

## 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 Moynuddin

and Mrs Quamrun Nahar Zafar to see for himself the progress of the digging work which began on December 1.

The turnout of participants in canal-digging programme was unprecedented with people from all walks of life taking part. By now more than thirty per cent of the work was completed.

The participants also included 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

Contd. on page 12 col. 1

## Make country self-reliant

Contd. from page 1

spirit they had demonstrated during the liberation war. He said, we ourselves have to prepare development plans and materialise them with our own resources and efforts.

Expressing his satisfaction at the spontaneous participation of the people in digging canal to develop an irrigation system, The President urged the people to dig more canals linking rivers so that they did not face water shortage. He reiterated that power pumps would be supplied free of charges in those areas where digging of canals would be successfully completed.

He told the people that re-excavation of canals would continue all over the country and that there is no alternative but to double or if possible, treble food production to lessen dependence on others. The people chanted slogans like President Zia Zindabad, "we are behind you." You go forward constantly and raised their hands in affirmation when the President asked them whether they were ready to do hard work for national progress.

The President said amid clappings 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

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.



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: PIB