

Govt destroys environment in the name of beautification

Hasina tells tree plantation programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the alliance government has destroyed the country's environment by cutting trees in the name of beautification project from where they looted hundreds of crores of taka.

"The government has destroyed not only the natural environment but also destroyed its socio-economic and democratic environments through large scale corruption, price hike of essentials and patronising militants," she said while addressing a tree plantation programme in the city.

The programme was organised by Krishak League in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Bhawan at Dhanmondi.

Earlier Hasina, also the president of the main opposition Awami League (AL), planted three saplings.

She said her government planted tens of thousands of trees across the country, but the alliance government has cut those trees to grab several thousand acres of khas lands.

She also called upon all to plant at least three trees in every family during the rainy season to bring back ecological balance in the country.

Fearing that the government might kill opposition leaders and activists ahead of next parliamentary election in 'cross-fire', Hasina directed party members to submit a list of the names against whom the BNP-Jamaat cadres had filed

'false' cases during the last four and a half years.

She also directed the party leaders to submit another list containing the names of the ruling party cadres who tortured our party leaders and workers and filed false cases

tortured and harassed the opposition workers.

"We shall have to keep records of the ruling party cadres who tortured our party leaders and workers and filed false cases

against them during the tenure of the coalition government to give a sharp reply in future," she added.

Hasina called upon people from all walks of life to resist those who will try to steal people's democratic and constitutional rights to franchise.

She alleged that the alliance government is on a move to steal votes in the upcoming election to return to power again.

Asking the law enforcers not to torture the opposition men, the AL president also urged the parents of the law enforcers to tell them not to carry out repression on the opposition men.

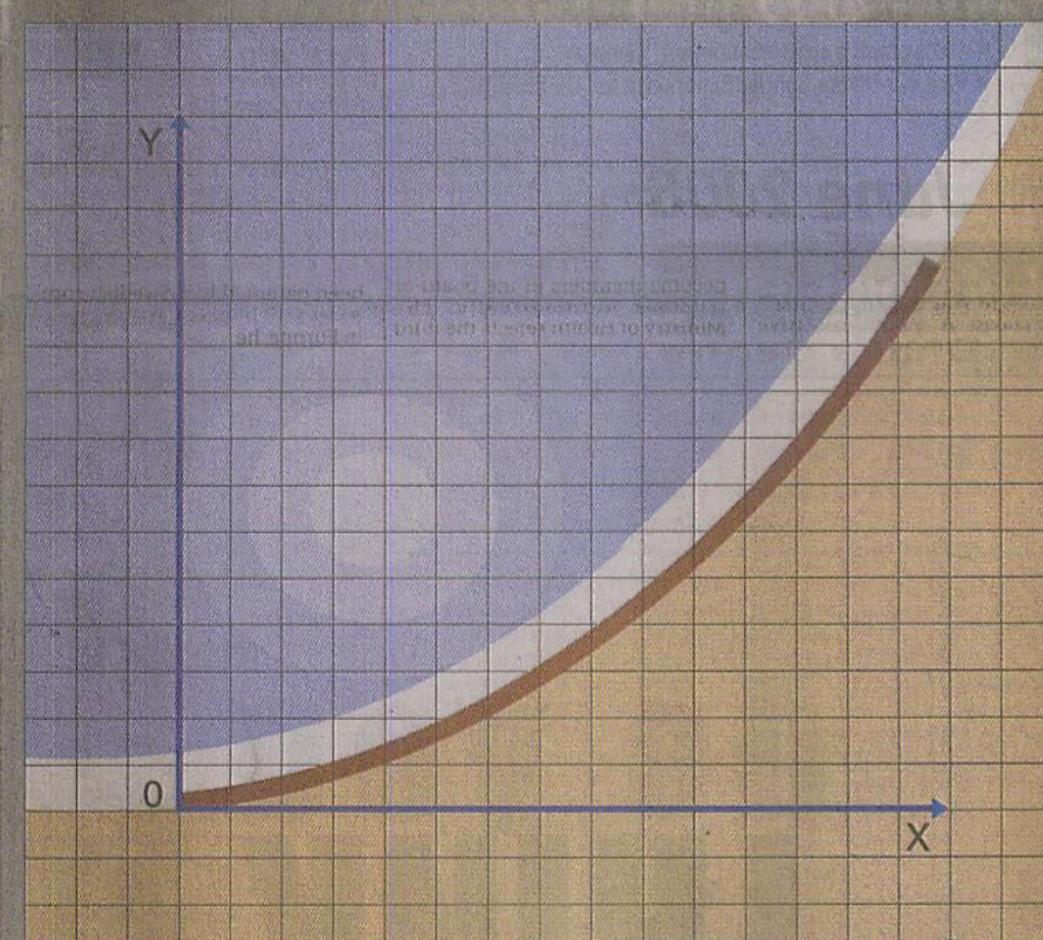
"If you (law enforcers) torture further our party workers, you will not be spared," said Hasina instructing her party workers to make a list of those police officials.

Condemning police assaults on AL lawmaker Tanjim Ahmad Sheft Taj and others during the nationwide 36-hour shutdown, the former prime minister said result of the repression would not be good for the alliance government.

Presided over by Krishak League President Mirza Abdul Jalil, the programme was also addressed, among others, by Motia Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan, Dr Abdur Razzak, Rahmat Ali, Harun-or-Rashid, MA Wadud, MA Karim, Chhabib Biswas and Khandaker Shamsul Haque Reza.



PHOTO: STAR
Awami League President Sheikh Hasina inaugurates a three-month tree plantation campaign of Bangladesh Krishak League by planting a sapling at the green lawn adjacent to Bangabandhu Memorial Museum yesterday.



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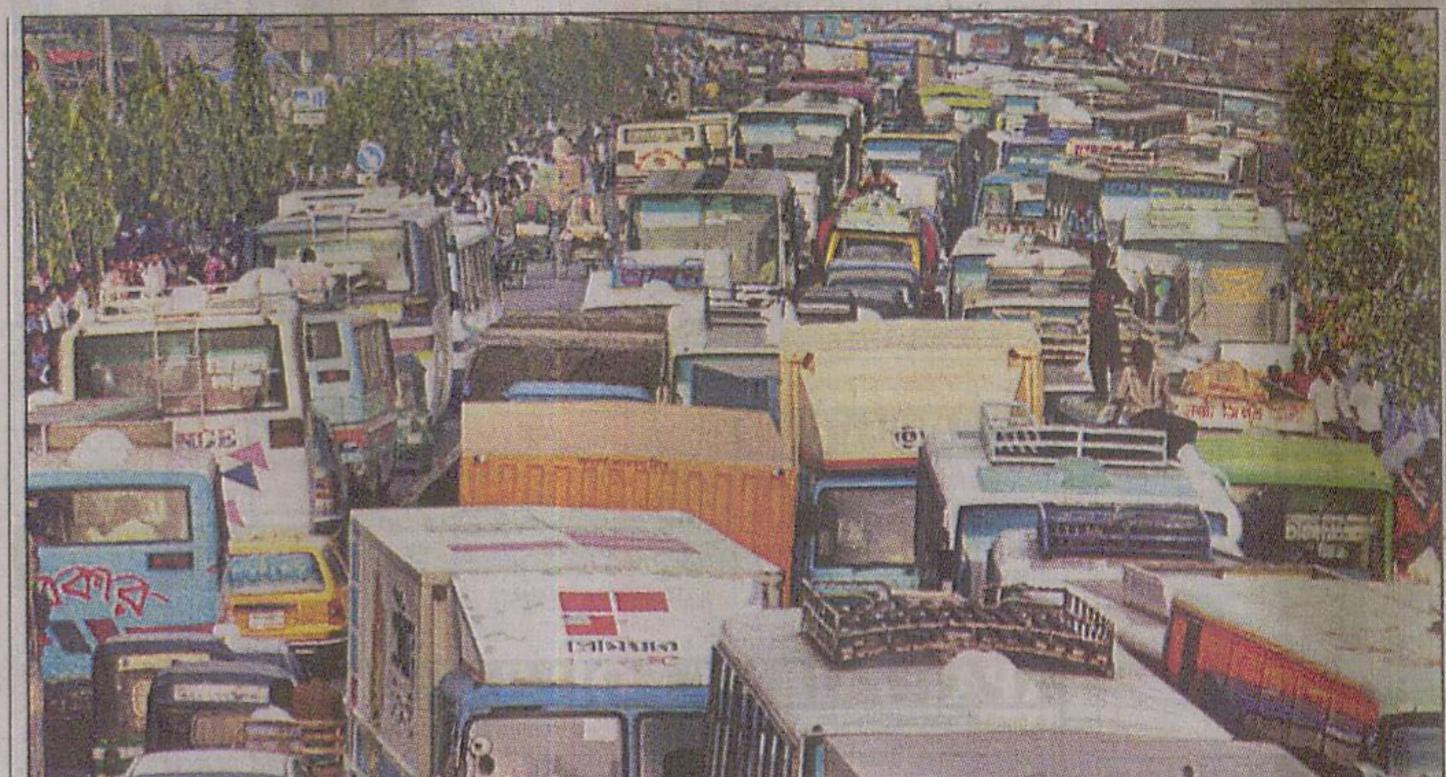


PHOTO: STAR
Most city streets remain gridlocked for hours yesterday, causing suffering to commuters as well as pedestrians. This photo was taken from Jatrabari area.

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ADCOMM 2006

14-party protest today

The Awami League (AL) led 14-party opposition combine will demonstrate in the city by holding a rally at Muktangan at 3:00pm today demanding reforms in caretaker government, resignation of election commissioners and protesting the mass arrest of opposition activists.

City AL General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya asked the AL and 14-party leaders and activists, to join the rally, says a press release.

BNP slams AL for violating HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday alleged the opposition is out to make parliament ineffective and its movement is designed to work against democratic institutions, people and the high court.

Referring to the opposition's just-concluded programmes of Dhaka siege and 36-hour hartal, Bhuiyan claimed the agitation was launched in violation of the higher court order against anarchic programme.

He was addressing a public rally at city's Muktangan organised by the Dhaka city BNP to condemn 'indecent remarks' of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in parliament.

He said the Awami League and its allies launched movement against the Election Commission with a motive to obstruct preparation of voter list so that the next general election could not be held in time.

"They are aware of their fate in the next election," he said, adding that BNP would remain in power with the support of people in a free and fair election under caretaker government.

Turning to the AL chief's diatribes Monday, the minister for LGRD and cooperatives said that people would give a fitting reply through ballot in the next election.

Addressing the rally, Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said: "We will be compelled to declare the Awami League chief persona non grata and take action against her if she continues with such indecent remarks on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia."

In his speech, Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka alleged that the main motive of the opposition agitation is to destroy the hard-earned parliamentary democracy. "We want a free and fair election because we have the confidence to win in the next general election," he said.

Comilla University invites applications for admission

BSS, Dhaka

The Comilla University has invited applications for admission to the first year honours course of four faculties for the 2006-07 academic session.

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