

UP leaders, MPs, teachers pledge to dig canals

SHUNAMGANJ (Sylhet), Dec 3: The Union Parishad Chairmen, teachers of schools and madrasas and Members of Parliament of Shunamganj sub-division today pledged to participate voluntarily in the present canal digging programme to carry forward the revolution in agricultural sector for doubling food production, reports BSS.

The vow was taken by them in response to the call made by President Ziaur Rahman at a meeting of these sections of people held here at the Rural Development Auditorium this afternoon.

They also assured the President that they would put in their sincere and whole-hearted efforts to inspire and mobilise the people of their respective areas to make the canal digging programme a success.

President Zia told the audience that there was no alternative but to dig canals to build up an irrigation system to increase agricultural production through round the year cultiva-

tion. "We can also cultivate fish and plant trees on both sides of the canal which will go a long way in meeting our food requirements," he added.

PLAY EFFECTIVE ROLE

President Zia said that the Union Parishad Chairmen were the grassroot level leaders and they should play effective role for achieving success in the canal digging programme. He assured the audience that the government would supply power pumps free of cost after the completion of canal digging schemes.

Referring to the last two elections, President Zia reminded the people that they had overwhelmingly supported the revolutionary programmes put forward by the BNP in its election manifesto. Now, he added that they should come forward to materialise these revolutionary programmes.

He said that the revolution was not aimed at taking away the lands and properties of the

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UP leaders

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people rather it was aimed at bringing reforms in agricultural, educational, legal and cultural sectors. The revolution, he added, would come peacefully and through democratic and parliamentary processes.

The President said that there was no political issue in the country at present because all the issues were solved during the last two elections. The people had already rejected the politics which would never bring good for them. He said that now the politics had changed its course completely and it was now being directed to bring prosperity for the people.

President Zia said that the political leaders in the past did never work for the betterment of the commonman rather they built their own fortunes. As a result no development activities took place in the country in the past, he added.

DEVELOPMENT BODY

He said that a development committee under the leadership of the Commerce Minister Mr M. Saifur Rahman will be constituted for the overall development of the sub-division. The committee would find out ways and means for proper use of the available natural and manpower resources for the development of the area, he added.

Later, President who is also Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) addressed his party workers. They discussed various measures to mobilise the people of the area for the development of the sub-division, particularly for making the canal digging programme a success.

Commerce Minister Mr M. Saifur Rahman and State Minister for Railways, Roads, Highways and Road Transport, Dewan Taimur Reza Chowdhury was also present on the occasion.

Earlier, on arrival here from Sylhet by road, thousands of people greeted President Zia with slogans and clapping. At one stage he got down from his car and walked half a mile with the crowd upto the Circuit House.

88 miles of canal will be dug in Dacca Division

By A Staff Reporter

About 88 miles of canal will be re-excavated under 20 projects in five districts in Dacca Division under voluntary mass participation programme during the current season. The total quantum of earth to be dug will be five crore 70 lakh cubic feet.

According to a Press release issued by Press Information Department on Monday, with the implementation of these projects 52.5 thousand acres of land will come under irrigation yielding an additional crop of 14 lakh maunds.

The Press release said that the implementation of 50 per cent of projects had already begun in full swing while the work of other projects would start soon. Work for three pro-

jects in Tangail district was taken up in the later part of November. So far, 10 lakh cubic feet of earth had been dug, the Press release said.

People from all walks of life are taking part in the self-help projects. They include local people, elected representatives, Government and semi-Government employees, freedom fighters, police, ansar, youth cooperative societies, women organisations, teachers and students of schools and colleges.

Our Chuadanga Correspondent adds: Digging of five and a half mile long Bhaimura canal from Dolkiabedil to Gokulkhuli under Chuadanga Sub-division under voluntary mass participation programme was ceremonially inaugurated here on Sunday by Mr Raisuddin Ahmed, an elderly peasant of the locality. Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia and SDO, Chuadanga and about 5,000 people took part in the reexcavation work.

Henceforth, about 2,000 people, including ansars, boy scouts, village defence party, youths of Judo complex, freedom fighters, teachers and students, political and social workers would participate in the digging of the canal which would take four months to complete.

The canal, when reexcavated, would be treated as a water reservoir for irrigating 1200 acres of land. The reservoir will also be used for fish cultivation.

TAITER KHAL

BSS adds: The 13 mile long Shitalakhya Taiter Khal Irrigation Project, an ambitious scheme of the sub-divisional administration, is expected to go under digging within a couple of days on voluntary basis at the call of President Ziaur Rahman.

According to official sources big embankment will be constructed along the project which will cover three police stations of the subdivision including Rupganj, Balder Bazar, and Araffazar the project will irrigate about 8,000 acres of land. The project after completion is expected to produce over 5 lakh maunds of crop annually.

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