

33 canal schemes in 5 districts

People's response enthusiastic

By A Staff Reporter

Preparations for launching the country-wide voluntary canal excavation programme from the first week of the next month are at the final stage.

The district and sub-divisional authorities have already prepared schemes and formed advisory committees, local level committees and sub-committees for successful implementation of the excavation or re-excavation schemes.

President Ziaur Rahman in his address to the nation over Radio and Television on November 18 last announced that a countrywide voluntary excavation programme would begin from the first week of December.

When contacted on Tuesday, the district authorities of Comilla, Patuakhali, Jessore, Rajshahi, Kushtia and Chittagong Hill Tracts, told the Times that they had prepared sub-division wise schemes and formed advisory and local level committees. The advisory committees include the members of the Par-

liament and leaders of different political parties.

According to the district administrations of five districts, namely Comilla, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Rajshahi, Jessore, and Kushtia, excavation or re-excavation of 33 canals in these districts would help irrigate about 75,000 acres of land. They informed that the local people were enthusiastic about the re-excavation schemes and had expressed their willingness to participate.

COMILLA

The Additional Deputy Commissioner, (Development) of Comilla told the Times that they had taken up five schemes involving one crore 44 lakh and 35 thousand cubic feet (cft) earth work.

He said that district and sub-division level advisory committees with, among others, local MPs and political leaders and local committees and sub-committees in the project areas had

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People's response

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already been formed.

Of the selected schemes, two are in Sadar (South) sub-division and one each in Sadar (North), Brahmanbaria, and Chandpur sub-divisions. The completion of the re-excavation schemes would help irrigate about 12,500 acres in the project areas.

RAJSHAHI

In Rajshahi district, a total of eight schemes have been selected. The schemes, which involve one crore 57 thousand cft earth work, when completed would help irrigate about 14,000 acres of land in the project areas.

Implementation of one scheme in Nawabganj sub-division would begin on December 1 which will be followed by another in Natore sub-division on December 2, according to the district administration, Rajshahi.

JESSORE

The Deputy Commissioner, Jessore said that eight schemes, two each in four sub-divisions, had been selected in the district. The field officials of the Water Development Board were examining the details of the schemes, he said.

He informed that implementation of most of the schemes would begin in the first week of the next month. The schemes involving about three crore and 33 lakh cft. earth work when completed, would help bring over 19,000 acres of land under irrigation facilities.

KUSHTIA

The Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia said that three re-excavation schemes (one each in

Sadar, Chuadanga, Meherpur sub-divisions), would help fielding of 144 low lift pumps covering an area of about 7,000 acres.

He informed that local level committees in the project areas and advisory committees at district and sub-division levels with local MPs and leaders of different political parties had been formed. He said implementation of the scheme in Chuadanga expected to begin on December 2 next.

A total of six schemes have been taken up for voluntary re-excavation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts district. With the implementation of the schemes, about 2,100 acres would be irrigated in the project areas. The Deputy Commissioner informed that excavation work would begin in all the projects on December 2.

PATUAHALI

In Patuakhali, three projects involving about 6.5 crore cft earth work have been selected.