

Rajuk's eviction drive foiled by settlers

TAWFIQUE ALI

Illegal occupiers of nearly three acres of prime government land, to the south of the National Shooting Federation, returned within two hours of eviction on June 8, to re-erect their makeshift structures.

Rajdhani Unnyan Kartripakhyia (Rajuk) carried out an eviction drive to retrieve the land along the Hatirjheel Lake at the east end of Gulshan-Mohakhali link road.

Rajuk demolished all illegal structures including automobile workshops, makeshift shops and houses from the boundary of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution plant up to office of Lal Sabuj, a newspaper.

But two hours after the eviction team departed, the occupants returned and put up signboards claiming ownership.

When asked why Rajuk did not take possession of the land following demolition, chief engineer Emdadul Islam said: "We will carry out further demolition and take possession soon after the ongoing hartal."

Shah Didarul Alam Shamim, Rajuk's executive engineer who led the eviction drive, explained why they had to wait for the next drive to take over the land.

"It is not possible to take possession in one drive. We will carry out at least three more drives to retrieve public property," he said.

While the demolition was going on, Shamim was suddenly heard to order his men to stop the drive.

When this correspondent asked him why the drive was stopped, Shamim said that they were tired and going to have meal. "We will continue the drive during next three four days," he said.

But to the same question he later said: "We had some administrative difficulties and had to release the police force at once."

There was no magistrate in sight during demolition and none of the Rajuk staff present could identify the magistrate.

Neither could Shamim nor the Superintendent (Law) Helal Mahmud Miraz could name the magistrate.

"We took a magistrate from the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office but I don't know his name," Miraz said.

Shamim further said that they could not demolish makeshift residential settlements on the fringe of the lake as the equipment were too heavy to be taken there.

"We will bring down these structures and all the signboards on the land in our next drive very soon," he said.

As to why they did not demolish a small concrete structure claimed to be a "shrine" of some Majnu Shah, Shamim said that since it was a sensitive issue, they would first verify if it were really a shrine.

Eight family members of late Majnu Shah, who occupy around an acre of this land, have been running automobile workshops along the Badda link road and renting space for makeshift slums on the fringe of the lake for some years now, locals said.

"We have been fighting legally with Rajuk over landownership," said Abul

Bashar Badsha, Maznu's brother.

Badsha's nephew Kawsar said that the Joint District Judge's court, Dhaka has issued an injunction on the land ownership dispute.

But Rajuk's chief engineer, Islam said they could not produce any genuine documents of ownership or injunction on the day of eviction.

The present occupiers had procured some backdated documents in connivance with a corrupt section of the land registry office, he said.

Executive Engineer Shamim said that there was no court injunction and the cases they mentioned were fake.

Occupants of another part of the land have not only fenced it, but have erected two new signboards -- one claiming the plot belongs to Nirman International Limited and another that a case filed against Rajuk by one MA Siddiq is pending and that the joint district judge's court has issued an injunction.

The then Dhaka Improvement

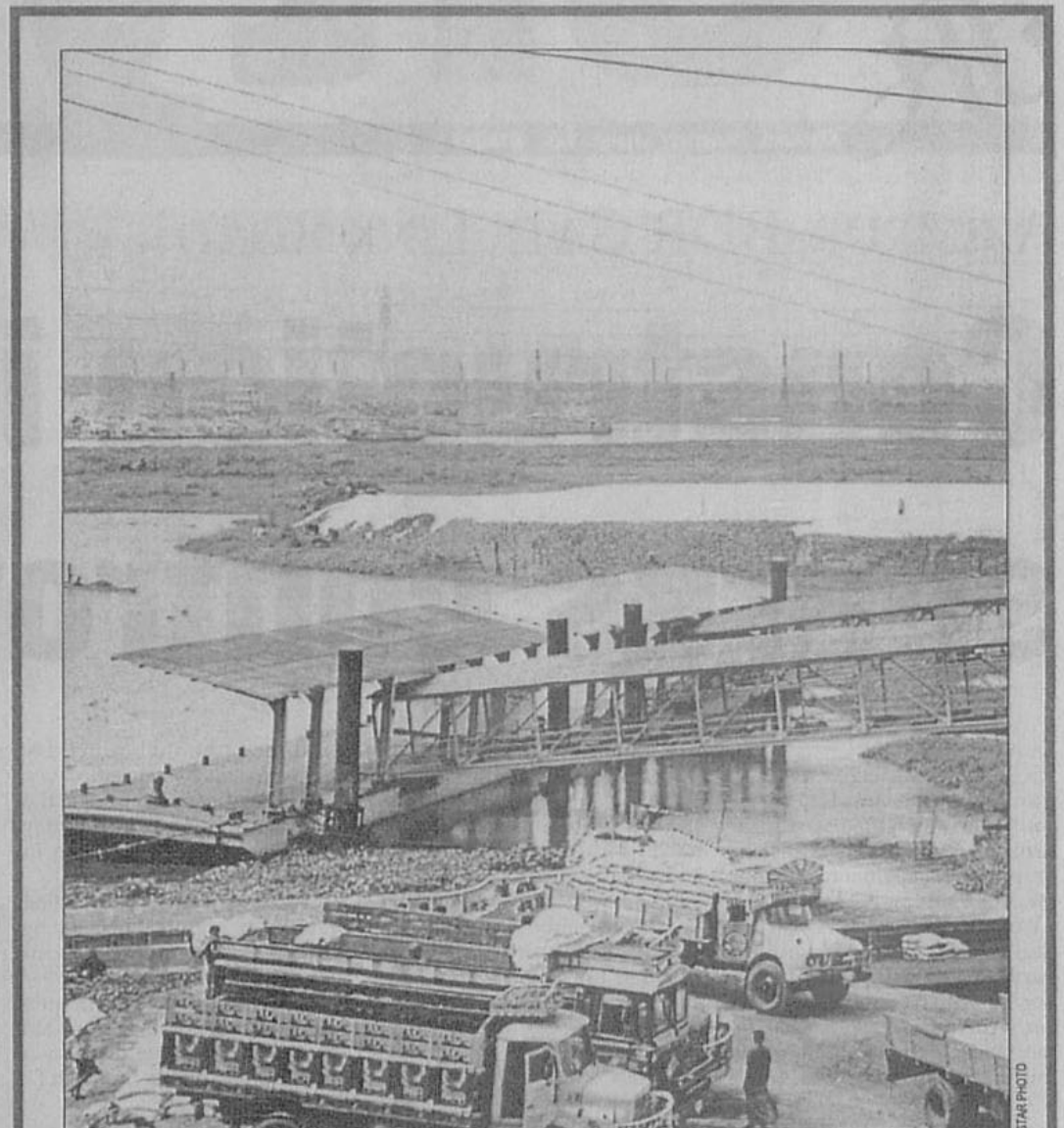
Trust (DIT) acquired the land from its original owners known as Dorjees in 1962, who were duly compensated by the government, said Emdadul Islam.

But a number of land grabbers have arranged fake documents in support of their claim for land ownership. Once land is acquired and affected compensated, the land belongs to government.

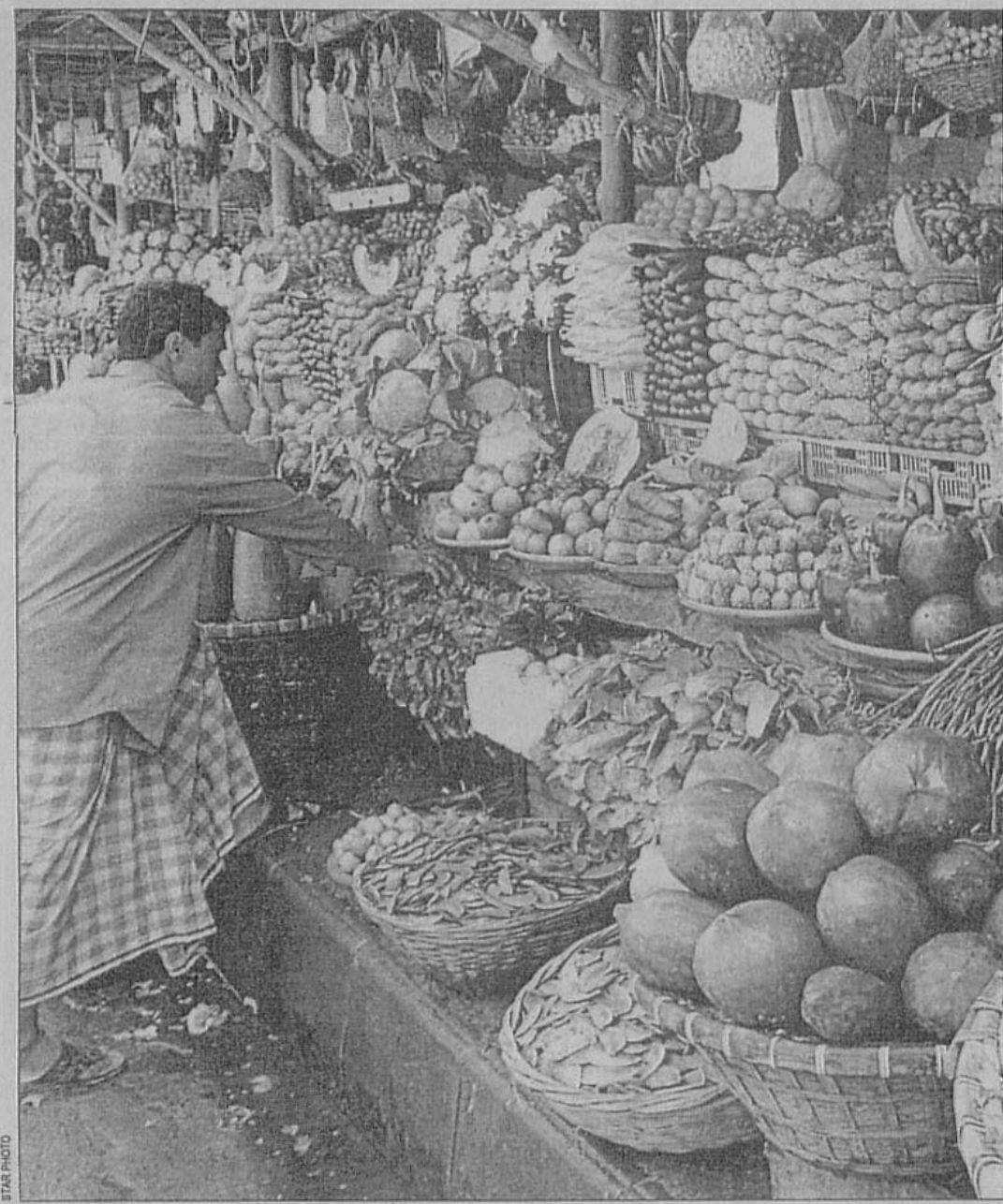
A government agency that requisitions land known as Recurrent Body (RB) fails to utilise the acquired land for any reason, land will be treated as 'vested property' meaning in possession of the government.

Rajuk will incorporate the reclaimed land in its Hatirjheel Lake Development Scheme soon, Islam said, adding that the area has turned into a den of criminals.

When attention of the Public Works secretary Iqbal Uddin Chowdhury was drawn to the issue, he said, "We will take possession of whatever land we have there."



Encroachers fill up a part of the circular waterway around Dhaka at Ashuila. The encroaching problem has hit all parts of the city.



Frequent use of chemicals pose risk to public health

Reducing chemical use in vegetables

Ministry of Agriculture launches projects to ensure high quality in fruits and vegetables

WAHIDA MITU

To ensure high quality of vegetables and fruits, the Ministry of Agriculture has launched a project with its own fund titled Integrated Quality Horticulture Development Project (IQHDP).

Involved in the project are four organisations of the ministry -- Department of Agriculture and Extension (DAE), Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM).

The details of the project were unveiled at a programme at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) in the city last week.

On an average a human being needs 200 to 210 grams of vegetables whereas people consume only 80 to 85 grams. Urban dwellers have increased their consumption of vegetables and fruits to maintain good health, in comparison with production.

"The current production of

vegetables and fruits are 6.48 tons per hectare in our country which is very low comparing with the demand," said AHM Monirul Haque Naqvi, the project director (PD).

He also said due to already increased population pressure on the land it may not be possible to bring about additional area under vegetable production, and the strategy has opened perhaps only two ways.

Firstly by increasing production using hybrid seeds where the quantity of production can

be increased from 6.48 ton per hectare to about 9 tons, he said.

"Though government is only confined to rice-paddy regarding hybrids, some private companies like East West seed company, Metal seed company in Bangladesh have already developed some hybrid seeds," Naqvi added.

Secondly he emphasised on reducing the existing post harvest losses. According to some estimates, post harvest losses of up to 30 percent in vegetables and fruits are being

experienced.

Every year the country produces 72.78 lakh tonnes of vegetables and we lose 25 percent due to lack of post harvest management, resulting in an average loss of about 15 lakh tonnes.

The project includes training farmers on various issues that will help them reduce loss along with others like collectors and stakeholders who are also involved in the post harvest management.

"The post harvest loss that we face every year is because of lack of awareness. One of our main aims is to create awareness at district level," said the PD.

He also talked about the current problem faced by city dwellers which is the medicine used in different fruits and vegetables to attract consumers. "This bad practice is increasing day by day as there is no control over this matter," he said.

"According to international standards one can use the ratio of 1000:1 medicine on any product which means one can use 1 kg chemical on the product of 1000. Whereas dishonest traders use 20 kg to 25 kg on the same quantity of product which is very harmful to health and causes itching, diarrhoea and even skin cancer," he added.

There should be a government regulatory body that includes technical persons with knowledge of calcium carbide a chemical widely used.

He also said media can play a vital role in this regard especially in creating awareness.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
- Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660
 - BARDEM 8616641-50
 - Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60
 - CMH (Dhaka) 9870011
 - Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6
 - Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5
 - Istamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156
 - Lion Eye Hospital 9129127
 - Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4
 - Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444
 - Miford Hospital 7319002-6
 - National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399
 - Orthopedic Hospital 9112150

- Salimullah Medical College Hospital 7319002-6
 - Samorita Hospital 9131901
 - Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800
 - Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119
- Clinics**
- Akand Clinic 8015855, 8022581
 - Arogyaya Niketan 9333730
 - BAVS Maternity 8016413-4
 - Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050
 - Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992
 - Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513
 - Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929
 - Judi Maternity 9113322
 - Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385
 - Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566
 - Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625

- The Eye Clinic 9333238
- Blood Bank**
- Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
 - Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
 - Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
 - Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8628612-9
- Eye Bank**
- Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
- Ambulances For**
- Dead Body**
- Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
 - Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
- Elephant Road-Friday
- Bishal Center-Friday
- Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday
- Polwell Market-Friday
- BCS Computer City-Friday
- Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday
- Rajjaxmi Complex-Friday
- Stadium Market-Friday
- Bangabazar Market-Friday
- National Museum-Thursdays
- Ahsan Manzil-Thursdays
- New Market-Tuesdays
- Gausia Market-Tuesdays
- Mouchak Market-Sundays
- Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesdays
- Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesdays
- Eastern Plaza-Sundays
- Farmview Super Market-Sundays
- Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sundays
- Dhaka Zoo-Sundays
- Shishu Jadughar-Sundays

TAXI CAB

- Passenger's Complain**
- 01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.
- Cab Salida Ltd.** 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405
- Cosmo Cab Ltd.** 9112959, 8127191, Nilol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953
- JBS Cab Ltd.** 0191-364575
- Coal Cab Ltd** 8130485, 01711-826731
- Limujin Cab Ltd.** 9318351, 9337204
- Multi-Cab Ltd.** 9666502, 9570740
- Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd.** 8624742,
- 8624741
- Orion Taxi Cab Ltd.** 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144
- Reliance Cab Ltd.** 9339563-4
- RMS Cab Ltd.** 8118536
- Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd.** 7310883, 01711-458740
- Tinni Cab Ltd.** 9662009, 01711-645257
- Teletax Cab Ltd.** 7202201
- Alih Cab Co. Ltd.** 0191-357838, 83116948
- Cab One Ltd.** 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
- United Cab Ltd.** 7510166, 01711-
- 348474
- Ulka Express Ltd.** 9359885, 01711-313554
- Cab Bangla Ltd.** 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644
- Cab I Ltd.** 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585
- Cab line Ltd.** 8321162
- Capital Cab Co. Ltd.** 9352847-9
- Classic Cab Ltd.** 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415
- Comport Cab Ltd.** 8817610-4
- Cab Express Ltd.** 9341369, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111

TRAIN TIMING

- Subarna Express**
- Mahanagar Prabhati**
- Mahanagar Godhuli**
- Turna**
- Parabat Express**
- Joyanika Express**
- Upaban Express**
- Tista Express**
- Ekata Express**
- Upakul Express**
- Agnibeena Express**
- Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
- Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am
- Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
- Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

- Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
- Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm
- Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm
- Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am
- Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
- Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
- Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
- Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
- Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15
- Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am
- Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

- Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**
- Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
 - Shishu Academy- 9564128
 - Shipakala Academy- 8614673
 - Bangla Academy- 8619550
 - Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
 - Nazrul Institute- 9114602
 - Ford Foundation- 8116133
 - Alliance Francaise- 8611557
 - Information Resource Center, The American Center - 8813440-4, 9886395-9
 - British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
 - Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
 - Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
 - Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
 - The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
 - Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
 - Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4