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## Third phase of canal digging gains momentum

The third phase of nationwide canal digging programme has started gaining momentum with more canals being taken up for excavation and re-excavation everyday according to reports pouring in here, reports BSS.

President Justice Abdus Sattar inaugurated on Monday earth work of two irrigation canals at Cox's Bazar and Patiya subdivisions of Chittagong district.

Railway Minister Mr Abdul Alim inaugurated the re-excavation of the five-mile-long Namut-Bishadera canal under Nandigram police station of Bogra district.

Minister of State for Relief and Rehabilitation Mr Zafar

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## Third phase

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Imam inaugurated the four-mile long Dhigipar-Kawalipukur re-excavation project at Munshiganj subdivision of Dacca district.

Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Sports and Cultural Affairs Mr Nur Muhammad Khan inaugurated earth work of the seven mile long Dhigadanga-Shunshi Khal re-excavation project at Nagarpur of Tangail district.

The current phase of the canal digging programme on voluntary participation basis has been designed to execute 684 projects throughout the

country for developing round the year irrigation net-work.

The 684 canals of 26000 miles length involve earth work of 2600 miles length involve earth work of 230 crore cubic feet.

When completed, the projects would bring over 13 lakh acres under lean period irrigation facilities to grow at least three crops.

Addressing huge gathering at Namut-Bishadera canal site, Railway Minister Mr Abdul Alim said that the canal digging programme would continue till the nation becomes self-sufficient.

He also said that the people had already started getting benefit from canal digging.

Mr Zafar Imam in his speech to a similar gathering in Shigirpar on the eve of inaugurating the Shigirpar, Kawalipukur Khal project said that the canal digging movement was not only aimed to double the food production but also bring an end to the attitudes of colonial mentality for hastening development activities in the country.

He said that the country-wide Canal digging programme was one of the successful steps of late President Ziaur Rahman for economic emancipation of the rural masses.

While addressing a cross section of people at Danga-Shunshi project site Mr Nur Muhammad Khan said that the achievement of food autarky was dependent on the success and progress of the country-wide canal digging programme of the shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

The State Minister for Information and Broadcasting called upon the people of all shades of political faith, castes and creeds to put in their consolidated efforts to make the programme successful for building an irrigation network to grow additional foodgrains.

He also called upon the people to participate in the mass education drive on population control programme and other nation building activities.