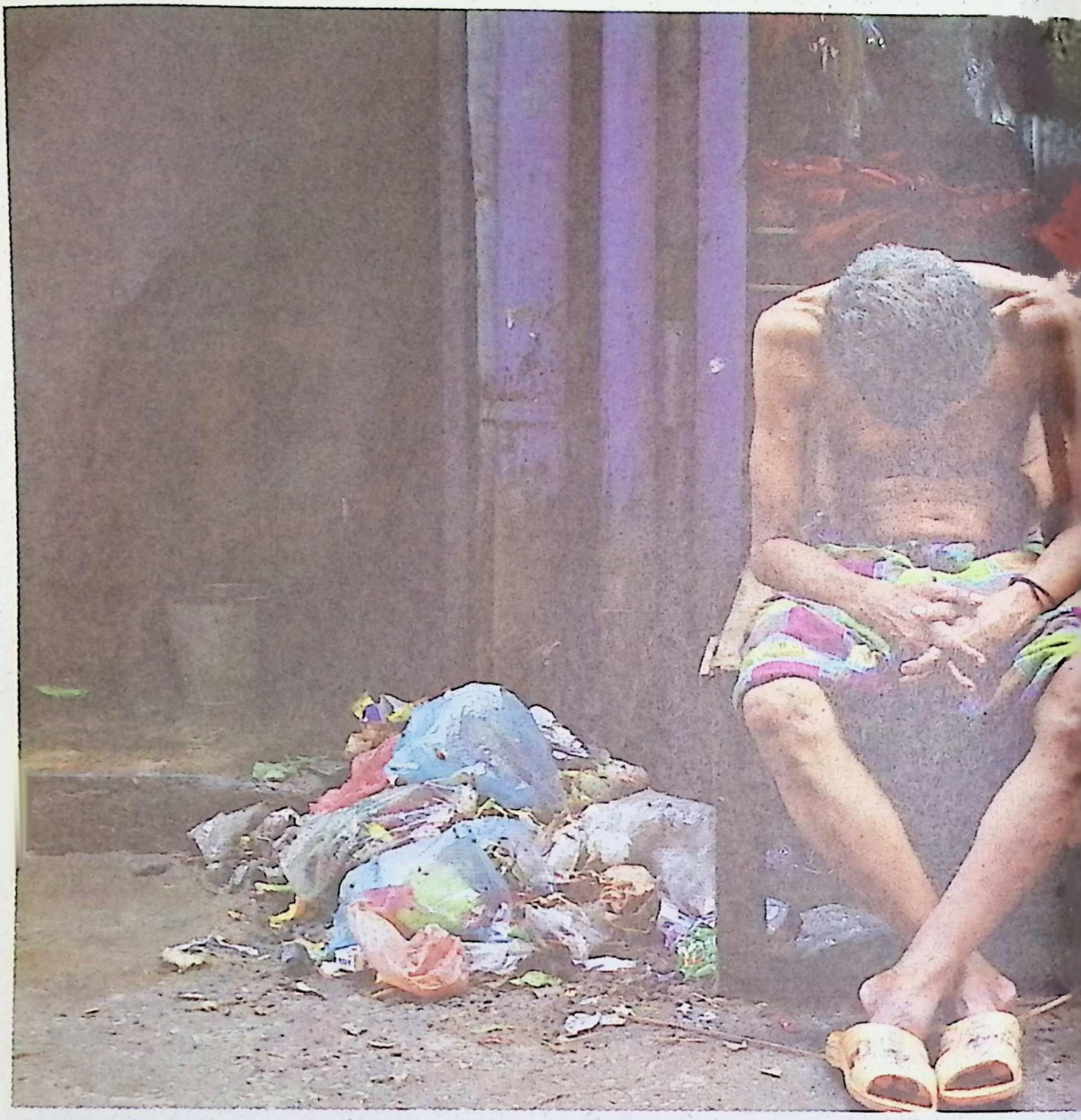


people of Bangladesh through a great political consensus. Following this result, the Khaleda Zia Government (1991-1996) disbursed 90 million BDT through Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM) to construct a geriatric hospital and an old home in Dhaka as well as five geriatric clinics in the five divisional headquarters in the country. Fortunately, this allocation was used properly and in time.

The Sheikh Hasina Government (1996-2001) for its part introduced Old-age Allowance Programme from the revenue budget in 1998 to subsidise the poor and vulnerable older persons. For the first time the Bangladesh government officially recognised state obligation in supporting the helpless older persons of the country.

Accordingly, in 1998, the government, through the Ministry of Social Welfare, made arrangements to identify and select the poor and older section of the older people (aged 65+) in rural areas to distribute 100 BDT (around US $ 2.00) for each person per month keeping a 50:50 gender balance. At one stage this programme started to cover some urban poor older persons as well.

The following is the list of this programme advancement: