

# Canal digging will help attain food autarky

RAJSHAHI, Jan. 4: Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Mr Emran Ali Sarker inaugurated the re-excavation of 5 and a half miles long Pirgachha-Moraghal-Tarapur canal here on Sunday morning, reports BSS.

About six thousand men, women and students, officials, youth and workers are voluntarily taking part in the re-excavation.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that the Government was firm to make the canal digging programme of Shaheed President Zia a complete success for making Bangladesh self-sufficient in food.

He said that the country was already getting the results of canal digging.

The Minister said, 3 years back the country had an annual food deficit of 26 lakh tons which now has come down to 10 lakh tons.

He said, about 60 thousand tons of additional crop was expected to be produced annually, 12 thousand people would be benefited after re-excavation of Pirgachha Moraghal-Tarapur canal which would be completed by next May.

The meeting was also addressed by Mr Abdus Sattar Mandal, local MP, Mr Mukshed

Ali, MP, Prof. Ekramul Haq, member, BNP standing committee and Mr Azizur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Rajshahi.

In the afternoon the Minister visited an eye-camp at Puthia field training thana complex opened by Bangladesh Blind Welfare Association.

About 150 eye patients have so far been operated at the camp.

The Minister also inaugurated a community centre for the orphans organised by Social Welfare Department.

## HABIGANJ

Another report from Habiganj adds: Five-mile long canal is being excavated from the village Rampur to Guingajur haor under the canal digging programme initiated by late President Ziaur Rahman.

The local people, students of different schools and colleges, scouts, cadets, and members of nineteen other socio-cultural organisations of the town have been participating on voluntary basis.

When completed the canal will bring 10,000 acres of land under cultivation and help yield one lakh sixty thousand maunds of paddy annually.