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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone of a 546.60-meter bridge, being implemented by LGED, on the river Mahananda in Sadar Upazila of Chapainawabganj district on 23 April 2011. Prior to foundation laying, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED is seen briefing the Prime Minister on the model of the bridge. Local elected representatives and Local Government Division Secretary Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan were present on the occasion.

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PM vows to develop neglected regions

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her firm determination to develop Rajshahi division socio-economically.

"We'll change the fate of the people in the Rajshahi division," she said after inaugurating the machinery installation work of Amnura 50 MW power plant in the morning of 23 April 2011 in Chapainawabganj.

Later, she unveiled the plaque of the railway rehabilitation projects of Rajshahi-Amnura-Chapainawabganj, and Amnura-Rohanpur-Rohanpur borderlines.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation of the 546.60-meter long second bridge over Mahananda river at Saheber Ghat and inaugurated the newly built stadium at Rehaichar in Chapainawabganj.

It may be mentioned here that the bridge at Saheber Ghat in Chapainawabganj will be constructed by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at a cost of Taka 49.79 crore from the GOB fund. It is expected that the construction of the bridge

will be completed in two years from now. The said bridge will connect 8 unions of Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila in the 'Char' areas with Sadar Upazila proper directly to the benefit of nearly half a million people.

The Local Government Division has taken up development projects worth of a total amount of Taka 194 crore for Chapainawabganj, of which Taka 190 crore will be implemented by LGED. In Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila alone, development works for 55 kms of road and 625 meters of bridges, including the one at Saheber Ghat, are on-going at a total cost of Taka 70 crore.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, Chapainawabganj, even the entire Rajshahi region, had been neglected in the past. The present government is undertaking various projects to develop the region, she said. She also pledged further to set up a rubber dam along the Mahananda river to facilitate irrigation activities.



Editor's Note

LGED's Growth Centres boosting rural economy

The growth centre is a vibrant rural market that tends to be nerve centre of socio-economic and cultural activities in the rural scenario. The village people flock together in the growth centres to sell a variety of commodities including agro-products and buy essential ingredients for agricultural yields and household needs. Tremendous increase in economic activities following different types of trades and business take place in and around the growth centre. Besides, the people also assemble at the growth centre to discuss matters related to mechanized cultivation and market management. The growth centre serves as the lone hubbub for entertainment to the rural folks. Reviewing the role of village bazaars/hats, the Planning Commission have earmarked as many as 2100 village bazaars as the growth centres on the strength of their socio-economic status and administrative capacity.

The development of market mechanism has become a burning issue to facilitate transportation of agricultural products from one place to another, from the growers to the buyers and the beneficiaries. Once the growth centres are developed, the farmers would be in a position to sell their products (paddy, wheat) directly to the government purchasers by avoiding intermediaries and thereby get the proper price. Moreover, employment opportunities would be created for the people around those localities, sustainable shops would crop up increasingly, number of traders would be inflated, agricultural production would go up, the price of essential ingredients for agricultural production would go down, the labourers will enjoy higher wages and the valuation of land will shoot-up.

In a bid to develop the linkage between the growth centres and the upazila headquarters, LGED have constructed upazila roads measuring about 28,847 km out of 37,763km and 3,73,085m bridge/culverts out of 4,52,338m till date. Moreover, 7,68,714m of structure (bridge/culverts) on union and rural roads have been constructed out of 13,35,938 m. In consequence the rural people are now able to travel and carry their products at ease.



The JCC Meeting between JICA Terminal Evaluation Team and concerned officials of the government of Bangladesh was held in Dhaka on 08 June 2011. Secretary, Local Government Division Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, chaired the meeting. Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman and Senior Representative, JICA Bangladesh Mr. Shigeki Furuta were also present on the occasion, among others.

Evaluation Report on RDEC Project presented in JCC Meeting

The Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting between JICA Terminal Evaluation Mission (Japanese Side) and concerned officials of different ministries/organization (Bangladesh Side) of "Strengthening of Activities in Rural Development Engineering Center (RDEC) Project" under JICA Technical Cooperation was held in LGED Bhaban in Dhaka on 08 June 2011. Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Local Government Division chaired the meeting. The JCC presented in the said meeting a Joint Terminal Evaluation Report for "Strengthening of Activities in RDEC Project". The Leader of the Japanese Team and the representatives of JCC confirmed the Report and agreed to forward it to their respective Governments.

The meeting was attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Shigeki Furuta, Senior Representative, JICA Bangladesh, Mr. Hiroshi Tanaka, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, government of Japan, Mr. Kazuyuki Ikeda, Representative, JICA Bangladesh, Ms. Kazuko Shirai, Vision & Sprit for Overseas Cooperation Co. Ltd., Japan, Ms. Khadiza Begum, Deputy Secretary, ERD, Ministry of Finance, government of Bangladesh, Dr. Sayeed Hasan Shikder, Deputy Chief, Planning Commission, Mr. Md. Zahurul Islam, Deputy director, IMED, Ministry of Planning,

Mr. Md. Feroj Uddin, Deputy Chief, LGD and Mr. Md. Zahangir Alam, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED said, JICA and JBIC had been supporting LGED since its inception in the beginning of 1990's. He said, RDEC building, the center of excellence for rural development, was constructed by a Yen loan project. In order to vitalize the Center, technical assistance for capacity building of LGED engineers has been implemented through RDEC Setting-up Project starting from 2003, he said. He added, on successful implementation of RDEC Setting-up Project, the second phase of RDEC Project was started in 2007 with a view to strengthening its activities. The Project is going to be ended in September 2011.

In his closing remarks Mr. Shigeki Furuta, Senior Representative, JICA Bangladesh said, the fruits of the project have started to be pouring in the rural scenarios of Bangladesh. He said, it would be more remarkable if LGED engineers are capable of continuing the sustainability of the project activities in future.

In fine, the Chairperson of the Meeting Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan said, the Japanese support so far given to LGED and Bangladesh would never go in vain. The question of sustainability of the project activities would be ensured at all costs, he added. He however expressed his gratitude to the government and the people of Japan for their generous support to the development of Bangladesh and welfare of its people.

Benefit distribution ceremony of Chatol Uday Tara Beel User Group held in Sunamganj

A yearly benefit distribution ceremony of Chatol Uday Tara Beel User Group was held at Sunamganj on 14 May 2011. The ceremony was attended by, among others, Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary of LGD, Ministry of LGRD&C as Chief Guest; Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman Chief Engineer of LGED as Special Guest; and Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj, Mr. Md. Faizur Rahman chaired the occasion.



Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Local Government Division is seen distributing benefit to Beel user Group members of Chatol Uday Tara Beel in Sunamganj on May 14, 2011. Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman was present on the occasion, among others.

A total of 51 Beel User Group members of Chatol got benefit from beel harvest with an amount of Tk 20,000 each. It was more than Tk. 11,500 that they had got last year.

The Chief Guest, Secretary, LGD in his speech expressed satisfaction about the results of the beel management that has been introduced by the CBRMP-LGED. He appreciated the beel development activities, particularly its impact on increased fish biodiversity. The chief guest conveyed thanks to LGED for undertaking the challenge of such a complex project with a specific target of working with the poor people of haor area.

Chief Engineer, LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman delivered a brief note as special guest on the project background. He told it was really a big challenge for LGED to make such a diverse project a success, but LGED has done it eventually. He informed, based on the learning of this project a new project costing about Tk. 900 crore is being processed for four more districts in haor area. He appreciated the sincere efforts of all concerned to make the project successful.

The fisher community expressed their gratitude to Secretary of LGD, and Chief Engineer of LGED for their persistent efforts in handing over the beel to them.

Among others, Sk. Md. Mohsin, Project Director, CBRMP-LGED; Mr. Bipul Chandra Banik, Executive Engineer, LGED, Sunamganj; Mr. Sultan Ahmed, District Fisheries Officer, Sunamganj shared their views on the occasion.

Chairperson of the ceremony, DC Sunamganj concluded the event appreciating the fisher community for their good work in fisheries resource management.



Women workers under RERMP are seen busy in road maintenance work in Gopalganj district.

RERMP- a passage to poverty reduction & gender equity plans of LGED

Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Programme (RERMP) is an on-going 5-year project of LGED that began on 1 March 2008. It has been implementing the maintenance of 20 kms of roads plus tree-plantation in each union of Bangladesh. Precisely speaking, the project would be maintaining nearly 98,000 kms of roads throughout the entire country at a total cost of Taka 9,430 lakh. As many as 51,740 destitute women are working in this project with a split-up of 10 women from each union of 64 districts and 30 women from each union of 5 districts in the extreme poverty zone. In consequence, a total number of 2,58,700 persons are being benefitted out of the project considering each working woman has an average of 5 incumbents in the family.

The daily wage for each woman is Taka 90/-. But they are paid only 60% of the amount i.e. Taka 54/- every day and the rest 40% equivalent to Taka 36/- is deposited in a bank account which is payable only on the expiry of the project period. So, after 5 years each woman employee would get an accumulated amount of nearly Taka 75,000/- from the bank. The project has so far given training on income-generating issues to 20,200 women.

The aims and objectives of RERMP are as follow:

- to reduce the poverty limit of the rural people.
- to create employment opportunities for rural destitute women.
- to increase agricultural production, primary education and health issues.
- to enhance the capacity of the rural destitute women workers.

After the wrath of Sidr-catastrophe and countrywide flood havoc in 2007, there arose an acute dearth of self-employment scopes and to tide over the situation no donor agency was available to take up a project. Against these backdrops, LGED was given the sole responsibility by the government to implement the project by changing its name from RMP to RERMP.



An Agreement was signed between LGED and WMCG-NAVANA JV on 09 June 2011 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka to construct a 770m bridge on the river Titash in Banchharampur upazila under Brahmanbaria district. State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt (Retd) A.B. Tajul Islam, Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman and Chairman, NAVANA Group Mr. Shaful Islam Kamal were present on the occasion, among others, to witness the signing ceremony.

Deal signed between LGED & WMCG-NAVANA JV to build a 770m bridge in Banchharampur Upazila under Brahmanbaria district

An agreement was signed between LGED and WMCG-NAVANA JV on 9 June 2011 at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka to construct a 770-meter Y-bridge on the river Titash in

Banchharampur upazila under Brahmanbaria district. State Minister for Liberation War Affairs, Capt (Retd) A.B. Tajul Islam, Chief Engineer of LGED; Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman and Chairman, NAVANA Group Mr. Shaful Islam Kamal were present on the occasion, among others, to witness the signing ceremony.

Funded by the Government of Bangladesh, the construction of bridge would cost Tk.84.66 crore. The bridge would interlink Charlohan (a part of Farhadabad union), Burburia (a part of Salimabad union) and Ramkrishnapur (a part of Homna union) regions of Banchharampur upazila and benefit the people of 7 unions of the upazila. The bridge includes an approach road of 900 meters with protection. The construction of the bridge would be completed by December 2013.



The 7th Annual General Meeting of LGED Kalyan Samabaya Samity, LKSS was held in Dhaka on 22 April 2011. President of the LKSS Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Managing Director LKSS, Mr. Md. Mohsin, Director of Finance LKSS, Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed and Project Coordinator HRC, LKSS, Mr. Molla Azizul Hoque are seen on the dais.

LGED's Welfare Cooperative body provides financial support to member families

The 7th Annual General Meeting of LGED Kalyan Samabaya Samity (LKSS), held on 22 April 2011 at LGED Headquarter in Dhaka, underscored the significance of reducing poverty and mitigating human suffering by way of practising the ideals of a committed cooperative movement.

Chaired by Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, the President of LKSS and the Chief Engineer of LGED, the 7th AGM of LKSS was largely attended by the representatives of the organization coming from different regions of the country.

As per the agenda of the 7th AGM, Mr. Md. Mohsin, Managing Director, LKSS presented the 7th Annual Report on the activities of LKSS and also the minutes of the 6th AGM held in May 2010 separately. The Annual Report revealed the fact that LKSS began its journey on 21 January 2004 and the total number of its members now stands 7,944, all of whom are officials and employees of LGED. The Report adds, LKSS's total asset at present is Taka 2,19,18,499/-. Mr. Mohsin stated in the Report that the members of LKSS had been given an interest @ 5% per annum on their savings and a dividend @ 25% on the share certificates owned by them. Besides, a total amount of Taka 7 lakh has been allocated in the current fiscal year from which a total amount of Taka 3,91,000/- had been given to the members as medical aid, emergency expenses and educational scholarships during the last nine months.

In his address as the Chairperson of the Meeting Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said, the prime objective of LKSS is to ensure humanitarian services including educational and medical support to its members and their families as and when needed. He said, nearly nine lakh taka had been spent as succour to the member colleagues ever since its inception. He also said, the progress of LKSS in tune with the great ideals of cooperative movement would, in future, stabilize the existing fraternal bondage among its members and ensure welfare and financial security to the member families. He however hoped to say, the progress of LKSS will go unabated through the concerted efforts of the members in strengthening its institutional and financial capacity by way of taking recourse to more and more profiteering ventures.

Earlier, Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Director (Finance), LKSS presented the Audit Report for FY 2009-2010, the Revised Budget for FY 2009-2010 and Proposed Budget of Taka 10 crore 30 lakh for FY 2011-2012. As per agenda of the meeting Molla Azizul Hoque, Project Coordinator, HRC, LKSS,

presented certain proposals for amendments to LKSS Service Rules for approval by a majority vote from the attending representatives.

Better communication network change lifestyle of tribals

Construction of communication infrastructures in deep hilly areas of three hill districts- Khagrachari, Bandarban and Rangamati will open a new horizon in livelihood in these districts and help the inhabitants to change their fortunes. Local people said after construction of roads, bridges and culverts, they could communicate with the city easily and marketise their commodities. The road communication in the hilly areas helped the locals to change their lifestyle and economic emancipation, they observed. The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been implementing the infrastructure development project in three hilly districts at a cost of Tk. 105 crore.

LGED Chief Engineer Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman said the present government has taken the project to ensure a balance development in all districts across the country. He said though many development projects were implemented in other districts but no development project was taken in the three hilly districts before. Mr. Rahman hoped that huge employment opportunities would be created in hilly districts after successful completion of the project.

Locals alleged that the development of the hilly areas was neglected during the previous governments and the inhabitants were compelled to lead miserable lives. Visiting different remote areas under Matiranga and Panchhari upazilas in Khagrachhari and Rangamati Sadar recently, this correspondent found the construction of roads, bridges and culverts have brought a huge opportunity for the hilly people to change their lots. Previously, the hilly people used to go to the bazaar or hats

by walking and sale their commodities at a cheaper rate and sometimes the agricultural products were damaged due to lack of transportation. The situation is now changed positively after construction of some communication infrastructures in the remote areas.

Under the project, the LGED has constructed about 100 kilometers of roads and a good number of bridges and culverts in three hill districts. The 13 km pacca roads from Matiranga Sadar to Gomoti Union in Khagrachhari district brought several thousands tribal people under communication network.

Champalika Tripura, 35, a teacher of tribal school in the village of Gomoti, said the locals used to go to upazila sadar, some 20 km far from the village on foot before construction of the roads. They hardly sale their products. "Now, we can go to upazila sadar by transports within 15 to 20 minutes. The farmers can sale their products including paddy, turmeric, ginger, banana, papaya, pineapple, mango, bamboo, wood and vegetables in the upazila sadar market at higher rates and they are now getting economic advantages," she said.

Besides, Champalika said children could not go to schools, which were located at far away but now they can go to school by using transports. Unemployed youths involving themselves in transport service earn Tk. 700/- to Tk. 800/- a day. Dhirati Tripura, 45, Kalachima Chakma, 28 and Bubutara Chakma, 36, of the same village also opined that the construction of the road and bridges over Gomoti helped them to be self depended. Abul Kalam, 25 of the village Taikachhara, said they took their products on heads to go to upazila sadar walking on foot to sale those before construction of the road. "Now, we can take our products by jeep within a short time," he said.

[Reproduced from the report as published in the daily New Nation dated May 20, 2011 by Mr. Rafiqul Islam Azad]

LGED and IDB signs contract to implement Fael Khair School-Cum- Shelter Programme in coastal Bangladesh

In response to the urgent need for assistance to the victims of cyclone SIDR, which impacted the south western coast of Bangladesh in November 2007, an anonymous donor (Fael Khair in Arabic) has entrusted to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) a generous donation of US\$ 130 million, which will be utilized for the construction of about six hundred School-Cum-Cyclone Shelters in the coastal belt of Bangladesh as well as to provide urgent relief in the form of agricultural inputs to the SIDR affected farmers, fishermen and small businesses. For the implementation of the programme the government of Bangladesh and IDB signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 12 May, 2008. According to the MOU, IDB will implement the programme and the government of Bangladesh will provide all necessary assistance and support to IDB to ensure successful implementation of the programme. An amount of one hundred ten million US dollar will be utilized for the construction of about 600 school-cum-cyclone shelters in the areas devastated by the cyclone SIDR.



Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman and Mr. David William Brazier, Project Director, Fael Khair School-Cum-Shelters Programme, IDB and Mr. Abid Habib, Director, Abdul Monem Ltd., signed a tripartite contract to implement Fael Khair School-Cum-Shelters Programme on behalf of their respective organizations on 24 May 2011. The President of the Islamic Development Bank, Dr. Ahmad Mohammed Ali (standing third from left) and Dr. Mohammad Hassan Salem, Senior Expert, Community Development Coordinator Fael Khair Programme, IDB (standing fourth from right) are witnessing the signing ceremony.

'LGED is working hard to reach out to grassroot people in Bangladesh' -President, American Society of Civil Engineers

Ms. Kathy Jean Caldwell, President of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), now visiting Bangladesh, addressed the engineers of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at LGED Bhaban in Dhaka on 30 May 2011. Addressing a large number of LGED engineers, the President of ASCE said, it's been such a delight to be in

Bangladesh along with members of ASCE and to see for themselves and learn how amazingly the inclusion of social aspects are being treated in each and every development approach of LGED. She said, LGED engineers are really working hard to reach out to their citizens at the grassroot level. Ms. Caldwell also said, it's very refreshing to note that a combo of modern technology and local knowledge is visibly significant in LGED's way of handling civil engineering to improve the quality of life. The other members of the entourage also spoke on the occasion and expressed their impressive notes on the astounding effects of LGED's role in civil engineering.

During her visit to LGED Headquarter in Dhaka the president of ASCE was accompanied by Mr. Patrick James Natale, Executive Director, ASCE, Ms. Meggan Maughan-Brown, Director, ASCE and Dr. Himangshu Kumar Banerjee, Convenor, ASCE Region-10.

Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Project Director, delivered a short presentation on the evolutionary growth and development and the overall activities of LGED.

Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED heartily thanked the visiting top brass of ASCE and handed over a crest of LGED to each of them. In his concluding remarks he requested the President of ASCE to take necessary measures to make the process of becoming a member of ASCE less cumbersome for Bangladeshi engineers.



Ms. Kathy Jean Caldwell, President, American Society of Civil Engineers, (ASCE) is seen addressing the engineers of LGED in Dhaka on 30 May 2011. At her right is Mr. Patrick James Natale, Executive Director, ASCE and on the left is Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED. Ms. Meggan Maughan-Brown, Director, ASCE and Dr. H.K. Banerjee, Governor, ASCE Region-10 are also seen in the picture

Foreign Training/ Overseas Visit

- Mr. Muhammad Azizul Haque, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Firoz Uddin, Deputy Chief, Local Government Division, Mr. Abu Saleh Md. Hanif, Senior Assistant Engineer, LGED, Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Hasan Chowdhury, Senior Assistant Engineer, LGED, Mr. M.A. Sattar, Upazila Engineer, LGED, Mr. A.B.M. Shahidul Haque, Upazila Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Shahidullah Mia, Upazila Engineer, LGED and Mr. Pronab Kumar Sarkar, Upazila Engineer, LGED participated in the Training Course on "Planning & Implementation of Rural Roads & Community Markets & Application of IT" held in Thailand and Indonesia from 25 April to 04 May 2011.
- Mr. Md. Roushan Kabir, Executive Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Allah Hafiz, Deputy Project Director, LGED, Mr. Md. Motaheb Biswas, Executive Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Zahid Hossain, Senior Assistant Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Mahbub Imam Morshed, Senior Assistant Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Upazila Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Abul Khayer Miah, Upazila Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Mahabubul Haque, Upazila Engineer, LGED participated in the Training Course on "Environmental Management" held in Vietnam and China from 28 March to 06 April 2011.



Secretary, Local Government Division Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan is seen distributing micro credit to one of the female members of Dariapur Water Management Cooperative Association under LGED's SSWRDSP in Chapainawabganj district on 23 April, 2011. Chief Engineer, LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman was present on the occasion, among others.

- Mr. Swapan Kumar Das, Project Director, LGED attended the "Regional Workshop on Safeguards for Indigenous Peoples in Development Project" in Manila, Philippines from 05 April to 06 April 2011.

LGD Secretary distributes micro- credits to WMCA members of LGED's Water Sector Project

Secretary, Local Government Division Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan distributed a total amount of Taka 6 lakh 75 thousand, four cows,

four goats and one sewing machine among 56 male and female members of Dariapur Water Management Cooperative Association (WMCA), a pro-poor component of LGED's Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP), in Chapainawabganj district on 23 April 2011.

In his address as the chief guest, the LGD Secretary said, whatever infrastructure LGED constructs, that tends to be a resource for the people. He however emphasizes on the significance of proper application of those resources. He said, efforts should be made to sustain the project, the infrastructures and the WMCA and for that reason the local people would have to build up a fund by themselves for proper maintenance of the infrastructures.

Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED spoke on the occasion as special guest and said, the peasants and farmers are being enormously benefitted by the infrastructures constructed by LGED. He said, the infrastructures have further established WMCAs for the benefit of its members.

Mr. Md. Abu Bakar Biswas, Superintending Engineer, LGED, Rajshahi Region, Mr. Md. Golam Kibria, Project Director, IRBNWRC, Mr. Md. Jafarul Hasan, Project Director, LBC, Syed Shafiu Alam, Executive Engineer, LGED Chapainawabganj, and Mr. Md. Abu Bakar Siddique, Executive Engineer, LGED were also present on the occasion, inter alia.



Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED inaugurated the 70-meter long RCC bridge over Bagga river at Abdullahmiah Kanchon Bazar - Iman Ali Bazar road in Subarnachar upazila of Noakhali district on 9 April 2011. Mr. Md. Ekramul Karim Chowdhury, M.P., Noakhali-4 was present at the inaugural ceremony as chief guest, while Mr. A.H.M. Khairul Anam Chowdhury, Chairman, Subarnachar Upazila Parishad, Noakhali was the special guest.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina logged onto www.lged.gov.bd at her office on 12 June 2011 to formally inaugurate country's upazila and district maps in LGED Website. LGD Secretary, Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan and Chief Engineer of LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman were present on the occasion.

PM inaugurates installation of upazila & district maps on LGED website

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the engineers of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) to keep in mind the environmental aspects while constructing bridges on rivers. "You have to construct bridge using such technology that does not hamper natural navigability of rivers and which protects the environment", she said while installing base maps of the countries upazilas and districts in LGED Website at Prime Minister's office in Dhaka on June 12, 2011. The address of the new website is

www.lged.gov.bd

Appreciating the LGED's efforts for upazila and district mapping, the Prime Minister said this will digitally empower the administration and the people to take the right decision on many occasions. LGED engineers and IT experts through their efforts for three years have made the maps using modern Geographic Information Service (GIS).

'Put emphasis on green technology and renewable energy'
-Prime Minister

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the World Environment Day-2011 Programme and a 3-day Environment Fair on

June 5, 2011 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the capital. Bangladesh joined with other UN member states to observe the day with the theme 'Forests: Nature at Your Service'.

Addressing the gathering at the inaugural function the Prime Minister said, against the backdrop of development, Bangladesh has to put emphasis on the use of green technology and renewable energy. Laying emphasis on reducing dependency on the underground water in agriculture, she said excessive use of such water increased earthquake risk in the country.

The Prime Minister also said that her government has taken steps to protect the four rivers Buriganga, Sitalakhya, Turag and Balu around Dhaka city by restoring their navigability. Process is underway to shift the Hazaribagh tannery to Savar to this end, she added.

In observance of the day, LGED, along with other organizations, also set up a stall at the Environment Fair highlighting different aspects of LGED's environment programmes. It may be mentioned here that tree plantation on slope of roads and embankments is an important activity of LGED, contributing towards stability of LGED-built infrastructures with the objective of improving environment through reduction of soil erosion. LGED is keen to confine itself in eco-conscious project preparations.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is seen visiting the LGED stall at the 3-day Environment Fair organized in observance of the World Environment Day-2011 in Dhaka on 5 June 2011. During the visit the Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for Communication Syed Abul Hossain, State Minister for Forest and Environment Dr. Hasan Mahmud and the Secretary to the Ministry of Forest and Environment Mr. Mesbahul Alam.

Editor : Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, Local Govt. Engineering Department, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207