

### **Seminar on environment held at BARD**

The Adviser for the Ministry of LGRD and Co-operatives and the Ministry for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Sayed Ishtiaq Ahmed May 13 formally inaugurated a two week training course of the Commonwealth First Regional Training Course on "Environment and Sustainable Agriculture in Rural Development" at the Conference Hall of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD). The course was organised by BARD in collaboration with the Management and Training Services Division of Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC), London, U.K. says a press release.

Mr. Ayub Quadri, Addl. Secretary, In-charge, Rural Development & Co-operative Division and Mr. M. Fazlur Rahman, Addl. Secretary, Economic Relation Division was present as Special guests in the session. Mr. Md. Abdul Quddus, Director General, presided over the session. Among others, Mr. M. Jasimuddin, BARD representative, Commonwealth Secretariat, Ms. Saleha Begum, Director (Project), Mr. M. Khairul Kabir, Director (Training) and Mr. Mir Kashem, Joint Director of BARD also spoke on the occasion.

The LGRD Adviser Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed said, environment and poverty are closely interlinked. So, necessary steps should be taken to prevent further degradation of environment and promote sustainability, he added. He also said, alleviation of poverty should be the central theme of national economic strategies and this must dominate issues of national economic development. The Advisor also said that the Government has adopted the National Environment Policy under which a National Environmental Management Action Plan (NEMAP) has been undertaken as the basis for concrete programmes and interventions to promise better management of scarce resources and reversing the present trend environmental degradation.

A total of thirty high-level officials from Cook Island, India, Kiribati, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and the host Bangladesh are attending the course as participants.