



Rajuk knocks down small structures occupying Gulshan Lake along Gulshan-South Badda Link Road yesterday. Most of these dwellings belonged to poor people. However, the authorities could not tear down buildings owned by big fishes due to court orders.

PHOTO: STAR

GULSHAN LAKE

Rajuk knocks down small structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajuk demolished a number of makeshift structures and an automobile workshop on Gulshan Lake along Gulshan-South Badda link road yesterday as part of its plan to recover the lake land.

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha, however, could not knock down most of the permanent structures in the lake area due to legal tangles.

Homeless and floating people erected bamboo-made structures to stay and run petty businesses, sources said.

Most structures built by the prominent lake grabbers could not be knocked down due to the High Court's orders, said Rajuk Executive Magistrate Rokon Ud-Doula who led the drive.

Rajuk Executive Engineer Nurul Islam and some policemen also took part in the drive while two powerful bulldozers were used.

On March 9, Rajuk demolished about 100 makeshift structures and a demarcation fence in the lake area at Shajrapur but could not knock down scores of "illegal permanent structures" built on the lake land.

The lake was declared ecologically critical in 1997.



We fondly remember and pray for Kazi Golam Mahub, a former President of the Supreme Court Bar. He was an activist of the 1944 Liberation Movement and convener of the 1952 Language Movement.

Today, on his 4th death anniversary, a feast for the underprivileged and prayer congregation have been arranged in Dhaka and at his birthplace, Gournadi, Barisal.

Family members & Bhasha Andolon Museum

Huge properties gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire gutted shops, a garage, CNG-run auto-rickshaws, dwelling houses and huge properties yesterday in Chittagong's Sadarghat area.

No casualty was reported in the incident.

Eight fire fighting units from the port city's Agrabad, Chandanpura and Nandan Kanan fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the fire after a two-hour struggle.

Sources said the fire broke out from an electric short-circuit at a house on Kazi Nazrul Islam Road in Sadarghat at around 1:45am and spread fast engulfing one more house, four shops and a CNG-auto-rickshaw garage.

The fire also gutted a scrap shop, a chilli crushing factory, a grocery and a furniture shop.

"Among 17 CNG-run auto-rickshaws and a motorbike, only four auto-rickshaws could be saved," said the garage owner Mohammad Aslam.

Chittagong Fire Service and Civil Defence Assistant Director Nurul Haque said only seven old CNG auto-rickshaws, shops and houses were gutted. The damage was estimated at Tk 8 lakh, he said.

On the contrary, the councillor of ward No 31 Tarek Solaiman Selim claimed the losses would go over Tk 60 lakh.

He said 13 CNG-run auto-rickshaws, each worth Tk 3 lakh, were gutted and the damages to other shops would exceed Tk 20 lakh.



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Bidisha files defamation suit against Ershad

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Bidisha Siddique, former wife of Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, yesterday filed a Tk 60 crore defamation suit against him, mentioning that she was tortured by him and suffered inhuman torture in police custody in connection with false cases filed by him between 2005 and 2007.

After the hearing, Judge Imrul Kayesh of the First Joint District Judge's Court of Dhaka took the matter into cognizance and asked Ershad to appear before it on April 20 to reply.

In her plaint, Bidisha mentioned she was arrested on June 4 in 2005 from her Baridhara residence after Ershad charged her with stealing a cellphone set and embezzled around Tk 7.5 lakh.

At the instruction of Ershad, the police tortured her in the name of interrogation in their custody, she added.

Ershad also expelled her from the party and filed several other criminal cases against her. But the High Court had granted her bails in all cases and later she was released on bail.

She also alleged that filing of false cases and her arrest had tarnished her image in society.

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