

## Stamps on canal digging to inspire people for autarky

By A Staff Reporter

President Ziaur Rahman has said that the commemorative postage stamps marking the excavation and re-excavation of canals throughout the country would inspire the people to build a self-reliant happy and prosperous society.

In a message on the occasion of release of the commemorative postage by Bangladesh Post Office on Thursday the President said that this would also let the people abroad to know about our sincere efforts to shun dependence on others.

The postage stamps were issued at a ceremony at the Dacca GPO in the morning of the day. Post, Telegraph and Telephone Minister Mr. Mayeedul Islam was the chief guest at the function.

President Ziaur Rahman in his message said that the Government had begun a historic and peaceful revolution to bring about all-round welfare of the people by achieving self-reliance in all spheres of national life.

The people, he said, were determined to make the revolutionary programmes successful through hard labour on voluntary basis for improving their lot.

President Zia said, "We have taken up the programme

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of digging canals throughout the country as the first phase of the revolution to double food production." Excavation and re-excavation of canals had been taken up to provide irrigation facilities throughout the country he said.

The President asserted that agricultural production would be enhanced significantly as a result of it. The country, he said, would be able to export foodgrains abroad after meeting its food deficit.

### MAYEEDUL ISLAM

Speaking on the occasion Post, Telegraph and Telephone Minister Mr. Mayeedul Islam described the issuance of the commemorative postage stamps as "a memorable incident." He appreciated the efforts of the Postal Department in this regard and said that the stamps would keep the spirit of the revolution permanently engraved in the minds of the people and it would show the nation the path to progress.

Mr. Islam said that the people from all strata of life in the country had come forward spontaneously to fulfil the task of revolution initiated by President Ziaur Rahman. He said that the revolutionary program

mes taken up by the Government would make the villages self-reliant; improve the lot of the peasantry and would lead the country to earn adequate foreign exchange by exporting foodstuff after meeting the needs of the country. The country had the most fertile lands and only a little sincere efforts would make it self-sufficient in foodgrains; he said.

The Minister said that if conditions in the villages were improved these would lessen the pressure on the towns and cities in the country. He said that we could only achieve a happy and prosperous society by realising the goals of the peaceful revolution.

The Post and Telegraph Minister referred to the problems of the employees of these departments and said that measures were being considered to increase the facilities of the employees. The Government within its limited resources would accept all their just demands; he said.

He said that the lower category postal employees would be provided with permanent housing facilities through co-operative housing scheme. The house would be built on the available postal lands and these would be given to the employees at a minimum rate of interest charged on it; he said.

Mr. Mayeedul Islam also said that steps would be taken to increase the income of the Postal Department by selling non-judicial stamps and text books through the post offices of the country. He said that the postal Department would be made a profit-earning organisation.

The Minister urged the employees to maintain peace and stability and devote themselves to their duties for the welfare of the nation.