

By A Staff Reporter

RANGPUR

Our Rangpur Correspondent reports: Four schemes for re-excitation of canals were discussed at a meeting of the officials and local leaders held at the chamber of Mr Mahe Alam, Deputy Commissioner, on Friday. Steps had also been finalised to begin the work on the projects immediately.

The projects were the Akhais river in Sadar subdivision, Sanashin Char in Kurigram subdivision, Singimari canal in Nilphamari subdivision and Bhalia irrigation project in Gaibandha subdivision.

85 per cent work on these projects would be done on self-help basis. People from all walks of life in these project areas were showing enthusiasm to participate in the re-excitation work.

MUKTIJODHA SANGSAD

Mr Mahfuzur Rahman and Mr. Mezbah Uddin, Chairman and Secretary General respectively of the Central Command Council of Bangladesh Mukti-joddha Sangsad, have welcomed President Ziaur Rahman's call for canal digging on voluntary labour for storage of water for dry season irrigation purposes to double the country's food production.

In a statement issued on Friday they appealed to the people of all walks of life particularly the Freedom Fighters all over country to respond to the President's call and participate in canal digging programmes in their respective areas in the greater interest of the nation.

Choudhury, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, has informed that the project would bring direct benefit to the people in 12 thanas from Tangail to Nawabganj. He said people from all walks of life including youth force, village defence party, ansars and officials would take part in the excavation programme.

SYLHET

The re-excitation of the 6-mile long Bashia river under Sadar subdivision in Sylhet District begins on Saturday as part of the nationwide canal digging programme, according to Radio Bangladesh.

People from all walks of life including members of the Union Parishads, official and members of the youth organisations will take part in the programme.

When completed the project will provide irrigation facilities for additional production of IRRI boro and rabi crops to about 3000 acres of land.

JESSORE

The re-excitation of the Bora Khal of Bholgram under Bagherpara thana in Jessore district began on Thursday on voluntary basis in response to President Zia's call for implementation of 100 schemes of digging canals throughout the country.

CHITTAGONG

BSS adds the national programme for canal digging in Chittagong district will be in-
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Canal digging

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inaugurated at Sathania and Rangpur on December 2 and 3 respectively.

The Deputy Prime Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Industries Mr. Jamal Uddin Ahmad will inaugurate the programme at both the places.

LAKSAM

Re excavation work of the two-mile long Chelatali Kha. in Laksam thana (Comilla) began here today as part of the national programme for canal digging embarked upon by President Ziaur Rahman for achieving food autarky at the quickest possible time.

The Deputy Commissioner of Comilla inaugurated the re-excitation work on Friday morning which was participated by thousands of students, social workers members of the peasantry, chairmen of all the Union Parishads of Laksam thana BNP workers and government employees.

Enthusiasm and zeal of the people gathered to join their hands in the re-excitation and digging programme were amply demonstrated when they defied inclement weather and raining.

President Ziaur Rahman will formally launch the country-wide voluntary canal building programme by inaugurating the excavation of the Kashadoho-Itchamati irrigation project in Manikganj subdivision of Dacca district today (Saturday).

Situated about 50 miles west of Dacca city the project forms a part of link canal between Jamuna and Itchamati rivers. Water will be pumped from the river Jamuna into the proposed canal for taking it to river Itchamati. The work will start from the Jamuna side to provide early benefit to the people.

The people of about 12 thanas on both sides of Itchamati river and Kashadoho canal will be able to get irrigation water when the project is completed.

The total length of the canal will be five miles including two miles link canal between Jamuna and Itchamati rivers. The work will also involve cutting of two loops—one big and the other small—on the Itchamati river.

The project will include digging new canal and excavating old ones. The whole work is expected to be completed by March next year. The project would have cost over one crore Taka had it not been taken on voluntary basis.

The Deputy Commissioner of Dacca Mr. Abdul Mueyed Choudhury told the Times that the idea of excavating this canal had generated tremendous enthusiasm among all classes of local people. Some of them had already started cutting field canals to take irrigation water to their own fields.

The project when completed is expected to make Dacca district surplus in food production.

The earth excavated from the canal would be used to construct a wide road along the Itchamati river to provide better communication facilities to the local people.

President Zia in his address to the nation over Radio and Television on November 18 gave the programme of voluntary canal digging and excavation to build up an irrigation system for doubling food production as a part of revolution needed to bring about a qualitative change in the society.

A master plan for the programme has been prepared to dig and excavate at least one canal in each subdivision on self-help basis. However, 15 per cent of the total labour force who has no source of income will be supported under the food-for-work programme for their work.

Capt. (retd) Abdul Halim

We do not fear drought because we shall preserve water in canals.

- Our farms will give us double yield if we water them properly.
- Provide your land with water by digging canals on a voluntary basis.
- The crop fields need water. Supply water by excavating silted up rivers and dried up canals.

Zia inaugurates Kashadoho-Itchamati irrigation project today

Canal digging programme begins