

Canal digging work going on in full swing

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From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA. Dec 18. Re-excitation of four canals of a total length of about 12 miles have been taken up in Satkhira subdivision as part of the national programme for canal digging launched by President Ziaur Rahman for attaining self-sufficiency in food production within the shortest possible time.

Under the schemes the re-excitation of a 2½ miles long canal from Iswarpur to Murshigani under Shambagar PS, re-excitation of a 3½ miles long canal from the southern side of Kapatakshma river to Padma Beel under Khalishkhali UP in Tala PS, re-excitation of a 2½ miles long canal from Kapatakshma river to Bamatali Beel under Juekhali UP in Kalavoa PS and the re-excitation of a 2½ mile long Jalatala Khal starting from Jalatala and ending at Situlpur under Kaliganj PS have been taken up for implementation.

On completion of these projects, 6,000 acres of land will irrigated in dry season which will yield additional 80,000 maunds of paddy worth about Tk 80,00,000 and fish worth Tk 5 lakh per year.

These projects are expected to be completed in 90 days. Local MPs, chairmen and members of UPs teachers, students, lawyers, Ansars, Government employees and people in general will take part in the programme. Eighty per cent of the work will be done on voluntary labour basis and the rest under the Food for Works Programme.

MUNSHIGANJ

Our Correspondent from Munshiganj adds: The Deputy Commissioner of Dacca Mr. Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury performed the inaugural ceremony of a 6 miles long re-excitation of Baligon-Ghordour Canal.

About ten thousand volunteers from various walks of life spontaneously participated in the canal digging project.

With the excavation of this important canal on purely voluntary basis about ten thousand acres of land will be brought under IRRI-Boro cultivation and about 6,250 people of the adjoining areas will be

benefited. But for the voluntary work the scheme would have cost Taka 5 lakh.

According to E.S.S. Shajidkhan Thana Samajheba Samanya Parishad in an extended meeting held here recently decided to gear up the work of Baligon Canal Re-excitation Project, according to a Press release issued in Dacca.

The meeting was presided over by Advocate S.M. Abdul Malek, President of the organisation.

PATUAKHALI

A Times Correspondent from Patuakhali adds: A joint meeting of project committees and the technical staff of the Thana Parishad at a meeting held on December 2 in the office of the SDO Patuakhali decided to re-excavate Lawkati-Moukaran Bazar Khal. The SDO presided over the meeting.

The joint meeting decided that the re-excitation of the canal will be done under voluntary mass participation programme. It was further decided that the canal would be divided in to 50 blocks in 4 sections under the supervision of 3 project committees. The digging work will be completed by next February 28.

CAPT HALIM'S CALL

FNA adds: Capt. (Retd) Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives has called upon the people irrespective of their political affiliation to participate in the canal digging programme.

He was inaugurating the excavation of a canal at Dighirpar about seven miles south-east of Dacca on Saturday morning.

The 13 mile long canal running through Rugani Bajder Bazar and Arhahazar thana under Narayanganj subdivision when completed will bring about eight thousand acres of land under irrigation.

Thousands of people from all walks of life including women students and jubilant children participated in excavation work amidst beating of drums as the Co-operative Minister formally inaugurated it with a spade in hand.

Capt Halim said the canal digging programme, begun at the call of President Ziaur Rahman aims at doubling food production of the country by bringing all cultivable lands under irrigation.

The Minister expressed the hope that the joint and all out efforts of the people and Government would make successful the country-wide programme which has already made satisfactory progress. The people had so long been isolated from productive activities because of the conspiracy of the exploiters, he added.