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Work hard to make country self-reliant

RANGUNIA (Chittagong), Dec. 22: President Ziaur Rahman today called upon the people to work hard to make the country self-sufficient, reports BSS.

Everybody will have to work hard and our food production has to be doubled to enable us to make ourselves self-reliant. He told thousands of people who have been participating in digging over five-mile long Gaghra Khal at Hosnabad here this afternoon.

The President flew in here by helicopter accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmad, and Deputy Ministers Prof. Arif Moinuddin

and Mrs. Quamrun Nahar Zafar to see for himself the progress of the digging work which began on December 3.

The turnout of participants spirit they had demonstrated in canal-digging programme during the liberation war. He was unprecedented with people said, we ourselves have to prepare from all walks of life taking part development plans and part. By now more than thirty materialise them with our own per cent of the work was completed.

Expressing his satisfaction at the spontaneous participation of lawyers, who pledged last night in response to President Ziaur Rahman's call to join the digging. Some judges also participated in the programme.

Private lands were dug to straighten the irrigation-canal. The owners of the land voluntarily donated theirs for digging it.

President Zia said that the people had approved the programmes of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and that they should now extend full co-operation to realise them at the shortest possible time.

Everyone of us has to contribute his mite towards building the nation he said.

Adding foreign aid cannot help us attain self-sufficiency and we are to produce more and more food and goods to become self-reliant.

The President reminded the people of the hard struggle they had waged during the liberation period and hoped that they would be able to build up the country with the same zeal and

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Make country self-reliant

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can understand the problems faced by himself and the country, he said.

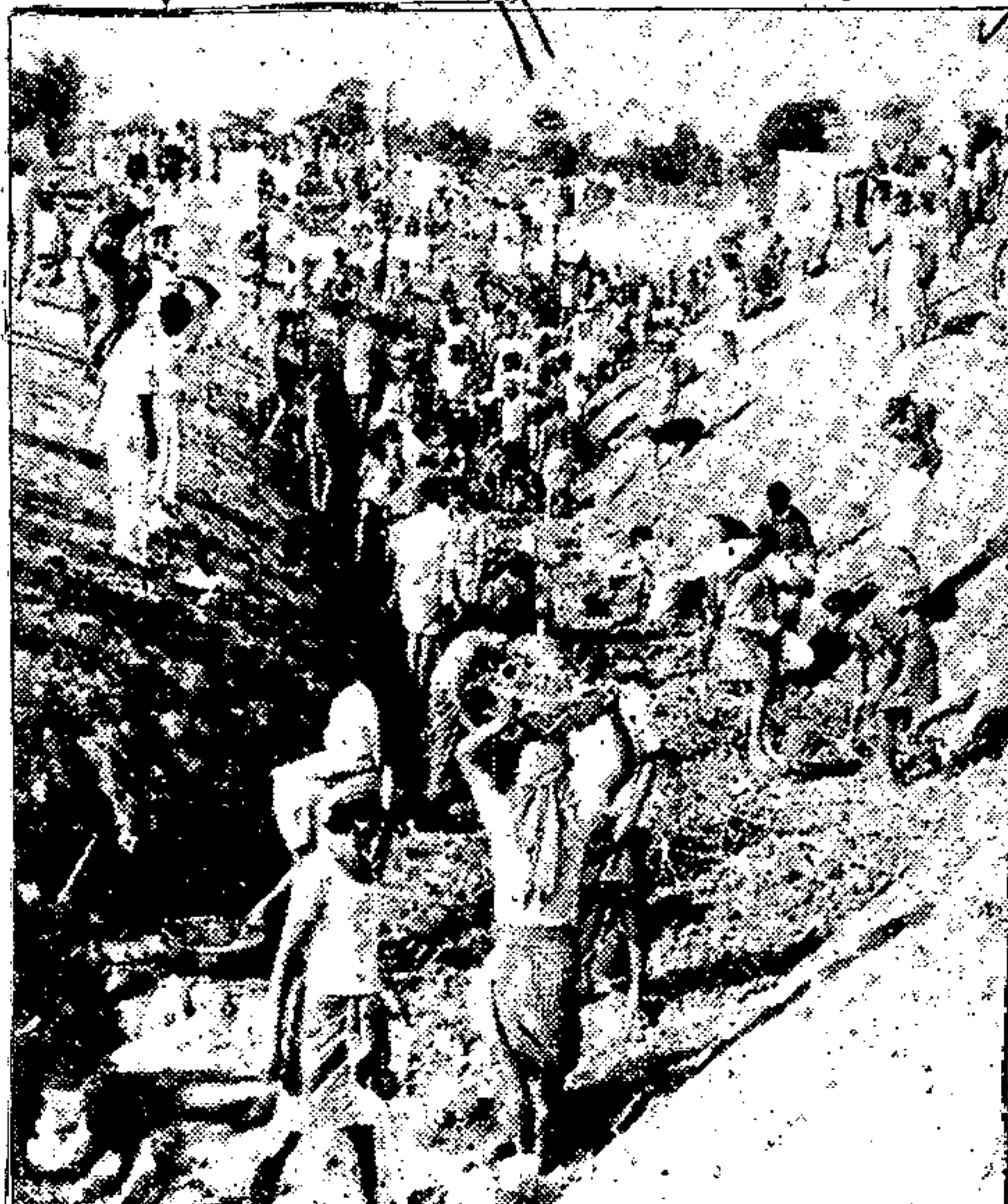
He said the revolution launched for doubling food production in peaceful and everybody is to work selflessly to make the revolution a complete success. You are to build yourself, your village and your country through this revolution, he said.

The President said that he would visit the canal again when digging work is completed.

Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmed said that the people had spontaneously responded to the call of revolution and that they had been working hard to achieve the goals of the revolution.

The beneficiaries of the Gaghra Khal will be the people of Hosnabad, Rajanagar and Rangunia unions. On completion of digging work about 5,000 acres of land would be irrigated and 4,000 acres would be protected from floods. The entire digging work of Gaghra Khal has been estimated at Taka 45,00,000. The work will continue for several weeks more.

The President said amid clapping that the second phase of the revolution which would commence soon would be against illiteracy. He said, we will have to remove illiteracy from the society as it has been retarding our progress. We should educate everyone so that he



People from all walks of life participating in re-excavating of the Gaghra Khal at Rangunia in Chittagong. President Ziaur Rahman visited the re-excavation work on Saturday.

Photo: PID