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NAGAR SANGBAD

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Minister for Cultural Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, is seen seated as chief guest in a photo session with the winners of painting competition in observance of the 39th death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day at LGED Headquarter in Dhaka on 24 August 2014. The special guest Mr. Monzur Hossain, Senior Secretary, LGD, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED and Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED are also seated on the dais.

National Mourning Day 2014 observed in LGED

In observance of the National Mourning Day 2014 and the 39th death anniversary of the father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, day-long programmes were held at LGED Headquarter in Dhaka on 24 August 2014. To mark the day a painting competition and a symposium were arranged.

The State Minister for Jute & Textiles Mr. Mirza Azam, MP, inaugurated the painting competition at the premises of LGED Headquarter in the morning to begin the day-long programmes. The Chief Engineer along with the employees and officers of LGED were present on the occasion. In his inaugural address the State Minister thanked the Chief Engineer of

LGED for taking the initiative to spread the ideals of the Father of the Nation among the new generation people.

At the symposium and the prize-giving ceremony held in the afternoon, the Hon'ble Minister for Cultural Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, was the chief guest. Chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED the session was attended by Mr. Monzur Hossain, Senior Secretary, LGD, as the special guest.

In his address of welcome Mr. Shyama Prosad Adhikari, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED said, the ideals of the Father of the Nation have to be complied with the overall development of Bangladesh. He prayed for salvation of the

departed soul of Bangabandhu and sympathised with the bereaved members of his family.

In his address as chairperson, LGED Chief Engineer said, we have to work in tune with the dream of Bangabandhu's 'Shonar Bangla' through motivating the present generation with the spirit of the liberation war. He also mentioned, the new generation people today are loyal to the spirit of the liberation war. He added, a sense of awakening has emerged among our young generation to realise the spirit of the liberation war. These people would have to create a prosperous Bangladesh in future through realisation of Bangabandhu's ideals, he said.

(contd. on page-2)

Editorial

LGED's urban sector harmonises equity-based urbanisation & social amity

Urbanisation is a continuous process. Urban areas in Bangladesh are potential. There are 335 urban local government institutions in the country whose geographical area is about 8%. People living in cities and towns constitute 30% of the total population. In the realm of Bangladesh's economic development and planned urbanisation, the importance of the urban local government institutions is immense. There might be some negative impacts of urbanisation though, 60% of the overall growth of the country emanates from urbanisation.

The theme of this year's World City and Planning Day is to ensure providing urban services to people of all genres and professions in cities through creating equity-based urban and social harmony. Local Government Engineering Department has been running various development activities in urban local government institutions, the scope of which is gradually increasing. Improvement of governance management and capacity development programmes including infrastructure development remain on-going interventions through projects funded by development partner agencies and Government of Bangladesh. LGED began its urban sector activities in 1985, aided by UNICEF, through undertaking Slum Improvement Project (SIP) on pilot basis under 5 Pourashavas. Implementation of 37 projects were completed between FY 1989-90 to FY 2013-14, of which 12 were Technical Assistance Projects and 25 were Investment Projects. The total project cost was Taka 3659.65 crore. At present there are 20 on-going projects with an estimated cost of Taka 16125.36 crore. ADP allocation for the projects in the current fiscal year (2014-15) is Taka 1608.61 crore. With the passage of time, along with the increase of investment in urban sector, different types of infrastructure development activities have been taken up in consideration of the requirements of the urban residents.

Major infrastructure interventions through projects implemented by LGED are construction and improvement of roads and bridges/culverts, maintenance of river/canal banks, construction of community latrines/latrines, installation of tubewells, construction of bus terminals and community centres, slum development and rehabilitation, maintenance of roads, construction of kitchen markets, parks/recreation centres, development of graveyards/cemeteries, construction of flyover, street lights, construction of boat landing ghats, construction and maintenance of drainage, sewage, solid waste management, recovery of land and improvement, etc.

In consideration of specific area in governance management development of urban local government institutions, gradual improvement of urban local government management has been accomplished through governance management improvement programmes. The programmes undertaken in the sphere of governance management improvement are – citizens' awareness and participation, urban planning, women's participation, urban poverty reduction, financial accountability and sustainability, administrative transparency and e-governance. Earlier, in the chronicles of urban local government institutions, capacity development programmes for 183 local government institutions were taken up. In the current fiscal year, capacity development programmes for all the urban local government institutions of the country have been taken up by Municipal Support Unit (MSU) under Municipal Governance & Services Project, funded by the World Bank. Capacity development programmes include computerisation, assistance to planned urbanisation, community mobilisation, IT support, etc.

For the sake of planned urbanisation, Master Plans for 242 urban local government institutions are about to be finalised by now and the project for preparing Master Plans for the remaining Pourashavas are in the process of being approved. In the on-going programmes under urban sector, activities are being carried out in different components for planned urbanisation through governance management improvement and capacity development, peoples' participation, women's participation, poverty reduction, implementation of programmes in compliance with government policies and rules in addition to infrastructure improvement. If effective measures are taken to implement the programmes of urban sector under LGED in collaboration with all stakeholders, it would be feasible to establish a harmony between equity-based urbanisation and social amity in the cities and towns of the country. ■

National Mourning Day 2014

(contd. from page-1)

In his address as the special guest, the Senior Secretary of LGD dubbed the heinous assassination of the most luminous figure of our history as an irreparable loss to the Bengalees. He also made a deliberation on the historical anecdotes of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in achieving our independence through struggles for autonomy and restorative moves for a new-born and war-torn Bangladesh.

In his address as the chief guest the Hon'ble Minister for Cultural Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor said, the greatest Bengalee of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had dreamt a secular Bangladesh. The glaring example of political acumen, farsight, struggles and sacrifices that he created are enough to inspire anyone to be great. He said, the new generation today should know more about Bangabandhu to know Bangladesh better. He also added, those who brutally killed this great man along with his family members on an inauspicious night, actually annihilated the spirit of the liberation war. Hence, the new generation today would have to know the true history of the liberation war, he said.

The Hon'ble Minister further added, our nation today is marching ahead along the road to democracy under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The conspirators however intend to drag Bangladesh to the Middle Ages, he said, by reinforcing militant terrorism and alienating the country from the road to democracy. We have to build a stronger citadel against those conspirators, he urged.

After the symposium, the chief guest distributed prizes among the winners of the painting competition. Employees and officers of LGED were present on the occasion.

Earlier, in observance of the 39th death anniversary and National Mourning Day on 15 August the officers and employees of LGED, led by the Chief Engineer, placed a floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation at 32 Dhanmondi Residential Area as a token of reverence. ■

Moghbazar-Mouchak (Integrated) Flyover : LGED's largest infrastructure in Dhaka city

In addition to population explosion, the number of vehicles in Dhaka city is rising. Jams are a regular feature in the existing traffic system of the city. Because of the rail-crossing at Moghbazar-Malibagh intersection there occurs traffic congestions most of the times every day. The impact of congestions gets spilled over into other roads of the city. The Moghbazar-Mouchak (Integrated) Flyover is being constructed by LGED to mitigate this familiar problem. It is the largest

infrastructure construction project of LGED which is being implemented in coordination with other service-oriented agencies. The flyover under construction will cover an extent of 8.25 km area from Tejgaon Satrasta intersection to Holy Family Hospital via Moghbazar intersection to Bangla Motor, Mouchak, Malibagh via Rajarbagh Police Line and from Rampura to Shantinagar via Mouchak and Malibagh intersections. Major works of piling, construction of pillars and pillar caps under two of the three packages have been completed. Super structure works for the flyover, in the meantime, have begun. Segment casting works for box girder have also been started. Erection of box girders will be started soon.

The formal construction work of this flyover began after the Hon'ble Prime Minister had laid its foundation stone on 16 February 1913. However, the process has been delayed to some extent because of procuring stackyard and implementing coordination with other service-oriented agencies of the metropolitan city and redesigning, the construction works are progressing in a quicker pace with the aim of completing the project by December 2015. ■



The Mayor, Councillors, officers and employees of Chandpur Pourashava are singing national anthem and showing respect to the national flag before beginning their daily routine works.

Chandpur pourashava heading towards self-sufficiency

Chandpur Pourashava began functioning in 1896 as a municipality of 'C' category. Though it was recognised as a trading port, the residents of Chandpur Pourashava were deprived of municipal services all through. Mr. Nasiruddin was elected as the Mayor of Chandpur Pourashava in 2008. In a bid to provide privileged urban amenities to the residents he prepared a new urban planning to be implemented phase-wise. In its consequence, the scenarios around Chandpur municipal areas are changing day by day. Chandpur Pourashava has made an unprecedented progress in development activities in the last 6 years. Such contributions due to the implementation of LGED's UGIIP-2 project in this respect is quite significant.

Chandpur Pourashava begins its daily routine works at 9-30 in the morning through chanting the national anthem and hoisting the national flag at its premises in presence of the Mayor, the Councillors and the employees.

To facilitate the access of information to the public, a giant-sized 'Citizens' Charter' has been planted in front of the Pourashava building and

an Information and Complaint Centre has been established inside the building. Chandpur Pourashava has a website of its own as well.

A secluded computer room with improved server facilities has been set up in the pourabahaban, as a part of realising a Digital Bangladesh as pronounced by the present government, to render municipal services to the residents. Each of the Section Chiefs of the Pourashava has been provided with a computer. Preservation of information has also been computerised here.

Pourashava bills for water consumption, municipal taxes, monthly rents for municipal markets and trade licenses have been computerised. In the interest of increasing Pourashava's revenue collection, the Secretary of the Pourashava regularly reviews the overall progress in revenue collection with the officers and employees of the Collection Section once a week.

Revenue collection by the Pourashava has been geared up through miking, issuing notices and the Mayor's individual efforts to realise the outstanding bills. As a result

of which it has been possible to achieve the goals of revenue collection.

All transactions of the Pourashava are made through bank pay-orders to ensure transparency and accountability. All earnings and expenditures in the Accounts Department are being posted in double-entry system and are despatched to PMO of UGIIP-2 every month. Transactions with the officers and employees of the Pourashava are also executed through ATM cards.

Chandpur Pourashava's annual revenue earning has been increasing comparatively leading to gradual achievement of self-sufficiency through corruption-free management and administrative efficiency, proper leadership, transparency and accountability. Besides, the construction works for Town Hall and Kadamtala Supermarket, funded from own resources, are progressing ahead with a view to increasing revenue earning further. The construction work for the ground floor of Notun Bazar Supermarket has been completed with assistance from UGIIP-2. (contd. on page-4)

Preparation of Master Plans for 22 Pourashavas & 2 City Corporations completed

The preparation of Master Plans for 22 Pourashavas and 2 City Corporations through District Town Infrastructure Improvement Project implemented under Local Government Engineering Department, funded by Government of Bangladesh, has been completed.

These Master Plans, for a period of 20 years, are aimed at improving communication system, housing, trading, sewage, water supply, drainage, waste management, education, health care, recreation and other infrastructures in the Pourashava and City Corporation areas, would act as a guideline for development. The Master Plans prepared through peoples' participation, labour and intellect, and application of technology would play a pivotal role in establishing modern and participatory towns. These completed Master Plans are currently awaiting a gazette publication from the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives.

The Master Plans have been prepared for the pourashavas of Magura, Chandpur, Noakhali, Tangail, Chuadanga, Natore, Naogaon, Kurigram, Narail, Madaripur, Jhenaidaha, Gopalganj, Faridpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Pirozpur, Thakurgaon, Nilphamari, Dinajpur and Kishoreganj and for Rangpur and Comilla City Corporations. ■

Translation of Master Plans into Bangla – an effective means to implementation

Master Plans for 239 Pourashavas and two City Corporations under Upazila Town Infrastructure Project and District Town Infrastructure Project, to be implemented by LGED, are being prepared. Master Plan preparation for most of the Pourashavas has been completed in the meantime, which are currently awaiting public hearings and would be approved later.

Proper implementation of these Master Plans is essential for planned development of towns and cities and to develop livable cities. Earlier, taking such requirements into consideration, the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives was given the executive power to approve and issue gazette notification of the Master Plans prepared for all the areas under local government institutions. However, after accomplishment of public hearing and approval processing, the Master Plans for 60 Pourashavas are currently awaiting gazette notification from the Local Government Division and that of one Pourashava (Master Plan prepared for Kuakata tourism area) is

under processing at the Ministry of Housing & Public Works. Besides, after public hearing, the Master Plans for 125 Pourashavas and 2 City Corporations are currently under process of being approved by the Parishad. The draft Master Plans for the rest 53 Pourashavas are on the way to be finalised.

Master Plans were prepared in English earlier for reasons convenient to national and international agencies and lack of local terminologies on technical vocabulary. In order to make the Master Plans more effective it is essential to publish those in an accessible language. Taking this view into consideration and in compliance with the directives of the Local Government Division to translate all Master Plans prepared by LGED, all Master Plans prepared under Upazila Towns Infrastructure Improvement Project are in the process of being translated into Bangla. Once the Master Plans are translated into Bangla, the application and implementation of those including their access to grassroot levels would be easier in many respects. ■

Chandpur pourashava

(contd. from page-3)

The construction of the first floor remains on-going through PPP. Wastes are regularly being dumped to specific dustbins by 60 van wheelers provided by UGIIP-2 in order to make the town clean and tidy. Wastes are shifted to Pourashava's dumping station twice a day with the help of 7 garbage trucks. The cleanliness drive is being supervised by the Gender Committee formed under UGIIP-2. Various structures like separate benches and toilets for men and women at the recreation centres around municipal bus terminals and riverside stations have been constructed by the Gender Committee.

To increase township beautification and mitigate traffic congestions, regular campaigns are being conducted to demolish illegitimate structures. The SB canal running through the municipal township has been cleansed from the possession of the squatters. Besides, capacity of administrative management including transparency and accountability has been increased manifold due to formation of Town Co-ordination Committee, Ward Co-ordination Committee and community based organisations at the initiative of UGIIP-2.

The municipal residents are now enjoying the privileges of a modern town due to construction of roads, drains, culverts, etc under the project. Pourashava's service-oriented deliveries are being executed by computers, garbage trucks, double-cabin pickup automobiles, motor cycles,

van wheelers and road rollers provided by the project.

Before the commencement of the project, Chandpur Pourashava's annual earning from holding taxes and non-taxes was Taka 4.5 crore only against a loan of Taka 21 crore, but by the concerted effort of the Mayor, the Poura Parishad and TLCC members the annual earning last year amounted to Taka 21 crore. This year, a target of Taka 23 crore has been earmarked. Currently, a surplus of Taka 9-10 crore remains outstanding even after realising the loans and making payments of salaries and allowances to officers and employees and other expenses. This surplus amount is being utilised for construction of new infrastructures and maintenance of various infrastructures. Chandpur Pourashava has now turned out to be a self-sufficient organisation financially and in rendering services through increasing its income and realising its loans.

As a result of getting expected services, the residents have become changed as well. They have been able to realise that it is essential to extend their hands to get municipal services. The mayoral efforts, implementation of work plans and awareness of the residents have caused enhancement of the Pourashava's revenue earnings to one hundred percent, which could be replicated by other municipalities of the country to achieve self-sufficiency. ■

e-GP training for urban LGIs held under UMU

Bangladesh is progressing fast in providing services through digital system. In compliance with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's earnest initiatives and the government's intent, providing services to the citizens through digital system has been brought about in certain spheres. Success in this respect is deemed to be upto the expectation. People are enjoying some outstanding services through digital system. LGED has also come up to ensure execution of digital services. In a bid to ensure transparency, accountability, dynamism and good governance in the process of public procurement, e-GP system through electronic devices has been introduced in LGED. In the meantime, Rural Sector and Small Scale Water Resources Sector projects have been implementing tender bids at district/upazila levels through e-GP system.

The implemented projects in the urban sector of LGED resorted to e-GP system to invite tender bids through City Corporation and Pourashava project implementation units/offices to ensure more transparency. Clause 45 of City Corporation Act 2009 and Clause 54 of Pourashava Act 2009 refer to application of advanced technology. (contd. on page-6)



A workshop on Project Benefit Monitoring and Evaluation Report under BME Team of UGIIP-2 was held on 14 August 2014. Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Akand, Project Director is seen addressing the inaugural session.

Workshop on 'Project Benefit Monitoring & Evaluation Report' of UGIIP-2' held

A day-long workshop on 'Project Benefit Monitoring & Evaluation (PBME) Report' of UGIIP-2 was held under BME Team on 14 August 2014 at RDEC Building of LGED Headquarter. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr Md Shafiqul Islam Akand, Project Director, UGIIP-2.

The workshop was organised to collect information and data in the evaluation of various activities under Pourashavas, opinions of the beneficiaries and programmes of different committees or organisations. It was participated by the community field workers of Pourashavas. Besides, the consultants of BME Team were also present. ■



Project Director of MGSP Mr. Sheikh Muzakka Zaher is delivering his address at e-GP training arranged by UMU. Mr. Md. Mohsin, Additional Chief Engineer, (Urban Management), Mr. Md. Nurullah, SuperIntending Engineer (Urban Management), Mr. Md. Shahjahan Mollah, Project Director, CGP, Deputy Project Director and Senior Assistant Engineer of MGSP, LGED are also seen in the picture

Training on Safeguards & Quality Control held under CRDP

A day-long training workshop on 'Safeguards and Quality Control' was held on 21 August 2014 at the premises of Executive Engineer's Office, LGED Jessore under City Region Development Project (CRDP), funded by ADB, KfW and Swedish SIDA. Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Sub-Assistant Engineers, Surveyors, Office Assistants and concerned contractors from Jessore, Jhikorgachha, Noapara and Mongla Port Pourashavas participated in the training. Mr. Md Maruful Islam, Mayor of Jessore Pourashava was present at the inaugural session of the workshop as the chief guest. Mr. Gopal Krishna



Photo shows Mayor of Jessore Pourashava, Deputy Project Director, CRDP and other officials and consultants attending Safeguards & Quality Control Workshop held at Jessore Pourashava.

Debnath, Deputy Project Director, CRDP, the Executive Engineer of LGED Jessore, project officials and consultants were present, among others, on the occasion.

Another identical training workshop was held on 25 September 2014 at Manikganj Pourashava. Mr. Md. Ramzan

Ali, Mayor of Manikganj, was present at the workshop as the chief guest. Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Sub-Assistant Engineers, Office Assistants and concerned contractors Manikganj, Singair, Kaliakoir and Savar pourashavas attended the workshop. ■

Orientation meeting on UGIAP implementation for Phase-I under NOBIDEP held

An orientation meeting on implementation of UGIAP Phase-I was held on 29 September 2014 at the Conference Room of Rangpur Regional Regional Training Centre. Mr. Subhash Chandra Saha Roy, Superintending Engineer, Rangpur Region LGED was present at the inaugural session of the meeting as the chief guest. Chaired by Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer (Urban Management), LGED Dhaka, the meeting was attended by Mr. A. N. M. Enayetullah, Project Director, Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project (NOBIDEP), LGED Dhaka, Mr. Hasan Mahmud, Executive Engineer, LGED Rangpur and Mr. Karl Hans Yores, Team Leader, DSM Consultant, NOBIDEP.

The chief guest in his address advised all concerned to conceive



At the inaugural session of Orientation Workshop on Implementation for UGIAP Phase-I, organised by NOBIDEP, Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer (Urban Management) is seen speaking as Chairperson on 29 September 2014.

the agenda of the meeting properly for effective implementation of the project.

In his address the Project Director of NOBIDEP stressed on the significance of successful implementation of UGIAP Phase-I to develop the pourashava as a powerful, sustainable, transparent and accountable institution through improvement of livelihood of the municipal residents and peoples' participation.

The chairperson expressed

hopes for a success of the meeting and said, the project is a performance-based one. He said, the transition to Second Phase depends on the implementation of UGIAP Phase-I. He advised all concerned to work ahead with more diligence and to solicit assistance from Urban Management Support Unit when required.

Mayors, Assistant Engineers and Secretaries of 10 Pourashavas of Rangpur region under NOBIDEP attended the orientation meeting. ■

Views-sharing meeting on Draft Concept Plan of urban centres under CRDP held

A views-sharing meeting on Draft Concept Plan of urban centres was held on 24 September 2014 at the Executive Engineer's Office in Narayanganj district and another on 29 September 2014 at Executive Engineer's Office in Gazipur district under CRDP, funded by ADB, KfW and Swedish SIDA. Upazila Engineers from LGED and DPHE of concerned upazilas attended the meeting. ■

e-GP training

(contd. from page-5)

LGED has all along been providing technical assistance to local government institutions. Under such circumstances, measures for e-GP training have been taken for government users of PIU/PIO under local government institutions enabling all urban LGIs under LGED projects to invite tender bids through e-GP system.

A three-day e-GP training course was held for the first time from 23 to 25 September 2014 for 18 trainees from 9 Pourashavas under the project. The training was organised by Urban Management Unit supported by MGSP a project funded by World Bank. Further training courses will be arranged for other City Corporations/Pourashavas of MGSP, City Corporations under CGP, Pourashavas under NOBIDEP and other projects in different phases. The acquired knowledge from such trainings would contribute significantly not only to project activities, but also to other procurement related activities in City Corporations and Pourashavas. ■



Mobile dustbins have been installed at vantage points of Khagrachhari town as an initiative to make it clean and tidy.

Khagrachhari – a tidy town

The splendid charm of the hilly township of Khagrachhari is apt to make any tourist spell-bound. That is the reason why tourists throng this town round the year. But improper throwing away of litters and wastes by the residents and tourists used to mar the natural beauty and negate pollution-free environment of this town in the past. To get rid of that situation, the Pourashava Mayor put stress on the importance of cleanliness and tidiness in the town. He took initiatives to clean the roads and drains regularly including

setting up of mobile dustbins.

As Khagrachhari Pourashava under UGIIP-2 has set up mobile dustbins and specific baskets for litters and wastes at various vantage points of the town, environment awareness among the residents and tourists seems to be on the rise. Nobody now throws away wastes here and there indiscriminately. Empty food packs, Coke cans, litters and containers can hardly be noticed on the roads and streets these days. The roads are now being cleaned customarily. Besides, as a

result of cleaning the drains regularly, the internal beauty of the municipal area has been promoted. Khagrachhari, a trim and tidy high-land town, reared up on a lush-green landscape now stands at par with any other developed township of the world.

It may be noted here that UGIIP-2 provides necessary advice and assistance through motivational incentives to Pourashavas under the project, which dedicate themselves to such exemplary measures. ■

**Pay your
municipal
taxes and
encourage
others
to pay it
as well.**

Mayor Cup handball Tournament 2014 under Kushtia Pourashava held

Kushtia Pourashava organised Mayor Cup Handball 2014 in a bid to stretch out games and sports in Kushtia and its surrounding regions. The Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia Syed Belal Hossain inaugurated the tournament on 01 June 2014. Held at the ground of Kushtia Government College, the 4-day long tournament was participated by 4 teams each in men's and women's divisions. Monami Builders from the men's division and GSM International from the women's division came out as champions.

Kushtia Pourashava has been regularly organising this tournament since the last few years with the objective of building up mental and physical health of the younger generation. The tournament was concluded on 04 June 2014 through a prize-giving ceremony. ■



Deputy Commissioner Syed Belal Hossain inaugurated the Mayor Cup Handball Tournament organized by Kushtia Pourashava.



A loan agreement was signed on 27 August 2014 between the Government of Bangladesh and Asian Development Bank for UGIIP-3. Photo shows ERD Secretary Mr. Md. Mesbahuddin and ADB Country Director Mr. Kazuhiko Higuchi along with other senior officials of LGED, ERD and ADB.

“Livable district towns to be developed to lessen pressures on big cities” -ADB Country Director Kazuhiko Higuchi

“Livable district towns have to be developed through improved infrastructures under proper management in a bid to lessen pressures on big cities in Bangladesh.” –This was observed by Mr. Kazuhiko Higuchi, Country Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB) while speaking at the Agreement signing ceremony between the Government of Bangladesh and ADB on 29 August 2014 at ERD Conference Room in Dhaka.

The Agreement enforces an ADB loan amount of 125 million dollar (about one thousand crore taka) to facilitate improvement of Pourashava governance and services and in a bid to make district level towns more livable and attractive, and to reduce influx of people into prime cities of the country. ADB Country Director also said, ADB is agreed to provide this assistance with the objective of building up model towns through proper planning, governance and

improvement of infrastructures and other service oriented programmes. The Agreement was signed by ERD Secretary Mr. Md. Mesbahuddin on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh and by ADB Country Director Mr. Kazuhiko Higuchi on behalf of ADB.

It may be mentioned that the Third Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Sector Project (UGIIP-3) has been prepared to ensure providing services as per requirements of 22 lakh municipal residents under 30 Pourashavas of the country in the light of experiences gained from UGIIP-I and II. The three components of the project include Pourashava's infrastructure and services to be made gender and environment friendly, improvement of citizens' services, planning, financial management, and to set up project management and administrative programmes. Under the project,

infrastructure improvement will include implementation of roads, drainage, water supply and sanitation, solid waste management, municipal facilities and slum development activities. Besides, the project activities will also include citizens' awareness and participation in good governance and capacity building, urban planning, equity and inclusiveness (women and urban poverty) mobilization of local resources, financial management, accountability, sustainability and administrative transparency. The formal launching of activities under UGIIP-3 began on 02 September 2013 through an inception workshop.

Prominent among those present at the Agreement signing ceremony were Mr. Md Shafiqul Islam Akand, Project Director, UGIIP-2, Mr. Mohirul Islam Khan, Deputy Project Director, UGIIP-2 and senior officials of LGED, ERD and ADB. ■

Review meeting on urban sector on-going programmes held

A review meeting on the on-going programmes to be implemented by LGED under urban sector was held on 16 September 2014 at RDEC Building at LGED Headquarter. Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer LGED, was present at the meeting as the chief guest. Chaired by Mr. Md. Mohsin, Additional Chief Engineer (Urban Management), the meeting was addressed by Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer, (Urban Management). He delivered a presentation on the chronology of activities under urban sector.

Later, in the technical session of the meeting Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Akand, Project Director, UGIIP-2 delivered a presentation on UGIIP activities, while Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer (Urban Management) spoke on Pourashava's capacity development programmes. The meeting put emphasis on the targets, progress, identification of problems and prompt requisite mitigation measures.

Conducted by Mr. Md. Nurullah, Superintending Engineer (Urban Management), the meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Engineers of LGED Headquarter and Divisional Offices, Regional Superintending Engineers and Deputy Directors. ■