

## The Government of Sheikh Hasina and the Government of Khaleda Zia: Contrast between good and bad governments

The formation of Awami League government in 1996 under the Prime Ministership of Bangabandhu's daughter, Sheikh Hasina, ushered in democracy in the country. As a sequel, through timely economic planning, Bangladesh achieved autarchy in food production and higher agricultural productivity and consequently prices of commodities remained stable throughout. Notable achievement was recorded in the sphere of human development. Bangladesh carved out a niche in the world as a promising dynamic state.

However following the fraudulent elections of October 2001 with BNP-Jamaat combine in power the helpless people of the country battling against poverty are on the one hand being crashed under the mad spiral of prices of essentials and on the other are being deprived of their right to live and to die a natural death, being killed and maimed by terrorist bombings and assassinations. People are being terrorized to silence and taking its advantage the syndicate led by the Prime Minister & her sons is building up mountains of black money through corruption and clandestinely smuggling this money abroad. At the same time the anti-liberation communal extremists have not only become their partners in power but have also made it possible for the religious militants to grow up under the protection and patronage of the alliance government.

We are presenting below a comparative partial picture showing the good governance of Awami League under Sheikh Hasina (1996-2001) and the nightmarish governance of the present BNP-Jamaat Alliance regime. We call our countrymen to build up a united people's movement to bring about a meaningful change of the government and the society.

	<b>Awami League regime (1996-2001)</b>	<b>BNP-Jamat Alliance regime (2001-06)</b>
Price of commodities	* No rise in price of commodities-Price level was stable	* Price of commodities rose 100-200%. The terror-syndicate artificially hiked prices and looted Tk. 2,86,110 crores from people in 4 years.
Growth	* Growth rate for development was 6.4 %.	* Growth rate has decreased to 5%
Inflation	* Inflation came down to 1.59%.	* Inflation rose to 6.5% (In real terms the rate of inflation was above 10 %)
Per capita income	* Per capita income increased to \$ 386 from \$ 280 during the previous BNP regime: an increase of \$ 106.	* Per capita income increased by \$ 58 only i.e income of general people increased by Tk. 512 only whereas Prime minister's income increased by taka 17 crores.
Exchange rate of dollar	* The rate of exchange between taka and US\$ was 54.00	*The rate of exchange between taka and US\$ is 72.00
Price of gold	* Price gold was Tk. 6500/- per tola (bhor)	* Price of gold is now Tk. 20,000/- per tola
Imports	* Import value in the last year of Awami League regime was Tk.	* In 2004-05 yr the value of imports has gone up to Tk. 1314.7 crore US

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	846.7 crore US dollars.	dollars
Development expenditure	*Development expenditure was Tk 16,240 crores in 2001	* The development expenditure has decreased by 15% in first 2 years of BNP-Jamaat rule.
Industrial development	* The rate of industrial growth reached 8.5%. More than 1 lac big and small industries were set up in 5 years of AL Government.	* During the BNP-Jamat rule (2001-05) the growth rate is 6.94%. A few thousands of mills and factories including the country's biggest Adamjee Jute Mills have been closed.
Foreign Investment	* Foreign investment in 1996-2001 was \$ 9810 million.	* Foreign investment has come down to \$ 1704 million during 2001-05.
Total investment	* Total investment both foreign and domestic during 1996-2001 period was \$ 15982 million.	* Total investment decreased to \$ 9173 million during 2001-05.
Govt. investment	* Government investment in 1996-2001 period was 7.04% of average G.D.P	* It is only 6.15% of average G.D.P in 2001-05 period.
Project expenditure	* 91.2% of the allocated amount was spent in 1996-2001 period resulting in expedited development.	* In 2001-05 only 78.4% of the allocated amount was spent. It means 22% money was not spent for development project. As a result stagnation was created in place of the so-called "development wave".
Human resources development	* In the index of human resources development, 56 points were achieved in 1996-2006 against 33 points during the previous BNP govt.	* Total achievement in the HRD index during 2001-05 is only 14 points.
Social security	<p>* To ensure social security projects like, Old age allowance, destitute female allowance, " "Ashrayan" (Sheltering) Project, One house one farm programme, small credit programme, Return home from City slums project, model village settlement, VGF cards, youth training and self-employment, employment bank, old age homes etc were taken up.</p> <p>* Provision for life long allowance for widows of civilian and military officials .</p> <p>* Poverty was reduced at the rate of 1.5%</p> <p>* Human Poverty Index came down to 34% from 42% index.</p>	* The rate of reduction of poverty has come down to .50%.
Health services	* In the primary health services 18 thousand community clinics, one for	* In the health sector loot and indiscipline are the order of the day.

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	<p>each 6 thousand people, were set up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* New hospitals were constructed and hospital beds were increased. Steps were taken for advanced medical treatment in the country.</li> <li>* The average life-expectancy increased to 63 years from that of 58 years.</li> </ul>	<p>All the community clinics are closed and poor people are deprived of treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment expenses increased, the names of various hospitals set up during Awami League regime were changed and inaugurated by cutting tapes.</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Framing of education policy</li> <li>* A vast number of new educational institutes including 12 Science and Technology Universities, were set up.</li> <li>* Enrolment of students in primary schools were increased by one and a half times.</li> <li>* 18 women colleges were nationalised in 18 districts headquarters.</li> <li>* 4 thousand satellite schools were constricted</li> <li>* No University remained closed for even a single day except for holidays, session jam was cleared.</li> <li>* Literacy rate increased to 65% from that of 44%</li> <li>* Arrangement was made for import of computer, its parts and software without import duty.</li> <li>*A project for setting up of a most modern planetarium namely "Bangabandhu planetarium" was under taken</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Education policy was annulled.</li> <li>* Construction of all Science and Technology Universities except 2, was stopped.</li> <li>* Leaking out of question papers of various public examinations. As a result, no merit could be judged on competitive basis.</li> <li>*Re-emergence of session jam due to terrorist activities of Chhatradal and Shibir (student fronts of BNP and Jamat) murder of teachers and students, frequent closures of Universities and other educational institutes for indefinite period.</li> <li>* Creation of anarchy in the name of unified System of education and Scandal in respect of class books. Distortion of the history of liberation war in the class books.</li> <li>* Literacy rate declined to 61%</li> </ul>
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Subsidy in fertiliser and agricultural inputs given.</li> <li>* Efficient supply management avoided any scarcity. Landless and crop-sharing peasants were given loan without security and irrigation facility was expanded. As a result (a) food autarchy was achieved against a deficit of 40 lac tons of food per annum. Food production increased to 2 crore 69 lac tons. (b) Rate of agricultural growth was 4.6 on an average. (c) Growth rate in fisheries sector was 6.18% (d) Employment opportunity was created in rural areas and there was increase in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Repetition of corruption with regard to agricultural loan, creation of artificial scarcity in fertiliser, inefficient and corrupt management, power scarcity and increase in price of diesel creating disaster in irrigation sector and neglect of agriculture sector have resulted in (a) decreasing the food production by 2 crore and 63 lac tons; (b) reduction of agricultural growth to 1.5% (c) reduction of fisheries development rate to 2.92% (d) Increase in the number of unemployed people and reduction in purchasing power of the general masses.</li> </ul>

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	purchasing power of common man.	
Power	<p>* In 5 year's time power production was raised to 4300 MW from that of 1700 in previous BNP regime, the increase is 2600 MW. 16,021 new villages were provided with electricity connection.</p>	<p>* The Alliance government could not produce a single new MW of electricity during their rule. As a result, there is an acute shortage of power and consequent agitation all over the country demanding electricity. The alliance government resorted to firing on mass rallies and protesters at Kansat and shot dead 20 innocent persons. Govt. asserts that 16 thousand crore taka have been spent in this sector but in reality there is no trace of any tangible result of this expenditure.</p>
Communication	<p>* Bangabandhu Bridge with rail lines was constructed. Padma (Paksey), Meghna (Bhairab), Rupsha (Khulna), Buriganga 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge, Gabkhan, Shikarpur-Doarika bridge, Dharla bridge along with other bridges on big rivers of the country, totaling 2 lac meters bridge-culverts were constructed and or were under construction.</p> <p>* Constructed 20,977 km. new metalled roads including Dhaka-Sylhet highway and 35802 km unmetalled road.</p> <p>* To get rid of jam in the road of Dhaka city, constructions of few fly-overs were started. BRTC acquired 200 double-decker buses including Volvo bus.</p> <p>* Two terminals were expanded and 2 boarding bridges built at Dhaka international airport to serve the passengers; Chittagong and Sylhet airports were transformed into international airports.</p>	<p>* Except inaugurating the already constructed and under construction bridges during Awami League regime, no new bridge was constructed under the alliance government. Not a single km road has been constructed. (source : Economics Review, Ministry of Finance)</p> <p>* Corruption and mismanagement in airlines operation has resulted in the loss in the airlines and aircrafts are frequently meeting with accidents.</p>
Administration & defence	<p>* A Public Administration Reform commission was constituted with a view to enhancing administrative efficiency, accountability and transparency.</p> <p>* Increased the opportunities and facilities of the members of armed forces, provided for rice for both meals for them, established national defence college, separate science and technology college, separate medical college, trust bank and provided for modern equipments and</p>	<p>* Politicisation of administration. 5 thousand and 119 government officers and officials given forced retirement and promotion withheld. Creation of record in the appointment of party cadres on contract. Selecting party cadres for appointment by leaking out question papers in the BCS examinations.</p> <p>* Many efficient officers in the army sent on forced retirement, 1008 police officers and staff including high officers dismissed from service.</p>

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	<p>training in order to enable the army, navy and air force to modernise the forces.</p> <p>* BDR have been fitted with modern arms and armaments and in phases, 22 thousand more personnel have been added to it, the compensation rate for wounded or killed BDR member has been doubled.</p> <p>* Creation of 5000 posts of various categories in and modernisation of police force, constitution of police welfare trust and doubling of their ration; 20% increase in the allowance of Ansars and provision for permanent absorption of the Ansars working for more than 15 years.</p>	<p>Unlawful interference of Prime Minister's brother Seyeed Eskander and Hawabhavan in the affairs of promotion in the armed forces.</p>
Law and Order	<p>* Overall betterment in law and order situation and security to people's life ensured. Extreme militants in the south-west region have been subdued and dangerous terrorists like Ershad Shikder have been given punishment under prevalent laws. NO killing outside justice has occurred.</p> <p>Specific cases have been instituted against many arrested militants and arranged trial for militants connected with planting of 76 kg. bomb at Kotalipara in an attempt to kill Sheikh Hasina and attack on Udichi, Ramna batamul (banyan tree), at the CPB meeting and at Narayangong Awami League office</p>	<p>* Law and order have broken down. On political consideration more than 1 lac terrorists have been released from prison. On 21<sup>st</sup> August 2004 grenade attack was made to kill Sheikh Hasina which killed 24 persons including Ivy Rahman. The political and social terrorism of last 4 years has left 40 thousand 654 persons killed and 1 lac 61 thousand and 767 persons wounded. Among those killed are former Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria M.P. Ahsanullah Master MP &amp; others. The central leaders of Awami league have been arrested and tortured and cases have been filed against 1 lac leaders and workers.</p> <p>* Minority repression continued extensively, 77 thousand 950 women and female children are victims of gang rape, rape &amp; repression.</p> <p>* People's life and property are extremely unsafe due to un-controlled extortion of money, forcible occupation, loot, hijacking, breaking in, arson etc under the shelter of 111 godfathers.</p> <p>* The accused persons in various bomb attack cases during Awami League regime are given high posts and the principal accused in Udichi case have been made Minister by alliance government. The principal accused, the Harkatul Zehad leader Mufti Hannan who tired to kill Sheikh Hasina, was given shelter by alliance Govt. Home Minister and other</p>

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		<p>Ministers and investigation in all these cases have been postponed.</p> <p>* Emergence of 54 militant organisations; killing of 219 persons in more than 600 bomb and grenade attacks.</p> <p>* Black-marketing of 10 truck-load of arms, ammunitions and explosives at Chittagong, 1 truck-load at Bogra and other huge quantity of arms; and connection of Hawa Bhavan and Jamat in all these cases.</p>
Mass media	* Ensured independence of newspapers and mass media, allowed more than one private T.V. channels.	* 13 journalists killed last year, infringement on the right of freedom of expression; journalists arrested and repressed; above all Bangladesh has been known as a country of repression of Journalists.
Rule of law	* Rule of law and human rights established. Abrogation of Indemnity Ordinance. Trial of Bangabandhu murder case, Process started for trial of jail killings.	* Rule of law and human rights thrown to the ground. Not giving effect to Bangabandhu murder case judgement and the convicted persons in the case rewarded by giving higher posts in the government. Jintu, a BNP cadre, who was sentenced to be hanged in another case was granted remission by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister and that too in a record short time.
Corruption	* Multifarious steps taken to establish a society free from corruption and a transparent and accountable government, steps taken to stop black money and loan defaulting culture. There was no complaint of corruption against Sheikh Hasina and members of her family. Awami league government took an uncompromising role against corruption.	* Champion in corruption in the world for the 4 <sup>th</sup> time. Transforming Hawa Bhaban as a parallel centre of power and making payment of 'Corruption percentage' to Hawa Bhavan compulsory. In the last 4 years the sitting ministers MPs and leaders of BNP-Jamat alliance along with Prime Minister's family members have misappropriated 1 lac 93 thousand and 83 crore taka through corruption.
Culture	* 21 <sup>st</sup> February gained status of 'international mother language' day. Rearing of Bengali culture; Started work on Sonar Bangla Cultural complex project	* Patronage of communalism and bad culture, humbling the dignity of international mother language day and non-implementation of the international language institute project. Work on Sonar Bangla cultural circle Project postponed.
Empowerment of women	* Empowerment of women, declaration of women development policy, making writing of mother's name compulsory along with father's name, direct election of women in	* Curbing the rights of women in the name of reform of women development policy; not providing for direct election of women to the reserved women seats in parliament,

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	reserved seats in local government.	as pledged.
Water agreement	* Realisation of just share of water by signing Ganges water sharing agreement with India. Steps taken for sharing water of other rivers, and making national water policy	* Not able to realise water as per agreement. Failure to reach an agreement for distribution of water of other rivers. Non-implementation of national water policy.
Peace accord	* Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Agreement signed and peace established	* Hill Tracts Peace Agreement not implemented. Fresh conflict started and tribals repressed.
Judiciary	Steps taken to established independence of judiciary. Only this time Art 166 of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Constitution was given effect to constitute a permanent law commission.	* Breach of promise to separate judiciary though took time from the court 21 times to and still failed to implement.
Sports	* Test status in Cricket achieved and sports policy declared for development in sports arena.	* Alliance government is widely criticised in the international field for bad planning and politicization of sports.

## Comparative Chart

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Awami League Period (1996-2001)</b>	<b>BNP-Jamat Period (2001-2006)</b>	<b>Price increase during the last 4.5 years (%)</b>
Rice (Normal)	Kg	10.00	20.00	100
Rice (Paijam)	Kg	13.00	23.00	77
Rice (Najirshail)	Kg	17.00	28.00	65
Lintel (Masuri)	Kg	35.00	64.00	83
Soya bin Oil	Kg	28.00	60.00	114
Wheat	Kg	12.00	22.00	83
Salt	Kg	10.00	18.00	80
Sugar	Kg	28.00	70.00	150
Milk	Kg	170.00	345.00	103
Onion	Kg	12.00	32.00	167
Garlic	Kg	40.00	130.00	225%
Green pepper	Kg	16.00	80.00	400
Egg	Kg	11.00	20.00	82

Commodity	Unit	Awami League Period (1996-2001)	BNP-Jamat Period (2001-2006)	Price increase during the last 4.5 years (%)
Ginger	Kg	35.00	120.00	243
Cumin	Kg	85.00	250.00	194
Beef	Kg	70.00	160.00	129
Mutton	Kg	140.00	220.00	57
Chilli	Kg	50.00	100.00	100
Electric	Unit	2.15	3.00	80
Water	1000 Litter	4.15	5.00	20
Gas	1 Burner	210.00	350.00	67
	2 Burner	330.00	400.00	21
Kerosene	Litter	15.00	40.00	167
Diesel	Litter	15.00	40.00	167
Petrol	Litter	23.00	42.00	83
All Fishes	Rise in 4.5 years per Kg.			90
Vegetable	Rise in 4.5 years per Kg.			40
Transport fare	Rise in 4.5 years			90

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