

Canal-digging begins next month

Make country food surplus: Zia

By A Staff Correspondent

President Ziaur Rahman, Chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), said in Dacca on Thursday that the canal-digging programme would begin from November 1 and asked the leaders and workers of the BNP and its front organisations to take active part in this programme.

Addressing the national executive committee meeting of BNP at the party central office on Thursday President Zia made it clear that none of the party leaders and workers living in urban areas would be allowed to stay away from the canal-digging programme. The BNP leaders are not a privileged class, he added.

The President said that the people had been benefitted from the canal-digging programme last year and we must make a big national thrust for making the country surplus in food.

President Ziaur Rahman said that no programme could be successfully implemented if the link between the people and the party leaders was not strong enough and this vacuum cannot be filled in by an individual. He advised the party leaders to go to their own localities to

acquaint themselves with the problems in their areas and to take initiative to implement the political and economic programmes of the party.

He asked every one to go to villages instead of staying in the cities and towns.

Sounding a note of warning to self-seekers, President Zia said those who are busy in self-seekers and ignores the interest of the people and the nation would not be spared in any way and the people and the party were watching their activities. President Zia said that if any one tries to create feud inside the party would be taken to task and the self-seekers should quit the party.

Calling the party leaders and workers to carry forward the nationalist ideology and the economic programme of the BNP, President Zia said the politics of arms or the old style politics had become obsolete. He told the partymen that the people had accepted the politics of his party and the Opposition parties propagating the foreign "isra" have been isolated from the people for their bankruptcy. He said that the constructive politics of the BNP had attracted the workers of the different Opposition parties who are now joining the BNP. He noted that these workers and leaders of the Opposition parties had become frustrated with the programmes of their party. He informed that BNP village committees had been formed in 40 to 50 per cent villages of the country.

Speaking about the law and order situation, President Zia said the criminals in whichever party they belong to would be punished.

He said if any one in the BNP commits any crime, he would be punished and his punishment would be more severe than those of the law breakers of other party.

Speaking about the Bangladeshi nationalism, President Zia said those who were in power in the past did not think about the independence and welfare of the masses. That is why they could destroy parliamentary democracy in 1975 and introduced Baksal and presidential system in the country. They were again speaking of parliamentary democracy he stated. President Zia said that there is no precedence in the world the way one party rule was imposed on the people in 1975. President Zia said without the mandate of

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the people no basic chance could be effected in the Constitution.

President Zia said that the important nations of the world were all praise for Bangladesh because our politics was based on the people and Bangladesh was following an independent and neutral foreign policy.

President Zia said that the leadership of the BNP was in the hands of the freedom fighters and we are not afraid of any internal or external threat. He said that the development programmes must be implemented by uniting 90 million people on the basis of Bangladeshi nationalism. He asked the party workers to go to villages and implement the programmes.

Vice-President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar, Prime Minister Shah Asikur Rahman, party secretary General Dr. A. Badrulooza Choudhury, Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmad, Deputy Prime Minister S. A. Bari A.T. Home Minister A. S. M. Mustafizur Rahman, Information Minister Shamsul Huda Choudhury, Jute Minister Habibullah Khan, advocate Kazi Kamruzzaman, advocate Shamsul Huq, Mr. Shamsul Huq, M.P., Principal Abul Kashem Talukdar, advocate Moazzem Hussain, Mr. Mohsin Ali, Mr. Mustain Billah Tuku Biswas, and Mr. Jarhal Ahmed Chowdhury also addressed