

March 28, 2005

**Signing of Grant Contract under the Japanese Grassroots Grant  
Assistance for Human Security Project to Voluntary Association for  
Rural Development (VARD)**

On Monday, March 28, 2005, His Excellency Mr. Matsushiro Horiguchi, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh signed a Grant Contract amounting to US \$ 74,402 (approximately Taka 43 lakh 89 thousand) with Mr. Amranul Hoque Kamal, Executive Director of the Voluntary Association for Rural Development.

**Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD)** receives this grant for the Extension of Eye Hospital cum Health Center project at Sunamganj. The Center has been providing ophthalmological or eye care services including cataract surgery since January 2003, but it does not have sufficient space to cope with increasing patients. Using the Japanese grant aid, bed capacity will be raised and the Center will become a 50-bed hospital. About 10,000 cataract patients in Sunamganj district and 4.5 million people under greater Sylhet district are expected to be benefited from the project directly or indirectly.

VARD will also utilize the grant to expand its existing infrastructure to provide training, workshops and seminars for primary ophthalmological care and other services. These activities will promote social development in the region through increased opportunities for human resource development.

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His Excellency Mr. Matsushiro Horiguchi, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh is exchanging the Grant Contract with Mr. Amranul Hoque Kamal, Executive Director of Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD) regarding US\$ 74,402 (approximately 43 lakh Taka) under Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGHSP) for the project for Extension of Eye Hospital cum Health Center at Sunamganj.