



SNOWDEN WRITES TO MERKEL

The us whistleblower might help Germany in spy probe

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Amit Chowdhury says he feels closer to God through dance

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The Daily Star -ASIA FOUNDATION OPINION SURVEY

Good job, but short on votes

Most people happy with AL govt's performance, yet they don't want to vote for it in the next polls; caretaker issue a big negative point

STAR REPORT

At first glance it looks like a paradox. The Awami League-led government receives a lot of laurels from voters on various issues including agriculture, power supply, delivery of public service and law and order.

But when it comes to voting, a majority 55 percent people said they would vote for the BNP, and only 28 percent said they would vote for the AL.

Also a thinly higher percentage of people think the country is heading in the right direction.

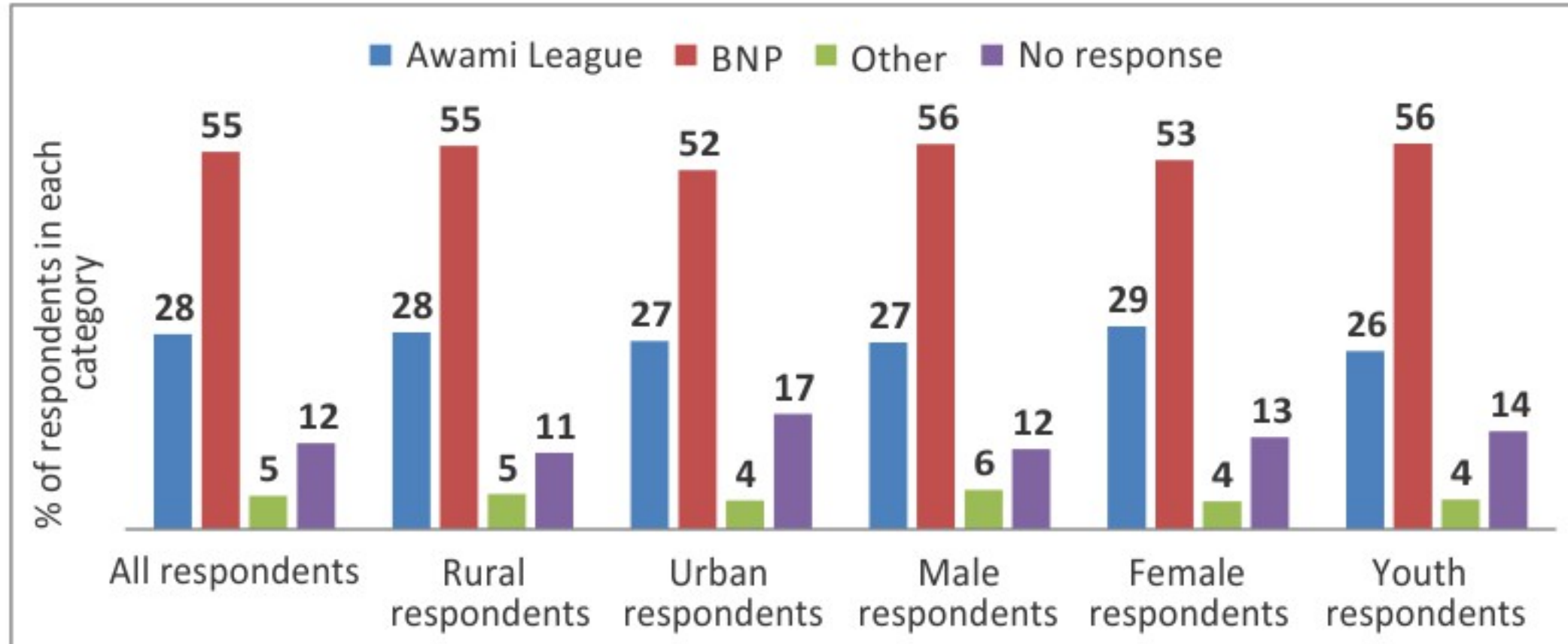
A close scrutiny would reveal that the AL actually lost people's confidence in a few crucial issues such as governance and corruption. And this might have ultimately led them to abandon the AL and root for the BNP.

Chucking away the caretaker government system seems to be a big negative point for the government

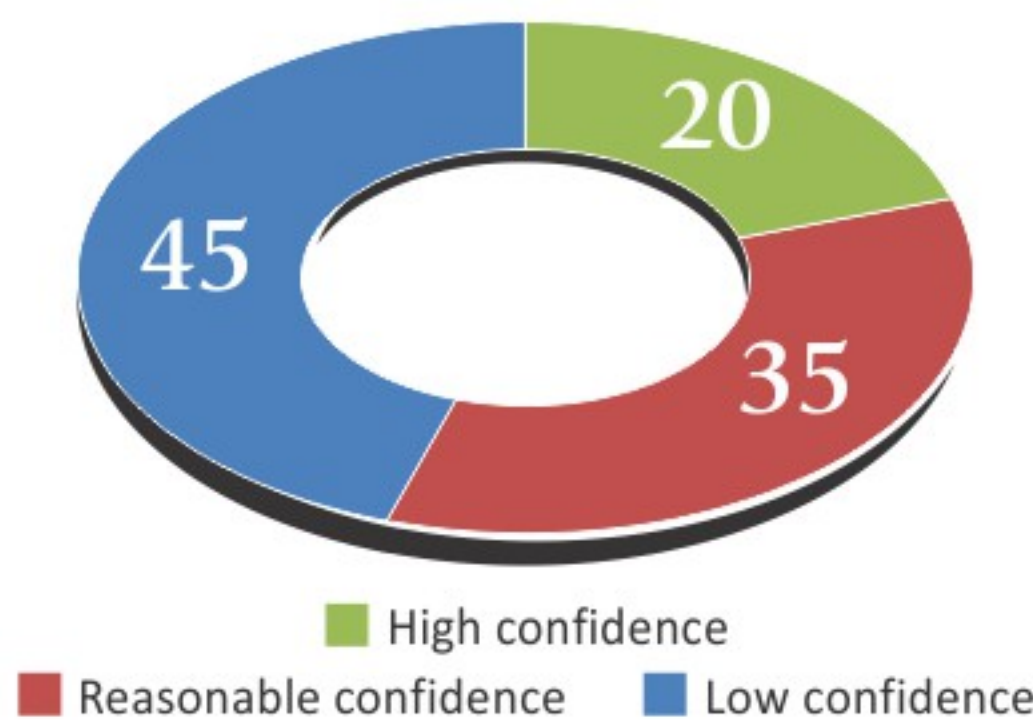
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The upcoming national election WHICH PARTY WILL WIN?

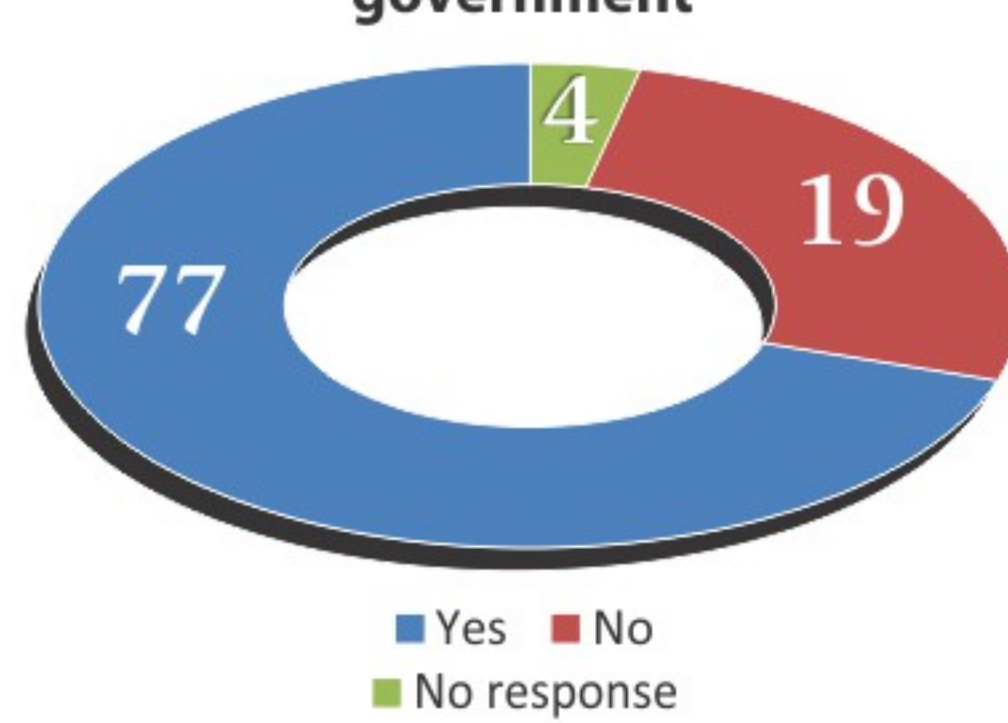
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Confidence in the government



Demand for a caretaker government



PM again calls for all-party interim govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated that the next general election will be held as per constitutional provisions and power will be handed over to the next elected government.

She was speaking at a views-exchange meeting with the leaders of Jatia Party (Manju) at Gono Bhaban.

JP-Manju Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju said

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PRAN TURMERIC POWDER

Test at govt lab too detects lead

SOHEL PARVEZ

The Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) has detected extremely high level of lead in Pran's turmeric powder on sale on the local market.

The detected level -- between 40 parts per million (ppm) and 55 ppm -- far exceeds the permissible limit of 2.5 ppm set by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI).

"We have collected samples of Pran's turmeric from different markets recently to

check the presence of lead. We have done this in greater public interest," BCSIR Chairman AI Mustafa told The Daily Star Thursday, confirming the detection.

"After a certain level, it [lead] is quite injurious to health," he said.

The BCSIR, however, is yet to make the report public. Mustafa said they would share the test results with the commerce ministry soon.

The findings come just weeks after the US

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BILLBOARD AT THE COST OF TREES



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Profit mongers care little about environment. All they need is money. No wonder these trees, cut down to set up a billboard in Kadamtali area of Chittagong, are of little value to them. The photo was taken yesterday.

Opposition may announce fresh agitation today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 18-party alliance might announce a fresh agitation for a non-party caretaker government after a secretary general-level meeting at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office today.

The meeting was scheduled for yesterday at the BNP headquarters in Nayapaltan after a gayebana janaza (funeral prayer in absence of the dead body) for the opposition men killed in the 60-hour hartal that ended on Wednesday.

The opposition has failed to decide on the next course in its ongoing movement despite two separate meetings of BNP standing committee and the alliance with

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Volatile politics boon for bomb-makers

Criminals producing crude bombs commercially, making high profit

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and TAMANNA KHAN

Makers of crude bombs made a windfall gain during last week's 60-hour hartal, which saw an unprecedented number of explosions across the country.

Police sources said during the opposition called strike, more than 1,000 crude bombs, locally known as cocktails, and Molotov cocktails went off in the capital alone.

Quoting arrested bomb makers, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sanwar Hossain of Bomb Disposal Unit of Dhaka

Metropolitan Police Detective Branch, said, "The bomb makers sell cocktails for Tk 500-1,000 in lots of 10's and 20's, on orders from only the people they know."

He said the cocktail makers in their high-risk business were making profit five to 10 times their manufacturing cost. At least 50 groups make the bombs at places in and around Dhaka.

Fuelled by high demand due to political confrontation, the bomb makers had an easy going as bombs are largely made of off-

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Who to blame for his injury?

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and ZYMA ISLAM

Yet another child has fallen victim to a cocktail blast in the capital yesterday. This brings the total number of children's casualties to seven, including one dead in growing political tension of the last six days.

Aged about 10, third grader Murad Hossain picked up what he thought to be a tennis ball wrapped with red

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Though it was the weekend, the capital saw huge traffic snarl-ups at different points yesterday. For the last two days, the city dwellers were busy with work piled up during the 60-hour hartal that ended Wednesday. They have a lot to do before another long hartal or blockade, likely this week. The photo was taken near Asad Gate yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Food courts still stuck in red tape

Despite SC nod weeks back, govt yet to deploy magistrates

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The food courts are yet to go into operation due to red tape even though the Supreme Court cleared all obstacles a month and a half ago.

Consumers still wonder if the fruits and fish they buy have toxic formalin or the turmeric has lead in it. Over the years there have been several instances where even posh restaurants were discovered to have been serving adulterated food and renowned chain stores selling formalin-tainted fish.

The pure food courts were meant to deal with cases filed in connection with adulteration of food items to relieve consumers of

worries.

The law ministry on June 27 sent for approval to the Supreme Court a government decision to use judicial magistrates for presiding over the pure food courts at districts and four metropolitan cities.

The apex court sent an approval letter to the law ministry on September 10, Supreme Court Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam told The Daily Star.

However, Assistant Secretary to the Law Ministry Zahirul Kabir claimed that his office was yet to receive the letter.

He said his office would get the letter from the court very soon and then issue a

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