

Protect land, waterbodies from grabbers
Suggests JS body

UNB, Dhaka

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Land Ministry yesterday suggested taking necessary steps to free the land, waterbodies and ponds from illegal occupation across the country.

The parliamentary watchdog in its 17th meeting came up with the recommendation.

It also recommended taking steps to recruit lawyers for handling government cases related to land.

A discussion was also held in the meeting on "Land Development Tax Bill 2023" and the illegally occupied land, water bodies and ponds.

The committee suggested placing the Land Development Tax Bill 2023 before the parliament with some addition and amendment.

2 Palli Bidyut employees electrocuted in Jhalakathi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Two employees of Palli Bidyut Samity died after being electrocuted in Jhalakathi's Kathalia upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased are Md Mizanur Rahman, 42, in-charge at Marichbunia complaint centre, and lineman Md Manir Hossain, 35, of Jhalakathi Palli Bidyut Samity.

Mizanur was from Patuakhali and Manir was from the district's Kathalia upazila, said Md Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kathalia Police Station.

According to locals, both Mizanur and Manir were electrocuted while they were repairing a torn electric wire near Mollah Bari of Nyamatpura area.

The locals took them to Kathalia Upazila Health Complex where the doctor on duty declared them dead.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

FLUTTERING WINGS OF JOY... A tailed jay, scientifically known as Graphium Agamemnon, relishes the pink petals of a Nayantara (Madagascar periwinkle) as the flower blooms after an encounter with rain. Adorning its vibrant coffee and green wings, the butterfly slowly climbs up the flora to reach for its centre to taste its nectar. The photo was taken yesterday in Chuknagar of Khulna's Dumuria upazila.

Seven killed, 25 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Seven people were killed and 25 injured in road accidents in five districts during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Narsingdi, three people were killed after a CNG-run auto-rickshaw was hit by an unknown vehicle on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Shibpur upazila early yesterday.

The incident took place around 12:15am in Sayednagar area when the victims were going to Bhelanagar from Sayednagar, said Abul Khayer, sub-inspector of Shibpur Highway Police.

Nasir Uddin, 26, driver of the auto-rickshaw died on the spot and the other two -- Joj Mia, 23, and Shahin Hossain, 28 -- succumbed to their injuries on the way to a hospital.

The bodies were taken to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In Dhaka, a man died after being hit by a bus in Jatrabari yesterday.

The deceased, identified as Abul Khayer, 40, was a rickshaw-van puller. The accident took place at Chandankotha area around noon.

Khayer was taking iron plates to

Jatrabari from Postogola when a Narail Express bus hit him, leaving him critically injured. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 1:30pm, said Mofizur Rahman, Khayer's brother.



In Joypurhat, at least 25 people were injured after a bus skidded off Bogura-Akkelpur road and fell into a ditch in Akkelpur upazila yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

In Panchagarh, a couple was killed as a covered-van hit their motorbike in Tentulia upazila on Wednesday night. The accident happened around

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Champa finds success in DRAGON FRUIT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A couple of years back, if someone told Champa Begum a fruit that originated in Central America would change her life, she would probably not believe them.

And now, she has emerged as a successful woman entrepreneur, cultivating dragon fruit, on a family-owned land in Baniyali village under Haibatpur union in Jashore Sadar upazila.

This year, the garden has produced the pink fruit attracting visitors every day.

In the beginning of 2022, Champa was struggling to support her ailing husband and child. She was somehow managing the family by rearing poultry and livestock at home.

Six months later, she participated in a courtyard meeting for the Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity Project of Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF) and later turned one bigha of her land into an organic dragon fruit plantation, investing Tk 1 lakh.

Champa planted 512 dragon fruit saplings on the land. She nurtured these without using any chemical fertilisers, following the advice of agricultural officials from the project.

After six months, the plants began to bear fruits. At the end of the year, Champa earned a considerable profit from the harvest. "I began dragon fruit cultivation in the area with help of the project and relevant digital information. I also received entrepreneurship development

training, which helped me find success. I am currently supplying safe and nutritious dragon fruit to people," said Champa.

"When I started out, many objected to a woman working in the fields. But I proved everyone wrong. Now people from near and far come to visit my garden every day," she added.

is on a rise, Champa said she expects to earn Tk 8-9 lakh by selling the fruits this season.

Trees can bear fruits for 30 years if the garden is properly taken care of, she added.

Fulima Begum of Baniyali village is one of those who took inspiration from Champa's example.



Champa Begum at her dragon fruit orchard. PHOTO: COLLECTED

She said other women were also inspired by her to start cultivating fruit in the area.

A dragon fruit tree takes one to two years to mature. A matured tree bears 25 to 30 fruits, over six months between June and November. The current market price of the fruit is Tk 200-300 per kilogramme, but organically harvested dragon fruit can fetch Tk 350-400 per kg, she said.

Sharing that cultivation cost

"Following Champa apa, I also started dragon fruit cultivation with 200 saplings. I hope to see results soon," she said.

Abu Talha, additional deputy director of the DAE in Jashore, said, "We believe that Champa Begum revolutionised the cultivation of this attractive crop in the region. If she needs any assistance, the department will definitely provide her with necessary support."

Sea ports asked to hoist signal three

UNB, Dhaka

Maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to keep local cautionary signal 3 hoisted as the monsoon depression over India's West Bengal-Bihar and adjoining areas moved west-northwestwards and now lies over north Chhattisgarh and adjoining area.

It is likely to move in a west-northwesterly direction further and weaken gradually into a well-marked low, said a special bulletin of the met office yesterday.

Under its influence, a steep pressure gradient persists over north Bay and adjoining coastal areas of Bangladesh.

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Memo No. BGC/CEDP/2023-24/25
Date: 02/08/2023

e-Tender Notice: 01/2023-2024

e-Tender is invite in the National e-Gp System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package;

Sl. No.	Tender ID. No.	Name of Package	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
01	854523	G-03: Procurement of Table cum Chair, Chair, Table and Book Self for class room and seminar	21- August-2023 01:00 PM	21- August-2023 02:00 PM

This is an on line tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Gp portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-Gp portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-Gp system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branches up to 21-August-2023, 1:00 PM

Further information and guideline are available in the National e-Gp System portal and from e-Gp Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

03.08.2023
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