

at Kashadaha of revolution heralded



President Ziaur Rahman inaugurating national canal digging programme on self help basis at Shibalaya, Manikganj on Saturday.—PTD.

The Bangladesh Times

Contd. from page 1

and help them in the digging of canals. "It is our problem and we will have to do it ourselves; nobody would come and do it for us," the President declared.

The President, who addressed the volunteers from the raised bank of the canal mouth overlooking the mighty Jamuna, pointed out, "look at the river over there, where water keeps flowing in endless streams and yet there are villages in the neighbourhood which occasionally face drought conditions."

The President said that there was no reason why the people should not dig canals to take the water. That was there in the rivers for them to take rather than idling away their leisure.

POLITICS OF PRODUCTION

He said that his Government did not believe in the politics benefiting a few to the detriment of the masses, nor that of conspiracy. There is a politics of the betterment of the condition of the masses — a politics of production for the benefit of all, he declared.

President Ziaur Rahman said that these politicians who would not participate in the massive effort for increasing food production would get isolated from the people.

Later, the President commissioned the low-lift pump for pumping Jamuna water into the canal. He told local people to use the canal water for irrigating their fields. The President was nothing but a folio-quate supply of power pumps, as he asked them to take electricity supply connections for running the pumps. He advised local cultivators not to wait for that supply of electricity poles for taking connections and use bamboos or poles instead. Use of electricity in running power pumps in the area would be a step forward for a period of one year, district administration source told the Times.

SHAH AZIZ

Earlier, Prime Minister Shahur Rahman told the volunteers that the re-excitation of Kashadaha canal marked beginning of the revolution. The President has called the said that the obligation hanging about such a revolution was enshrined in Article 15 of the Constitution of Bangladesh.

thing of the revolution as holy as the 'Ashura' Prime Minister said the hopeful of Allah's.

me Minister said that external forces had to stop and impede the flow of water into "but we had never them, nor would we" He said that the historic inspiration 'Karaba' Bangladesh everything for supply of water and embrace martyr-

MODDOZA

Secretary General Chowdhury said that the re-excitation by the President but a colossal effort by improving their

the job," he said.

The Secretary General said that in all 500 miles of irrigation canals would be dug in the country on the basis of voluntary work this season.

Capt. (Rtd.) Abdul H. M. Chowdhury, who was returned to the Jatiya Sangad from the Shivalaya constituency earlier assured the President, on behalf of the local people, that no effort would be spared for implementing the plans for doubling food production.

CHITTAGONG

BSS adds: Inaugurating the five mile long Naya Khal digging scheme at Keochia under Sattkania, Chittagong Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Jamal Uddin Ahmed said on Sunday that 110 canal digging schemes had been taken up all over the country during the current season.

The schemes, when completed successfully, will be able to produce food crop worth Taka 160 crore, he said.

Keochia scheme is the first such scheme out of the total three taken up in this district. The other two canal digging schemes are Gagra Khal in Rangunia and Patla Khal in Cox's Bazar, which are six miles and five miles long respectively. Digging will start at both canals in two days time.

The digging of the canal will be completed in a fortnight's time by 43,128 voluntary labour forces organised by the district administration in cooperation with the local union parishad, local member of the parliament, BNP leaders and workers.

It is expected that 4650 acres of land would be protected from flood when the scheme is successfully completed.

He said that President Zia had called for doubling food production in the country by digging canals for irrigation purpose as well as protecting crops from the flood water. To make this revolution a success we have to work hard in a spirit of cooperation, he added.

Local MPs Mr. Mustaq Ahmad Chowdhury Chittagong district BNP leaders, Divisional Commissioner Mr. Saifuddin Ahmed and the Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Mr. Ziauddin Mahmood Chowdhury took active part in canal digging with the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmed.

BOGRA

According to another report from Bogra, Mr. Abdul Alim Minister for Railways, Roads, Highways and Road Transport today inaugurated the re-excitation work of the three and a quarter mile-long Sukhdaha Canal in Sariakandi and Gabtoli thana of Bogra district as part of the national programme for canal digging launched by President Ziaur Rahman for doubling food production in the country.

The re-excitation work was participated by about fifteen thousand people including teachers, students, freedom fighters, ansars, police, women and government employees.

Mr. Alim said that re-excitation of Sukhdaha Canal for irrigation when completed in March next year would bring an additional yield of 250 lakh tons of foodgrains.

He said that government had taken up 102 schemes for canal digging which would re-

excavate 552-mile-long canal on voluntary basis aimed at building up an irrigation system for doubling food produc-

day at Muraripur Union, 15 miles of Joypurhat subdivision said that, the re-excitation work of one and a half-mile long Pangla-Muraripur canal would start from December 3.

KHULNA

Our Khulna Staff Correspondent reports, yearly total yield of agricultural products and fish worth about 9.85 crore is expected to finally accrue from the full implementation of the proposed nine canal digging schemes of Khulna district under the voluntary mass participation programme launched at the initiation of President Ziaur Rahman.

The nine schemes for digging canals on voluntary labour include two schemes in Sadar Sub-division, three in Bagerhat and four in Satkhira Sub-division.

The noteworthy schemes of the district are: re-excitation of roadside canals by the Rupsha-Bagerhat Road, Rupsha-Mangla Road and Ishwardip-Dashmuniganj Road under Shajmaganj Police Station, re-excitation of Garishisha Khal under Bashukhali Beel, digging of canal from Kapattakhi river to Banomali Beel and re-excitation of Jalatola canal under Kalliganj Police Station.

This complete re-excavated nine canals will make up and aggregate length of about 32 miles. The schemes on being completed will help irrigate about 26,300 acres of land in the project areas through the installation of nearly 160 low lift power pumps. These will, in turn, lead to additional production each year mainly of about six and a half lakh maunds of paddy and one and a half maunds of rabi crops.

According to the Deputy Commissioner, Khulna, works on the schemes would be started in the second week of the current month because of late harvesting of aman crop in the district. The first scheme to be taken up in the district is the re-excitation of Burukhanner Khal under Jatarapur union parishad of Bagerhat. The remaining schemes will start on different dates of the current month and January next and completed by May next.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the schemes had generated enthusiasm and interest among the local people who were expected to participate in large numbers in the implementation of the schemes.

NARAYANGANJ

Our Narayanganj Correspondent adds: The Subdivisional administration has taken up a scheme for digging a 13-mile long Shitalakhya Tajkerkhal irrigation project on voluntary basis in response to the call of President Ziaur Rahman.

Government officials, social workers and the representatives of the local bodies in a meeting with the Subdivisional Officer Narayanganj decided to implement the canal digging programme.

The irrigation project will cover three police stations of the subdivision namely Rupganj, Baidar Bazar and Arakhanj. It will help irrigate 8000 acres of land. When completed the project is expected to yield over 5 lakh maunds of additional paddy. The completion of the project will involve 64 lakh 65 thousand CFT earth work.

A pump house would be built at the mouth of the project for discharge of water from the River Shitalakhya. The work on the project is expected to start from December 12 and it will take two

months to be completed. Nearly 1300 people will be employed to the project every day.

PABNA

In Pabna the re-excitation work on 7-mile long Chithulia canal in Sadar subdivision began on Sunday. The re-excitation of the 7-mile long Suragar river in Sirajganj subdivision will begin today. The two projects will benefit 11,000 acres of land and open up immense possibility of pisciculture in the area. Radio Bangladesh reported.

RAJSHAH

According to the Radio, in Rajshahi district the re-excitation work of the Sukhanadi in Manda thana of Naogaon subdivision began on Sunday.

Thousands of people from all walks of life took part in the work on voluntary basis in response to the call of President Zia. It is expected that when completed the project will irrigate about 5,000 acres of land yielding about 300,000 maunds of additional wheat and aus paddy.

Also began on Sunday the digging of the 4-mile long Muraripur-Haldigachhi canal in Charchat thana of Rajshahi sadar subdivision. Six such projects have been taken up in Rajshahi district.

The digging of 6-mile long Bahula-Mahiganj canal in Chapainawabganj subdivision started on Saturday.

KUSHTIA

In Kushtia the re-excitation of 5-mile long Bhalmar canal in Damurhuda thana of Chuadanga subdivision began on Sunday morning. The Radio reported.

RANGAMATI

The digging of six irrigation canals on self-help basis in different areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts began on Sunday through the participation of the enthusiastic people of the district.

One lakh maunds of additional crops will be produced after completion of the six canals according to estimates of the district administration, while two crore 75 lakh CFT earth work will be done to complete the digging of these canals.

Besides increased food production, the schemes will also help grow fish culture and poultry farming 4.0 thousands of people including students, youths, local political leaders, public representatives and government and non-government official.

Mr. Aung Shew Prue Chowdhury, State Minister for Food inaugurated the digging work at Bandarban.