

Re-excavation of 160 canals completed

Reexcavation of 160 canals have been completed till June 15 throughout the country on voluntary basis under the first phase of the peaceful revolution launched by President Ziaur Rahman on December 1 last, reports BSS.

Disclosing this to the agency an official spokesman said that work on 79 canal digging projects were in progress in the upper regions, particularly in northern districts and Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tract areas.

He said that the number of re-excavated canals would reach two hundred during the current season, a total of 250 projects were taken in hand since President Ziaur Rahman inaugurated the Kasadah project at Manikganj subdivision on December 1 last year to develop a permanent irrigation system in the country with a view to doubling food production.

The spokesman said that on

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completion of all the projects, eight lakh acres of land would be brought under irrigation to produce three crops including two paddy crops, instead of only one at present. Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADCO) has already fielded three thousand power pumps at the site of the completed canals for irrigation purposes.

The one hundred sixty canals covering a length of five hundred miles involved an earth work of sixty-five crore CFT. Thousands of people particularly the peasants and direct beneficiaries of the canal-digging projects offered their voluntary labour under the supervision of the local administration.

The spokesman said, although there was provision of utilising wheat at the rate of fifteen per cent of the total cost of each project yet 20 projects were dug completely on voluntary basis. They include Karimpur canal at Muradnagar thana and Kawadi canal at Doudkandi thana under Comilla district, Moradong Khal at Bhoalkhalj under Patiya and Ghagrahal and Sukbilash Napit Pukuria Sultan Shah Khal at Rangunia under Chittagong district and Baramashj Madhu Chara Khal at Chagalnaiya under Feni subdivision.

Of the 160 canals the highest number (55) were reexcavated at Khulna division. A total of 83 projects were taken up in the division.

In Dacca division out of 51 projects 33 have been completed and work on the rest are in progress. Fiftyfive projects were taken up in Rajshahi division but work started on 47 projects of which 34 have been completed.

But of 61 projects 38 have been completed in Chittagong division.

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