

# Third phase of canal digging begins

From Our Special Correspondent

**FARIDPUR:** Nov. 1.—The third phase of the countrywide canal digging programme began today with the inauguration of Kamarpur-Duhli canal re-excavation project by the Acting President, Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar, at Kamarpur, two and a half miles off the town.

Inaugurating the project the Acting President said that the canal digging programme which was launched by late President Zia in 1979 had already started paying good dividends. As a result of the successful completion of the first two phases of the countrywide canal digging programme, the agricultural production has increased and the food deficit narrowed down, he observed.

He said that the targets of the programme during the last two phases were exceeded and hoped that the target would also exceed during the current third phase. He called upon the villagers to actively participate in the implementation of the countrywide canal digging programme.

On its completion the Kamarpur-Duhli canal re-excavation project will help irrigate two hundred acres of land. The five-mile long canal when re-excavated is expected to raise an additional crop yield of 2000 maunds.

The inaugural function at the project site at Kamarpur was addressed among others by Mr. K.M. Obaidur Rahman Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism and Shah Mohammad Abu Bakar Deputy Commissioner, Faridpur Prof. Hadrud-Doza Chowdhury BNP Secretary General and Mr. Farida Rahman Whip BNP Parliamentary Party.

A BSS report from Dinajpur says: Deputy Prime Minister Mr. S.A. Bari A.I. said on Sunday that the nationwide canal digging programme initiated by late President Ziaur Rahman would help achieve self-sufficiency in food.

He was inaugurating a four-mile long Kazipara canal digging as a part of 176 miles canal digging programme in Dinajpur district during the current year.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that canal digging brought about revolutionary changes in agricultural production and as a result food deficit in the country reduced to its minimum level. He said that national economic development was completely dependent on improvement of agricultural methods and introduction of scientific technical knowhow.

Earlier the Deputy Prime Minister inaugurated the interclub shooting competition sponsored by National Shooting federation of Bangladesh in Pabna. Addressing the gathering Mr. Bari urged the competitors to improve the standard of the shooting game and popularize it among the people.

Col. (Retd) Heshemuddin President of National Shooting Federation was also present on the occasion. The Deputy Prime Minister who is also in-charge of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock laid foundation of Veterinary Technical Training Centre at raibandha in Rangpur. Speaking on the occasion he said that the institute first of its kind in northern region of the country would go a long way in developing livestock in the country.

Dr. R.A. Ghani, State Minister for Science and Technology also addressed the function. Dr. Gani said the completion of the institute would cost Tk. 10 crore and it would provide training to students in respect of developing livestock. Mr. Rustom Ali, MP, and Principal Muklesur Rahman MP, also attended the function.

Deputy Prime Minister also addressed public meeting at Gobindagoni and Palashbari in Rangpur.

Another report from Mirza-

pur adds: Thirty-two canal digging projects with a total length of 142 miles will be implemented in Tangali district during the third phase of the countrywide canal digging programme through voluntary mass participation.

The programme began in the district on Sunday with the inauguration of the re-excavation work of the Baimhati Mirdeohata canal in Mirzapur police station.

Religious Affairs Minister Mr. Abdur Rahman inaugurated the re-excavation work amidst great enthusiasm of several hundred people, who participated in the earth-cutting.

Speaking on the occasion the religious Affairs Minister exhorted the people to continue to work hard and sincerely for greater success of the canal digging programme for the early attainment of the national goal of self-reliance.