

BCL NEWSLETTER

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TO OUR READERS

We welcome the government's recent move for constructing a second bridge across the Padma River. The proposed bridge will open up a vast area of the northern region of southwest Bangladesh to economic development by significantly reducing travel time between the region and the capital Dhaka. The tentative location at Paturia, near the confluence of two mighty rivers, the Jamuna and the Ganges, will be technically challenging and may fail to attract the huge financing for the construction in the immediate future, particularly in view of the presently planned bridge about 45 km downstream. We are looking at a time horizon of 15~20 years.

A more useful project will be construction of a rail-only bridge at Bhuapur using the existing river training works of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge. Its construction without the RTW would cost a fraction of the cost of the proposed bridge at Paturia and could be completed in 30 months. Such a bridge will remove the harmful impact of the railway on the existing Jamuna Bridge and prolong its useful life. It will also restore the full capacity of road lanes. The project would contribute to the improvement to both road and rail communications and the national economy and would be worthy of consideration. ■

Mahub Haque

Mahub Haque
Managing Director

ROAD BRIDGE ON LOWER RUVU RIVER IN TANZANIA

The Dar es Salaam - Msata Road crosses the Lower Ruvu River at about 10 km west of the coast. The Tanzania National Roads Agency - TANROADS, intends to replace the existing Bailey bridge over the river with an all weather crossing as a part of the ongoing rehabilitation and upgrading of the Road. BCL is providing detailed engineering of the new bridge to the project consultant, M-Consult Ltd of Tanzania. The road section on which the bridge sits is a part of the trunk road connecting the cities of Tanga, Arusha and then farther up with Nairobi and Mombasa in Kenya. The existing bridge goes under water in annual flood, halting traffic flow for days.

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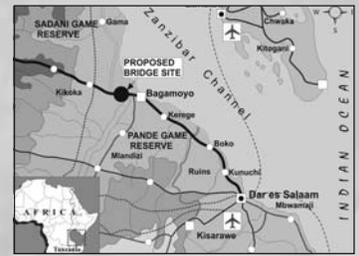
DHAKA URBAN TRANSPORT NETWORK DEVELOPMENT STUDY

Improving Dhaka urban transport system has become a pressing necessity. Virtually no progress has been made in implementation of the World Bank sponsored Strategic Transport Plan (STP) since its completion in 2005. Recently JICA has signed an agreement with the GoB to provide technical and financial assistance to improve the transport system in Dhaka under a phased development.

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CenTR News

A training course on use of MX Road software was conducted by Senior Engr Md Ayub Ali Mia from 30 Mar-15 Apr at the CenTR. All participants were in-house professionals and worked late hours at the close of daily session to master application.

The 9th External Audit of the company for ISO 9001:2000 was conducted by DNV auditor on 20 Apr. The CenTR satisfactorily demonstrated all its performance indicators as did the company collectively.

Mr Mahub Haque CEO conducted a workshop on "Operating costs to the Company" at the CenTR on 17 May for the senior staff members. Referring to the internal accounts MIS that keeps track of expenses of the company on a day to day basis, Mr Haque spread out the costs, which constitute the overhead. He reminded his colleagues that the overhead and social charge, and the multiplier factor (MF) derived there from, are not imaginary figures but represent the real costs to the company. The computerised accounts allow almost instant determination of the current MF at any time. He warned against using an arbitrary multiplier for winning a contract but noted that different

overheads, and hence different multipliers, could apply based on the actual or anticipated expenses to the international contracts, which are run independent of the company's Head Office. Mr Haque responded to all questions from the floor.

Engr Syed Azizul Haq, PEng of National Housing Authority presented a paper on "Major Fire Incidences: Lessons Learnt" at the CenTR on 23 May. In the



A view of seminar on 'Major Fire Incidences' at the CenTR

backdrop of the recent fire incident on the 13th floor of the Bashundhara City Mall, the paper attracted a lot of interest of the audience. With Prof Arch Nizamuddin Ahmed of BUET in chair, the seminar was attended and enriched by the Fire Service and Civil Defence Chief Brig Gen ANM Shahidullah, REHAB President Engr Tanveerul Haque Probal and Engr M Sadeque, P.Eng, the Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management.

Hasina, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the engineering community that her government would provide necessary support for attaining the objectives of 20/21 in a Digital Bangladesh.

Director Mr Md Rezaul Karim Chowdhury and the author attended the release of "Bangladesh Microfinance Statistics Yearbook 2007" jointly organised by PKSF and CDF at the LGED Auditorium on 13 May. The Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus formally launched the publication and remarked that the published information would go a long way towards promoting research and scholastic activities in this sector.

The author represented the company at a workshop on CSR organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries on 30 May. The keynote speakers Mr Mohiuddin Babar and Engr Md Khairul Basher adequately covered the subject through their articulate presentations. Contributions from Rahimafrooz, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, The Structural Engineers Ltd and the CSR Centre provided further exposure on the issue.



Mr. Mahub Haque (inset) conducting workshop on 'Operating Cost at BCL'

The author attended the 61st Founding Anniversary of IEB held on 02 May. The event ended on the happy note of assurance from the Chief Guest Sheikh

Engr Md Abu Sadeque, PEng made a presentation entitled "Current Practices in Construction in Bangladesh" at the CenTR on 06 Jun. Presided over by Engrs M A Sobhan, FICE, and I A Khan, OBE, FICE. Engr Sadeque in his well documented presentation led the audience to many construction sites in and around Dhaka and showed in pictures the lack of adherence to the proper construction principles and

practices at the sites, resulting in poorly-engineered structures. At the request of many, the seminar was repeated on 27 Jun at the CenTR and was received with equal enthusiasm from the floor.

The author attended two more seminars in the last week of June. First, a National Seminar on "Energy: Issues, Challenges and Options for Bangladesh" held at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies on 25 Jun. The keynote speaker Mr Md Maqbul-E-Elahi, a former Director of Petrobangla pleaded for exploring potential augmentation of gas supplies from the existing fields while Dr Md Shawkat Akbar of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission made a case for nuclear power to meet the increasing energy demands.

Second, Civil Engineering Division of IEB organised a seminar on "Climate Change: Effect, Mitigation and Adaptation" on 27 Jun at the Institution. The Hon'ble Minister for Food and Disaster Management Dr M Abdur Razzaque, MP in his address expressed concern that many developed countries were still not convinced that time was running out on the millions living in countries like Bangladesh, who faced the adverse impact of climate change and the perilous consequence of rising sea in the low lying coastal areas of the country.

Further information on the training activities in the next quarter is available from the Head of CenTR at:

Tel : 9862713-16

Fax : 9893321

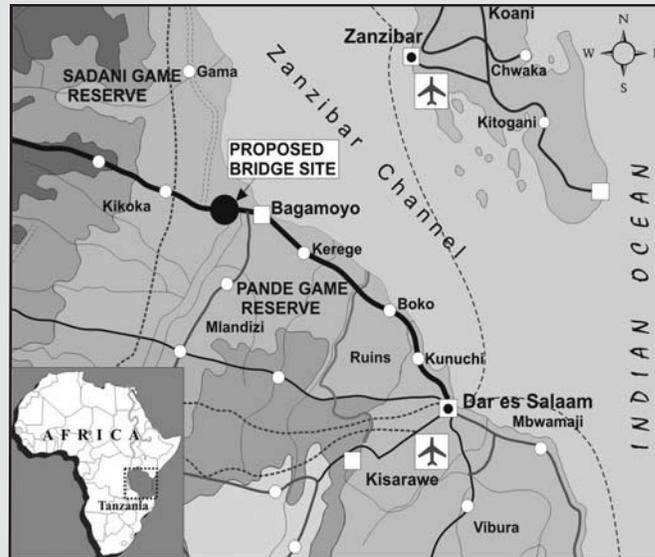
email : centr@bclgroup.com ■

Dr AAM Shamsur Rahman

ROAD BRIDGE ON LOWER RUVU RIVER IN TANZANIA

[contd. from page 01]

In selecting the location of the new bridge, care has been taken to investigate a number of probable alternative sites to serve the traffic and road safety needs,



Map showing Location of Proposed Bridge over the River Ruvu

economy and ease of construction without encroaching on the river regime and adversely affecting the environment.

The Ruvu is a typical meandering river with loops at close intervals. The existing bridge is located at the tip of one such meander where the loop is mature, waiting to close in the near future. The selected location is about 680m upstream on a relatively stable river reach away from the meander. Short link from the existing road on each bank will connect to the new bridge. The road improvement project being under progress, it is intended that the bridge and approach roads will be constructed under a new contract.

The stretch of the river including the new bridge site is located in tidal zone and is subject to heavy flooding during the rainy season due to high rainfall

upstream in the mountainous region. The design flow for a 100-year return flood is calculated at about 1,500 cms. The sub-soil comprises partially decomposed organic materials up to a depth of 6 to 10 m below bed, underlain by fine to medium sand layer. After comparative evaluation of various types of bridge structures, the chosen design

is a 140 m long PC girder bridge with rcc deck. The central span of the bridge is 40 m with two 25 m long spans on either side of the central span. The sub-structure is founded on cast-in situ rcc piles.

The construction is expected to start early next year.

The new bridge will provide secure crossing all year through and significantly reduce travel time. ■

M A Aziz

DHAKA URBAN TRANSPORT NETWORK DEVELOPMENT STUDY

[contd. from page 01]

As a part of the assistance JICA has initially undertaken updating the STP study to formulate a Urban Transport Network Development Plan for a period up to 2025 and prepare projects for JICA financing. A consortium of Japanese consulting engineering firms comprising Katahira & Engineers International in association with Oriental Consultants Co Ltd and Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc has been engaged by JICA to deliver the TA.

BCL has joined the JICA Study Team as the local consultants. Major objectives of the study include:

- Formulation of Transport Network Development Plan integrating with Urban Development Plan up to 2025;
- Drawing up general outlines of identified and prioritized urban transport projects for implementation;
- Identifying the roles of government agencies and their capability in project implementation, operation, maintenance and management; and
- Outlining pre-feasibility study and preliminary designs of prioritized projects selected for construction.

The studies and design of the projects will be limited to Dhaka Metropolitan Area (DMA), surrounded by the Turag, Balu and Buriganga rivers including outer edges of Dhaka city in the First Phase (April 2008 to March 2009). Later the detailed designs will be prepared for the feasible projects in the Second Phase and construction will be implemented in the Third Phase.

Components of the first phase study include: (i) Land Use Plan which will review land use plan under DMDP - Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (1995-2015), including Dhaka Structure Plan, Urban Area Plan and Detailed Area Plan, and update them if necessary. New urban development schemes will be prepared reflecting the urban transport infrastructure/facilities suggested by STP, commensurate with Dhaka Structure Plan and DMDP; (ii) Transport Infrastructure Plan which will be prepared integrating the existing land use plan and transport infrastructure plan

considering increasing population and transport needs. Attention will be paid to prepare plans for public transport services and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) reflecting transport demand forecast; (iii) Urban Transport Master Plan reflecting public-private partnership approach of project financing schemes.

The first phase study is dependent on several field surveys and data collection. BCL in addition to providing local advisory services in different fields will support the study team providing data services, traffic survey, household transport survey, inventory survey, database preparation and travel demand analysis and forecasting. BCL experts will be involved in land use planning, public transport analysis; drawing up public transport plans and road network plan; transport demand forecasting, institutional strengthening of agencies and pre-feasibilities and preliminary designs of priority projects. ■

Md Rafiqul Islam

WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION IN BANGLADESH SOUTH COAST

Under a technical assistance by DANIDA to the GoB's millennium development policies of providing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to all by 2010, Department of Public Health Engineering implemented Water Supply and Sanitation Project in three

coastal districts of Noakhali, Laxmipur and Feni over a period of 15 months from March, 2008 to May, 2009. BCL in joint venture with Dustha Sastha Kendra was engaged as Regional Support Organization (RSO) for providing consulting services for investigation, design and construction supervision. The project is a component of the Water Sector Support Programme with the overall objective of contributing to the improvement of health and hygiene in the project districts.

The main thrust of the project was mobilizing people's awareness on improved hygiene practices. Local level organizations such as Union Parishad, Water and Sanitation Committee, Community Groups, Women Groups and others were involved in planning, implementation and maintenance of the facilities for long term sustainability.

Besides facilitating installation of water points, RSO mobilized local people for sanitation campaign and participation in implementation and installation of tube wells and construction of school latrines. The RSO was also responsible for quality certification of the project works.

Major outputs of the project activities were: (i) installation of 4368 new deep



A typical water point under WSSCB project

hand tube wells, (ii) 157 test tube wells in the unsuccessful areas of which about 25% were successful, (iii) re-sinking of 83 unsuccessful tube wells of the First Phase suffering from low discharge, excessive salinity and iron, all of which were successful, (iv) construction of 33 school latrines and (v) establishing a Piped Water Supply for 110 households. Additionally, RSO prepared community and GIS database for 4456 tube wells, imparted maintenance training to 8912 caretakers, arranged hundreds of training programmes for capacity building of Upazila officials, UP representatives, women groups, civil society, school teachers and other stakeholders.

The project is a successful social development venture which will help improve basic hygiene practices, ensure proper use and maintenance of sanitary latrines and water supply facilities. And above all the project will contribute to the achievement of millennium development goal envisaged in water sector programme. ■

Md Rafiqul Islam

RIIP WINS ADB AWARD

Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project started in 2004 closes on 30 June on its completion on schedule. The funding agencies, ADB and KfW/GTZ, are extremely pleased with the performance of the project team. ADB - the Asian Development Bank, has recognized it as one of its best performing projects of 2008 in Bangladesh and has awarded an official commendation to the Project Director on 29 Jan 2009. This is the third time the project received the award. The earlier commendations were received in 2005 and 2007.

BCL, as a partner firm of the 5-firm consultancy consortium for the project, is very proud of the project team and particularly of its leader, a very astute and capable engineer, Mr Ian Dilliway.

The project will leave behind some 1,325 km of hot mix surfaced rural roads including 7,600 linear metre (lm) of drainage structures; improvements to 68 local markets; 85 new boat landing ghats, 100 new Union Parishad complexes for local government administration; 720 km of roadside tree plantations; and 3 ferries to link road sections across rivers up to 1.5 km wide. Included in the drainage structures are several large bridges with lengths up to 133m. The project is located in 16 southwestern districts of Khulna and Barisal Divisions of Bangladesh. The construction cost of the civil works



Project Director RIIP receiving Award from Mr Paul J Hyten, ADB Country Director in Bangladesh

completed under the project will total some US\$ 154 million.

The project will help reduce rural poverty through increased economic opportunities for the rural poor and improvements to rural infrastructure, social and gender development and local governance in the project area. ■

Mahub Haque

A&E SERVICES FOR UNIVERSITIES IN AFGHANISTAN

BCL has received a commission to provide architectural and engineering consultancy services for two universities in Afghanistan - Balkh University at Mazari Sharif and Nangarhar University at Jalalabad. The scope of service for these World Bank funded projects comprises site investigation, preparing master plan and detailed design and providing construction supervision. The project duration is 27 months.

The master plan will:

- establish project planning scope, based on forecast requirements for the next 25 years,
- define land use plan of the campus,
- plan location of the faculty buildings, dormitories, and faculty and staff housing, and
- plan utility services - roads, electricity, telephone, water supply, sewerage and drainage systems, fire fighting, and solid waste management.

The Balkh University is currently operating out of rented premises. The existing campus is inadequate. Land for the new campus measuring 120 hectares has been acquired on the airport road. The boundary wall is complete and the Engineering Faculty building is in an advanced stage of construction.

The existing master plan will be reviewed and revised in the context of the current vision for the University. There are 10 Faculties with student population of 10,000, the resident students on campus being 2,500. Housing for Faculty and staff of 400 will be needed.

The construction planned under the programme include Faculty Buildings for Theology and Economics, Administration Building, Female Students Dormitory, Housing for Faculty and Staff, and Sports and Recreation Facilities. In addition, the power distribution network for the complex needs to be developed.

The Nangarhar University, founded in 1962, is the second oldest university in Afghanistan. The main campus is located to the northwest of historic city of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province. The University has nine colleges, namely, Shari'a, Civil Law and Political Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Economics, Veterinary Medicine, Education, Literature and Languages, and Medicine. This is the only university for four eastern provinces; however, 60% of the students come from provinces outside of these four provinces.

The Nangarhar University located on 200 hectares in more than one location is operating in old buildings which lack proper teaching facilities. The student population is about 10,000 with the resident students on campus being 5,000.

The buildings planned under the programme include Civil Law Faculty Building, Shari'a Faculty Building, Administration Building and the Auditorium.

A BCL team comprising the author (who is the Project Director and Contract Specialist to the projects) and the Project Architect visited Afghanistan in early February, 2009 for the contract negotiation for the assignments and site reconnaissance. A design team is presently visiting the country. ■

Sufee Mustaque Ahmed

UPGRADING HIGHWAY NH-31 IN ASSAM, INDIA

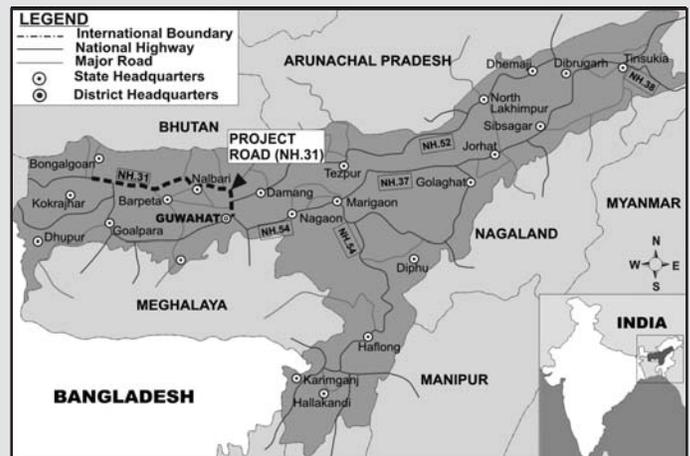
Government of India through the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has undertaken the National Highway Development Project which includes East-West and North-South Corridors and the Golden Quadrilateral connecting four mega cities of Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai.

The East West Corridor stretches from Porbandar in Gujarat to Silchar in Assam and has a total length of about 3300 km which has been taken up for implementation under Phase-II of NHDP. A part of this highway, designated as NH-31, provides gateway to the states in North-East India. A length of approx 162 km of NH-31 falls in the State of Assam which will be strengthened and widened from 2-lane to 4-lane under six Civil Contract Packages. This stretch of road connects State Capital Guwahati and runs up to Bhutan Border. NHAI awarded two Contract Packages No. CS-

II/A-8 and CS-II/A-9 of NH-31 to BCEOM-STUP-AARVEE JV for providing Construction Supervision under a contract agreement signed on 15 Sep 2005.

Under a Sub-Consultancy agreement with STUP, the service of a Senior Contract Specialist was provided by BCL for a total period of 18 person-months (9 months for each of the Consultancy Contract). The key responsibilities of the Specialist are to guide and assist Team Leader/Resident Engineers/Employer in all aspects of contract management in proper implementation of FIDIC contract provisions. He is also required, at the request of the Employer, to offer his advice on contractual complications arising during the implementation and appropriate advice in settling the contractors' claims.

Implementation of the project started in Oct/Nov 2005 and was scheduled to be completed by June 2008. But the construction encountered serious problems during implementation in the field. These were delays from land acquisition, removal of obstructions including trees from the right of way, relocation of utilities, procurement of construction materials from the



Map showing Location of the proposed Highway

jurisdiction of forest department and adverse law and order situation in the project areas. Hardly 30-40% physical progress could be achieved up to the end of the contract period. Having considered the site difficulties, NHAI has extended the implementation period up to 24 March 2010. Some of the problems like land acquisition, removal of obstruction from the acquired land still exist. It is apprehended that the implementation of the project will be further delayed. ■

Md Nasir Uddin

TCDPAP 2009 CONFERENCE

The 13th Annual Conference of TCDPAP was held from 11-13 March 2009 at Katmandu with gracious presence of 96 delegates from the Member Countries, high officials from FIDIC, ASPAC and TCDPAP and high representatives of the Government of



HE the Prime Minister of Nepal inaugurating the Conference

Nepal. The Conference was hosted by SCAEF - Society of Consulting Architectural and Engineering Firms, Nepal, with 242 delegates from home and abroad participating.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal in presence of

the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Physical Planning and Works. The Inaugural was followed by three Technical Sessions. In the First Session, nine country papers were presented. Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uzbekistan highlighted the initiatives and progress made by respective countries towards development of the consultancy, and the support the respective governments were extending to the consulting industry.

The Second Session focused on the consultancy opportunities in Nepal. Seven papers were presented by senior officials from various ministries and experts from the private sector. The papers primarily focused on the role of consultants in development of hydropower, roads, highways, agriculture, low cost housing, and disaster management. Employment generation was yet another subject mooted and the consultants' role in developing schemes, plans and projects thereof. The need for creating public

private partnership models was also emphasized, which would have greater accountability, faster delivery but also draw financial contribution from private sector and thereby reduce burden on the government.

The last Session was focused on the Conference theme "Making Globalisation work: The Role of Consultants". There were altogether 16 theme papers, 10 from outside and six from within Nepal. The papers focused on following:

- WTO induced challenges,
- need for the consultants to be innovative and creative to meet the client's requirements for faster, cost effective and state-of-the-art solutions appropriate to the local conditions,
- need to be more professional,
- recognition and support from government,
- need for greater social responsibilities of the consultants, and
- need for developing partnership among the national and international consultants to deliver efficient service and eliminate the disparity created by the globalization.

The outcome of the Conference was summarized in the Plenary Session and consolidated in the Closing Session which was graciously attended by Minister of Science and Technology. The Minister expressed that the Conference's success in strengthening networking among the consulting engineers would bring its own kind of fruits in due course. Reminding that next year SCAEF attends 20 years of establishment, he encouraged the members to demonstrate stronger professional attitudes. He wished continued success for TCDPAP.

The next TCDPAP Conference will be held in Vietnam in 2010 and followed by Malaysia in 2011. ■

*Badan Lal Nyachhyon**

**A Past President of SCAEF and Chairman, Technical Committee of 2009 Conference*



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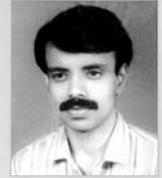
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IN THE COMPANY

M Humayun Kabir Bhuyan, 44,
graduated in Civil Engineering from BUET in 1989 and joined BCL in 1991 as an Assistant Engineer and has since been with the company. He was promoted to Senior Engineer in 2004. His major assignments include Flood Damage Restoration Project, Post-Flood Rehabilitation Project, RRMP-II, Cyclone Damage Restoration Project, 1998 Flood Damage Road Rehabilitation Project, RHD's SRNDP, and more recently LGED's RDP-25.



CONGRATULATIONS

Our heartiest congratulations to:

(1) **Jahid Hasan** son of PS to MD Mr Md Alamgir; (2) **Mahmudul Hasan** son of Highway Engineer Mr Md Gias Uddin; (3) **Benzir Siddiqua** daughter of Chief Accountant Mr ABM Ahsan Ullah; and (4) **Sumaiya Mostafa** daughter of Managing Engineer Mr M M Kamal for passing SSC Exam, 2009, all of them with high grade (A and above).



S M Solaiman son of Office Asstt Mr Abul Bashir Sikder for passing BBA Exam 2009 from Stamford University with CGPA 3.30.

Sk Khalid Hossain, Asst Systems Engineer on his wedding with **Sk Rehana Parvin Timu**, which was solemnized on 26 Feb at Dhaka. Timu holds a Masters in Social Sciences from Mohammadpur Central University.



JOINING BCL FAMILY

Our heartiest welcome to:

(1) Senior Engineer
**Eng. Harunur
Rashid Sikder**,
PEng who joined on
May 02 and (2) CAD



Operator **Syed Abdul Mannan**, rejoined on Mar 24.

We sincerely hope their contributions will bring new strength to the company.



Aklima Akter Ankhi, daughter of Driver **Amir Hossain** on her wedding with **Joyal Abedin Joy**, which was solemnised on 27 Feb in Dhaka.

Lovely Akter, daughter of Driver M Rafiq on her wedding with **M Farhad Hossain Gazi**, which was solemnised on 13 Mar at Gazipur.



Mr I A Khan OBE, Country Representative of The Institution of Civil Engineers (UK) for his nomination for the award of the 'ICE International Medal for 2009'. The award was established in 2000 by the ICE on the focal theme 'Civil Engineers at the heart of society, delivering sustainable development through knowledge, skills and professional expertise'.

OBITUARY



Engr A M Nuruddin Ahmed, 71, passed away on 13 Apr following a brief ailment. In his passing BCL lost a good friend and a competent professional who as a mechanical engineer and naval architect has left indelible contributions to several industry and service sector projects for the company at home and abroad. He affiliated with the company following his meritorious career with the GoB retiring as the Chairman of BSEC in 1992. His excellent professional skill and energy were evident wherever he worked. Nuruddin Ahmed's loss is irreparable and he will always be remembered for his affection, fellowship and personal charisma.

We offer our deepest sympathies to his family and pray for eternal peace of his departed soul.