

Railway left in the lurch

The sector not getting \$600m from donors as reform remains stuck in bureaucracy for 4 years

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The struggling Bangladesh Railway is yet to get the much-needed \$600 million loan as for three and a half years bureaucracy had been stalling the rail reforms that the multilateral donors insisted on, officials concerned said.

The donors had initially released \$130 million but they are now saying it would not be able to release the remaining \$600 million more to build rail lines, buy locomotives, improve signalling system and other works unless the reforms are introduced to make Bangladesh Railway independent.

The Asian Development Bank, World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation



Agency had committed \$730 million funding to revamp the 150-year-old Bangladesh Railway. Since the independence of the country, this is the first time multilateral donors had pledged such a huge financing for the sector, railway officials said.

According to official documents and sources, the initiatives stalled or lost pace due to the roles of different ministries that did not want to give up their control over the railway.

Fed up with the government's delays, the ADB on June 16 wrote, "Despite our continued mutual efforts, we have yet to see sufficient progress [regarding the reforms] that will allow us to proceed with the processing of the second

Rental power boost for railway

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to implement four projects of Bangladesh Railway involving Tk 900 crore to reinstate two rail routes and develop a third one to ensure smooth supply of fuel for the upcoming rental power plants.

Of the total amount, Tk 280 crore will be funded from Indian credit under a deal signed recently.

The communications ministry will seek permission from the cabinet committee on economic affairs today for quick implementation of the projects and 10 percent advance payment for the contractors.

The rental power plants will be set up and commissioned within 2011, said the

Govt loses much of its shine

Reveals The Daily Star nielsen opinion poll

STAR REPORT

One and a half years into power, the government looks to lose much of its shine with fewer people seeing the country moving in the right direction. Also, fewer people are satisfied with the government.

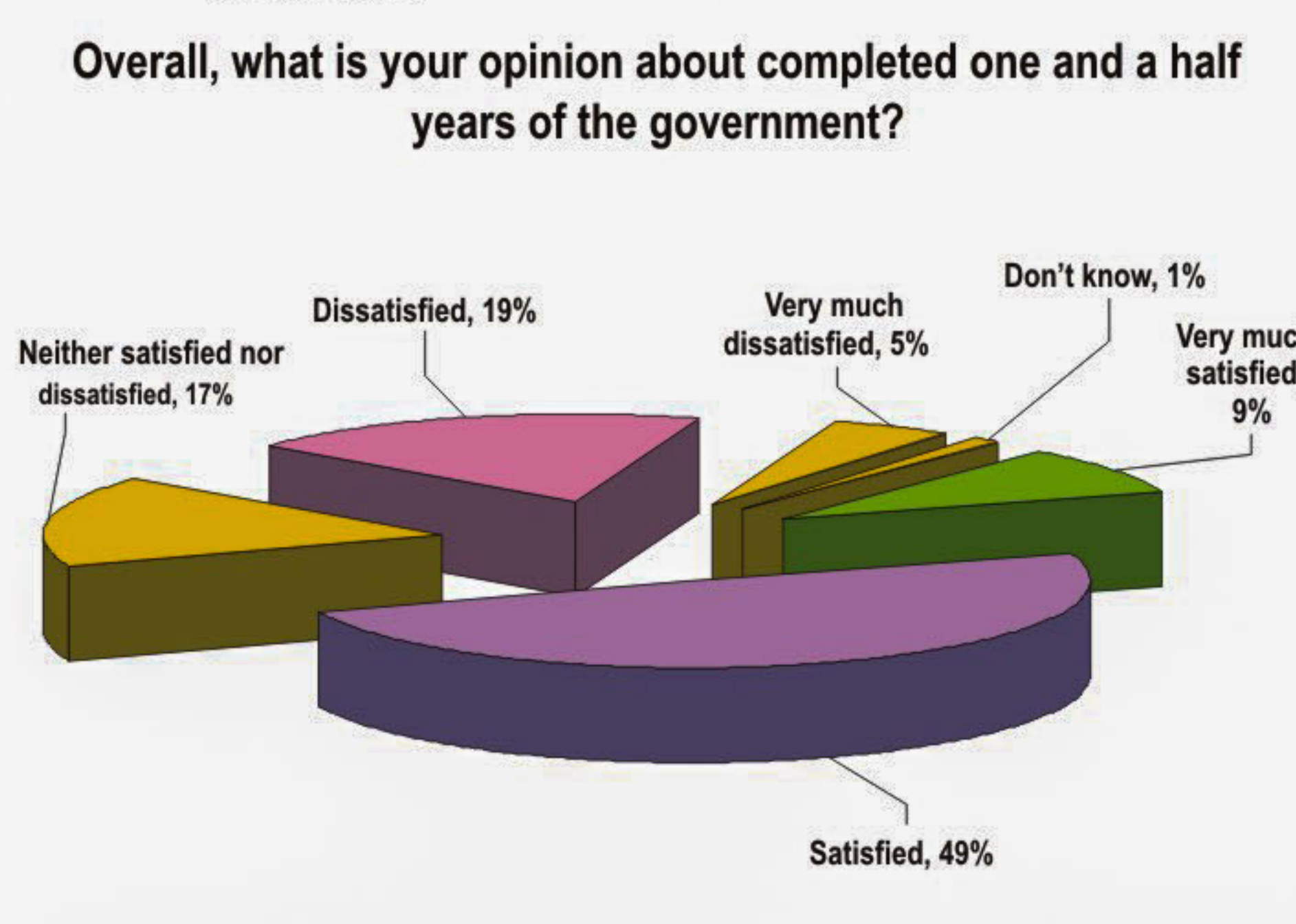
The number of dissatisfied people has also increased sharply who take a dimmer view of the economy.

These indications became clear when a The Daily Star Nielsen opinion poll conducted at the end of the government's one and a half years in power was compared with two previous polls conducted when the government completed its first 199 days and then again after one year.

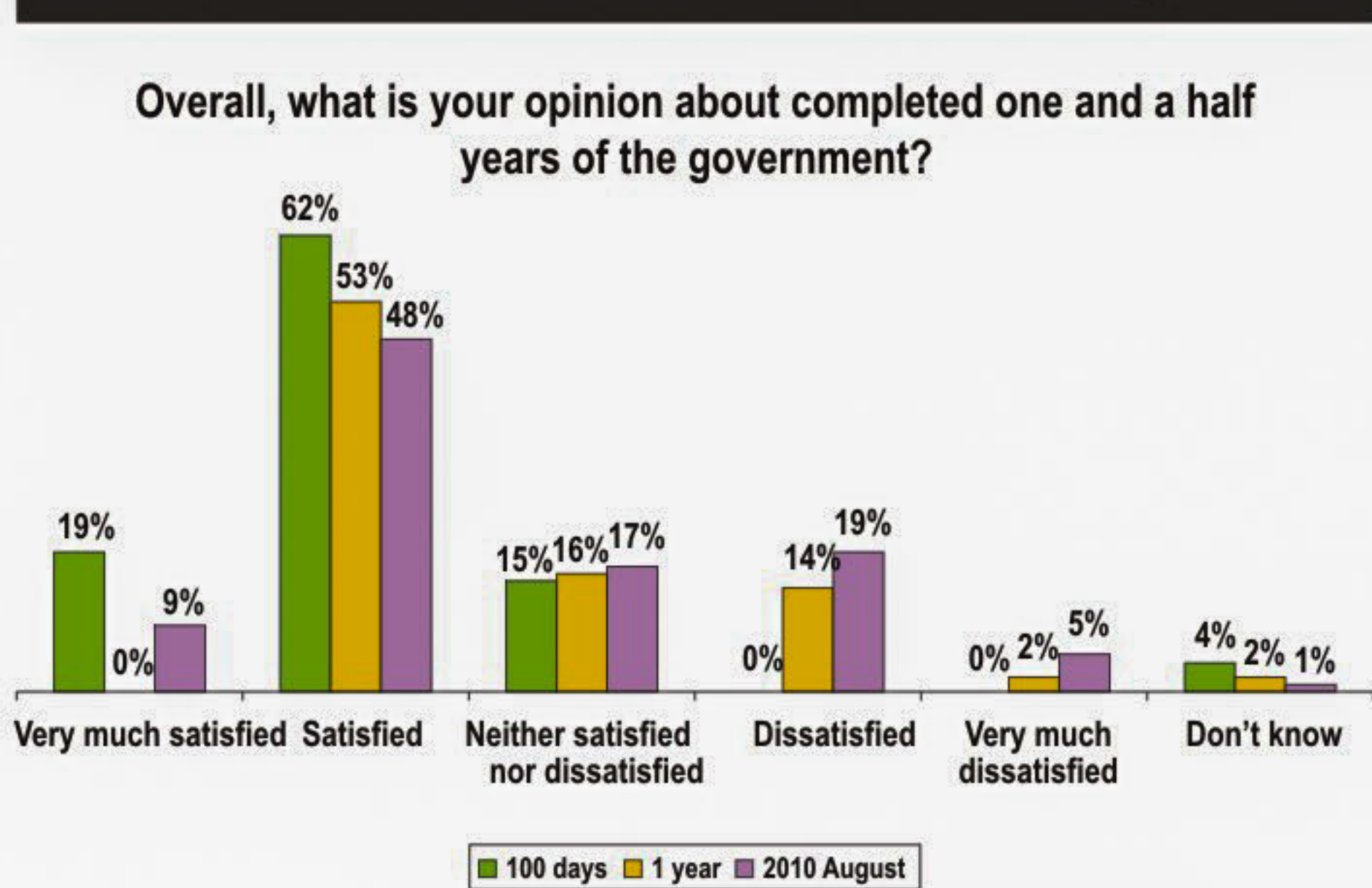
The recent poll after the one and a half years in power was conducted among 3,000 respondents in 44 districts across the country. The survey was done in early August.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's rating also dipped during the 18 months although she still enjoys a good chunk of support.

On the other hand,



Comparison of 3 surveys -- 100 days, 1 year, 1 1/2 years



JP won't appeal

Says it's no backer of army or unconstitutional rule

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad or his party will not appeal to the Appellate Division against the High Court verdict that declared the seventh amendment to the constitution illegal.

"Neither our party nor the party chief will appeal against the verdict. Our chairman has welcomed the historic judgment, as he as well as the party strongly support of democracy," Anisul Islam Mahmud, a presidium member of Jatiya

NEWS ANALYSIS Let Sangsad rule

Authority of JS must be restored fully

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliament has largely lost its power and pre-eminence due to some changes brought to the constitution by the 4th, 5th, 12th and 13th amendments.

Although the original constitution of 1972 ensured the parliament's supremacy over the executive and judicial branches of the state, the amendments brought by both military rulers and elected governments, not only eroded parliament's power, it made the House subservient to the chief executive in some cases.

The House was originally structured to serve



as the core of the parliamentary system of government. And accordingly, it was allowed sweeping authority to effectively hold the executive branch accountable.

Some reasonable restrictions were however imposed on members of the parliament, to prevent floor crossing, for the stability of the government.

The legislature was also empowered to remove constitutional officers such as the judges of Supreme Court, the chief election commissioner, election commissioners, the



People struggle to rescue a three wheeler stuck on a muddy road near Gabtali Dip Bazar yesterday. Commuters using the dilapidated road suffer a too troublesome journey every day, especially when it rains.

New CHAIRMAN, and The New MANAGING DIRECTOR of SAHCO International Ltd.

Md. Nurul Haque FCA
Chairman

Mr. Mostafa Faruque Mohammed
Managing Director

Director and employees of SAHCO International Limited greet and felicitate Md. Nurul Haque FCA and Mr. Mostafa Faruque Mohammed on their appointment as Chairman and Managing Director respectively of SAHCO International Limited. A graduate in Commerce of Dhaka University

Mr. Md. Nurul Haque FCA, Chairman brought with him extensive expertise in business management.

Mr. Mostafa Faruque Mohammed, a former Teacher of Economics in Dhaka University with a brilliant academic background throughout, is also a former Ambassador and Secretary to the Government. As a career diplomat he served in many capitals world over and developed extensive contacts at home and abroad.

IQBAL, SHAON BNP takes a swipe at govt

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition BNP yesterday came down heavily on the government for withdrawing cases against the ruling Awami League leaders and activists who were charged with murders and thus obstructing justice and rule of law.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain talking to newsmen at Naya Paltan central office yesterday afternoon referred to the case against Awami League leaders Dr Iqbal and Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon MP who were charge sheeted for shooting down four persons upon a BNP procession at Malibagh square in February 2001.

He wondered how the government construed the charge as 'political harassment' belying the police investigation.

He said the case against

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