

# Observation of International Women's Day 2011



LGED promoting  
Women's Development and Gender Equality



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
**Local Government Engineering Department**

## **Observation of International Women's Day 2011**

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## Message



I am very pleased to present this documentation on the LGED commemoration of International Women's Day (IWD) 2011. As part of the celebration, LGED organized a series of activities in all 64 districts as well as at national level in Dhaka. The theme of the IWD 2011, was directly linked to LGED's work; LGED is contributing in creating equal access to various opportunities including Education, Training and Science and Technology for Women.

LGED has been a champion of women's active participation in development. Some of our breakthrough initiatives included introduction of Labor Contracting Society (LCS) - where women's participation is maximum, women receive equal wages with men for equal work. We also engaged destitute women in new roles such as 'length person' for road maintenance and tree plantation which has ensure their year round steady income. Establishment of women's section in local markets ensures women's greater access to market as entrepreneurs. We facilitated women users' rights to natural resources. In addition, through capacity building support employed destitute women were enabled to advance their economic empowerment for improving their social status and acceptance. For addressing gender issues within the organization, LGED developed its own gender equity strategy and established a Gender and Development Forum. To provide practical support to women staff, LGED established a Day Care Centre at the Headquarter in Dhaka.

We will continue to be innovative to work with underprivileged women, bringing resources and opportunity close to them for changing their lives. I am optimistic, our tireless efforts will open up new prospect for many more women, fostering their participation and empowerment both in the program interventions as well as within the LGED structure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wahidur Rahman'.

Md. Wahidur Rahman  
Chief Engineer, LGED



## Acknowledgement



On behalf of the Gender and Development Forum of LGED, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and sincere thanks to the Chief Guest- Honorable State Minister, Ministry of LGRD&C, Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanok, MP and Special Guests- Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, secretary and Mr. Abdul Malek, joint secretary, Local Government Division (LGD) for gracing by their presence on the International Women's Day 2011 celebration of LGED. My sincere thanks to all Executive Engineers, Senior Assistant Engineers and Upazilla Engineers of 64 districts whose hard work made it possible to observe "International Women's Day 2011" at

local levels across the country. My sincere thanks and appreciation to the LGED Chief Engineer, Md. Wahidur Rahman for his leadership, commitment and full support to make the observation a success and for delivering the key note speech on the occasion. I am thankful to the headquarters officials and all Project Directors, officers and staff who worked collectively and tirelessly to organize the event at the national level in Dhaka. Our special thanks to those who participated in the photo gallery and the programme fair which added great value to the essence of the event. I express my gratitude and sincere appreciation to all those who attended the events of the day. My special thanks to different partners, institutions and colleagues for their assistance and co-operation all through the process.

Finally, my deepest admiration and appreciation goes to the nine extraordinary women, who reached the pinnacle of success in their own lives by their determination, hard work. LGED feels proud being a part to support them in that process.

**Md. Jahangir Alam**

Additional Chief Engineer and

Chair person, LGED Gender and development Forum

## Introduction

**T**he 8th March, International Women's Day. Historically this day connects different revolutionary chapters and achievements of women's movement worldwide. On 8th March 1857 the women workers of sewing factories came down to the streets of New York, USA, protesting against the inhuman environment prevailing in the workplace, minimum wages and daily 12 hours work. Police cracked down on the peaceful procession. After three years of continued protest, on 8th March 1860 the women workers of the sewing factories were successful in uniting themselves for establishing their own trade union. In 1899, the first conference of women on anti-war was organized in the Hage, the Netherlands. From 1905-1907 a huge number of women had actively taken part in the struggle against Russian imperialism. Later in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights. In support of those events by different national and International quarters a need for identifying an International Day was strongly felt by all. Following the feeling 8th March has been declared International Women's Day in second International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen held in 1910 as proposed by Clara Zerkín, leader of German Socialist Movement.

The United Nations giving recognition to IWD in 1975 and since then every year this day is observed under certain theme; the theme for 2011 was Equal access to education, training and science and technology pathway to decent work for women.

Bangladesh started observing IWD in a small way in early 1972. From 1992 onwards this day has been observed by different NGOs, women organizations, International Development organization and the Government entities with much fervor and importance.

IWD was first observed in 2010 by LGED. In 2011, LGED made a big shift, brought IWD under the spotlight and expanded its activities to observe IWD in all 64 districts. LGED believes IWD is a hallmark of women's struggle and achievements and facilitates awareness raising of project staff and the community it works with on gender issues and women's rights.

The preparatory work to put together the IWD events 2011, the LGED Gender & Development Forum began their work in January; the efforts resulted in a mega commemoration of IWD and for the first time IWD was simultaneously observed in national as well as district levels.

## LGED and women's empowerment and gender equality

Over the past decades, LGED made significant strides to mainstream gender in its projects and operations. LGED's rural development sector projects have created employment opportunities for destitute rural women through Labour Contracting Societies with the objective of promoting wider participation and recognition of women in development activities as well as resolving wage discriminations. This brought a radical change in the life of rural women. In the small scale water sector projects of LGED, women are playing important role in the water management cooperative associations. In the urban sector, LGED has involved women and made provisions for income generating activities for poor women by introducing credit and savings schemes. Another approach LGED adopted towards gender equality is the involvement of women in its project implementation committees, which enhanced women's decision making ability. LGED has also been active in promoting women's participation in formal rural economy. Introduction of mandatory women's section in all LGED constructed rural markets is a breakthrough initiative in this respect.

To ensure gender is institutionalized, LGED put in place both strategies and mechanisms; an internal Gender and Development Forum was formed to oversee this. This forum led the development of a sector-wise gender equity strategy and action plan for the period of 2008-2015. Over the last two years about 6,00,000 women in less-developed regions of the country were organized and trained to be self employed and eventually become self sufficient; these women were successfully inducted in the social sector networks. About 98,000 women workers worked for about 61,100,000 person days in infrastructure development and maintenance work during 2009-2010 alone. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of gender action plan and assessment of its impact have been included in annual development programmes of each sector and are being conducted every year. At the local level, the efforts of LGED resulted in separate rooms and toilet facilities for female Union Parishad members in Union Parishad buildings. During the past two years, LGED has reconstructed 1629 primary schools; installed 7325 arsenic free tube-wells in primary schools which contributed in girls enhanced participation in education.





# LGED's program on **International Women's Day 2011**

## **Women's Day observed at national level**

LGED organized a well thought out program to observe IWD at national level. The programme was organized on 10 March, 2011 and held in the LGED premises in Dhaka. The event marked a new beginning and included seminar, program fair of different activities of women in different projects; video screening on Din Badaler Angikar (commitment to change the days), thematic photo gallery, photo session capturing the celebration in districts on 8th March and recognition of the best nine women beneficiaries from-rural development, water sector development and urban sector for their achievements. All nine winners were honored with crest, certificate and cash prize in recognition to their remarkable contribution and success in their own lives.





*Opening of the program by honorable chief guest*



*Distinguish Guests were on the Dias*

The event was inaugurated by the Honorable State Minister of LGRD and Cooperative, Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanok, MP, and in attendance were, among others Mr, Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan, Secretary and Mr Abdul Malek, Joint Secretary of Local Government Division (LGD), representatives of Development Partners and other officials from different departments and Institutions of the Government of Bangladesh along with representatives from the community that LGED serves. The Chief Engineer of LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman chaired the inaugural session.

## Seminar on –“Scoping Access to Education, Training and Science for Women: LGED Context”

### Highlights of the key notes of the Chief Engineer

**L**GED has been all along an advocate of women's participation in development; It involved women in its activities since the beginning. For achieving gender equality in LGED projects, women's participation is a key. In 1982-1983 LGED took a systematic approach to reduce gender gap; women were engaged and consciously involved for the first time in NIRD- LGED funded by DANIDA in road maintenance work. Later on, RDP-4, jointly funded by the Government of Sweden and UNICEF, engaged women in planning, they were provided with micro-credit, training for income generating activities and functional literacy, etc. From 1995, LGED included women in all water management committees and sub-committees. LGED developed gender strategy for 2002-2007 along with a five year action plan. Using the lessons learned from the implementation of the first gender strategy, LGED has developed its second strategy for gender equality for 2008-2015. A Gender and Development Forum of LGED was formed to facilitate gender mainstreaming within LGED; developed software to monitor the activities of Government related to gender. Established a day care centre to support staff with young children, particularly women staff; the day care centre cater for 30 children and has been managed by nine staff relieving women staff from worrying about their children and allowing mothers to work at peace.

- In 2009-2010, total 763,700 women got employment.
- In 2009-2010, LGED constructed 45 women's market section
- LGED Chief Engineer represents the country in the external forum of ADB on gender and development based in Manila.



Key Note Speaker: Md. Wahidur Rahman,  
Chief Engineer, LGED





In 2009-2010 total 763,700 women got employment in LGED; 445,240 women in rural development sector, 316,793 in urban development sector and 1,667 in water resource management sector. Through micro-credit and training on income generating activities, 89,729 women were able to create self employment opportunities. LGED also provided training to 95,213 women in rural sector, 15,135 women in urban sector and 1,651 women in water resource management sector. In 2009-2010, LGED constructed 45 women's market sections where 248 women are running their business from. LGED has also helped enhanced women's participation in decision making process and empowered them by their integration in different committees: as of now, with LGED's direct intervention total 25,382 women participated in three sectoral decision making bodies; 12,486 women in rural development sector, 9,767 in urban development sector and 3,129 in water resource management sector. In 2005, ILO, Geneva, conducted a study on gender best practices among 200 organisations and they identified 25 practicing organizations/projects and RDP-21, a project of LGED, was one of them. Bangladesh is one of the 11 member countries of ADB External Forum on Gender and Development and LGED Chief Engineer represents the country in the forum.





## Highlight of speeches

**T**he Father of the nation, Bangabandhu Skeikh Mujibur Rahman, had dreamt of a society free from all kinds of discriminations. As such, present Government is determined to



*State Minister of LGD and cooperatives, Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanok*

build a nation based on Gender equality. The above was stated by the State Minister of LGRD and cooperatives, Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanok, MP in the inaugural session of the seminar on-“Scoping access to Education, Training and Science for Women: LGED Context. He further emphasized that women and men both are equally important to build a happy and prosperous nation. It is necessary to ensure equal access and rights for women and men. Poverty is a major obstacle for development and perpetuation of gender

discrimination compounds the problems of poverty; in other words, without addressing the issues of gender inequality, realisation of a poverty free nation will remain a dream only. He added, women are gradually taking up positions of authority and leadership, citing the examples of the Honorable Prime Minister and other leaders heading important ministries and the Deputy Leader of the Parliament. He added, women hold some top positions in our administration, including in the Supreme Court, there are women justice. Recent years in our election women candidates have been contesting directly against men and getting elected through people's mandate. He underscored that in patriarchal societies such as Bangladesh women's contribution is not properly recognized and in the same vein they are deprived of their rights, including legal rights, for example within our legal framework, mothers are not considered as the legal guardian of children.

The special guest of the occasion Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary of LGD stated that the equal rights of women and men are enshrined in our constitution. The Government has approved the National Women's Development Policy (NWDP) 2011 on March 7th with the aim to eliminate existing discriminations between women and men and establish equality. We advocate for women's equal right to property inheritance, though there are those, may be



Secretary, LGD, Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan

few in numbers but they are there, who oppose the concept of such rights of women. Violence against women in the name of religion has to be stopped. LGED is one of those institutions that is pioneer to establish equality between women and men through creating employment opportunity and ensuring their participation in decision making and leadership positions. Our Honorable Prime Minister is looking forward to women's greater involvement and their significant role in realizing the goal of digital Bangladesh and LGED has set an example in this respect. I would like to assure LGED that they will be provided with all kinds of necessary support to continue this important work in future. I do believe, one day LGED will be led by woman Chief Engineer and that day is not too far away when women will enjoy equal rights. He also shaded light on the background of women's movement which resulted in the birth of International Women's Day, 8th March; he underscored that women's century long struggle to establish their rights has been supported by progressive men and it has to be continued so long inequality exists and until total equality is achieved.



*Joint Secretary, LGD, Mr. Abdul Malek*

Government of Bangladesh is committed to building a society free from violence and discrimination. LGED could be an example to other ministries for empowerment of women through employment generation. Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Wahidur Rahman, reported that last year 76,000 women were given employment through different projects of LGED. Such initiative expedites not only the development of women but also the achievement of the vision 2021 of the Government of Bangladesh.



*Member Secretary, Gender and Development Forum,  
Ms. Sultana Nazeen Afrooz,*

It is necessary to offer equal opportunities to women, for them to be empowered and to give them opportunity to access employment opportunities based on merit. If they are given opportunities, women can deliver and there are plenty of examples of that. In LGED, maintenance of rural road, road-side plantation and its maintenance and care, all are labour-intensive and hard work and all have been carried out by women only. There is a provision for individual women LCS group for infrastructure development and maintenance program. LGED

successfully launched its Gender and Development Forum and established a Day Care Centre to promote gender sensitivity and support its women staff.





## Award for achievement and success stories

Empowered women have a truly transformative role to play in our society; women's development benefits all. Nine women beneficiaries from 3 different sectors are glaring examples of employed and empowered women who broke the poverty cycle-not only for themselves but for their families and communities as well. Case studies on outstanding women beneficiaries prepared by the LGED projects following preset outlines; a review of all the cases were done by a panel of experts using pre-determined criteria; the selection team selected nine women from three different sectors. The winning Nine received certificates, crests and cash money as recognition of their outstanding achievements.





## A Mason of her own fortune

**A**ssia Begum, widow of late Amzad Hossain, sadar upazilla, Patuakhali is well known in her district as skilled mason. She is skilled on construction of HBB road, U drain, pipe culvert and building also.

But 12 years back Assia Begum was a different person. She didn't have house and had to work as part-timer in different house-hold for feeding her ill husband and two daughters. After her husband's death the misery of Assia and her two daughters knew no bounds. By this time, Assia came to know that RDP-16, DANIDA financed LGED project is going to appoint some female labour as LCS



member for road construction. Since then, Assia as LCS leader has implemented many roads and other infrastructure construction deals. Now, she is working as a LCS subcontractor under road and market link infrastructure development project to construct HBB road, U-drain and pipe culvert. Apart from project work she is also contractually involved as a skill mason with different contractors.

Joined as a mason in LGED project, Assia has been able to turn her own wheel of fortune. She has a house on 18 decimal of land, bought 20 decimal of cultivable land, married off her two daughters and became the owner of three cows and poultry farm. Her plan is to start as an independent contractor.

## Nurturing Green Hope

**C**handramala (40), w/o- Abdul Latif (55) and mother of five children has been living in Rajanagar union in Sunamgonj . Though they have 2 acres of land but poverty was the constant companion to her large family. Because of Haor region they can grow only one crop a year.

In September 2006, Chandramala joined Kalinagar Pashimpara Mohila Samity of SCBRMP-LGED . After joining the samity, she received training on swamp tree nursery development and Tk.4,000/= as loan from the project . Later on she started nursery on 2 decimal of land in her court yard.



Chandramala, planted seeds of swamp trees such as- Hijal, Karach, and timber plant such as Mahagani, Rain tree, and other plants . One year after, she got about 10,000 matured saplings. She started selling this sapling from home and local market. In 2010, CBRMP bought 2,000 swamp tree saplings from

Chandramala for Tk.40,000/=. In 2011, CBRMP again bought 2,600 saplings for Tk. 65,000/=. At the same time she also earned Tk.20,000/= by selling fruits and timber saplings in the local market . Still she is left with 5,000 saplings. Now, she sends her children to school and has bought a shallow machine for watering her saplings. She is preparing the remaining 2 decimals of land for nursery development. With the support of SCBRMP, poverty stricken Chandramala already became the owner of a nursery and soon she is going to have another.



## Rokeya making her own ladder of success

**R**okeya and her family were constantly mired by poverty. Though her husband, Salim, had tailoring skill but due to lack of sewing machine and capital he could not work as tailor. He used to do other works but his income was inadequate for maintaining a family of 5 members. In this dire situation Rokeya came to know about SCBRMP activities. She felt interested and formed Solamanpur Female Credit organisation in January, 2008 and became the Manager of the Samity.

From the project Rokeya received training on Accounts & Book keeping and technical training on income generating activities. She took Tk. 6,000/= from CBRMP and bought two sewing machines and started tailoring at home. From her income within this 3 years of time she bought 6 additional sewing machines to generate her own income and provide a source of income for 60 other women by training them on tailoring. At present her six sewing machines are working non- stop; her running capital is Tk.50,000; her monthly income is Tk.7-8000/=. With the support of CBRMP her Samity has started 100 meter Cement concrete block road lately. Last year Rokeya bought 100 decimals of land and built a house and purchased necessary items for her family. Rokeya dreams that a day will come when she will run her business with 20 sewing machines and will be able to generate income for more village women.





## Different kind of life

**K**ulsum inhabitant of, char Jabbar union in Noakhali, was married to a carpenter, Mainuddin, only at the age of 14. She was happy with her husband and her only son . But her happiness lasted only six years. Her husband brought another wife into the family. Consequently, Kulsum was separated from her husband along with her only son and had to find a way out for living. She knew how to weave bamboo and cane basket and mat out of leaves, etc. She began her work and by selling it was earning well. Her husband was coming to her and she got pregnant for the 2nd time. Soon after the birth of her second son her husband abandoned her for good.



In 2007, Kulsum found a hope of living by getting chance to work in LGED-DANIDA project as LCS for dirt road construction. After receiving two days training she started work along with her team on road construction. She earned Tk. 9,000/= from the project that year. She spent Tk.4,000/= for the maintenance of her family and deposited Tk.5,000/= with a hope to buy a piece of land in future.

Again in 2008, Kulsum became a member of LCS under the same project for road construction. This time she, not only received training on road construction but also received training on Poultry, Dairy and Fish farming. Kulsum started to grow vegetables and set up a poultry farm. This time she received Tk.8,000/= ; bought a goat with Tk. 3,000/= and fingerling for her pond with Tk. 1000/=.

In 2009, Kulsum received training on HBB, U drain installation and kilometer post build & installation. She earned Tk.10,000/= by installing U drain, Tk. 6,500/=by installing km post, Tk. 14,000/= by HBB work. With this fair amount of money she renovated her house with corrugated sheets and bought 2 decimals of land for Tk.25,000/=. In 2009, Kulsum joined a 4 month adult education course. She also sends her younger son to school. As LCS of LGED-DANIDA project, within 3 years, Kulsum achieved a secure well-being of her family.



## A wind of change

**L**aily Begum of Akcha, Thakurgaon. She was raised in poverty and got married at the age of 14 only. Soon after marriage, she gave birth to a son. But her marriage ended because of unmet dowry demand. She returned to her poor family. She had to earn for maintaining her son and self. She started as house hold help and was tortured. Next she got a job in a private farm but she was fired by the authorities for protesting against discrimination in pay between men and women. Finally, she became a day laborer.

In June 2008, Laily was appointed as a female worker in RERMP project of LGED. She received training on income generating activities from the project; bought a cow and started fattening it; took lease of 0.50 acres of land for potato cultivation. By selling the potatoes she made a profit of Tk.10,000/= and sold the cow at Tk.40,000/=. By accumulating these two earnings she bought a piece of land in her own name and sent her son to college.



## A sparkling woman

**M**s. Fahima Akhtar, inhabitant of Rajnagar, Habiganj. Due to poverty her parents married off their daughter to an army Lancenayek when she was a student of class nine. In 2002, on seventh years of her marriage she got back to her natal home with her two year old son. Fahima's husband was put into prison as she filed a complaint against him of dowry demand and unlawful oppression. Eventually, she divorced him. While facing problems with her sickly child, she came to know about the UPPR project in Habiganj municipality and its activities for the poor.

In 2002, she joined the "Jaba" group and started savings deposit. Within two years she was elected as a Treasurer of Rajnagar CDC and finally as a Member of the Federation.



In 2003, she received Tk. 10,000/- as loan and took lease of a piece of land. At present, she has 2 decimals of land, three cows, rice cake making tools, handicrafts and cottage industry tools and a department store. She has in total Tk. 800,000/= worth of property and has four employees. She has experience in visiting places, home and abroad. In 2006, she visited Sri Lanka for eight days. During this trip she has visited- activities of volunteers of tsunami survivors; housing project,

handicraft and cottage industry and marketing, solid waste management and making fertilizer out of it for land of the poor; women's banking management, etc. After her return, she shared experience with all CDC clusters. Based on her experience and inspiration 3 clusters have been implementing solid waste management. She is also trainer for production and marketing of handicrafts item. She is an active member of community police. She arranged financial support from federation and her own resource for CDC members to overcome their crisis. In 2004, Fahima was active in relief and rehabilitation work for flood victims of Habiganj. Her aspiration is to: alleviate poverty, expansion of her dairy farm; employment generation, institutionalization of handicrafts and expand her department store.



## Assia from Municipality of Kushtia

Assia, who is SSC certified, got married in 1987. Just one year after her marriage, she had a son. Her husband did not earn, simply because of his laziness. Moreover, he tortured Assia regularly for dowry. Assia's natal family was very poor but to end torture on Assia they struggled to meet his demand. When her husband got the money as dowry, he remarried. Eventually, Assia divorced her husband and went back to her family along with her eight year old son. She worked as a part-timer in different house hold. Sometimes she had to pass the days by starving.

In 2000, Assia joined the group formed by LPUPAP-LGED in Municipality of Kushtia at housing Block-B. She received Tk.5,000/= as lump sum and Tk.10,000/= as loan from CDC and she became door to door sells person for sari. Life started changing and she was elected as a secretary of her group and lately she is acting as a Treasurer of CDC. After involving herself in CDC she got education support for her son, lump sum allotment, and received training on various issues. She works in a pre-primary school as ayah. Her son now studies at honors 1st year in physics and simultaneously he is earning by working as electrician, and decorating house and stage in wedding party.



Assia has built a two room house and bought furniture and television also. She is an active member of Salish Committee in her locality and known as women leader. She is running a training centre on tailoring. Now, Assia is a model to the women in struggle as she had overcome various social adversities.



## A Self Dependent Woman

**M**orjina Begum was the eldest among her 5 siblings. She studied up to class seven and married to an unemployed man. As her husband had no source of earning, they were poor. Meanwhile, she became the mother of a daughter. She sold a portion of her husband's inherited land and started a business but was unable to earn profit. Their life became miserable.

She asked her father for help. Her father was the chairperson of Shiriskath Khal Babosthapon Samobai Samity. He advised her to join the Samity. She followed his advice. Being a member of PABSS, she received training on cattle and poultry rearing from Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project and started to rear cattle and poultry at home.

After that she took Tk.10,000/= as loan from PABSS and received training on beekeeping and started beekeeping. She also received training on vermin compost production and produced it and sold it in the local market. Apart from that from RIOPA project assisted by UNDP she earned Tk. 20,000/= per month as a trainer on vermin composting in six districts.



She has a daughter and two sons, all of them are studying. She is the principal breadwinner of her family as her husband is in a scanty salary. She also formed Maheshshorchanda Bohumukhi Mohila Samity to enhance the skill of her co members and is the founder chairperson. She provides training to her samity members on different social and gender issues. Morjina Begum is a successful, established and self-dependent woman through labor, merit, money and training.



## The role of LGED in Women Empowerment

**H**azera Begum is the brightest example that LGED could play an important role to transform from indigent condition to self reliant. She is an active member of Agrani Gandharbopur Water Management Co-operative Society Limited in Laximpur. She joined this cooperative in 2006. Before that she lived in a hut with eight family members including in-laws. She had to pass her days by half starving with the poor income of her husband. Her husband is illiterate while she studied up to class five. Being a member of the co-operative society, she came to know the different activities of the project and was inspired to be self-dependent. First she took Tk.15,000/= as loan

from the co-operative society and purchased a cow. By selling milk she raised capital and received training from DAE on compost making and started doing it commercially from the cow dung. She took 48 decimals of land as lease for agriculture and by using only her compost fertilizer got high volume of production. She received awareness raising training from the

project and sent her children to school. She started pond fish culture to fulfill protein demand of her family. By applying her training knowledge on agriculture she is producing vegetables in her court yard for consumption and earning. This year she repaid her previous loan and purchased 3 decimals of land. She has Tk.100,000/= as running capital. She has a plan to establish a dairy farm and make her compost business commercially viable with a larger loan from the co-operative society.





## Video screening

A video documentary was done on gender based activities of LGED named Commitment to change the days. This video which contains the experiences of four women to overcome the poverty with the support of LGED, was screened on this occasion. These four characters are from different projects with different livelihood options. But when they were struggling to meet basic needs for their families LGED supported them with different means which set them on the path of empowerment. Brief on 4 characters:

Rehana Begum, widow and mother of four children was struggling endlessly to survive. She was able to turn her wheel of fortune by joined in LGED/RMP project. She received several trainings and payment for the work. She bought a horse carriage for her son. Gradually with the earning of both mother and son, they were able to buy a piece of land to build a house and eventually became solvent.

Mukta Begum, a daughter of a freedom fighter has four siblings. At the time of their hardship, LGED allotted a shop to her mother. From the earning of the shop her mother went abroad for work leaving the responsibilities of the shop to Mukta. She is SSC certified. By the earnings of the shop her brother started farming; run the educational expenses of her younger brother and built a house.

Ruby Akhter is the only earning member of her family consisting of six members. After the death of her father they didn't have any source of income. So, she joined the Samity; received training on poultry vaccination and started vaccinating. She also does some tailoring. Recently she joined LGED water resources management project. Their irrigation problem has been solved through the project. They can grow three crops a year and she bought a house with her earning.

Jharna Das is a single woman. By getting information from a CBRMP field staff she formed a samity with her neighboring women. She was selected as manager of her samity and received training on poultry, dairy and tree plantation. Gradually, she got a job as Community Development Facilitator of the project. She took Tk. 8,000/- as loan from CBRMP and bought a cow and now she has four cows. She bought 60 decimals of land for housing. She is elected as a member of Upazilla parishad and became a member of salish committee of her village.

## Program Fair

As part of the IWD 2011 programme, LGED organised an exhibit of its interventions on gender equality and women's development. Eleven projects participated in the exhibition. The exhibition was focused on the theme, Pathway to better living of women and set up on the LGED headquarter premises. The projects exhibited their work, particularly those that were focused on gender and had direct relevance to theme. They decorated their stall with product of women beneficiaries, presented miniature of project activities, photos, publications, poster, festoon, etc. Women beneficiaries along with project staff were present at the stalls and explained the activities to the visitors. All the stalls were well decorated and colorful. The stalls were rated as per pre-determined criteria and the Secondary Town Integrated Flood Protection Project (STFPP) was awarded being the best stall of the fair.







## **Thematic photo gallery**

Creation of a photo gallery based on Gender and development activities of the LGED projects was another event of the occasion. Eleven projects participated and presented their remarkable work on women's development depicting changes that were brought about in women's lives and livelihood by their interventions. Each project prepared a display board containing 20 photos describing its critical contribution to women's development. Work of all 12 participating projects was appreciated for their efforts to advance women's equal rights and SCBRMP was awarded being the best in this event.



## Pathway to better living of women



CBRMP-LGED





## Award to Project Directors



**O**n this occasion, all the Project Directors of the participated projects in program fair and photo gallery was appreciated by the Chief Engineer with certificates for their efforts to advance women's equal rights.

### Participated projects were:

LGED Gender Forum, LGED Kallayan Samabai Samity (LKSS), Market Infrastructure Development Project in Charland Regions (MIDPCR), Participatory Small Scale Water Resources Development Project (PSSWRDP), Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Program (RERMP), Rural Road and Market Infrastructure Development Project (RRMAIDP), Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP-II), Sunamgonj Community Based Resource Management Project (SCBRMP), Secondary Town Integrated Flood Protection Project (STFPP), Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction Project (UPPR), Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project (UGIIP-II)

Rural Infrastructure Development Project: Chittagong Hill Tract participated only in thematic photo gallery.



Chief Engineer Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman announced LGED's acknowledgement of Sheikh Mohammad Mohsin, Project Director, Sunamgonj Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) as a successful implementer of the project particularly in Gender & Development and poverty alleviation in Sunamgonj haor area. State Minister of LGRD&C Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak, MP awarded Mr. Mohsin with a crest in recognition of his dedicated services.



# Audience





## Media coverage



State minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir N  
workshop on gender sensitivity on Thursday.

## Remove gender disparity: Na

**DHAKA, MAR 10:** State minister for LGRD and cooperatives, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, on Thursday called for removing gender disparity in the society for country's overall development.

Like poverty, gender is another impediment to development of the country, he said while speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a seminar organised by Local Government Engineering Department on the occasion of International Women's Day at Agargaon LGED Bhaban auditorium.

The state minister said the grand alliance government has integrated women with the mainstream of development along with men.

Presided over engineer M Wai seminar was a Local Government secretary Abu Alar joint secretary Gender and De deputy project d ber secretary Afroz.

Jahangir Karim dream of the Fatl Bangabandhu S Rahman was to free from disman

The government is bound to establish where men and women are enjoying equal rights and opportunity push

#### Staff Compensation

State Minister of LHRD Jahanzeb Kabir Namak on Thursday said that gender discrimination is one of the major barriers to development and advancement of the country.

Apart from poverty, gender discrimination stands in the way of the country's overall development, he said while a seminar on creating opportunity for women in rural education.

The Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) organised the programme at its auditorium in the city with its chief engineer Aid Wahidur Rahman in the chair.

He said the imposed relationship between men and women creates gender discrimination which is a barrier to poverty alleviation from the country.

The state enters

there will be no discrimination between men and women, saying it is essential for the country's overall development.

Women are now holding many prestigious posts in the country, he said, adding that the prime minister and some important ministers in the country are women.

He said that women are the integral part of the society and development of the country is not possible keeping them ignored.

LOED Secretary Abu Aïmû Mû Shâhid Khân said that LOED is one of the institutions which are working hard to eliminate gender discrimination from the society.

He also said the country has made many significant achievements regarding empowerment of women.

LOED Gender Project Member

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জেন্ডার বৈষম্যহীন সমাজ  
গড়ে তুলতে হবে : নানক

निम्नलिखित कथन पढ़िए।

যুগীয় সরকার, শ্রী উমান ও সরকার প্রতিমন্ত্রী  
জাতির কবির ননক দেশের সার্বভৌম উন্নয়নে  
স্বাধীন দেশের স্বাধীনতা সমাজব্যবস্থা গড়ে  
তৈলার ওপর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ করেছে। দেশের  
উন্নয়নের ক্ষেত্রে শ্রীমান যেমন প্রধান অর্থ  
কেন্দ্রীয় জেলাবাসিন্দা বজায় থাকলে শ্রীমান দু-  
কাল যাবে না উন্নয়ন করে তিনি বলেন, মহাজোতি  
সরকার উন্নয়নের মূলধারায় পুরুষের পাশাপাশি  
নারীকেও মাননীয়র সম্পদ বজায়।

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**THE NewsToday**  
Friday, March 11, 2011

Friday, March 11, 2011



41. March  
mont. Freitag

**The New Nation** Independent Editor



test Minister for LGED Jahangir Kabir Nasok along with other distinguished guests a seminar organized on the occasion of International Women's Day at LGED's auditorium in the city on Thursday.

## Nanak for removing gender disparity

most. *Chelone*

State Minister for Labour and Cooperatives, Jangir Kabir Namsak on Thursday called for removing gender disparity in the society for country's overall development.

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The state minister said the grand alliance government has integrated women with the mainstream of development along with men.

Provided over by LGRII  
Chief Engineer M

স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলনের স্মরণার্থী  
**ডায়েরি ডাক**



এলাহাবাদ সদর মহালায় গণকালী মন্দির নির্মাণের প্রস্তাবটি  
প্রায়শঃই সফল হয়। যেহেতু এলাহাবাদ শ্রীকৃষ্ণ সেমিনারের প্রাচীর  
বিভিন্ন প্রকারে নিরোক্ত দুই মন্দিরগুলির মধ্যে থেকে প্রাচীর  
এ মন্দিরটি সফলভাবে প্রাপ্ত ও সনদ প্রাপ্ত করা হয়। এ সময়ে উপস্থিত ছিলেন  
এলাহাবাদ শ্রীকৃষ্ণ সেমিনারের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা প্রাচীরের কবি রামচন্দ্র ও

is a seminar on "Empowering Women in Education." They will collect women have been... at the seminar. Ms. ... and I


1982 and 1983, and 1984 and 1985, respectively. The results are presented in Table 1. The mean values of the parameters measured are given in Table 2. The mean values of the parameters measured are given in Table 2. The mean values of the parameters measured are given in Table 2.

**insure  
purity:**

As the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced last week, the agency will begin testing for the presence of lead in gasoline. The test will be performed on a random basis, and the results will be used to determine if the gasoline is safe for use. The test will be performed on a random basis, and the results will be used to determine if the gasoline is safe for use.

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## **Women's day observed in 64 districts**

In 2011, for the first time, LGED observed IWD in all 64 districts. They attended rally organized by district administration with the women beneficiaries from the grassroots. In each districts LGED organized discussion session in their office whereby leaders from the beneficiaries and district level staff of LGED formed part of the discussants. District offices also provided support to the national level IWD observation which was held on 10 March, 2011 in Dhaka. Representatives of district LGED offices along with beneficiaries attended the national level observation in Dhaka.









## End notes

LGED has been empowering women particularly women in need through creating access to engineering technology, functional literacy, income & savings deposits and grooming leadership and entrepreneurship quality. In rural areas LGED has created thousands of part time employment for women through LCS work. In small scale water sector women are playing important role in the water management cooperative association. In the urban sector urban poor women are getting involved into income generating activities through arranging savings and credit. Women's market section is a avenue for women to become entrepreneur and to contribute to formal rural economy.

This year, International Women's Day also focuses our attention on the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work in future LGED's effort will focus on more long term initiatives for women showing their solidarity with women in attaining their rights.



*We need joy as we need air  
We need love as we need water  
We need each other as we need the earth we share.*

*-Maya Angelou*



Equal Access to Education, Training and Science and Technology  
Pathway to Decent Work for Women

*International  
Women's Day*

**Local Government Engineering Department**

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