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President launches Jatiyatabadi Jele Dal

UP chairmen take vow to dig canals

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 24: The Union Parishad Chairmen of Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts today took vow to participate voluntarily in the programme of digging canals to double the country's food production in the next five years, reports BSS.

The pledge was made in response to a call by President Ziaur Rahman at the conference of Union Parishad Chairmen of the two districts held here today.

The President pointed out that the Union Parishad Chairmen who represented the people at the grass root should work hard to mobilise, inspire and unite the people to participate in canal digging and excavation programme voluntarily to achieve the objective of building up an irrigation system for increasing agricultural production.

The President said plans had been to dig at least one canal in each sub-division. "We have no alternative other than digging or excavating canals, and if we can double our food production, only then the problem now being faced by the nation will be solved. This would also help in building a prosperous country," he added.

Referring to the revolution, President Zia said the present revolution was not aimed at snatching away the land and property of the people rather, he added, it was launched to increase production in every sphere particularly in the agricultural sector. He said the revolution would be peaceful, democratic and would come through Sangbad.

DEMOCRACY

The President lauded the contribution of the Union Parishad Chairmen and Members in establishing democracy in the country and urged them to play a positive role in maintaining and protecting democracy. "If we fail to perform our duty properly, our existence will be at stake", he warned.

He pointed out that during the last elections the people had overwhelmingly demonstrated their support for politics of production-based on "Bangladeshi nationalism". The people had already rejected those who had been indulging in politics, based on foreign ideologies. He maintained that at present there was no political issue because

the people had already accepted the politics of production.

President Zia urged Union Parishad Chairmen to inspire the people to plant trees on vacant lands, on both sides of roads and railways, and cultivate fish in ponds, tanks and canals to meet country's food requirements.

Earlier speaking on the occasion the Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, called upon the Union Parishad Chairmen to help the government in checking present rate of population growth. "Otherwise all our development activities will go in vain," he added.

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Captain (Retd)

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UP chairmen

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Abdul Halim Chowdhury, also spoke on the occasion.

Five Chairmen from the two districts participated in the discussions.

JELE DAL

Later in the afternoon, President Zia addressing the launching ceremony of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jele Dal a front organisation of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, here at the Exhibition Maidan emphasised the need for a 'strong organisation' of fishermen to save them from exploitation.

The President told the huge gathering of fishermen that they had been exploited for ages and now we want to give you your due share and engage you in the revolution for building the country."

He said that the country had good prospects for pisciculture by exploiting the available canals, beels, haors, ponds and tanks. "If we can cultivate fish properly and scientifically we can increase the present production level of seven lakh tons of fish to 40-50 lakh tons annually", he said. "It will meet the requirements of the country as well as leave a huge quantity for export to earn considerable amount of foreign exchange."

President Zia informed the audience that fishing boats would be built in the country as well as imported from abroad to meet the needs of the fishermen. They would also be given training to increase their efficiency, he added.

Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Prof. A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Mr K M Obaidur Rahman

and Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Captain (Retd) Abdul Halim Chowdhury also spoke at the function.

Land Reform and Land Administration Minister Mr Abdul Huq Deputy Minister for Population Control and Family Planning Mrs Kamrunnahar Zafar and Local Parliamentary Members were present.

In the evening President Ziaur Rahman who is also Chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party addressed a party workers' conference here.

He also attended a cultural function organised by the Jatiyatabadi Jele Dal.