

3 killed as train rams bus in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three people were killed and 13 others injured last night, as a train hit a bus that got onto a railway track travelling on the wrong side of the road at TT Para level crossing in the capital's Kamalapur area.

All the dead were passengers of the bus. Of them, one was identified as Nazmus Samad Nazu, 25, wife of KM Obaidul, sub-editor of Bangla daily Janakantha. The couple was returning to their Moghbazar home from Maniknagar area.

Identity of the other two, aged between 30 and 35, could not be known immediately.

The Gazipur-bound Balaka Paribahan bus,

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PHOTO ON PAGE 16

FOOD ADULTERATION

Govt found not serious

HC asks once more about steps for safe food

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid growing outcry against adulterated and poisonous food, the High Court has once again taken note of the public concern, asking the government to explain the steps it has taken so far in this regard.

The HC yesterday ordered the authorities to inform it within 20 days about the measures taken to stop use of hazardous chemicals and preservatives in food items by a section of unscrupulous businessmen and farmers.

The directive followed a recent government laboratory test that found as high as 40 percent of the food samples contain excessive toxic substances.

The HC issued the rule that also reminded all concerned that the court had earlier issued orders against food adulteration but the criminal act has not stopped due to lax monitoring by the government and slack enforcement of relevant laws.

As a result, people still have to buy and take contaminated food, the court noted during the hearing on a writ petition, following a report in The Daily Star on Monday.

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PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH



The consumer rights protection authority seized adulterated bananas and toxic chemicals at Kutubpur of Shakhipur in Tangail yesterday. However, such drives are few and far between and according to an FAO-sponsored test, 40 percent of food items in Bangladesh are adulterated and lack of monitoring is largely to blame for it.

Rejoinder, our reply

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has sent a rejoinder to the report headlined "Halda dying due to dams: Salinity increases rapidly in lone natural spawning water", run by The Daily Star on April 9, claiming that the dams were not causing salinity in the spawning area.

The LGED constructed two rubber dams following requests from local people through their representatives, said the rejoinder.

The Halda rubber dam at Bhujpur is about 35 kilometres upstream from Sattarghat and the Harual Chhari rubber dam is on the Harual Chhari, a tributary of Halda river from the right side below the Bhujpu dam. Both are at the upper end of the main spawning area.

The dams are inflated in the middle of December to

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ABDUCTION SPREE IN NARAYANGANJ SP, Rab commander, 2 OCs may be withdrawn

STAR REPORT

The home ministry has recommended withdrawal of four law enforcement officials from Narayanganj on grounds of deteriorating law and order there, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan told The Daily Star last night.

The four are Syed Nurul Islam, superintendent of police; Lt Col Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, Rab-11 commanding officer; Akhtar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police Station; and Abdul Matin, officer-in-charge of Siddhirganj Police Station.

A source said withdrawal of Manoj Kanti Boral, deputy commissioner of Narayanganj, has also been recommended.

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Anti-Ershad group runs JP Wants to neutralise chairman, stick to AL

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and RASHIDUL HASAN

HM Ershad seems to have lost his grip on the Jatiya Party with a section of its leaders out to make sure the party sticks to the ruling Awami League.

Insiders say these leaders

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