

Canal digging programme/Canal digging progressing satisfactorily

The programme of country-wide canal digging including the derelict ones is progressing satisfactorily with thousands of people voluntarily participating, according to reports pouring in Dacca, says BSS.

The programme, the first phase of revolution for doubling food production in five years time, was launched on December 1 last with only 103 excavation and re-excavation schemes. But with the enormous enthusiasm and spontaneity of the people, the number of such schemes has been increased to one hundred. An official source said, the number of such projects are expected to exceed two hundred.

The unprecedented participation of the people belonging to all spheres of life in the canal digging programme on voluntary basis was prompted at the call of President Ziaur Rahman. The fact behind this spontaneous participation was described by the experts as people's realisation for agriculture development which is the life-line of the national economy and for staving off dependence on nature to build an irrigation network throughout the country.

These canals, when completed will remove water logging during rainy season and facilitate irrigation during dry season.

According to reports from different parts of the country, work on most of the canals are near completion and some are on half-way through, meanwhile a good number of new projects have been taken in hand.

The re-excavation project of

Kashidah canal under Manikganj subdivision, which was inaugurated by President Ziaur Rahman on December 1 is near completion.

The two-mile long canal from West Bank of the Jamuna would now be linked with the east bank of the Ichhamati. Vast tracts of land on either side of the canal would be brought under IRRI cultivation to double the food production in that area.

Besides irrigation facilities, thousand of families will be directly benefited as the canal would provide scope for raising farms and speedy movement by boat from Jamuna to the Ichhamati.

Meanwhile, out of three incentive prizes announced by the project committee, the prize—one television set—has been won by Varia Union Parishad. The second prize—one three band radio set—has gone to Bovra Union Parishad while the third prize—one band radio set gained by Rankishnupur Union Parishad.

The five-mile long Kamar Khali re-excavation project under Moulvibazar subdivision was formally inaugurated by

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Commerce Minister Mr. Saifur Rahman on December 31.

When completed, the canal would provide irrigation facilities to eight thousand acres of land where cultivation of three crops instead of one crop would be possible.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Saifur Rahman said that successful completion of the project would also be a measure against river erosion at Manmukh market.

According to reports available in Dacca, three lakh and fifty-six cubic feet of earth work has already been done at the re-excavation project of Choutatali canal under Comilla Sadar South subdivision.

About thirty-one thousand people from all walks of life are participating in it.

In Manjarkandi re-excavation project under Sadar North of Comilla, three lakh forty two cubic feet of earth work has been completed so far. About thirty-seven thousand people are voluntarily participating in the project.