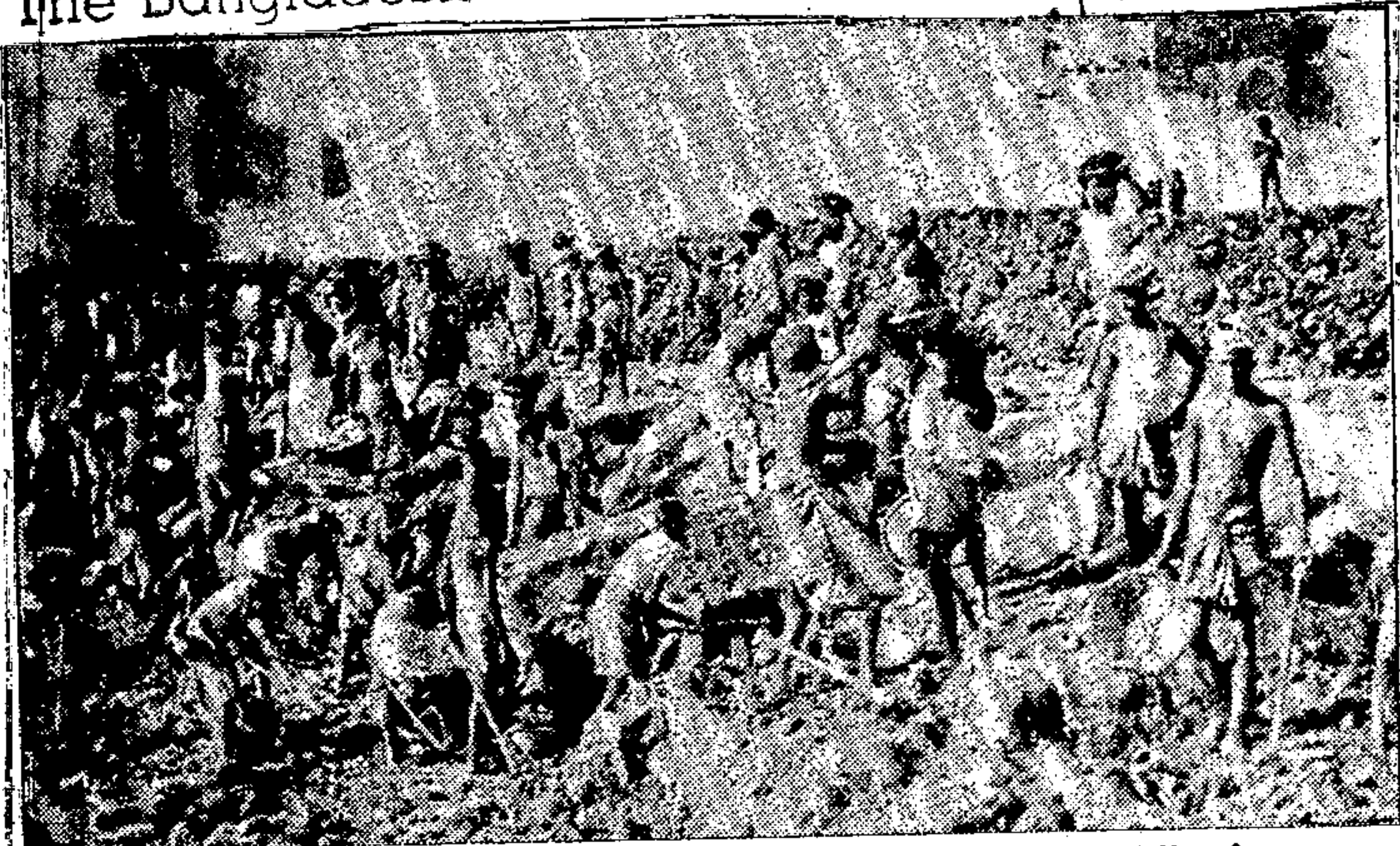




Re-excavation work of Patali Canal of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, going on in full swing.
—Photo Times

Re-excavation of canals in Jessore, Cox's Bazar, Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 18: The re-excavation of Makla Canal under Sarsa police station of Jessore is going on satisfactorily. Hundreds of enthusiastic men and women from all walks of life are participating in the digging programme on self-help basis. A large number of students and members of Mahila Samity are also taking part in the re-excavation work.

The four-mile long and 40ft broad Makla Canal would connect River Ichhamati with Kennadaya Haor and help drain out the accumulated water that the area experiences during the rainy season.

Besides about 1,000 acres of land would get irrigation facilities. Another 1,000 acres of land would be saved from waterlogging.

The total volume of earth to be dug will be nearly 50,00,000 cft.

Meanwhile, the re-excavation of Dhalgram Bara Canal under Bagharpara police station is also progressing.

COX'S BAZAR

A Correspondent from Cox's Bazar adds: In pursuance of the order of the Government Patali Canal of Cox's Bazar has taken up for re-excavation under mass participation programme. The re-excavation work was formally inaugurated by Mr. Ziauddin M. Chowdhury Deputy Commissioner, Chittagong on December 4 last.

About 15,000 people participated in the digging work of the canal which is 5½ miles in length, 56 feet in breadth and 30 feet in depth.

About 30 lakh cft earth have so far been lifted out of 1 crore 2 lakh cft. The participation is showing an increasing trend. People from all walks of life are including BDR police, Ansar Government servants, students of colleges, schools and madrasahs, Girls Guide,

Boy Scouts and political parties — particularly BNP participating in five Unions namely, P H Khali, Jhilanza, Zoariana, Chopulandi and Bhaira Khali will be benefited and about 50,000 acres of land of these unions will come under cultivation when the canal is completed.

The canal will also provide navigation facilities, pisciculture, road-cum-embankment, besides plantation in the embankment. The canal was expected to be completed by January 15. The mobilization of manpower is being done under the leadership of Sub-divisional Officer Cox's Bazar.

KUSHTIA

Mr. Mohammad Abdul Haque Minister for Land Administration and Land Reforms, inaugurated on Monday morning Janata self-help canal excavation project at Poradaha about 10 miles from Kushtia according to an official announcement.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister elaborated the aims and objectives of the canal digging programme initiated by President Ziaur Rahman throughout the country to achieve self-sufficiency in food. He urged the people to extend full co-operation in implementing the programme.

The Janata Canal Excavation Project is of great importance to the local farmers. When completed, it will provide water for irrigation of more than 500 acres of land, including some fallow lands and lands producing only one crop a year. It will help the local farmers to produce three crops a year with additional production of 50,000 maunds of paddy and wheat worth Tk. 50 lakh. Besides, pisciculture and duck farming would also be possible providing additional sources of income to the farmers. The inaugural function was

also addressed, among others by Mr. Ahmed Nazir MP, Mrs. Rafiq Khanom, MP. Local high officials and political leaders attended the function.

Later in the afternoon, the Minister inaugurated the 9-mile Eheramara-Raita Road being constructed by Khulna Divisional Development Board at a cost of Tk 37 lakh.