

Canal digging will ensure 3 crops a year

JESSORE, Nov 20: President Ziaur Rahman said today that determined will and strong initiative of the nine-crore people of Bangladesh would make the current year's canal digging programme a total success leading to the achievements of food autarky in the near future, reports BSS.

Addressing big crowds while inaugurating re-excavation of four canals in different parts of the district the President said that people would have to put in maximum labour and make sustained collective efforts to make up the loss suffered in the past.

The re-excavation programmes of the canals opened by the President in the district are: Shaheed Hamidur Rahman canal in Jhenidah Haorkeali canal in Magura sub-division, Naldi canal in Narail sub-division and Bhairab Nad in the Sadar sub-division.

President Zia called for expansion of the projected canals saying the more you dig the more you are benefitted.

He said that the successful implementation of the canal digging programmes would bring thousands of acres of land under irrigation network,

which, he added, could only ensure us three crops a year.

The President exhorted the people irrespective of men and women to undertake excavation programmes all over the country on self-help basis with a view to doubling the food production, the main aim of the peaceful revolution.

WOMENFOLK

The womenfolk, President said should also actively participate in the national development activities in order to secure their rightful place in the society.

Referring to the cost escalation of the development projects, President Zia pointed out that reason this was due to oil price hike in the international market. He said that is why we have to grow additional

crop and earn foreign exchange by exporting the surplus quantity to finance the various development programmes. 'We have to shun our dependence on others' he declared.

The President called upon the people to be vigilant against the smugglers and safeguard the interest of the people.

FERTILIZER

He maintained the Government stand on the price hike of fertilizer saying that the fertilizer which was sold at subsidized price in Bangladesh was being smuggled out across the border where its price was much higher than ours. We could not afford it anymore, he said.

The Shaheed Hamidur Rahman canal, having a length of more than two-and-a-half miles, when reexcavated will bring about 400 acres of land under cultivation giving an additional yield of 25,000 maunds of wheat and paddy.

The three and-a-half-mile long Haorkeali canal in Magura sub-division will bring

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about 2,500 acres of land under irrigation giving an additional yield of over one lakh maunds of paddy, jute, wheat and sugarcane.

The Naldi canal having a length of four miles will help produce about 25,000 maunds of additional crop in the area.

About 5,000 acres of land during dry season and 5,000 acres of land in other times will come under irrigation network with the completion of the four mile-long Bhairab Nad reexcavation project in the Sadar sub-division. Besides irrigation, the project will serve drainage and sanitation purposes. It will also help fight the salinity if the river flow is maintained round the year.

The Establishment Minister, Mr Majedul Huq, Mr Ferdous Ahmed Querishi Joint Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party and local MPs were present on the occasion.

COTTON

Later President Zia laid the foundation stone of the Cotton Research and Seed Multiplication Farm at Jagadishpur.

Speaking on the occasion

the President said that quality cotton could be grown in Bangladesh. Besides meeting our own requirements the President said, we have the potentialities of becoming a cotton exporting nation.

He said that the colonial rulers banned cotton cultivation in our country to destroy the textiles industry to serve their own interest.

But of late the President said the people have realised that climate of some parts of our country was suitable for cotton cultivation.

He called upon the people to undertake more cotton cultivation.

The Agriculture Minister, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Nurul Islam State Minister for Agriculture Mr Iqbal Mahmood were present on the occasion.