

THE DAILY STAR-NIELSEN OPINION SURVEY

GOVT'S 100-DAY PERFORMANCE RATING

The Daily Star

DHAKA THURSDAY APRIL 16, 2009

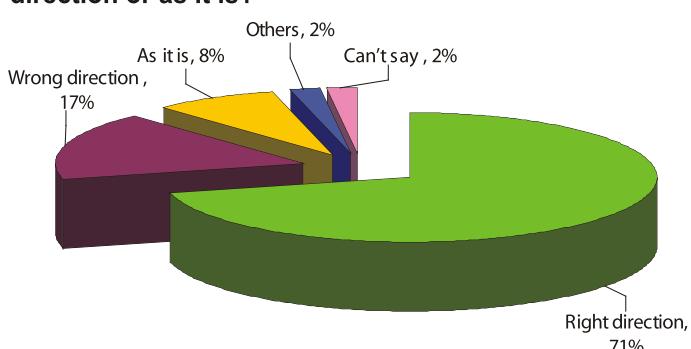
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Right or wrong direction

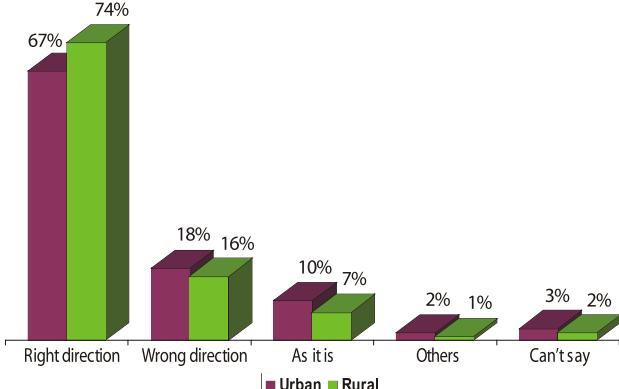
A majority of 71 percent people think the country is moving in the right direction after the AL-led government took over. Only 17 percent said in the negative and another 8 percent believe it is in a static situation. Rural people are more in favour as 74 percent of them think positively against 67 percent of the urbanites.

When the focus was narrowed down to the first 100 days, 62 percent people said they are satisfied with the government and another 19 percent very much satisfied. Only 15 percent said they are not satisfied.

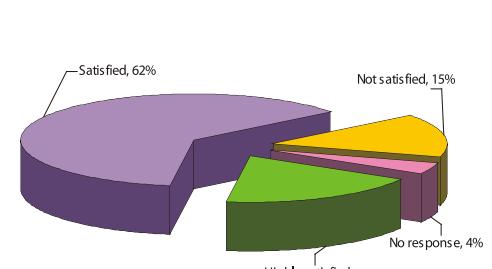
Overall, after taking over by the current government, do you think that the country is moving in right or wrong direction or as it is?



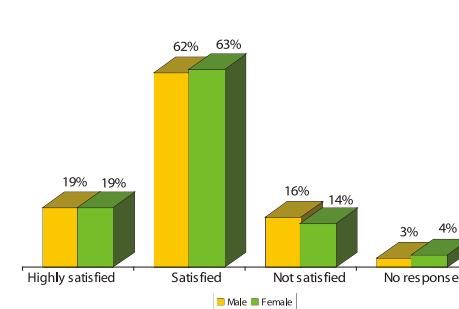
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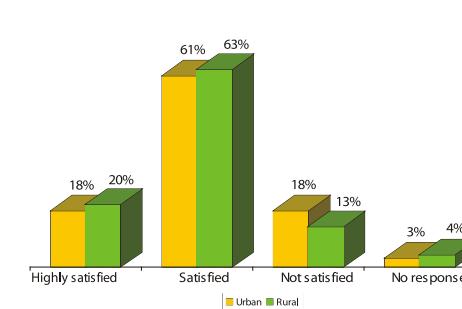
How do you rate the govt's 100-day performance?



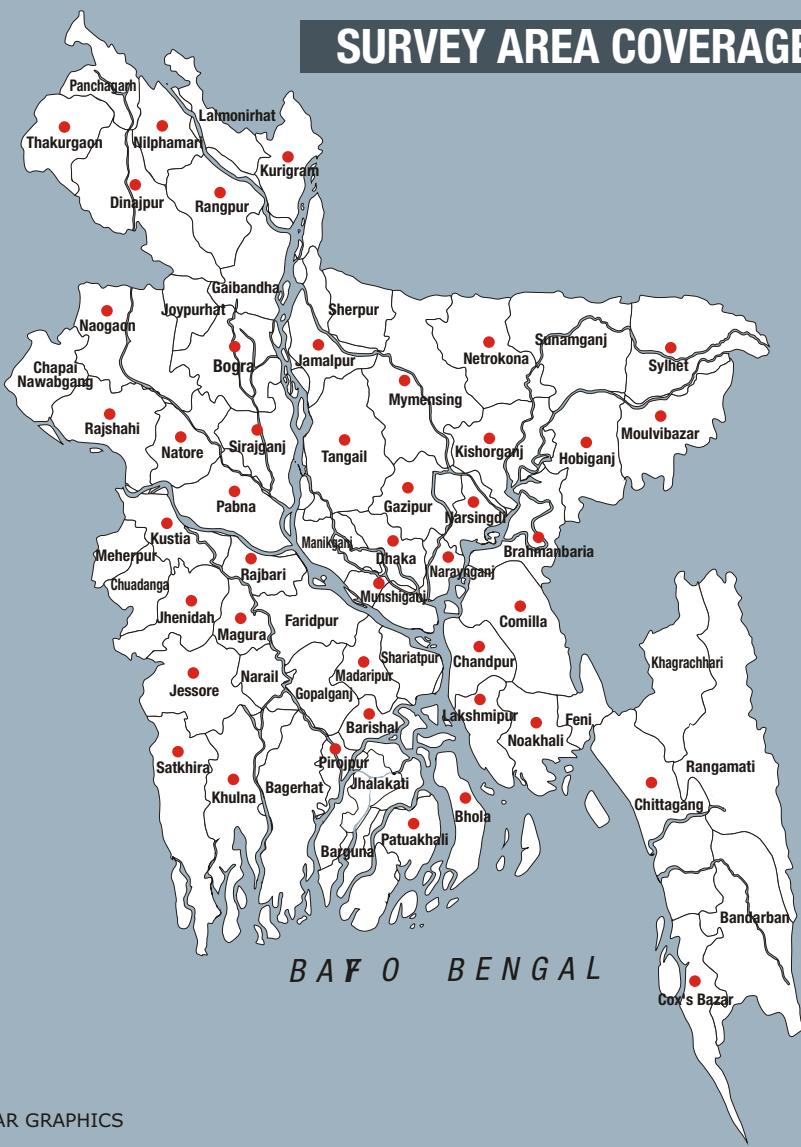
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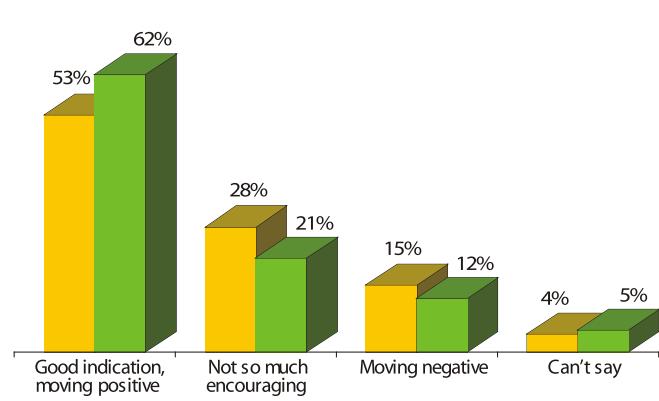
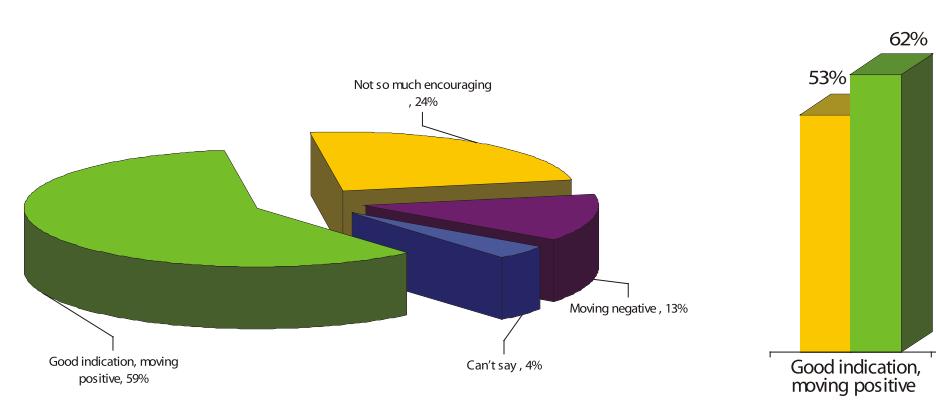
SURVEY AREA COVERAGE



Economy

Some 59 percent people think the economy is doing fine, 24 percent feels economy is not in an encouraging state and 13 percent think it is performing negatively. Rural people are more positive about the economy (62 percent) than urbanites (53 percent). Females also think better of the economy (62 percent) than the males (55 percent).

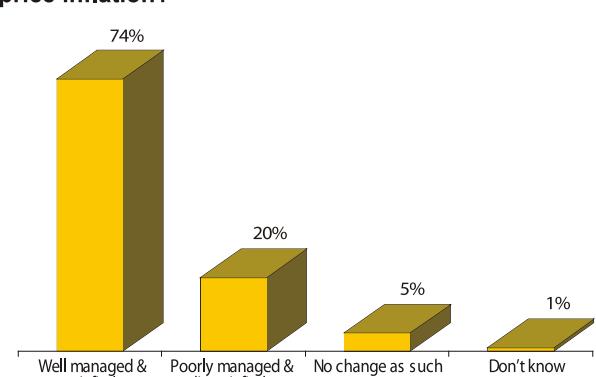
What is your opinion about the economy after the new govt took over?



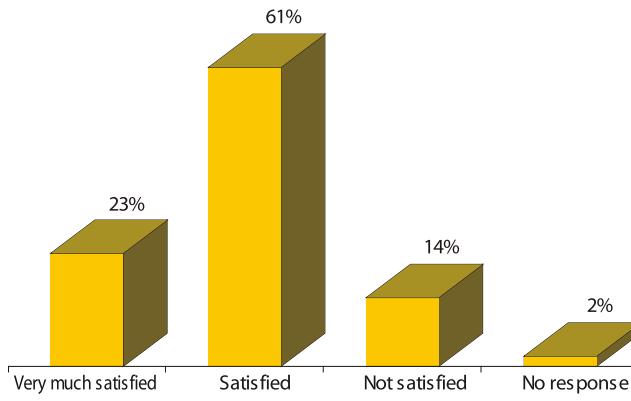
Inflation

A large number of respondents (74 percent) think the government had managed price inflation of general commodities well while 20 percent think the issue has been poorly managed. Rural people (75 percent) had given better score in this regard than urban dwellers (71 percent). When focus was shifted specifically on prices of food items, the government scored even better as 61 percent said they are satisfied and another 23 percent very much satisfied. Only 14 percent said they are not satisfied.

What is your opinion about the govt's efforts in managing/tackling price inflation?



How satisfied are you about the current role the government in controlling prices of essential food items?



Survey Methodology

The objective of The Daily Star-Nielsen Opinion Survey on the Government's 100-day Performance Rating, 2009 was carried out to assess citizens' view on the AL-led government's performance in key areas. The study explored the general perception according to gender, age group, urban-rural and different constitutional setting, socio-economic and geographic divisions.

To ensure that the sample properly represents all possible categories, respondents were selected from the following groups:

- Urban and rural areas
- Male and female population
- Age 18 years and above

Study Design: The sample for the poll covered the entire population residing in private dwellings units in the country. Administratively, Bangladesh is divided into six divisions. In turn, each division is divided into districts, and each district into upazila. Each urban area in the municipality is divided into wards, and into mahallas within the ward. Each rural area in the upazila is divided into union parishad (UP) and into mouzas within UPs. Therefore, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were mouza in the rural areas and mohallah in the urban areas. From each PSU, required number of households and respondents were

selected randomly. The list of mouzas and mohallas were procured from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Therefore, to capture overall picture of Bangladesh, the poll was carried out in 44 districts, covering all the 6 administrative divisions across Bangladesh.

A target number of completed interviews with eligible adult population were set at 2,520 based on standard statistical formula, both from rural and urban areas. The urban-rural distribution of sample reflects the national pattern of population distribution. The survey was quantitative in nature, interviewed at household level and the survey period was April 9-12, 2009.

In this quantitative approach, face-to-face interviews were conducted using semi-structured questionnaires.

The interviews were done on 180 spots or PSUs covering 44 districts in 90 upazilas/thanas. Fourteen individuals were interviewed at each spot. The PSUs were chosen using probability random sampling.

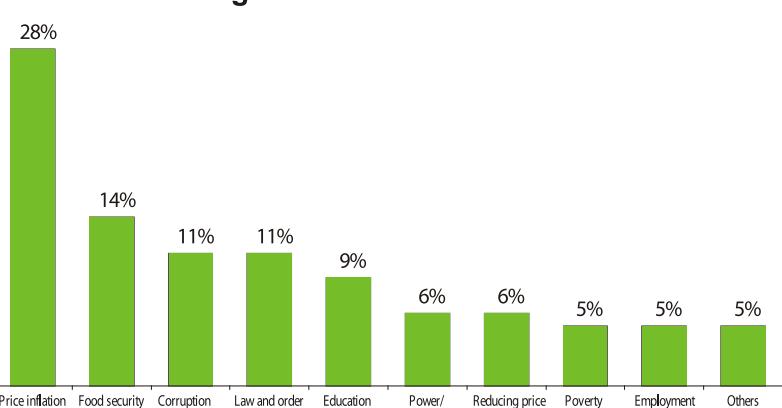
The opinion survey strictly adhered to the internationally laid down methodology and ethical standards as specified ESOMAR (European Society of Opinion and Marketing Research) and standards of Nielsen Worldwide.

- Average age of respondents: 35 years, ranging from 18 to 86 years
- Male-Female ratio: 50:50
- Literacy range: 70 percent literate, 30 percent not literate, but many can sign names
- Rural-urban ratio: 70:30

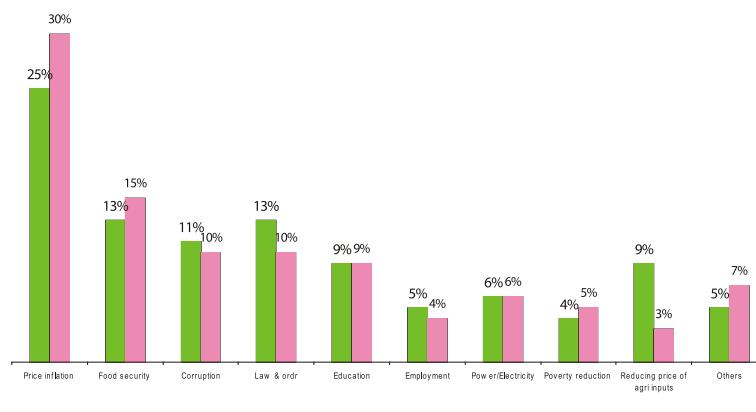
Issue for attention

Respondents were asked to identify one issue which they think the government should pay highest attention. Price inflation topped the list with 23 percent voting for it. More females (30 percent) and rural people (30 percent) list price inflation as the number one issue than males (25 percent) and urban people (24 percent). More urbanites (15 percent) think corruption as an issue of concern than rural people (7 percent).

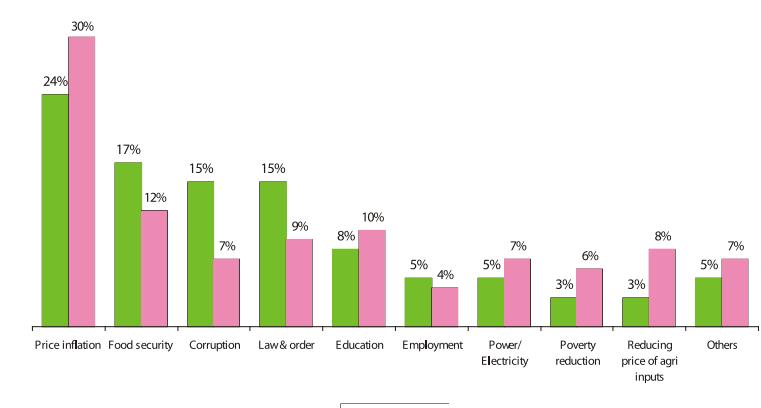
Name one issue that you think need the greatest attention of the government?



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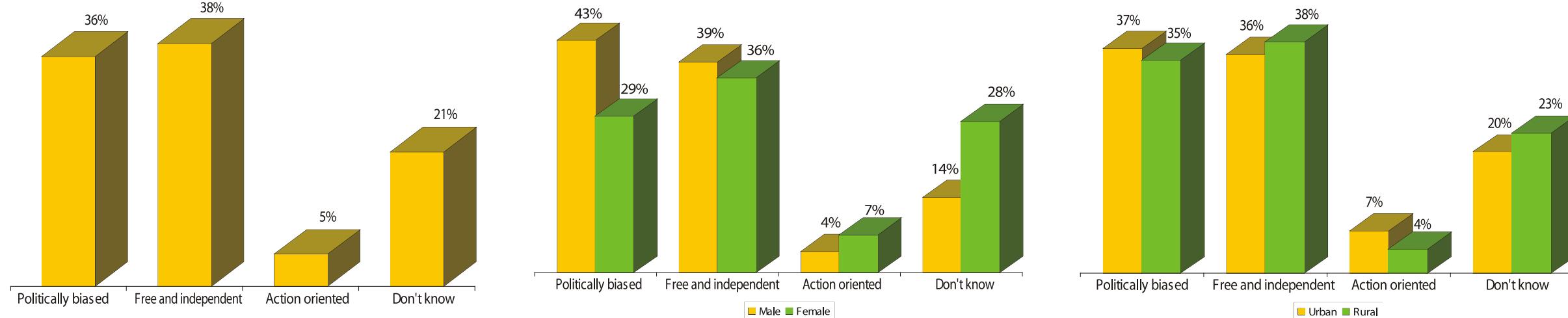
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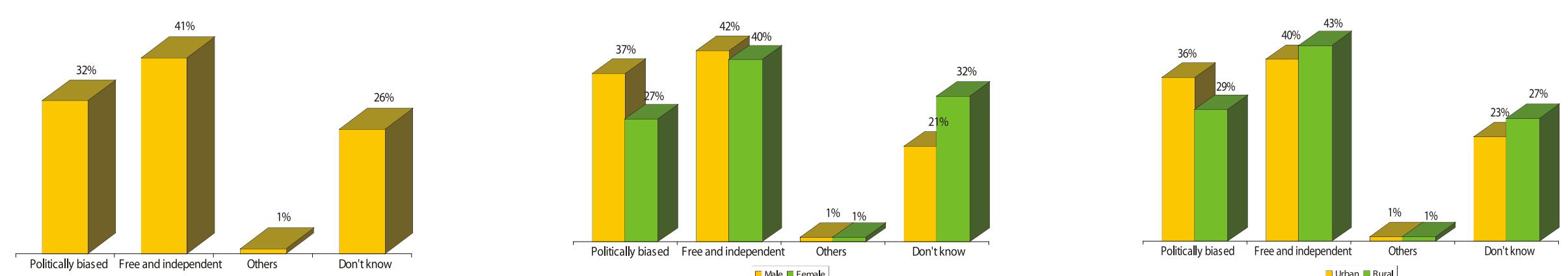
Administration and judiciary

The government scored poorly on administration and judiciary affairs as a significant portion of the people (36 percent) think administration to be politically biased while 38 percent think it is free and independent. More males (43 percent) think administration to be politically biased than females (29 percent). Similarly, 32 percent thinks judiciary to be politically influenced and 41 percent thinks it is free.

What is your opinion about current administration? What is your opinion about current administration? What is your opinion about current administration?



What is your opinion about the functions of judiciary?



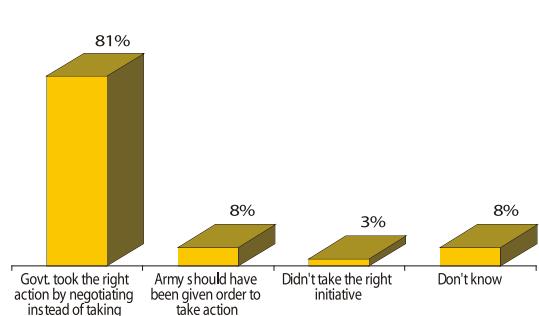
BDR incident

On the February 25-26 BDR carnage, an overwhelming 81 percent think that the government took the right action by negotiating with the mutineers instead of opting for military action. Eight percent feel army should have been given order to take action and 3 percent feel the government's actions were not correct. This issue drew very little variation in answers between urban and rural, and male and female respondents. This shows that such opinion is held by people across the political divide as the opposition collectively bagged about 37.5 percent of the votes in the last election.

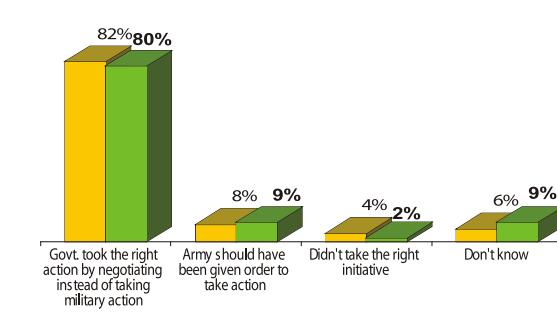
About the role of the opposition on the BDR incident, 20 percent found it to be critical and provocative and 16 percent said it was negative. Only 9 percent felt the opposition played a positive role.

And a highest 47 percent do not agree with the opposition's view that army action was needed to tackle the BDR incident. Eleven percent feel this would have been suicidal leading to killing of more people and army. Seven percent believe that would have led to fighting between army and BDR and six percent think it would have led to a civil war.

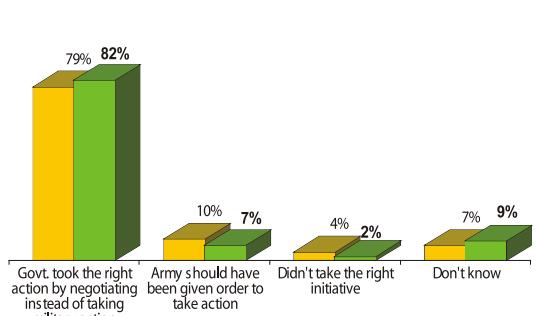
How would you evaluate the govt's role during the BDR incident?



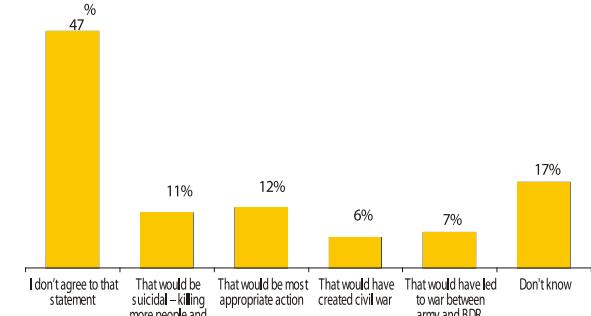
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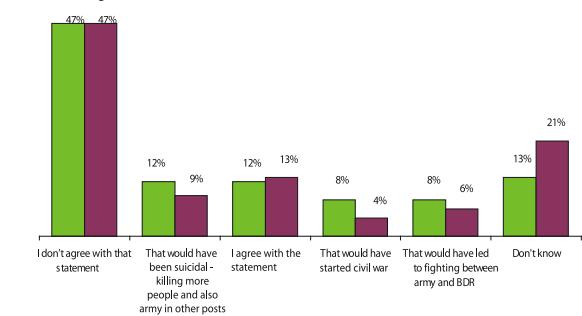
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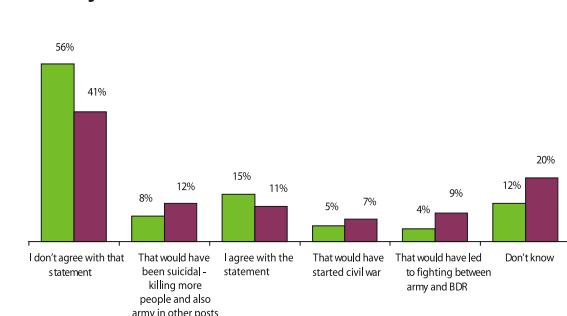
What is your opinion on the views of the opposition – "army should be in action".



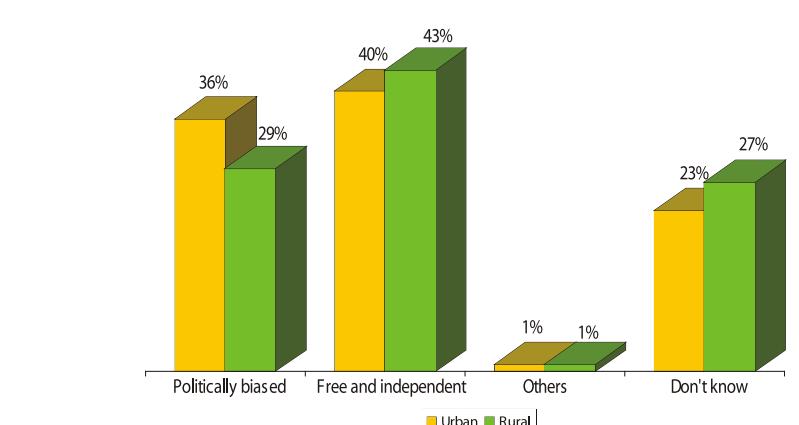
What is your opinion about the opposition's view – "army should have been asked to take action".



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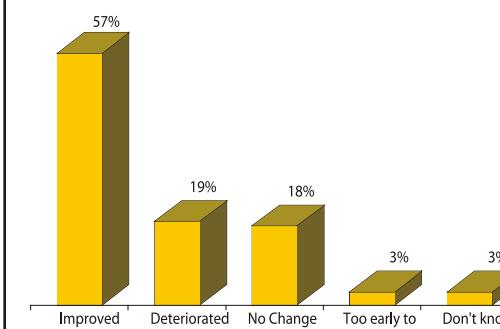
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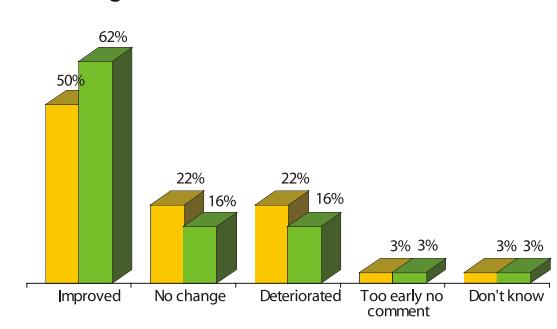
Law and order

Some 57 percent feels law and order has improved after this government has taken over. But this becomes pale if compared to the percentage of people who think otherwise. Some 19 percent think law and order has deteriorated while 18 percent think it has not changed from previous times, which itself is a negative statement. More rural people (62 percent) favoured improvement against urban respondents (50 percent).

What do you think about the law and order situation after this govt took over?



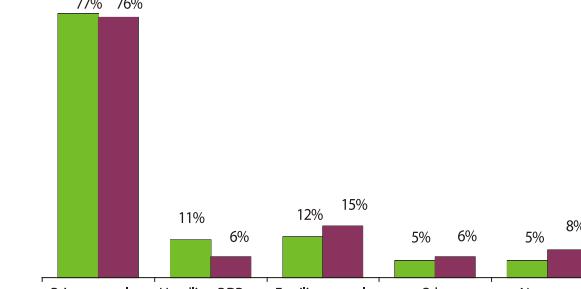
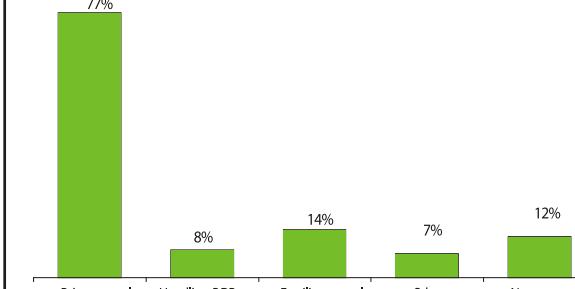
What do you think about the law and order situation after this govt took over?



100-day success

In an open-ended question, the respondents were asked to state what they feel is the most successful job of the AL-led government in its first 100 days. A large portion of respondents 77 percent picked price control followed by ensuring fertilizer supply (14 percent). Eight percent said handling of the BDR incident was the biggest success of the government. Rural people (15 percent) rated fertilizer supply more than their urban counterparts (12 percent). On the other hand, more urban people (11 percent) chose BDR incident over rural respondents (6 percent).

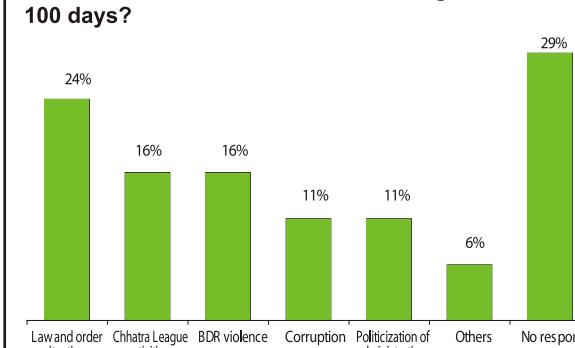
What are the areas of success of the govt in 100 days? What are the areas of success of the govt in 100 days?



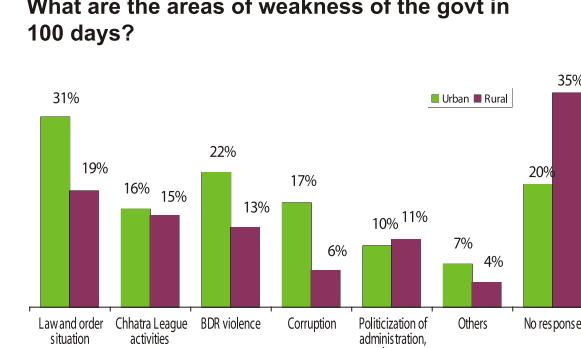
100-day weakness

Asked to choose the weak points of the government in 100 days, a highest 24 percent said it is law and order situation, followed by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) (16 percent) and BDR incident (16 percent again). A large portion of the surveyed people (29 percent) however refrained from making any comment. This question evoked interesting answers if compared between the urban and rural respondents. The rural people are not as concerned as the urban dwellers about law and order. And a large section of the rural population (35 percent) did not answer at all.

What are the areas of weakness of the govt in 100 days?



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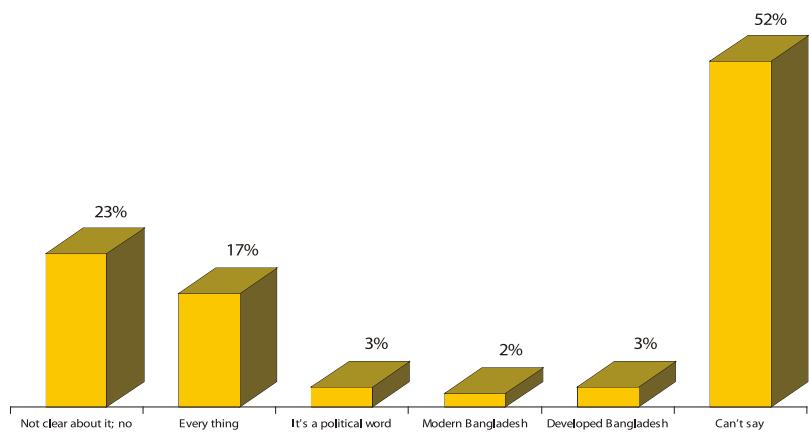
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Digital Bangladesh

One of the unique selling point of the AL in the election was the pledge to build a 'Digital Bangladesh'. The survey sought to measure the people's understanding about the issue. Interestingly, 52 percent of the respondents could not say anything about it. Twenty-three percent said they are not clear about the idea and 17 percent feel they think it means computerization of the society. Female and rural people are more confused about the idea than their urban counterparts.

What do you understand by Digital Bangladesh?

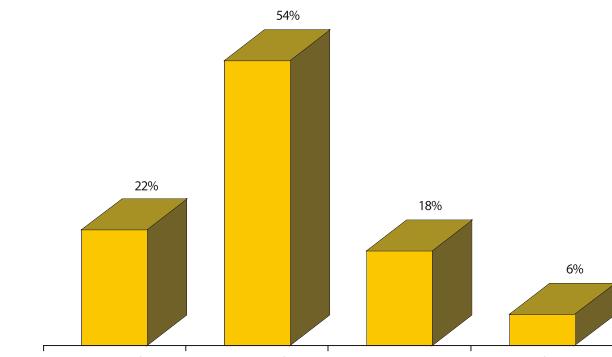


Corruption

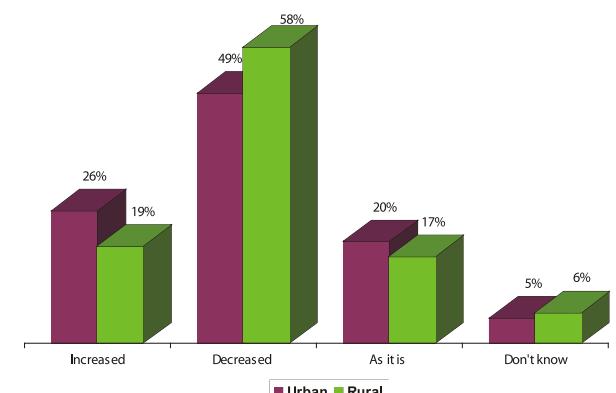
On corruption. Interestingly, 54 percent feels graft has decreased after the AL-led government took over. But equally a large segment feels it has either increased (22 percent) or remains the same (18 percent) showing no improvement. Here, more urban people (26 percent) feel corruption has increased over rural counterparts (19 percent) and conversely, more rural respondents (58 percent) feel corruption has decreased than urban respondents (49 percent) after the new government came in.

Asked to comment on Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury's resignation from the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC), 17 percent said it would lead to an increase in corruption, 8 percent said anti-graft drive will be affected and 4 percent said ACC will lose its image. Twelve percent thinks corruption will remain as it is. However, a large 50 percent people said they are not sure about the impact. Urban and male respondents took the resignation more negatively.

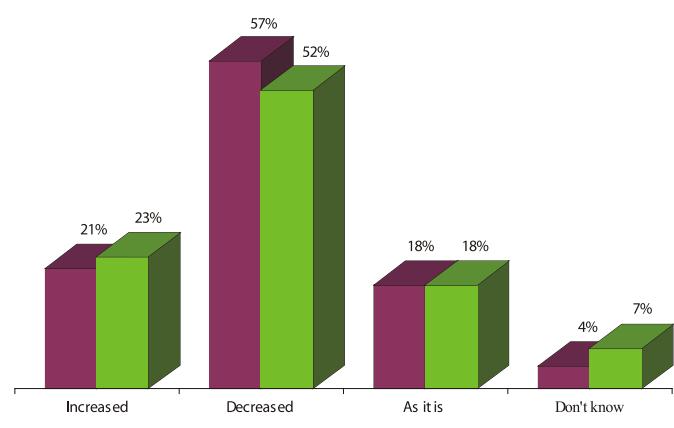
After taking over by the present government, do you think corruption has increased, decreased or same?



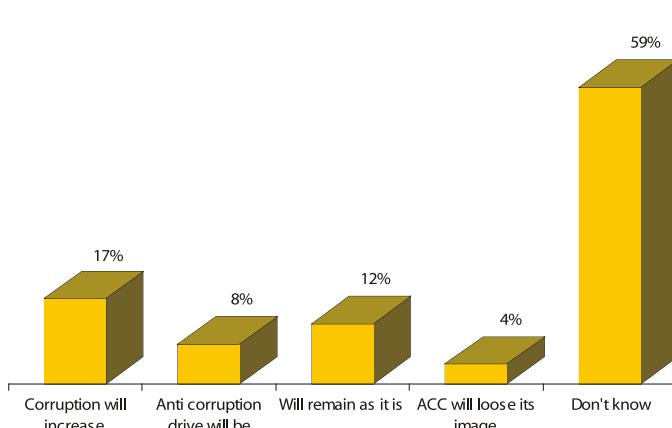
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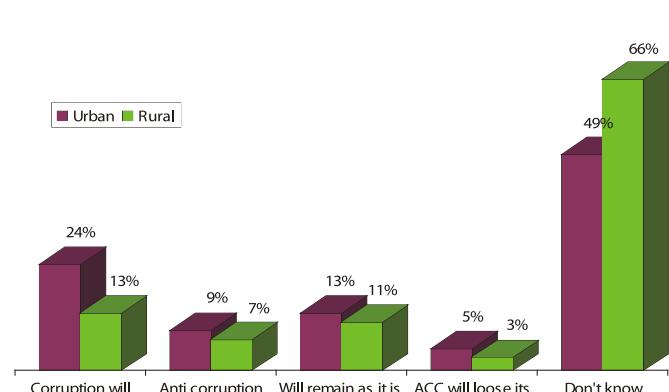
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ACC Chairman Hasan Mashud Chowdhury resigned. What is your opinion about it?



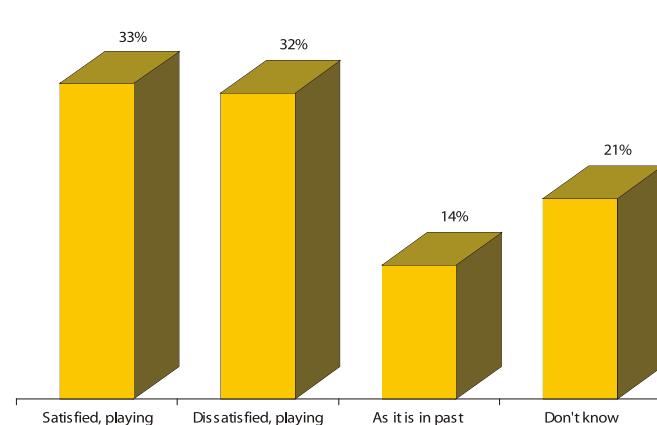
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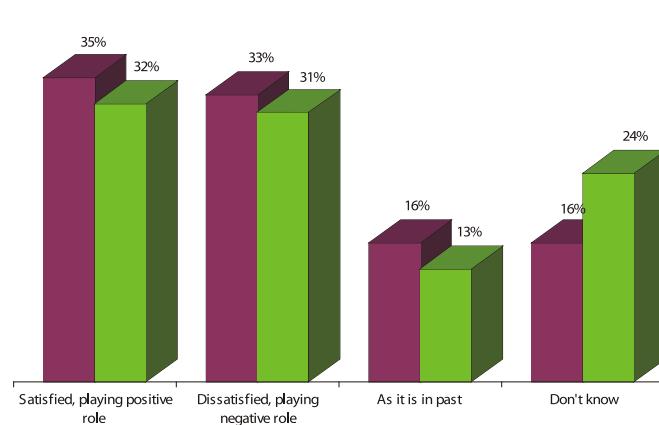
Role of the opposition

The opposition fared poorly when asked what respondents think about its role. Some 32 people percent think the opposition played a negative role and are dissatisfied by its activities. Another 14 percent thinks the opposition's role is as before. These two combined make a negatively tilted view of the opposition. And only 33 percent is happy with the opposition and think it is playing a positive role. Twenty-one percent however said they have no idea in this regard.

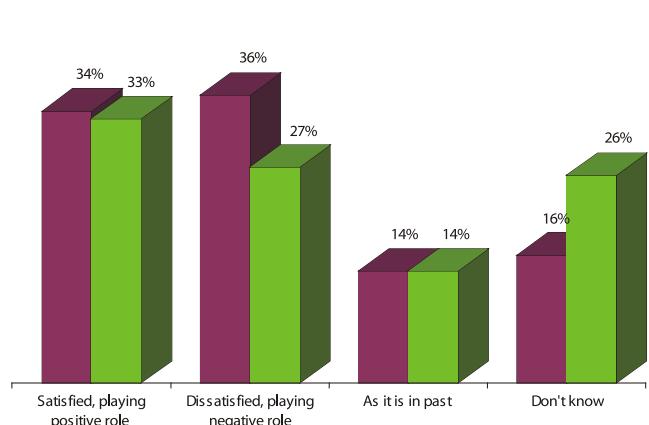
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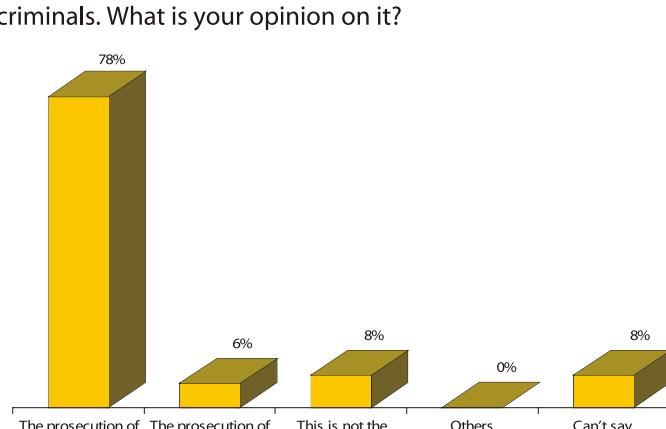
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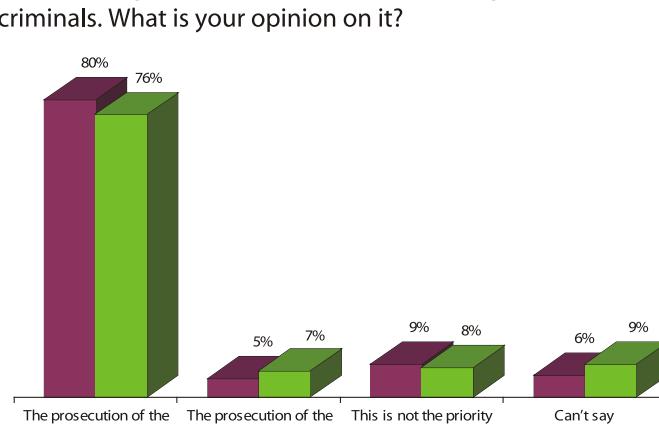
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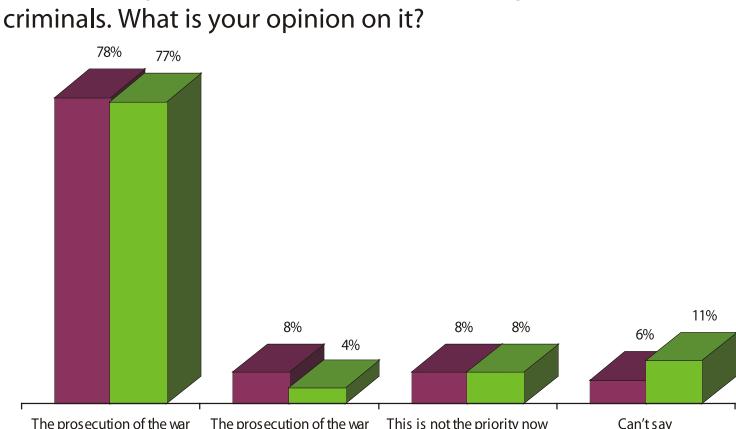
The current govt. is in the process of initiating the trials of war criminals. What is your opinion on it?



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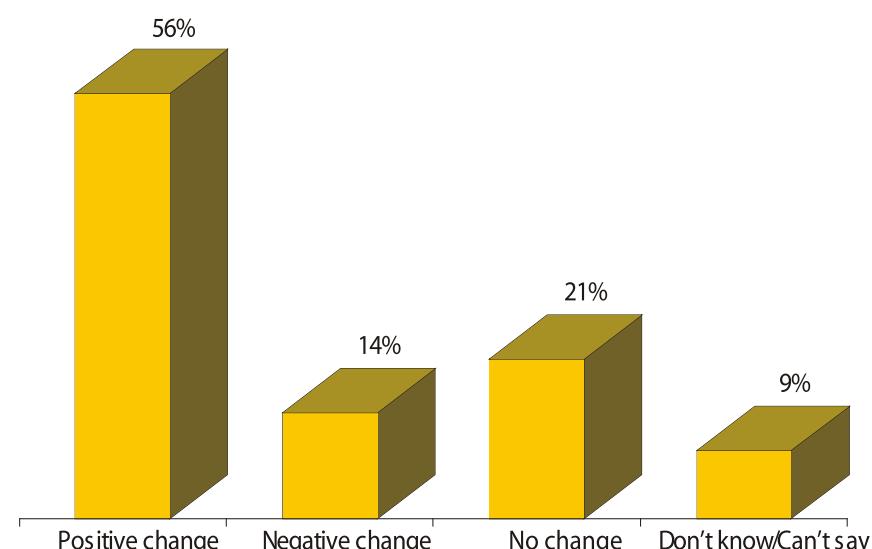
The Daily Star

Do you see any change in political culture?

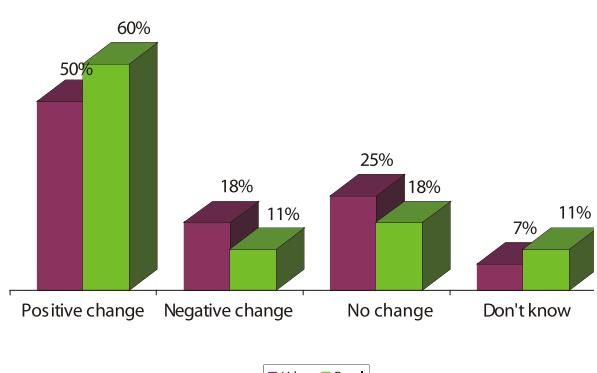
Political culture

A large number of people 56 percent feel a positive change in political culture after the new government came to power. But a large segment of 14 percent says a negative change has occurred and 21 percent say the culture remains the same, which in fact is a negative answer. Urban people (50 percent) see less positive change than rural respondents (60 percent). Urbanites also are more critical about the political culture as 18 percent of them see a negative change and 25 percent no change as against 11 percent and 18 percent of the rural respondents. Males see more positive change (60 percent) than females (51 percent).

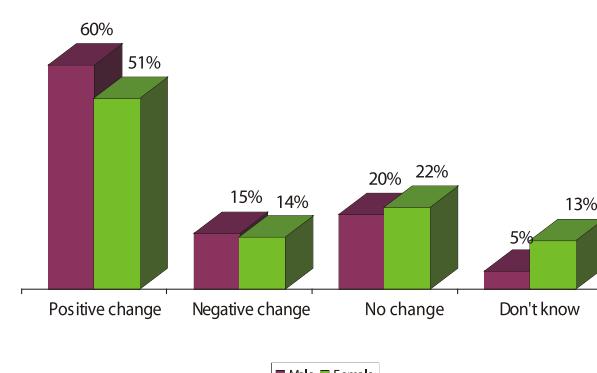
Respondents were asked if they fear old political practices will return after the power changeover. A large portion of 48 percent feels old practices will not return urbanites are more confident about it than rural respondents. And 29 percent said they do not know the answer. Twelve percent think culture of hartal will return, 6 percent thinks political violence and 5 percent feels extortion will start. Four percent feels politicization of administration, police and judiciary will take place.



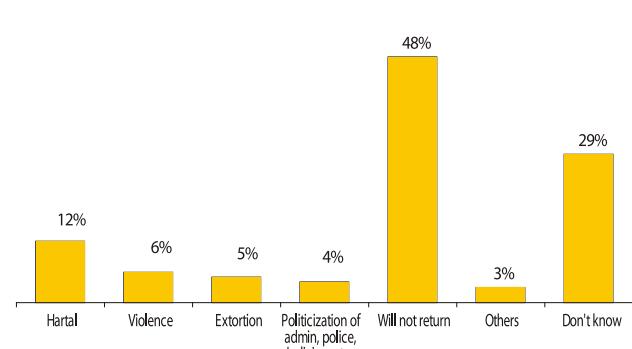
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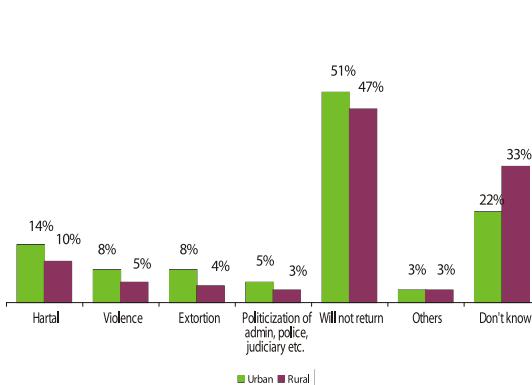
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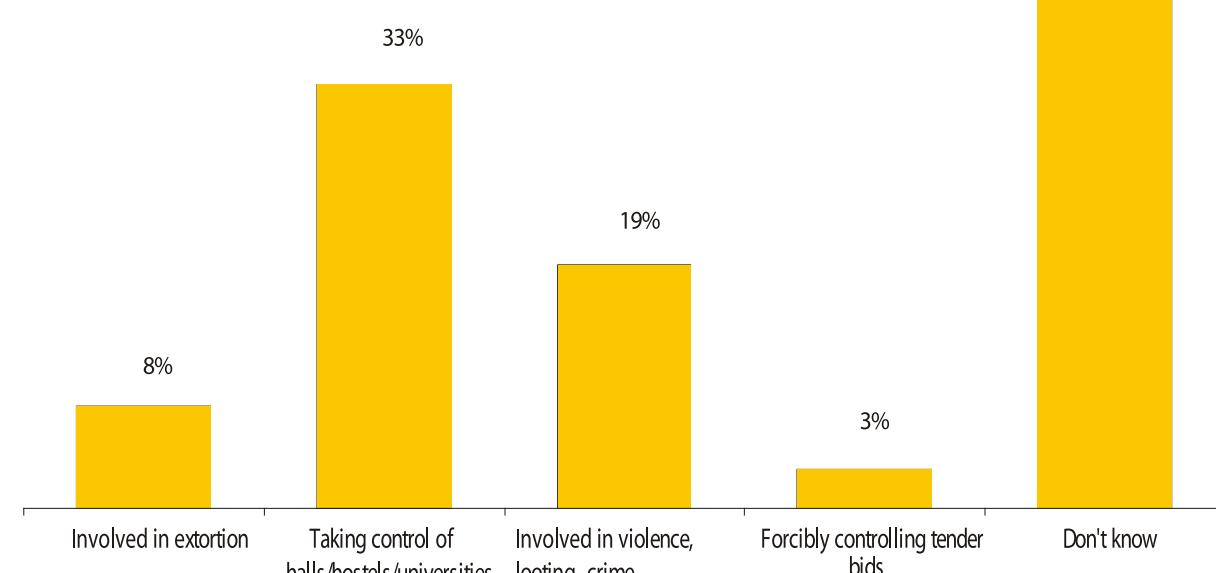
What is your opinion about the current role of Chhatra League?

Bangladesh Chhatra League

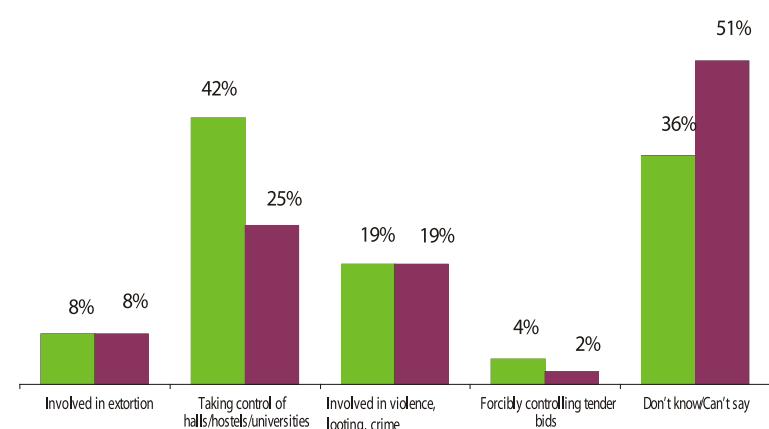
Asked to comment on the Bangladesh Chhatra league (BCL), the student wing of the AL, quite a negative image surfaced as 33 percent thinks this organization is out to capture halls and universities and 19 percent thinks it is committing violence, crimes and killings. However, a large 43 percent respondents said they don't know about BCL's role. More males (42 percent) than females (25 percent) and more urban dwellers (35 percent) than rural respondents (32 percent) feel BCL is out to capture universities and halls.

Some 44 percent respondents expressed the opinion that the BCL must be controlled strictly and 13 percent said all student politics must be banned. Thirty-six percent however said they cannot say anything in this regard.

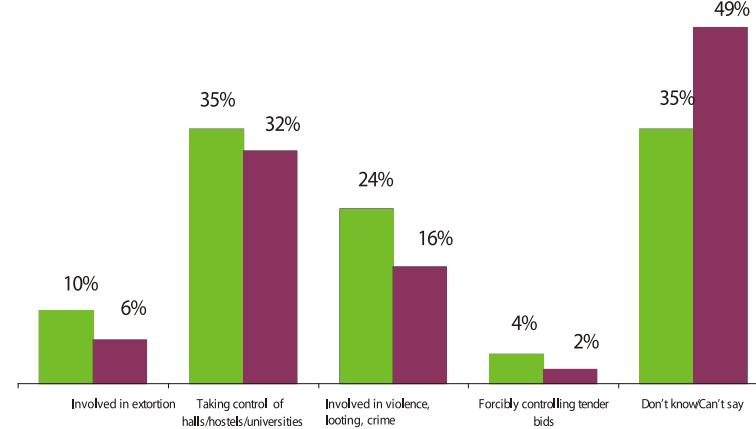
Asked about their opinion on the government's efforts to control campus violence, 42 percent said the government is trying to control BCL while 19 percent said the government has failed. More males (24 percent) and urban people (23 percent) think of a government failure to control campus violence.



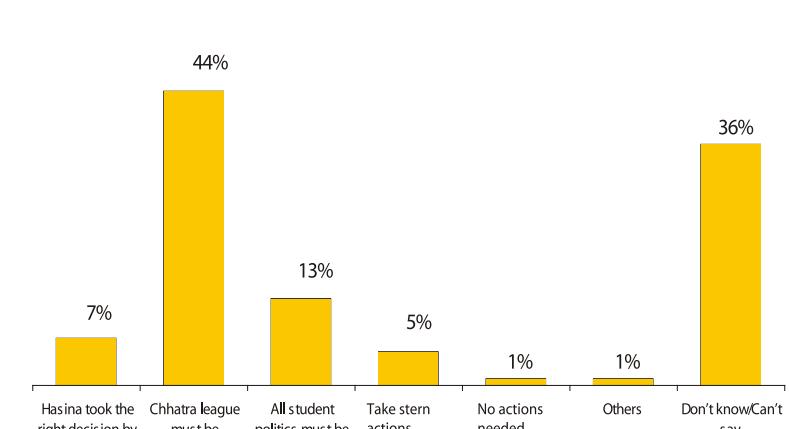
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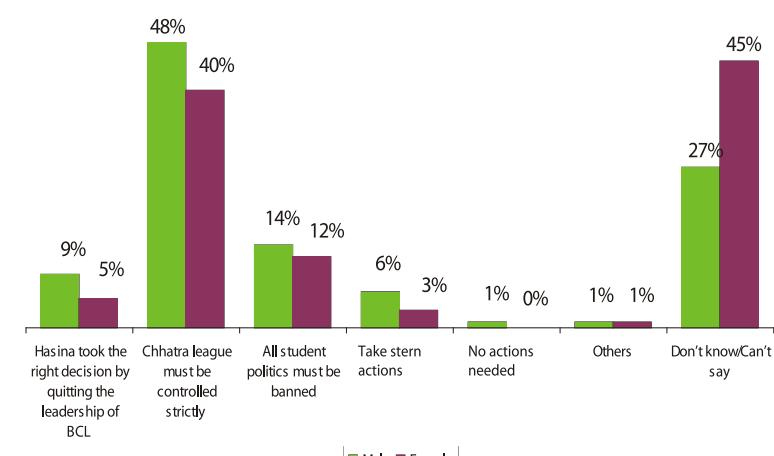
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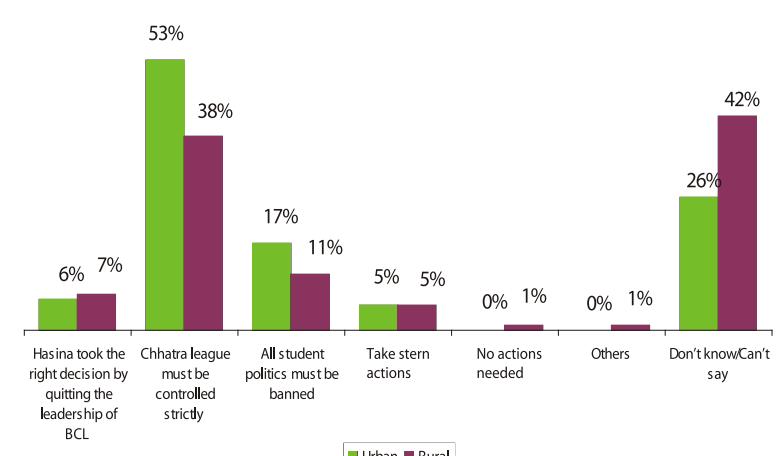
In your opinion, what should the government do about BCL?



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How do you evaluate govt's role in stopping violence in educational institutions?

