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700 canals will be dug this year

President Ziaur Rahman addressed in Dacca on Tuesday a meeting of the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners and stressed the need for further accelerating the pace of development activities, reports BSS.

At least 700 canals would be dug under the programme to be launched on November 1 to expand irrigation facilities the President told the conference at Bungahabab.

President Zia said the Swadhinvar Gram Sarkars, Village Defence Parties and the students would form the main participants in the programme. Last season nearly 200 canals

were dug under same programme.

The President also laid particular emphasis on the eradication of illiteracy and said the movement should be further intensified for the quick execution of the programme.

NEC

According to another message, The National Economic Council which met in Dacca on Tuesday with President Ziaur Rahman in the chair, reviewed the progress of the activities, programmes and also the Council's earlier decisions regarding the Ministry of Power Water Resources and Food Control.

The Ministry was directed to cut down wastage and improve the management and efficiency to raise additional fund for the completion of the projects under the current year's programme.

The NEC also reviewed the activities of Jute Ministry. It instructed the Science and Technology Division to submit a report in the next meeting of the NEC on the percentage of component parts of the type of jute machinery that could be manufactured in the country.