Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED said, the municipalities would have to work in improving the living standard of the municipal residents keeping pace with the needs of modern age. He advised the participants of the workshop to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly in framing the vision of the project,

Matter relating to framing the project's vision, improvement of

governance, government's directives, organogram of the municipalities, manpower employment, services to be rendered and limitations of municipal funds were discussed at length in the day-long workshop. Besides, experiences gained in implementing UGIAP under UGIIP-2 were also shared.

Chaired by Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Additional Chief engineer, LGED, the inaugural session was attended by, among others, Mr. Norio Saito, Principal Urban Development Specialist, ADB and Mr. Vincent Rotts, Team Leader, PPTA Project, UGIIP-3 as the special guests.

The concluding session of the workshop was chaired by Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer (Urban Management), LGED. The workshop was attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Akand, Project Director, UGIIP-2, PPTA Consultants of UGIIP-3, mayors of the model municipalities, representatives from MAB and ADB Project Directors and officials of LGED's different projects. ■

ICGP Interim Workshop held

Japan is an outstanding friendly country of Bangladesh. The Government of Japan has been contributing to socio-economic development of Bangladesh ever since our independence through assistance to various projects. Japan's role in the development of Bangladesh through implementation of different projects including those in agriculture, health, education, sanitation and communication sectors is unquestionable. The Government of Japan has also been playing a significant role in our urban management development. Currently, LGED is implementing Inclusive City Governance Project (ICGP) with assistance from Japan.

A workshop was held on 24 September 2013 at LGED HQ in Dhaka, organized by LGED and JICA Bangladesh, to make a stock-taking of the interim progress of the project. Chaired by Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED the inaugural session of the workshop was attended by, among others, Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Local Government Division as the chief guest. Mr. Ashok Madhab Roy, Additional Secretary, Local Government Division and Miss Ritsuko Hagiwara, Representative of JICA Bangladesh were present on the occasion as special guests.

In an address of welcome Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer, LGED (Urban Management) and Director of UMSU said, ICGP has been prepared with some new



Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Local Government Division, is seen delivering his address as the chief guest at the inaugural session of an Interim Workshop of Inclusive City Governance Project by LGED and JICA on 24 September 2013 at LGED Headquarter in Dhaka.

interventions added to UGIIP. It is a unique framework for an integrated development of urban sectors. In this project there are guidelines for inclusive infrastructure

to Chittagong City Corporation he said, we have constructed many cyclone shelters in Chittagong, now it is high time to tide over water-logging. LGD Secretary

development of Bangladesh will be continuing in future.

Mr. Hideo Sakamoto, Deputy Team Leader, ICGP, delivered a presentation on the interim progress of the project. He said, the need assessment of the relevant city corporations has been completed in the meantime on the basis of continuous negotiations between the City Corporations and the stake-holder committees.

The needs of the city corporations include priority basis road network for communication development, development of drainage systems, water treatment plants, waste management development, construction of flyovers, cyclone shelters, tidal gates, bus terminals, truck terminals and various other projects.

This project started functioning since November 2012 with the objective of developing inclusive infrastructures and governance under five city corporations of Bangladesh- Chittagong, Narayanganj, Rangpur, Comilla and Gazipur.

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..it is essential to take up projects keeping in mind real problems and needs of the people....

development, overhauling of administrative system and governance improvement.

In his address as the chief guest LGD Secretary Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan said, vision is a very significant issue for every municipality. We have to think over the next fifty years. Reiterating various problems of Dhaka megacity he said, each and every city corporation should embark on projects keeping in mind the real problems and needs of the people. Pointing

also emphasized on ensuring good governance in every sector. He advised all concerned to work with speed and skill and urged them to submit the DPP of the project before 10 October 2013.

Speaking as the special guest Miss Ritsuko Hagiwara, JICA Representation said, a new horizon has come up after Japan's involvement in the city corporations of Bangladesh. She said, assistance from the Government of Japan in the

Mid-Term Review Mission visit CRDP

A mid-term Review Mission of ADB, KfW and Swedish SIDA visited Bangladesh to see the activities of City Region Development Project (CRDP) from 9 September to 18 September 2013. The mission led by Mr. Ming Yan Fan, Urban Development Specialist, ADB Headquarter, reviewed in details the progress of works and future steps of CRDP. The Mission had detailed discussions with the project officials and consultants including the Chief Engineer of LGED on various activities of the project and approved the Batch-2 Sub-projects of the project. The Mission visited Khulna and Gazipur City Corporations, Jessore, Noapara, Mongla Port and Narshingdi Municipalities; and, Fultola and Mograpara urban centers. ■

A series of workshops held under UGIIP-2 to improve capacities of municipalities

The third phase of Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project started functioning on 01 July 2012 with a total number of 47 municipalities after successful implementation of the first and second phases of the project with financial assistance from the Government of Bangladesh, ADB, KfW and GIZ. One prime objective of the project is to improve the institutional capacity of the municipalities along with the improvement of physical infrastructures. With that end in view, six municipalities under the project, namely Chandpur, Faridpur, Jhalakathi, Natore, Jamalpur and Sreemongal



Members of ADB Mid-Term Review Mission led by Mr. Ming Yan Fan, Urban Development Specialist, ADB visited Jessore Pourashava under CRDP in September 2013. Mr. Md. Ahsan Habib, Project Director of CRDP and the Mayor of Jessore Pourashava were present on the occasion.

have been selected to workout planning and implementation programs under supervision of GIZ specialists.

Initiatives have been taken under the project to improve capacities through Training of Trainers (TOT) including formation of resource corners and training pools. In its consequence, a refreshers course on Training of Trainers (TOT) for the members of the training pools of six pilot municipalities under the project held at BARD, Comilla from 01 April to 03 April 2013. The participants of the said training

course prepared a Training Guide identifying six training modules for implementation on the basis of each municipality's training needs. They also produced a Training Calendar for implementation during the period from July to December 2013.

Another training workshop on raising awareness on capacity development of the Standing Committee on Audit & Accounts, identification of potential sectors of revenue earnings to increase sources of income of the municipalities, duties and responsibilities of

the municipal standing committees for municipal governance and services was held from 24 August to 24 September 2013.

Besides, training workshops on Community Mobilization, participated by the Slum Development Officers and Community Field Workers of 16 municipalities under the project, were held on 4 and 5 September 2013 and 8 and 9 September 2013 at the premises of the LGED Executive Engineer's office in Dhaka.

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Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Akand, Project director, UGIIP-2 is seen addressing the inaugural session of a Training on Community Mobilization for the Community Field Workers and Slum Development Officers of the Municipalities under the project.



Mr. Anwar Ali, Mayor, Kushtia Municipality, accompanied by the officials of the Municipality, participated in a campaign to test formalin levels in food commodities at Kushtia municipal market.

Kushtia Municipality campaigns to test formalin levels in food commodities

Attaching optimum significance to public health, Kushtia Municipality has been conducting regular campaigns in the local markets to test the levels of formalin in food commodities. To ensure formalin-free food for the municipal residents and to raise awareness on endangering risks of formalin the Mayor of Kushtia Municipality himself has been participating in the campaigns. Mr. Anwar Ali,

Mayor, Kushtia Municipality, participated in one such raid at the Kushtia Municipal Market on 10 September 2013 and appealed to the sellers and buyers of food commodities to be more conscious and aware on direct and indirect demerits of formalin-mixed food items.

It may be mentioned here, Kushtia Municipality has taken up a number of discussion and publicity programs to increase

awareness among the people on the harmful effects of formalin laden food and to find out ways to resist the use of formalin. Besides, the municipal coordination committee (TLCC) has also been implementing various recommendations taken in their quarterly meetings. In order to resist the use of formalin the Ward Coordination Committee (WLCC) and the Mass Media Cell (MCC) are also vocal in their regular meetings. ■



The officials of LGED and ADB are seen participating in a workshop entitled "Procurement on ADB Guideline & Quality Assurance Plan" under CRDP held on 02 September 2013 at LGED Headquarter in Dhaka.

Workshop on "Procurement on ADB Guidelines & Quality Assurance Plan" held under CRDP

A day-long training workshop on "Procurement on ADB Guidelines & Quality Assurance Plan" was held on 02 September 2013 at LGED Headquarter in Dhaka under City Region Development Project (CRDP), funded by ADB,

KfW and Swedish SIDA. The workshop was participated by Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Sub-Assistant Engineers of the City Corporation and Municipalities under CRDP.

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CDC Leaders now

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Development Committee and the interactions has not only helped them to realize the status of leadership, but also encouraged them to gear up the election campaigns.

Hasna Hena, an elected Councilor from Khulna, said, "Had I not been associated with CDC programs, I would not have dared to contest the polls. Prior to contesting, I had informed the members of my CDC about my intent to contest the polls. All of them greatly enthused me."

Councilor Monira Khatoun said, she would dedicate herself to the cause of the poor people at her best. She also said, she would encourage all other poor and less privileged women so that each of them could also dream to become a woman representative like her.

Apart from UPPR's pro-active role in improving livelihood of the poor, they are also encouraging women's participation at local government level along with allocation of various grants to less privileged women. The women Councilors, recently elected, expressed their determination to work for improvement of livelihood of the poor.

UPPR has been working since a long time for improvement and empowerment of women in Bangladesh. The so-called backward women being elected as Women Councilors in the City Corporation Elections would go a long way to prove the project's goals and positive approaches. ■

workshops held under UGIIP-2

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Motivational workshops were successfully held at Hajiganj, Basurhat, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Patgram, Nilphamari Municipalities during the period from 4 September to 16 September 2013 for the sake of implementing the Gender Action Plan. ■



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UPPR Project and Access to Information Project on 18 July 2013. (See story at back page)

CDC Leaders are now City Corporation Councilors

Bangladeshi women, by and large, are victims of gender discrimination. They are lagging behind in getting privileges in all spheres including justice, education and health services when compared to that of men. The women have enormous limitations in decision making and livelihood. In addition, early-marriage and motherhood deteriorate their surroundings. The women in Bangladesh are subjected to less developed social orders, feeble political impacts, extreme poverty, fragile health and malnutrition. The women in a male dominated society are hardly found to be associated with socio-political activities or to be elected for community and public

leadership.

The UPPR Project had, in the past few years, prioritized the issues of women's empowerment and community development significantly. In its consequence, a good many women are coming forward to accept leadership. Such a trend was quite visible in the recently concluded City Corporation elections. In the City Corporation polls held on 15 June 2013, as many as nine women were elected as women councilors for Khulna, Barisal and Rajshahi City Corporations. These women were leaders in UPPR Communities earlier. In an interview they reiterated the fact that their success came in the wake of UPPR's intervention in

empowerment of women and community assistance. They said, the leadership experiences they gained in UPPR's communities helped them a lot.

The elected Councilor of Barisal City Corporation, Jahanara Begum stated, after being associated with UPPR Committees, she has now become capable to represent herself at any meeting, work or seminar. The training courses she attended at the initiative of the project were enough to motivate her to contest in the election for the post of a Councilor of the City Corporation. She further added, participation in various activities of community through UPPR's Community

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Hasna Hena and Monira Khatoon, the two CDC leaders under UPPR Project are beaming with joy to become Councilors of a City Corporation.

Implement building constructions

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In his speech as chairperson Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said, when the world is making a progress in technology, we are facing man-made disasters. It is a point to ponder. He said, the seminar has been arranged by LGED to prepare a blue-print for salvation of mankind from man-made disasters.

A presentation was delivered at the inaugural session by Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Additional Chief Engineer (Urban Management), LGED.

After the inaugural session, Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury chaired the technical session when three keynote papers were presented. Khandakar M. Ansar Hossain, General Secretary, Bangladesh Institute of Planners presented his paper on "Building Construction, Control, rise of Urban Planning and Present Situation". Architect Iqbal habib, Joint Secretary, BAPA delivered on "Building Construction, Control and Legal Framework, Rules & Guidelines for Urban Planning, while Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer, LGED presented on "Duties and responsibilities of various organizations and LGIs in Building Construction, Control and Urban Planning".

At the concluding session of the seminar, chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer of LGED, the Local Government Division Secretary Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan in his address as special guest said, urban buildings are constructed with divergent motives. He said, there is no adequate skilled manpower at the local government institutions to approve buildings. He further added, regulations have to be formulated in coordination with all concerned on the basis of negotiations and all the municipalities have to follow Bangladesh National Building Code. In addition, he appealed to all to work for the nation with responsibilities.

Nine recommendations, unanimously accepted at the technical session and during the open discussion, were forwarded to the government for necessary actions. As many as 600 invited guests coming from the City Corporations, Municipalities and relevant professionals and more than a hundred officials from LGED attended the seminar. ■

NAGAR SANGBAD

Nagar Sangbad

(English Version of Nagar Sangbad in Bangla)

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State Minister for Liberation War Affairs, Capt (Retd) AB Tajul Islam, MP, Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor, Asia Pacific University, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED and Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Additional Chief Engineer (Urban Management), LGED are seen at the inaugural session of a workshop on "Building Construction, Control, Planning & Implementation" held on 7 July 2013 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka.

'Implement building constructions adhering to plans'- State Minister Capt (Retd) AB Tajul Islam, MP at an LGED Workshop

Incidents of building collapses have been added to the existing various problems of urban life. The tragedies of building collapse in recent times in some parts of the country including Dhaka and Chittagong have turned out to be a new panic to the city dwellers. Large scale demand of urban housing vis-à-vis scarcity of land has led to the construction of high-rise buildings here and there. In violation of government rules and regulations, the owners of buildings and the constructing firms have been skipping building codes and environmental issues. The buildings thus constructed only for profiteering have become hazardous. In consequence, risks and accidents like cracks, collapses and fire incidents are mounting. Lives and properties are being subjected to irreparable damages.

In view of the above perspectives, a day-long seminar on "Building Construction, Control and Planning & Implementation" was held at LGED HQ in Dhaka on 7 July 2013.

Chaired by the Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, the inaugural session of the seminar was attended by the State minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt (Retd) AB Tajul Islam, MP, and the Vice-Chancellor of Asia Pacific University Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury as the special guests, among others. In his address the State Minister Capt (Retd) AB Tajul Islam said, any disaster borne out of man-made errors is a matter of great regret. He said, if 'Building Codes' or 'Building Construction Rules' are not adhered to during planning, design, construction and implementation processes, then the risk of a great danger becomes inevitable. He appealed to make a firm commitment to develop

modern urbanization through protecting lives and properties from the wraths of building collapses and from the lessons learned from Rana Plaza tragedy.

The other special guest, Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, pointing to man-made disasters said, we in Bangladesh are passing through a critical time in the context of environment and ecology. He said, Bangladesh is a densely populated country and as such urban planning has to be developed on the basis of population. He said, rapid urbanization, sprouting industrialization, population expansion in the capital city, ill-planned development efforts, annihilation of agricultural land, river-grabbing, pollution, etc are damaging ecological balance. He further added, in the current century we have to devise urban planning giving equal impetus to environmental issues.

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