

তারিখ... 25/11/80
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Work on canal digging continues

Work on canal digging and re-excavation throughout the country is continuing with thousands of people volunteering their labour to build a dry season irrigation system, reports BSS.

Reports pouring in from districts say that enthusiasm is running high among the people engaged in canal digging and re-excavation work.

The three-mile Shibpur khal re-excavation project in Bhola has recently been completed. Mr. Mosharraf Hossain, MP and Mr. Mazaharul Islam, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rev.) Barisal, jointly declared open the project in a jubilant gathering. An Ananda Pratijugta among the volunteers was held on the occasion.

The newly reexcavated khal will help irrigate about 1,500 acres of land for an additional yield of about 70 thousand maunds a year.

The Kali-Kirti khal project under Bhola Subdivision has also been completed recently. About 41,308 people belonging to 110 organisations participated in digging the 16,800-foot long canal and completed it 15 days earlier than scheduled.

About 15 lakh cft of earth work has so far been completed at Nilhar-Char Gobinda re-excavation project under Madaripur subdivision. More earth work measuring 23 lakh 40 thousand cft will have to be done to complete the reexcavation of the 28,900-foot long canal at present 22,143 people from all walks of life are participating in the work on voluntary basis. The project is expected to be completed by the end of February next.

The re-excavation of five-mile Sukdaha canal under Gabtali and Sariakanda police stations in the Bogra district has further progressed with 7 lakh cft of earth work completed so far. Hundreds of women from Bogra and local areas are also volunteering their labour in the project. A good number of girl students are also working under the leadership of the Headmistress, Bogra Government Girls High School. When completed, the project will be able

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to feed about 2,500 acres of land with irrigation waters.

About 50 per cent work on the five and a half mile long Bhaithura Gekukhali canal under Damuekhuda thana in the Chuadanga subdivision has so far been completed. On an average 1500 people from different walks of life are voluntarily participating in the project. When completed, the canal will help irrigate about two thousand acres of land.

Over five thousand people are taking part in the reexcavation of Gholedari Sunderkhal khal at Nagdah Union under Alamdanga thana in the Chuadanga subdivision to create irrigation facilities for about 1300 acres of land during the dry season.

In Comilla district work on the reexcavation of Chaulatoli khal under Lakshmi Thana Rukhi sub-canal under Kotwali thana Marichakandi Khal under Muradnagar and Debi-kuwar police stations, Boalia Naizur khal under Sarail Thana and Boyulgeri khal under Hajiganj, Kachua and Mailab police stations is nearing completion. Daily 4067 people are participating in the re-excavation work. About 48,238 maunds of wheat has been sanctioned for these projects. Nearly two crore 79 lakh 40 thousand cft of earth work in the 25 and a half mile long canal involving the five projects will have to be done to complete the re-excavation. The Deputy Commissioner Comilla, Mr. S.A. Bari is supervising the work on these projects.

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts about 50 lakh cft of earthwork out of the total one crore and fortyeight lakh cft involving six reexcavation projects has so far been completed. The projects are Monakhal at Rangamati, Taichala khal at Ramgarh, Bangla-Halakhali at Kaptai, Sathajharara Ramgapani-hara at Khagrachari, Swalok at Bandarban and Chagal Khajiyar at Loma.

About 6000 people from all walks of life are taking part in the reexcavation work on Chakra-Srespur canal under Sargair thana in the Manikganj subdivision to create irrigation facilities for about 31300 acres of land.

About one lakh and 50 thousand cft of earth work on the reexcavation of the four-mile Muchihali khal under Magura subdivision has so far been done. Hundreds of people including women are volunteering their labour daily in the project. When completed, the canal will feed about 3500 acres of land with irrigation waters during the dry season.