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Intensify food autarky efforts

Canal digging was Zia's first step for agri revolution

From Our Correspondent

PATIYA, Jan 28: Re-excavation of five canals out of twelve is going apace in Chittagong Sadar North subdivision under mass participation programme for 1981-82.

Thousands of people including women folk from far flung areas of the subdivision have spontaneously been taking part in digging in order to make the country a self-reliant.

Meanwhile, 4,90,000 cft of earth work have been done in these five canals by the volunteers. The remaining seven canals would be dug soon and in this regard all arrangements have been made.

The canals which are being re-excavated are: Mohalonga chara and Nuna chara under Sitakunda PS, Barakainaldah under Mirsarai PS, Boraiyah Khal khal under Rauzan PS and Guggra Khal under Rangunia PS.

The re-excavation of these

five canals stretching over an area of 22 mile when completed will provide irrigation facilities to 13,700 acres of land for yielding about 2,05,500 maunds of additional crop per annum.

In all 36 power pumps are expected to be installed on both the banks of re-excavated canals for irrigation 2,455 maunds of wheat are being disbursed among the poor participants as 15 per cent of the total work.

Our Correspondent from Jessore adds: The Minister for Establishment, Ports, Shipping and Inland Waterways Mr M. Majidul Haque has urged upon the people for intensifying their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in food and also to double the production within minimum possible time so that we can export foodgrains for earning foreign exchanges for making a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

He was inaugurating the re-excavation of Beel Shalikha-Beel Bakar connecting canal at village Dahakola under Monirampur police station recently. Those who spoke on the occasion were Messrs. Abdul Awal, Deputy Commissioner, Jessore, Afsar Ahmed Siddiqui, MP, District Development Co-ordinator, K.A.M. Mohsin, ADC (General), Mahendra Nath Sarkar, Chairman of Kultia Union Parishad and local BNP leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister paid glowing tributes to late President Ziaur Rahman and spoke highly of canal digging programmes initiated by him three years back. He said that the late leader wanted

to build an irrigation system so that the nation could harvest a full crop during the dry season to achieve self-reliance in food sector as well as to double food production. Canal digging was late President's first step for agricultural revolution.

The Minister said that country had some food deficit in the past and we used to meet the deficit by foreign assistance but this thing can not go for a long way and we are to build our own fortune through hard work, dedication and sincere efforts.

Referring to another canal re-excavated last year in this police station, the Minister said that the people had already started getting benefits of canal digging programmes and in this connection urged upon them to carry forward the programme to a complete success.

PABNA

Our Pabna Correspondent says: The excavation of a canal at Maligacha Union under Pabna Sadar thana was formally inaugurated by Mr Shamsuzzaman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Project), Pabna recently.

The two and a half mile long canal from Baliahatal to Majidpur by the side of Pabna-Ishurdi Highways when completed will provide irrigation facilities to 50,000 acres of land yielding an additional crops of 15,00,000 maunds annually.

FISH CULTIVATION

The canal will also be used as water reservoir during the dry season and fish cultivation will be possible there, it is learnt.

The chairmen and members, Gram Sarkar Prodhans, many government officials and local public were present on the inaugural day and participated voluntarily in the canal digging work.

Earlier, another canal digging project at Thakurjee Para under Kamarkand thana was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Project), Pabna in presence of a large gathering.



JESSORE: Establishment Minister Mr M. Majidul Haque inaugurating the re-excavation of Beel-Bakar canal recently.
—Photo Times