

BNP desperate to capture power, Zillur says

BRAHMANBARIA. July 17: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman today charged the opposition BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia of adopting the policy of killing people for grabbing state power, reports UNB.

"Begum Zia has become desperate to capture power and has adopted the path of killing by calling hartal," Zillur said while addressing a rally at Champaknagar School premises here.

He called upon the BNP chairperson to give up the politics of hartal, bomb blasts and corpses for the greater interest of the people as well as democracy.

The LGRD Minister said during the last three years BNP and its anti-liberation allies had hatched many conspiracies by creating anarchy and artificial crises to oust the popular Awami League government.

Even, those evil forces branded this year's pro-people budget as an anti-people one and called hartal twice against it. But common people have unitedly foiled their evil designs," Zillur said.

The present government has established voting rights of the common people and strengthened the local government bodies.

ies to accelerate development activities in the grassroots level.

He listed various development programmes including literacy, poverty alleviation and rural development programmes undertaken by the present government.

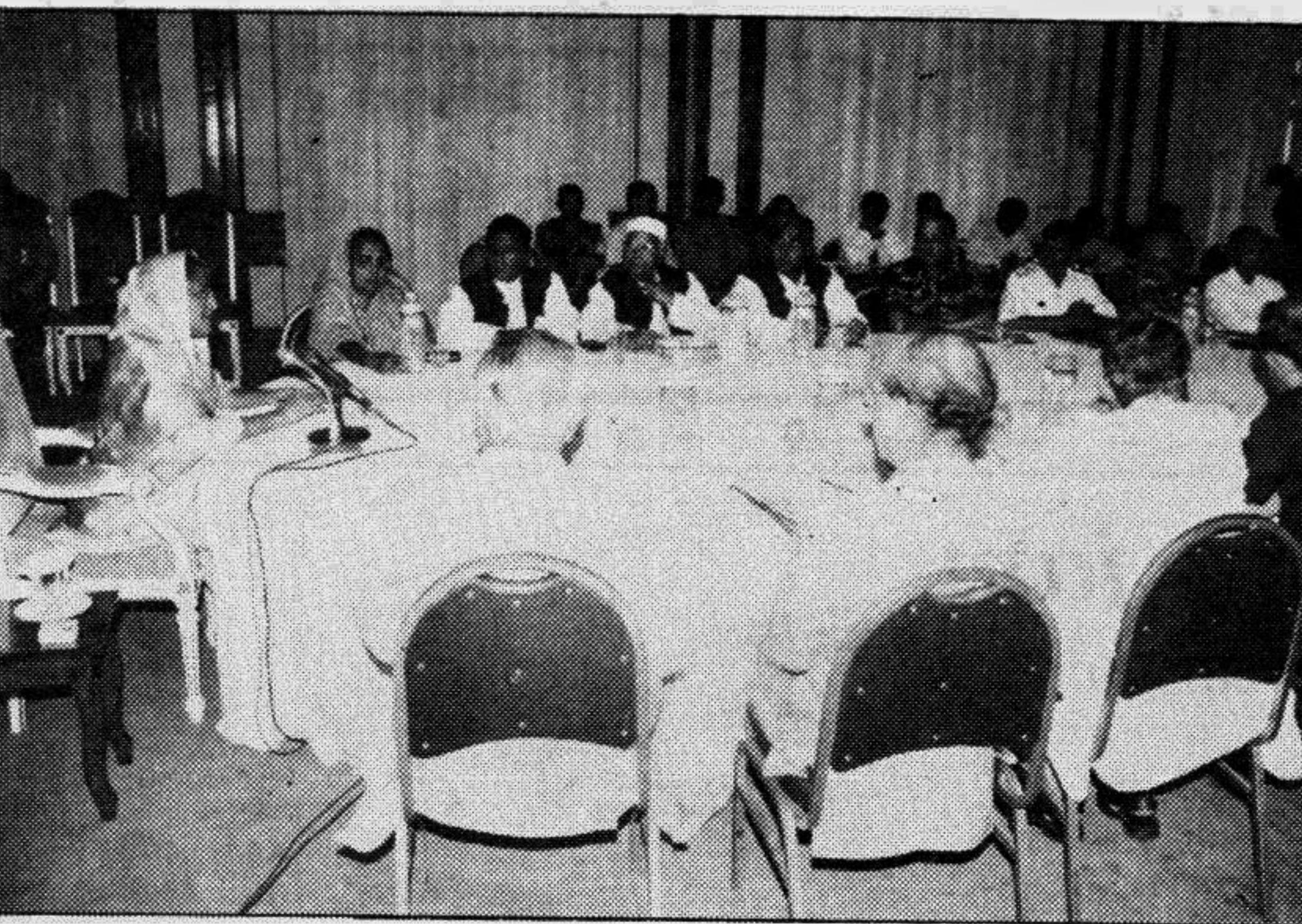
Zillur Rahman said the bilateral relations with foreign countries have been strengthened and high economic growth achieved due to the government's efficient policies.

"Being jealous of the success of government, they have called innumerable hartals without any issues," alleged the LGRD Minister.

He called upon the people to resist the evil attempt of creating unrest and anarchy by BNP and its allies.

Organised by local Awami League, the rally was addressed, among others, by Advocate Shah Alam, MP, Dilara Harun, MP, and local AL leaders.

Earlier, the LGRD Minister inaugurated the Amitch Chemical Industry, laid the foundation stone of Talashahor UP complex and attended the inauguration ceremony of the newly constructed Brahmanbaria Municipal auditorium, said a PID handout.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presiding over a meeting of the National Disaster Management Committee at Ganobhaban yesterday.

— PID photo

2 lakh marooned

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Highways department workers are struggling to restore road link between Comilla and Brahmanbaria, dumping sand bags.

Officials of Water Development Board said the breaches in the Gunti embankment would be repaired soon.

The district administration with assistance from armed forces so far distributed Tk 4.51 lakh in cash and 107 tonnes of rice among the flood victims.

Meanwhile, Flood Warning Centre said the flood situation in other parts of the country continued to improve as there was rainfall in the last three days resulting in recession in the water levels in major rivers.

Dr Kamal

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copter for election purpose before the next parliament session and relevant parliamentary standing committees for discussion.

The Election Commission should ask all parties willing to contest any election to furnish declaration of assets of elected MPs, their dependent family members and office-bearers.

The political parties should have to declare the mode and source of their earning and expenditure, and political leaders have to file income tax returns with the income tax authorities.

Replies to a question, he said all elections, including those of local bodies, under a neutral caretaker government is not possible. But the provision for holding some major elections, like the city corporation polls along with the national elections under a caretaker administration, can be made on the basis of national consensus.

The promoters of tubewell culture in Bangladesh should now bear the moral responsibility to inform people about the dangers hidden in the country's underground aquifer, said Dr Babar Kabir.

Prof Ainun Nishat said drinking water must be safe and made available at affordable cost. He underlined the importance of a sustained campaign against arsenic contamination without creating panic among the members of the public.

Some participants also underscored the importance of a "media-hype" over the lurking dangers of arsenic contamination in groundwater, not only to create public awareness but also to draw the attention of the policy-makers and community leaders for mobilising all-out efforts to mitigate the hazards caused by arsenic.

About the opposition's demand for mid-term polls, Dr Kamal suggested that public opinion on the issue be sought. The mid-term elections should be held if people want it, he added.

He, however, said he wants a democratically elected government to complete its term.

Replies to another question, he said he provided ruling party MP Kader Siddiqui with legal assistance as a lawyer, "not to serve any other purpose".

Gano Forum leaders Sufiuddin Ahmed Manik, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Zahirul Islam, Mafizul Islam Khan and Sagir Anwar were present during the press conference.

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