

Over 16 miles of canal dug in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Jan. 28: Over 16 miles have so far been re-excavated or dug in different areas of Chittagong district.

Canal digging began here as elsewhere in the country on December 2 last year in response to a call by President Zia to extend irrigation facilities for raising food production.

A BSS correspondent who saw for himself three major canals in the district writes that re-excavation of a five-mile-long khal at Rangunia, five and a half-mile-long Pato phhal at Cox's Bazar and five-mile long Naya Khal at Satkanja has been completed.

Thousands of people, students, workers, teachers and women spontaneously participated in the canal digging. There are also some other canal digging projects in the district. In all 20 to 2 thousand acres of land in the canal areas would be benefited.

Another five-mile of canal Sukbilash — Mapitpukura at Padua union under Rangunia PS is nearing completion at the initiative of the local people.

This is a canal with a difference. The five-mile canal has been dug with great difficulty and caution. It passed through hills and rivers. The villagers have created a water reservoir by building a cross dam across the river Shillock. From this point water is passed to a canal on the other side of the river by constructing a wooden tunnel over the river.

The canal then passes

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Canal

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through two tunnels in two separate hills. Digging of the tunnels through the hills was really a difficult and risky task. But the villagers have accomplished this task without the help of any engineer. But they now require guidance and help of an expert to permanently save the tunnels.

The tunnels have to be well-protected by cement and concrete walls and this is now what the villagers are doing. So far over 80 per cent of the digging works have been completed. This canal has been dug entirely for irrigation purpose and when completed it will benefit more than five thousand acres of land. There is also a prospect for further extension of the canal which may cover another five thousand acres of land.