

Master Plan for digging canals taken up: Zia

# UP chairmen take vow to carry forward revolution

Chairman of the Union Parishads of Dacca and Tangail districts on Thursday vowed to practise and uphold the cause of "Bangladeshi nationalism" and carry forward the "revolution" to increase food production, reports BSS.

The pledge was made in response to a call made by President Ziaur Rahman at a conference of the Union Parishad chairmen of the two districts held in Dacca at the WAPDA auditorium on Thursday morning.

President Zia when urged them to "safeguard and implement" the Constitution of the country, the UP chairmen responding to the call of the President took vow to serve the cause of the Constitution.

## MASTER PLAN

The President, who spoke in the conference for 90 minutes said that a master plan for digging canals in all the subdivisions of the country had been taken up by the Government which would be implemented from the first week of the next month.

He urged the local government leaders to actively participate in this important task without which the development of agriculture was not possible.

The union level people's representatives expressed their solidarity with the programme and assured the President of mobilising and inspiring the people to work in the excavation of canals on self-help basis.

Explaining the bottlenecks of our agricultural development, President Zia told the UP chairmen that if water supply was ensured, the country could easily double her food-grain production. "If we can only double our food production," he added, "we will be able to export a huge quantity of foodgrains after meeting our domestic requirement," the President added.

President Zia said that he would personally supervise the

canal digging programme and all the Government departments would extend their all out co-operation to it. The workers and leaders of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and her all front organisations would directly participate in the programme, he added.

He said that he would also formally invite the other political parties to participate in the "nationally important" programme. The students of the school, college and university and even the army would take part in the canal-digging programme, he pointed out. The digging of canals was so important for an agricultural country like us that "we must sink all differences and unitedly work for its success," the President further said.

President Zia said that the people of the country participated in the last two "free and fair" election and "we have

established democracy again" in the country. By holding the last two elections he said, the country had now formulated some "political fundamentals without which a nation could not develop." The fundamentals of the political thinking of our people were the Bangladeshi nationalism, democracy and a society of justice," he added.

President Zia said that the people of our country today wanted such politics which would be helpful for rapid development. The politics which could not bring economic changes in the country would not be acceptable to the people of Bangladesh, he observed.

In this context, he pointed out the "Bangladeshi nationalism was one of the basic principles of the country's Constitution."

Explaining the objectives of the "revolution" he said that

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## UP chairmen

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there was no alternative but to make the "revolution" successful for bringing rapid change in the society. "Revolution is a must in the country because it was written in the article 16 of our Constitution also," he added.

President Zia also pointed out the Revolution which we are going to bring about would not snatch away the "lands and houses" of an individual. We only want to ensure a "radical change" in all sectors including agriculture, education, social law culture and in overall economy.

The President cautioned the selected people's representatives that if we failed to conduct a "peaceful revolution" the people of the country would not forgive us, because he said, they wanted a change in all sectors and the production to increase in the fields and factories.

He called upon the union level representatives of the people to mobilise public opinion and build them up as true leaders of the people.

The conference was also addressed by the Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Capt (Retd) Abdul Halim Chowdhury and a number of representatives from amongst the chairmen.