



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates three bridges through video conference from her official residence Ganobhaban. These have been built in Magura, Narayanganj and Jashore to expand better communication network

Economy grows stronger as road network expands

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said while inaugurating three bridges built by LGED

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, Bangladesh Awami League after voted to power has been building a robust communications network across the country that resulted in expansion of economy. She said we have initiated many development work and shall complete inshallah. The Premier said this while inaugurating three bridges constructed by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at Magura, Narayanganj and Jashore on 22 November, 2020. The Prime Minister inaugurated the bridges through a video conference from her official residence Ganobhaban.

Hon'ble Prime Minister said we formed government in 2009 and since then we are working for the betterment of the people because there is a continuity of the government. We have reduced poverty, achieved increased per capita income, provided employment to the people, and proved that the quality of life can be improved even at the village level. The government is formulating plans and implementing development works with a special focus on the development of communication system, fulfilling power and energy requirements and creating new facilities to market commodities,

bringing in investment from abroad, and above all kept the wheel of the economy moving ahead. The Prime Minister said the communication system is gradually improving as a result of the construction of bridges. People can easily market agricultural products and other merchandise. Lifestyle is now easier and faster. She mentioned that we could not celebrate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu in a befitting manner due to pandemic. Coronavirus has not only affected Bangladesh, the whole world is suffering from Covid-19. We have tried to maintain uninterrupted economic activities during the pandemic. Despite the unusual situation, our development work is continuing and I thank everyone concerned for this effort. She stressed the importance of wearing masks, make people aware of the second wave of Coronavirus and urged all to follow the health guidelines.

Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated LGED constructed 600.70 metres long Sheikh Hasina Bridge at Elangkhali Ghat point of Madhumati river under Mohammadpur upazila of Magura, 576.214 metres long Valiant Freedom Fighter Golam Dastagir Gazi (Bir Protik) Bridge on Shitalakhya river at Murapara ferry ghat road under

Rupganj Upazila of Narayanganj and 702.55 meter long bridge on Bhairab river at Amtala GC road - Bhangagate (Badamtala) on Jashore-Khulna highway.

She hoped that the three bridges would significantly contribute to the socio-economic development in the locality. She dedicated the three bridges as the gift of the Mujib Year for the people of Mohammadpur, Rupganj and Abhaynagar upazilas. A video presentation on these bridges was given during the inauguration. Cabinet Division at Secretariat, Deputy Commissioner's offices of Magura, Narayanganj and Jashore were connected to Ganobhaban through video conference during inauguration ceremony. Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Md. Tazul Islam MP and Senior Secretary of Local Government Division Helal Uddin Ahmed spoke on the occasion from the Cabinet Division end. State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Swapan Bhattacharjee was present at the Cabinet Division and from Narayanganj, Textile and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi (Bir Pratik), local MPs, dignitaries, people's representatives, district administration officials and beneficiaries attended the inaugural ceremony.



Editorial

Celebrating the Birth Centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Mujib Year

LGED is dedicated to realize the education philosophy of the father of the nation

Education, society and civilization are intertwined. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a great leader who was passionate about education. The great leader believed that no nation could be self-reliant without education. In a radio and television speech on the eve of the 1970 general election, he said, "There can be no better investment than injecting capital in education to build a modern society. At least 4 percent of GDP needs to be spent on education."

Bangabandhu laid special emphasis on people oriented education system based on practicality of life. In the field of education, he wanted to move forward with a coherent and precise plan. Within six

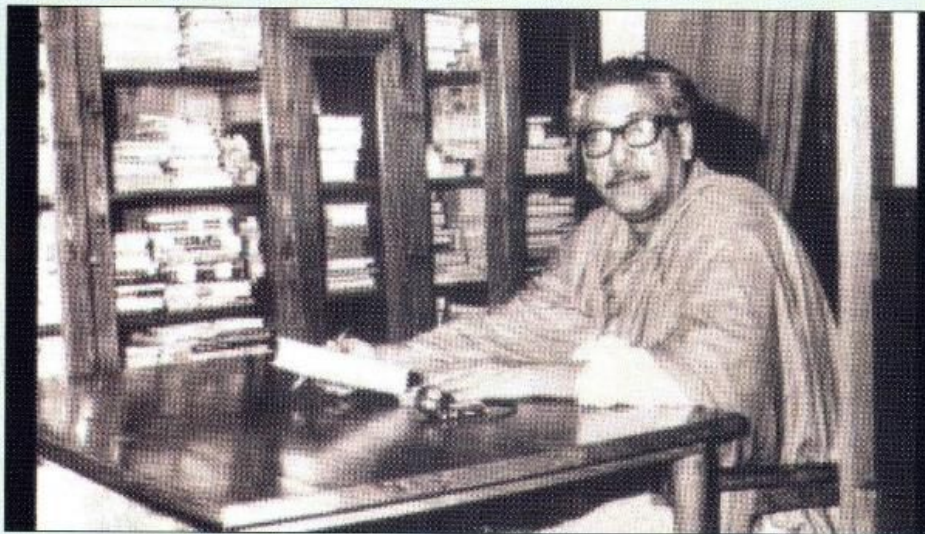
months after the independence of the country, Bangabandhu constituted Kudrat-E-Khuda Education Commission though the country was faced with enormous problems of a post war situation. One of the landmark decisions taken by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1973 was the nationalization of 36,165 primary schools in the country.

Bangabandhu not only dreamt of an independent Bangladesh, he had a vision of building a prosperous Bangladesh which he termed as Golden Bengal. He often said, "If we want to build a Golden Bengal, we need golden people." In other words skilled, competent, non-communal, patriotic, modern, educated human resources. To this end, Bangabandhu gave special importance on imparting quality education while drafting the constitution of independent Bangladesh. The constitution of '72 incorporated Bangabandhu's education philosophy in the 'Fundamental Principles of State Policy' section.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the competent daughter of Bangabandhu, after winning the elections of 1996 to 2001 term

and later during the current tenure that began from 2009, implemented massive development activities in the field of education which is still on. In 2013, she nationalized 26,193 schools. As a result of the groundbreaking steps taken by the present government in the field of education, Bangladesh has achieved

need-based education infrastructures. These include construction and reconstruction of primary school buildings, expansion of Primary Training Institute (PTI) infrastructures, construction of upazila resource centers and construction of district primary education office buildings at district level.



The primary education infrastructures built by LGED is playing a significant role in achieving the goal of 100% attendance and quality education. The Primary Education Infrastructure Management Unit (PEIMU) has been set up at the LGED headquarters to ensure smooth implementation of education development infrastructures. These activities are being conducted through

unprecedented success in the development of primary education. Attendance in primary education is near 100 percent and gender parity is almost equal. On the first day of the academic year, textbooks are being handed over to students across the country in a festive atmosphere.

Government primary school students are provided with mid-day meals as well as stipends are being awarded to the students. The scholarship money is sent to the parents through mobile phone. As a result of these multi-faceted initiatives, the net admission rate has now risen to about 98 percent. The drop-out rate has now come down to 18.80 percent from 47.20 percent in 2005. At present, the literacy rate has increased to about 73 percent.

LGED has been working closely with the Department of Primary Education for the construction and extension of primary school buildings to ensure quality education for all. Work on the fourth phase of the Primary Education Development Program is underway with funding from the Development Partners and the Government of Bangladesh. LGED is building primary schools across the country as well as

intense monitoring and coordination. Among the various components of these programs and projects, construction of need-based infrastructure is an important segment, under which the program is being implemented across the country, including chars or mud islands, offshore islands, haors, tea gardens, remote locations and in areas where education level is relatively low.

Besides, construction of government primary school cum cyclone shelters, reconstruction and construction of connecting roads to these schools undertaken by LGED have resulted in revolutionary changes in the construction of education infrastructures. LGED's untiring efforts towards development of primary education infrastructures is a manifestation of its commitment in achieving desired goal in education sector as the nation celebrates birth centenary of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the 50th anniversary of the country's independence. These educational infrastructures built by LGED are working as stepping stones in building the Golden Bengal as dreamt by the father of the nation.



Speakers stress on the construction of quality and sustainable infrastructures of primary school



Secretary of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education Golam Md. Hasibul Alam at the meeting

The government is committed to the development of primary education. The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education is implementing activities to this end. At present, the Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-4) is being implemented with the joint funding of development partners and the Government of Bangladesh. In addition, two more projects are underway titled "Need-Based Government Primary School Infrastructure Development Project (Phase-I)" and "Need-Based Newly Nationalized Government Primary School Infrastructure Development Project (Phase-I)". LGED is implementing these programs to ensure quality primary education. These infrastructures are playing a vital role in ensuring 100 percent

attendance and reducing dropout in primary education. A view exchange meeting was held on 16 November 2020 at the LGED headquarters on the development of primary education infrastructure under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education which is being implemented by LGED. Secretary of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education Golam Md. Hasibul Alam was present as chief guest at the meeting which was chaired by LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abdur Rashid Khan. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education stressed on maintaining quality and standard during all stages of construction to ensure sustainability of the infrastructures. He said, the ministry and the LGED officials have to work together to make best use of the

resources and assured all possible cooperation. Praising the standards of LGED in ensuring construction quality, he said LGED is an award-winning organization at the international level. Chief Engineer Md. Abdur Rashid Khan said that LGED is committed to strict adherence in maintaining quality during the design and implementation phase of the projects. The meeting also laid emphasis on ensuring use of quality materials during construction of the school buildings. Site of the construction of the building should be selected appropriately, they added. Speaking as special guest, Director General of the Department of Primary Education Alamgir Mohammad Mansurul Alam emphasized on attaching importance on the sustainability of the infrastructures. LGED Additional Chief Engineer (Rural Infrastructure Development and Management) Md. Moslah Uddin who delivered the welcome speech, mentioned that LGED has been implementing education infrastructure development work with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education since 1990.

A power point presentation was made at the program highlighting the activities LGED is implementing under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education. The video was presented by the Executive Engineer of LGED Md. Mahbub Alam. Executive Engineer and Coordinator of ROSC Md. Wahiduzzaman detailed the activities of the Reaching out of School Children (ROSC) project. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the ministry and the LGED.

**Strategy on Practicing Integrity
Institutional public hearing held at LGED**



LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abdur Rashid Khan speaking at the institutional public hearing

The present government led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had initiated the National Integrity Strategy in 2012 for building a happy and prosperous Golden Bengal through establishing good governance at institutional and societal levels. As part of this, integrity strategies were prepared at the ministry, department, directorate and at field level. Report on the implementation of the strategy is required to be sent to the concerned department every three months in light of the work plan chalked

out by the respective offices. Ethical practices are evaluated and rewarded accordingly. It was for the first time on 8 December, 2020, an institutional public hearing was held at the Quamrul Islam Siddique Auditorium of the LGED headquarters. LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abdur Rashid Khan presided over the public hearing. Highlighting the context of the public hearing, the Chief Engineer said the National Integrity Strategy is a priority issue of the present government. It is a very important guideline for

strengthening transparency, accountability and ethical adherence to institutional performance. Practicing integrity will further increase the credibility and trust of the people in the organization. He directed to hold at least two public hearings every year. The Chief Engineer also called for the formulation of an action plan on ways to improve the quality of development work by integrating the manpower recruited through outsourcing for various projects of LGED. In the questions and answer session, the Chief Engineer instructed the Central Training Unit of LGED to organize training for the officers to develop their concept on integrity strategy. He also assured to work out a strategy for rewarding good deeds and reprimanding misdeeds.

At the end of the public hearing, a working session was held on evolving strategies to overcome manpower shortage at LGED headquarters and at the field level, challenges ahead, and options available. LGED Additional Chief Engineer (Roads and Bridges Maintenance) Sk. Mohammad Mohsin presided over the session. Additional Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Project Directors, Executive Engineers and other officials from LGED headquarters and field level attended in the public hearing.



Pledge of the Mujib Year: roads to be repaired Rural road maintenance month observed in October 2020



Picture of Rural Road Maintenance Month observance appeared in a local daily Magura Barta published from Magura district

LGED observed October 2020 as Rural Road Maintenance Month as part of the Mujib Year celebrations. To glorify the birth centenary and Mujib Year celebrations of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, LGED declared October 2020 and March 2021 as Rural Road

Maintenance Month in line with the theme "Pledge of the Mujib Year: roads to be repaired". The theme was selected by LGED as part of the celebration of the birth centenary of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Mujib Year. Minister for Local Government, Rural Development

and Cooperatives Md. Tazul Islam MP inaugurated the maintenance month on 30 September 2020 through the digital platform. Officials at all level of LGED headquarters, divisions, regions and district and upazila attended the program. The objective of this program is to ensure optimum utilization of funds allocated for road maintenance, enhance sustainability of roads by reducing the causes of damage to rural roads, road safety, involve road users in maintenance activities and motivate LGED personnel engaged in road maintenance.

In order to implement regular road maintenance activities in the fiscal year 2020-2021 as part of the observance of Rural Road Maintenance Month, a target of at least 14,800 km of road maintenance has been set in the first phase across the country i.e. in October 2020 and March 2021. It is to be noted that LGED carries out three phases of road maintenance work i.e.

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630-meter Sheikh Hasina Bridge on the Meghna River in Narsingdi is now a venue of recreation



The 630-metre Sheikh Hasina Bridge on the Meghna River in Narsingdi is now a place of recreation for locals.

A bridge is not only a means of connection, it as well creates a number of auxiliary facilities. Large bridges built across the country are becoming centers of spending past time. Local people come with families to breathe fresh air and feel a sense of coming close to nature. A number of makeshift shops have been set up around the bridge, thus creating employment opportunities.

The 630-meter Sheikh Hasina Bridge on the Meghna River in Narsingdi has become a centre point for recreation. People from various strata of life and

professions converge here to look to the virgin nature from this beautiful bridge. Munir Jewel, a resident of Narsingdi, who visited the spot said, the imposing infrastructure is an added attraction in the area and is a major facelift in the locality. The place is a centre of attraction for those who want to spend some time free from worry and anxiety.

College student Zahidur Rahman, who came from the Char area, said, "We have been benefited a lot from the construction of the bridge." He can travel from the Char area to Narsingdi town faster and can come to the bridge

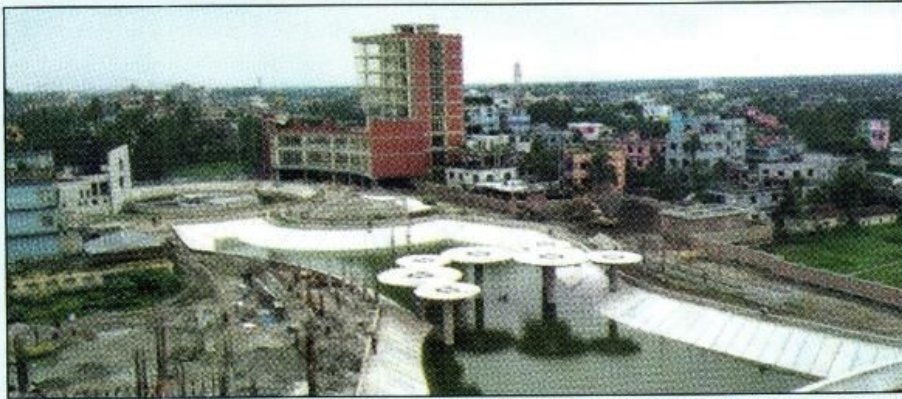
and spend some time. Rafiqul Islam Montu, who came to visit the bridge, said that thousands of people come here. It is now a recreation center as there had been no venue around Narsingdi where one could spend past time. Hotels and restaurants are being set up around the bridge.

Narsingdi is a flourishing town near the capital Dhaka. The river Meghna flows through the Sadar upazila of the district. A tributary of the river separated four unions in the char areas - Karimpur, Nazarpur, Alokali and Chardighaldi from the Sadar upazila. People of the area had to face difficulties in traveling to the capital via Dhaka-Sylhet highway and Narshingdi. It was so close but separated by river.

The bridge has facilitated about 25,000 people in the char area to reach their destination in a short time and at reduced cost. It has also established connectivity to service providing agencies including education and health. Under the Long Bridge Construction Project on Upazila and Union Roads across the country, the construction work of this beautiful bridge has been completed at a comparatively low cost under the overall supervision of LGED engineers. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the bridge on 1st November 2018 for vehicular movement.



Sheikh Hasina Cultural Village Nirman Project nearing completion Cultural center of Jamalpur district



A view of the Sheikh Hasina Cultural Village Nirman Project under construction at the heart of Jamalpur Municipality

In modern urban planning, the issue of preservation of the city's heritage and culture is given special importance. The development plan is being adopted keeping intact the basic features of the historical places, rivers, canals or of the important installations of the city. As such the infrastructures are seen as icons of history and tradition.

Sheikh Hasina Cultural village Nirman Project, now under construction in Jamalpur district headquarters, is becoming a centre place of cultural

heritage and modernity. The municipality of Jamalpur is classified as 'A'. As the population grew, so did trade and commerce. But compared to that, the city's infrastructure facilities, especially the parks and recreation centers were inadequate. In this context, the Sheikh Hasina Cultural Village Nirman Project has been undertaken for planned development and expansion of open space and other facilities in the center of Jamalpur city, to create a cultural and recreational options for the urban population. The Sheikh Hasina Cultural Village Nirman Project will

promote cultural activities in Jamalpur district. It will open up flourishing of cultural institutions and will serve as a focal point for the intellectual development of creative artists. This centre will attract not only the cultural fans but will also draw a large number of tourists from across the country. It will be an ideal place of choice for the local people and children to be close to culture and artistic arena.

The centre is being developed on an area of about eight and a half acre of land in the heart of the town. Under the project, multi-storied cultural and commercial buildings, foot over bridges, boat clubs, reservoir renovation, amphitheater, underground liberation war museum and high rise shaheed minar are being constructed. In addition, a state-of-the-art carousel, archeological and historical portraits, fountain, 176-seat 3D and 32-seat 9-D theater hall, fire detection and protection equipment will be installed in phases. ECNEC meeting on 8 March 2016 approved the project titled "Renovation of Urban Architectures of Jamalpur Town and Cultural Center Development" which was later amended in the ECNEC meeting held on 17 November 2020 and changed the name of the project as "Sheikh Hasina Cultural Village Nirman Project" and approved the first amended Development Project Proposal (DPP). The project is set to be completed by June 2022.

UGIIP-3

Development of municipal water supply management



Groundwater treatment plant under construction in Laxmipur Municipality with the support of UGIIP-3 project

The importance of safe water in protecting the health of urban dwellers is immense. After the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, the then government led by Bangabandhu took the initiative of building new infrastructures with due emphasis on rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation systems devastated during the war of liberation. Subsequently, Bangladesh has made unprecedented progress in safe water supply and sanitation at the directives of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

As a result, Bangladesh is currently one of the top countries in South Asia in the category of water and sanitation coverage. It is needless to say that Bangladesh is currently undergoing rapid urbanization and ensuring adequate safe water for ever increasing population has become a major challenge for the municipalities, a key responsibility of this local body. To ensure safe drinking water, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) have

undertaken extensive water management development activities in the municipalities under the Third Urban Management and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project (UGIIP-3). To this end, various steps have been taken to develop the infrastructure of the water supply system, including its operation, maintenance, reducing water wastage. Under the project, construction work of two reservoirs with a capacity of 680,000 liters of water have already been completed in Sherpur and Joypurhat municipalities. Besides, construction of reservoirs is underway in 4 more municipalities (Chuadanga, Charchat, Laxmipur and Laksam municipalities) till 2019-20 financial year. In addition, 66 production tube wells and 100 shallow hand tube wells have been installed in the municipalities by the Department of Public Health Engineering, the co-implementing agency of the project. Construction work of 1 underground water treatment plant is underway in Laxmipur Municipality. To contain water wastage in the municipality, water meters have been installed in 50,082 household connections till the 2019-20 fiscal year and 346 km water pipeline has been laid.



LGED helps Kashipur residents to get back to their profession and homestead



Newly constructed road in Kashipur

Kashipur is a village under Nikli Upazila of Kishoreganj district, mostly inhabited by fishermen community. About 30 years ago, the village was washed away by floods and erosion. Some 315 families living in the village somehow settled in the surrounding villages. They had lost their homestead. Fishermen failed to collect national identity cards as they had no permanent address. They were denied the right to fish in beel (large water body) and rivers and were forced to change their profession. The fishermen started making a living by other means. In such a situation, the floating fishing community of Kashipur could see ray of hope in 2017.

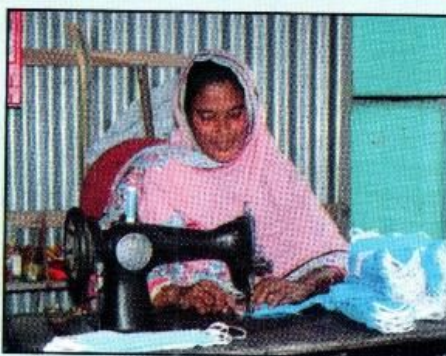
The village of Kashipur woke up again. Gradually they started returning to their profession. The Local Government Engineering Department came to the rescue of 300 families through the "Haor Flood Management and Livelihood

Improvement Project" who had lost their profession. The hapless villagers found a new lease of life as the Atharbeki Failla Beel was leased out to the fishermen of Kashipur village for management of community-based water resources. A body comprising of Failla Beel users was formed with 32 male and 11 female members of Kashipur village. The members showed their commitment in the efficient management of the beel and development of the area including payment against the lease installment. The people of Kashipur are now financially solvent by working together.

In the financial year 2017-18, the link canal of Atharbeki Failla Beel and 650 metre Beel was re-excavated with the financial assistance of Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project. Homestead on

about 3 acres of land in Kashipur village was raised with excavated soil. 150 families have returned to the village and now building new houses. More than 150 families are preparing to return as catching of fishes resumed in the beel since 2017. In the last four years, the fishermen of Kashipur have deposited Taka 1 lakh 40 thousand 2 hundred in the bank account of their association or body. They have also deposited an amount of one lakh 89 thousand four taka in the government treasury during the last four years against the lease. Beel and road development is continuing under this project. 6.127 km road has been constructed in Kamalapur-Shantipur-Singapore area of Mithamoin next to Atharobeki Failla Beel. The association has already earned 31 lakh 93 thousand 620 taka by selling 17 thousand 188 kg fish. Dividends and wages are being distributed among the members every year. As a result, it has become easier for the people of Mithamoin and Nikli Upazilas to travel and market the products including fish. They are also getting faster emergency health care. With the help of Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project, the fishing community who had lost their homes and fell into extreme poverty, are now back to their profession and have homestead or an address. LGED's water resources schemes are playing a significant role in improving the living standards of small and marginal communities.

Women play key role in tackling covid-19 Cooperative female members make mask



A female member of water management cooperative society sewing mask

Women are in the forefront of tackling the challenges of Covid-19 in Bangladesh as most frontline workers are female. Effective participation of women in the Water Management Cooperative Society (WMCS) formed under LGED's Small Scale Water Resources Sector Project is changing the lifestyle of many distressed women in rural areas. Women have become entrepreneurs and are rearing cattle and poultry and

growing vegetables. They are running various small businesses including tailoring. As a result, their personal development in terms of economic freedom are flourishing and they are gradually coming out of the clutches of poverty. LGED's livelihood training is empowering women to become drivers of economic growth. Besides, being self-reliant women, they earn respect in family and in the society thus bringing a fresh perspective in economy and ensuring their position in social and organizational leadership. In 2020, the novel coronavirus Covid-19 had spread worldwide. The first case of coronavirus was diagnosed in Bangladesh on March 8 that year. To contain increasing number of infected people, it is important to maintain social distance, wear masks and wash hands with soap and keep hands clean with disinfectants. Responding to the alarming situation, the government has adopted the 'No Mask, No Service' strategy. The use and demand for masks have increased across the country during the Corona period. In this situation, the women members of Rathkhola

Kamarbari Water Management Cooperative Society Limited of Sarishabari Upazila of Jamalpur District took initiative to make a mask and market it at a low price. In the financial year 2018-2019, 40 women members were given training on tailoring for 25 days. At the end of the training, each one was provided with various implements including sewing machines. They are now employed and making a living out of it. During the corona period, 15 women tailors were trained to make cotton masks. Masks were stitched and sold in Sarishabari and Jamalpur markets in March 2020. Women members have already sold about 1,600 masks. The demand for their masks is increasing and as a result, 11 women entrepreneurs are planning to increase the production of masks with loans from the cooperative association. The women members of WMCS have set a new precedence of fulfilling social responsibilities along with additional income during the Corona pandemic.



Submersible road at Ullapara in Sirajganj : LGED creates transformational impact



Newly constructed submersible road

The construction of eco-friendly submersible road is an innovative approach of LGED in the infrastructural development. Initially, the submersible or fair weather road was constructed only in the Haor areas but now it is being replicated in other parts of the country. The newly constructed submersible road connecting Barapangasi to Haor

area in Ullapara Upazila of Sirajganj district has opened new vistas in communication in the area. Under the LGED's Greater Pabna, Bogra Rural Infrastructure Development Project and Sirajganj District Infrastructure Development Project constructed a 7 km long submersible road at a cost of about 8 crore 40 lakh taka. There is a

big patch of cultivable land in this area that goes under water during the rainy season. Prior to the construction of the road, there were no easy means of communication in the area. People had to suffer a lot but the construction of the amphibian road has facilitated easy movement in the area.

New momentum has been created in transportation and lifestyle. Van driver Maram Ali said it was very difficult to drive his cart before the road was built. A little rain would make the road muddy. We are enjoying the benefits of the road. In this regard, LGED Sirajganj District Executive Engineer Md. Mizanur Rahman said, LGED always implements projects keeping in mind the improvement of people's living standards and creation of employment. With the completion of the road, the farmers can transport their produces to the urban locality easily. They are also getting a fair price for the product. Students can easily commute using this road.

Training on gender, social and environmental protection



LGED's Superintending Engineer (Human Resource Development, Environment and Gender) Manmatha Ranjan Halder delivering speech at the inaugural function of the training program

LGED has a long history of creating an enabling environment for empowerment of women and establishing equal rights and dignity for men and women that started in 1985 under the Rural Development Project-4 in Faridpur by involving men as well as distressed women in earthworks in rural road maintenance. At the same time, participation of women in slum development projects in urban areas and later in small-scale water resources development projects was introduced in 1995. In the IFAD aided project, earth work was undertaken experimentally in the off-pavement by engaging all female workers. LGED's scope of work

gradually expanded to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality in tandem. Gender equality policy guidelines has been included in LGED's rural, urban and water resources development sectors. Gender and Development Forum has been set up in the department while Gender Equality Strategy and Sector Based Action Plan has been formulated which is updated on every five year basis. On the other hand, environmental and social safeguard is a prerequisite for building sustainable infrastructure. Maintaining environmental and social safeguard is essential for the implementation of infrastructural development. LGED

implements development works through strict compliance to existing laws and policies. At the same time, the projects implemented by the funding of development partners are executed in light of their policy guidelines related to gender, social and environment.

A two-day training on Gender, Social and Environmental Protection was organized at the LGED headquarters from 29-30 December 2020 with a view to develop the capacity of LGED officials at different levels. A total of 38 participants including Upazila Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Sociologists took part. Superintending Engineer (Human Resource Development, Environment and Gender) Manmatha Ranjan Halder said the government attaches special priority to the issue of gender equality. Highlighting the objective of the training, Project Director, Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-2) Additional Funding Md. Sohrab Ali said that the training was organized to improve the knowledge level of the officers and employees for proper implementation of gender, environmental and social safeguard issues. The training was organized under the Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II) funded by the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank.



Construction of 1,490 meter bridge on the river Teesta Compensation handed over for land acquisition



Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram Md. Rezaul Karim handing over cheques for land acquisition among the affected people

LGED and a Chinese company, State Construction Engineering Cooperation Limited, signed a contract on 16 July 2020 at LGED headquarters for building a 1,490 metre long bridge on the river Teesta in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district. LGED implementing the bridge construction as the agency has earned the credibility of building

such infrastructures across the country because of its institutional capacity. The bridge will connect Kurigram district with Gaibandha and Rangpur districts by an alternative route. A total of 22.49 acres of land has been acquired for the construction of the approach road to the bridge. Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram Md. Rezaul Karim on 3

December 2020 handed over cheques amounting a total of Tk 2 crore and 32 lakh 49 thousand and 408 among 102 affected persons of the Mouja of Mudafatthana, Machabandha, Kharkhoria and Patrakhata under Chilhari Upazila. A total of Tk 20.53 crore has been provided to the district administration by the Local Government Engineering Department as compensation money for the affected persons due to land acquisition which will be handed over to the affected person phase by phase. On this occasion, a program was organized by Kurigram district administration at Chilhari Government College ground. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Ms. Zilufa Sultana, LGED Senior Assistant Engineer Md. Mamun Khan, Chilhari Upazila Executive Officer AW M Raihan Shah, Land Acquisition Officer Md. Mahmudul Hasan, Additional Land Acquisition Officer ANM Zahidul Islam, Upazila Mahila Vice-Chairman Asma Begum and Thanahat UP Chairman A. Razzak Milon among others were present on the occasion.

Where flowers bloom so does hope



Newly rehabilitated road

The Shioradah road from Gadkhali Bazar in Jhikargachha Upazila of Jashore district is a life line for local trade and commerce particularly for the flower growers as they didn't have alternate route for transportation of fresh flowers. Local Government Engineering Department recently rehabilitated the road. The reconstructed corridor has facilitated faster movement of millions of residents and about ten thousand flower vendors in the area. The locality is now humming with socio-economic activities. Rehabilitation of the road justifies the sayings of Lady Bird Johnson "where flowers bloom so does

hope." LGED's Jashore District Executive Engineer Mirza Mohammad Iftekhar Ali said LGED implements programs for improving the living standards of the people. Md. Abdur Rahim, President of Bangladesh Flower Society, said that the flower growers are benefiting from the rehabilitation of the road, since they can transport faster the flowers produced here. It may be mentioned that LGED rehabilitated the six kilometre road in 2019-20 fiscal at a cost of about ten Crore taka under the Bangladesh Agricultural Infrastructure Development Programme (BAIDP) funded by USAID.

Pledge of the Mujib Year

(contd. from page 04)

regular, emergency and periodic. Regular maintenance work of road surface, edge and shoulders will be taken up during the rural road maintenance month. The program employs 10,147 maintenance workers, 601 supervisors and 320 skilled and semi-skilled workers. Implementation of the program has created employment opportunities for about 4 million people. 134.69 crore taka was allocated for work from the annual development program. With the active participation of public representatives and local dignitaries, LGED implemented the program in a festive mood across the country and the initiative has added a new impetus to road maintenance work. In view of the current Corona situation, the month-long road maintenance program is implemented across the country in compliance with government health guidelines. It was possible to restore uninterrupted communication in more than 3,200 kilometer road through maintenance work that was carried out in three months - from October to December 2020 under the programme. News on the observance of Rural Road Maintenance Month was published and publicized in various print and electronic media with due importance.



Mohammad Rafiqul Alam: A unique personality of professional excellence

Md. Ahsan Habib
Additional Chief Engineer



Mohammad Rafiqul Alam

An infrastructure stands on the foundation and the part of the infrastructure that carries its weight to the base is the pillar. This is just simple civil engineering. LGED is an organization of the mass. This organization is manned by dedicated individuals from all over the country who are working tirelessly for the socio-economic development of the nation.

Infrastructures of social institutions, administrative establishments and other agencies including road communications are being implemented by LGED across the country. These LGED's contribution in the expansion of rural economy of Bangladesh has been globally recognized.

Just as physical infrastructure is needed to run the activities of an organization, so is its internal structure. Like the physical infrastructure, the inner structure also has multiple pillars.

The LGED family lost one such pillar in the Covid-19 on December 11, 2020. The individual was in charge of LGED's financial management and audit activities. Mohammad Rafiqul Alam who discharged the responsibilities for a decade was known for his devotion to work left us in a sea of pain as he departed almost silently ignoring worldly neglect, in my career spanning more than thirty-one years, I have hardly come across such a simple and amiable personality. What an easy going personality with simplistic lifestyle ! How many of us know about such rare individuals who resemble to pillar that is made step by step with much devotion. Rafiqul was a man of reliance where his colleagues could find solace during difficult times. Let his departed soul rest in peace by the grace of Almighty Allah-that's my only supplication.

Covid-19 and LGED, Oct.-Dec. 2020 An ordeal but life affirming experience

A total of 36 LGED officials and employees were infected with the novel coronavirus during the October-December 2020 period. 4 died, 13 recovered and 17 are undergoing treatment. The officers and employees who died of corona infection are: Md. Moin Uddin, Assistant Accountant of Keraniganj Upazila of Dhaka District. He died on 11 November 2020. LGED driver Md. Kamrul Haque died on November 21, 2020. Md. Bazlul Quader Siddique, a senior sociologist working in the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Unit at LGED headquarters, died on 7 December 2020 while undergoing treatment at the Mirpur BIRDEM Hospital, Superintending Engineer Md. Rafiqul Islam, who was working in the audit unit of the headquarters, died on December 11, 2020 at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. Md. Abdur Rashid Khan, Chief Engineer, LGED expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of LGED officials and employees and sent messages of condolence to the bereaved families. He also wished early recovery of those under treatment. The Chief Engineer instructed the officers and employees at all levels to implement the development activities in compliance with the hygiene rules for protection from the epidemic.

Our Brother Quader

Abul Manzoor Md. Sadeque
Project Director



Bazlul Quader Siddiqui

His full name is Md. Bazlul Quader Siddiqui. A name with imposing impact. He comes from Kushtia district. From the first acquaintance, I asked him whether Siddique sir (former chief engineer of LGED) was his relative? Brother Kader replied the latter was not relative but neighbour. Siddique Sir brought Brother Quader to LGED who did his masters from Dhaka University kept him under his shadow. Brother Quader was an essential member in the chief engineer's office and earlier in the office of engineering adviser. Siddique Sir once gave a smart name to the office next to him i.e. Project Management and Monitoring Unit (PME) where Brother Quader became PME's key personnel.

From 1985 to 2020- thirty-five years of continuous service till his death. Almost everyone who addressed him "brother"

subsequently surpassed him in rank on being promoted and were addressed as "sir". Of them many have retired. Brother Quader performed de facto instructional duties like 'Subedar Major' and later saluted those who had been coached by him. Initially he joined Institutional Support Project (ISP) and drew handsome salary. When the ISP was winded up in early 2000, he passed through a difficult time. He moved from one project to another waiting for a new project and till the appointment may be out of salary. But Brother Quader has kept the dignity of his chair. He served LGED whole heartedly.

Since I worked at PME from 2009 to 2012, I had the opportunity to see him from a close proximity. Brother Quader was a living encyclopedia of LGED. But the flip side is that he could not organize his personal life. Married lately, he lost most of his savings in the stock market. Then he carried on somehow. Brother Quader returned to the Creator empty-handed, didn't leave anything for his family. He was a dedicated employee of LGED, perhaps this is his only asset. We pray to the Creator for this dedicated staff of LGED. May Almighty Allah grant him eternal peace in Jannah (paradise).

LGED Additional Chief Engineer

Md. Ashraful Islam went on retirement



Md. Ashraful Islam

LGED Additional Chief Engineer Md. Ashraful Islam went on post retirement leave on 31 December 2020. Md. Ashraful Islam started his career as an Assistant Engineer on June 1, 1989 by joining the then LGEB. He worked as Upazila Engineer, Assistant Engineer in District Council and Executive Engineer in different districts and at headquarters.

Since January 2013, he has been discharging responsibilities as project director of various projects. Md. Ashraful Islam was promoted as Superintending Engineer on 11 January 2016 and served in LGED Bogra Region and Narayanganj City Corporation. In July 2019, he was promoted Additional Chief Engineer and served in the Rangpur Division. Md. Ashraful Islam was born on 31 December 1961 in Dhaka district. He obtained his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Chattogram Engineering College in 1983.

Public servants vow to uphold Bangabandhu's honour



Government officials pledged not to allow any kind of insult and disrespect to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by organizing rallies across the country including Dhaka

On 12 December 2020, a protest rally was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar under the slogan 'Uphold the honor of the father of the nation forever'. At the same time, public servants held similar rallies in districts and upazilas across the country. BCS cadre and non-cadre officials attended the rally. Presiding over the event, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus said, "We belonging to 29 cadre services, today pledge that we won't tolerate any disrespect to the Father of the Nation during our lifetime. We are public servants. The constitution embodies the Father of the Nation. "Our job is to uphold the constitution. We are here to promise the nation that we will

never allow such incidents to take place," he vowed. Welcoming the gathering in Dhaka, Bangladesh Administrative Service Association President and Senior Secretary, Local Government Division Helal Uddin Ahmed echoing a similar sentiment, said Bangabandhu is constitutionally recognized.

"Bangabandhu and the country's independence are inter-linked. However, the anti-liberation quarter is still active and continues to deny his contribution. But we won't accept and tolerate any kind of attack on or disrespect of Bangabandhu," He added. Officials at all levels of the Local Government Engineering Department took part in the protest rally led by Chief Engineer Md. Abdur Rashid Khan.

October-December 2020: ECNEC approves 3 new and 1 revised projects for LGED

Executive Committee of National Economic Committee (ECNEC), approved three new projects during the October-December 2020 period for implementation by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). The projects were approved at the ECNEC meeting chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister and ECNEC Chairperson Sheikh Hasina.

The approved projects are: "Cyclone Ampan and Flood-damaged Rural Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project." The estimated cost of the project is Tk 5,905.59 crore. "Western Economic Corridor and Regional Enhancement Program (WECAR) Phase-I: Rural Connectivity, Market and Logistic Infrastructure Improvement Project." Estimated cost of the project is Tk 2,180.98 crore while the "Rural Infrastructure Development Project of Narsingdi district" involves an estimated cost of Tk 795.16 crore. The implementation of the projects will bring new momentum in road communication and will play a significant role in the transportation, marketing and expansion of trade and commerce of agricultural and non-agricultural products. The revised project is the "Emergency Multi-sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project" (EMCRP). The cost of the project has been revised from Tk 1,058 crore to Tk 1,988 crore. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 2024.

HILIP: IFAD's Implementation Support Mission



Project officials and mission representatives joined the discussion on the virtual platform

The implementation support mission of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a development partner in LGED's Haor Region Infrastructure and Livelihood Development Project (HILIP) and Supplementary Project Climate Adaptation and Livelihood Protection

(CALIP) activities, reviewed the progress of work. The mission was conducted from 17-23 December 2020 led by Water Resources Specialist of IFAD Andrew Jenkins. Other members were Abul Bashir (Infrastructure Specialist) and Freeu Behabatu (Program Officer). The mission

conducted its activities through a virtual platform due to the global pandemic Covid-19. The mission discussed in details the overall progress of the ongoing project, implementation of the recommendations of the previous mission, evaluation of the action plan adopted and next course of action. The mission made a number of recommendations regarding project completion strategies and end-line surveys. The mission delegation exchanged views with senior officials of LGED and officials at the project headquarters and at field level.

The mission talked to the beneficiaries of the project through mobile phones and video calls. The concluding meeting of the mission was attended by the representative of IFAD's Country Program Officer (Bangladesh) Tabassum Sherina and officials concerned including the Project Director of HILIP.



LGED Celebrates Great Victory Day 2020 with due solemnity



LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abdur Rashid Khan pays homage at the portrait of Father of the Nation at LGED headquarters

On the occasion of Great Victory Day on 16 December 2020, LGED Chief Engineer Md. Abdur Rashid Khan along with Additional Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Project Directors and Consultants placed floral wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at LGED headquarters.

Later, a virtual discussion meeting titled "Victory Day and our achievements: LGED perspective" was held with Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Abdur Rashid Khan the chair. Speaking at the function, he said Bangladesh achieved independence under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Bangabandhu and Bangladesh is one entity. Bangabandhu will always remain in our heart as long as Bangladesh exists. He further said that the father of the nation dreamt of a hunger and poverty free, happy-prosperous Bangladesh. He could not realise the dream as he was assassinated when the nation was rising. Bangabandhu's thoughts centred round the society, rural people and the economy. This great leader had reminded the government officials about their duties and responsibilities to the people. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the worthy successor of Bangabandhu is working relentlessly to fulfill the dream of the father of the nation. The Chief Engineer mentioned that LGED is implementing a comprehensive program to make the dream of the father of the nation "Sonar Bangla" into a reality. LGED's activities have resulted in a paradigm shift in overall development. Bangladesh has made unprecedented progress in all indicators, including communications, education and

health. He said, we have to go further, we have to build a better Bangladesh.

Md. Moslah Uddin, Convener of the Victory Day Celebration Committee and Additional Chief Engineer (Rural Infrastructure Development and Management) of LGED delivered the welcome speech and said, this year the great victory day is celebrated simultaneously with the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation and Mujib Year.

This has further increased the significance of this day. He mentioned that the celebration of Mujib Year is not just an occasion, the celebration will be meaningful only if the dreams and visions of the father of the nation can be kept alive in the mind of the people. LGED Additional Chief Engineer Sk. Mohammad Mohsin (Roads and Bridges Maintenance) said we have to go ahead with a specific action plan to realize the dream of the father of the nation in building Sonar Bangla. The father of the nation had only three and a half years to run the country.

In this short time, he had shown determination in building a nation. Hon'ble Prime Minister has set the goal of national progress i.e. to develop the country into a middle income one by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. We must work together to reach this goal.

Abdul Quddus Mondal, Additional Chief Engineer (Human Resource Development, Quality Control and Environment) of LGED while narrating the importance of the Victory Day and the Mujib Year, highlighted the background of the long political life of the Father of the Nation and said had Bangabandhu not been born, the history of this country would have been written differently.

Because of this great leader we have got an independent country, a map and a flag. Referring to the role of LGED in poverty alleviation and women's development, Additional Chief Engineer (Urban Management) Md. Shafiqul Islam Akand said LGED has been working for poverty alleviation since its inception and has been involved in the development of destitute and helpless women since the early sixties. Development of infrastructures across the country has created employment opportunities. Unprecedented progress has been achieved in agriculture and in the rural development. LGED's activities have created employment opportunities for thousands of distressed and helpless women through which they have become self-reliant. Additional Chief Engineer and Project Director Md. Shahjahan Mollah emphasized on education reform, public health, environmental and social protection, waste management and civic responsibility.

LGED Project Director Md. Jasim Uddin, Md. Mamunur Rashid and Executive Engineer (Administration) Md. Amirul Islam Khan also took part in the discussion. Officers and employees at all levels at the headquarters took part in the discussion. At the end of the discussion, a cultural program was held on the virtual platform under the direction of Additional Chief Engineer of LGED Md. Ahsan Habib. The winners of dance, music and recitation competitions organized at districts and divisional levels for the LGED family members on the occasion of Mujib Year participated in it. LGED Senior Assistant Engineer Sheikh Tazul Islam Tuhin moderated the program.

Father of the Nation wanted to build a prosperous Bangladesh by uniting people from all strata of life

- Honourable LGRD and Cooperatives Minister



Honourable Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Md. Tazul Islam MP, speaking at the virtual discussion meeting

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had begun building a developed and prosperous country with the help of peasants, workers and hardworking people from all strata of life. This was stated by the Honourable Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Md. Tazul Islam, MP while speaking at a virtual discussion with the theme "Holding high the spirit of the liberation war in building Father of the Nation's Sonar Bangla and achieving national prosperity through optimum utilization of digital technology" held on 31 December 2020 to mark the

great victory day. Organized by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, a doa mahfil (prayer session) was also held on the occasion.

The Minister further said Bangabandhu had formed Baksal to show respect to the three million martyrs, more than two lakh mothers and sister's who were tortured and dishonoured as well as fulfill their dreams and reach the benefits of independence to the people. But the conspirators created controversy. The minister lamented that the defeated forces

of independence had distorted the history of the liberation war by coming to power, using the country's flag in their cars as became MPs and ministers that inflicted enormous pain in the hearts of patriotic people. He also mentioned that it is the moral responsibility of all to uphold the correct history of the liberation war, Bangabandhu's ideology and consciousness to the new generation. Speaking as the special guest on the occasion, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Swapan Bhattacharjee MP said the father of the nation is an icon of history. The Bengali nation would have been subjugated for thousands of years if the great leader was not born. He has brought freedom for the country by skillfully implementing what should be done and what role should be played.

Mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh and Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation Md. Atiqul Islam spoke as guests of honor at the function presided over by Senior Secretary, Local Government Division Helal Uddin Ahmed. Besides, officials of the Local Government Division, heads of LGED, Public Health Engineering Department, WASA and other departments and agencies and representatives of district councils, upazila parishad and municipalities also took part in the discussion.

Senior Secretary of Local Government Division visits infrastructure development work of Cox's Bazar municipality



Senior Secretary of Local Government Division Helal Uddin Ahmed visiting Cox's Bazar municipality infrastructure development works on 2 October 2020

The World Bank has recently allocated 35.80 million dollars as additional funding for LGED's Municipal Governance Services Project (MGSP). Infrastructures of Cox's Bazar, Teknaf

and Chakaria municipalities have come under huge pressure due to the influx of displaced Rohingya population into Bangladesh. The World Bank allocated the amount for MGSP project of LGED

part. Cox's Bazar and Teknaf municipalities are included in the World Bank's additional financing. Chakaria municipality has been included in the additional allocation which was earlier included in the main project. According to the revised DPP, 85 km of roads, 44 km of drains, 72 km of street lights and a community center will be developed in these municipalities. Works under the sub projects is progressing fast.

Senior Secretary of the Local Government Division Helal Uddin Ahmed visited Cox's Bazar, Teknaf and Chakaria municipalities on 2 October 2020 to see for himself the ongoing development works now underway. He directed for speedy implementation of the works maintaining the standard and quality. It may be mentioned that MGSP is implementing various activities in city corporations and municipalities in establishing good governance and improvement of basic service delivery.