

The Banner

## Mass participation in canals digging plan continues

The canal digging and re-excavation programme, launched by President Ziaur Rahman for dry season irrigation facilities, has evoked enthusiastic response from people all over the country, reports BSS.

Voluntary mass participation in the programme at different places is indicative of people's awareness to the Government efforts to double food production in the next five years.

In Barisal work on six projects out of ten is going on in full swing. About 20 thousand volunteers are participating in these projects. Nearly 34-mile canal will be re-excavated involving Dhansiri river and other canals. On December 3 Mr Sunil Gupta, State Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, inaugurated the re-excavation of North Shihipur Canal in Gaurnadi thana where about 4,000 people including students of schools and Gaurnadi College are taking part.

In Ramgarh, work on digging a reservoir on eight acres of land started on December 2 to facilitate irrigation during the dry season. About five thousand volunteers are participating in the earth cutting work. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Dev), Chittagong Hill Tracts, inaugurated the work.

Mr Mayeedul Islam, Minister for Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones on Monday explained the canal digging programme to a cross section of people in the

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## Canals digging

Contd. from page 1

Rangpur Circuit House. He said, "we are to use surface water as sub-soil water is not sufficient and if sub-soil water is allowed to be used by the deep tubewell, there is an apprehension of the country being turned into a desert."

The canal digging programme is aimed at preserving flood water for use in the dry season to irrigate land. The Teesta project is part of a such programme, he added.

**KHULNA**

Our Staff Correspondent adds. The digging of irrigation canal on self-help basis in the Khulna district began today with the inauguration of the re-excavation of one-mile long Bur-rakhaner Khal in Bagerhat by the Divisional Commissioner Khulna.

The re-excavation of the Bur-rakhaner Khal under Jatarapur Union, Bagerhat sub-division is one of the nine canal digging schemes of the district launched under the voluntary mass participation programme for building up an irrigation system for raising farm production.

Over six hundred enthusiastic people belonging to all walks of life from far and near areas participated in today's work. The scheme, when completed, will help irrigate about 400 acres of land, which in turn will help produce an additional crops worth Taka ten lakh each year.

- We do not fear drought because we shall preserve water in canals.
- Our farms will give us double yield if we water them properly.
- Provide your land with water by digging canals, weirs and dried up canals, on a voluntary basis.
- The crop fields need water. Supply water by excavating silted up rivers and dried up canals.