

70 RMG workers fall sick from gas leak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 70 workers have fallen sick following a toxic gas leakage yesterday at a garment factory in the Aturadept area of the port city, police and factory sources said.

Twenty-seven victims were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and the rest to private clinics, police said, adding that most were released after receiving first aid.

The gas leakage which occurred between 9:30am and 11:00am, started from a faulty pipe in a steam boiler at PM Garments Ltd., owned by M A Salam, the first vice president of BGMEA. Panicked workers ran helter-skelter to escape, but 70 of them fell sick after inhaling the gas, police and factory sources said.

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Guardians wait anxiously outside the entrance to Motijheel Government Girls' High School as their wards sit the admission tests that began yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Kids' fight for school seats begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anxious guardians crowded in front of eight government schools in the capital yesterday as their wards took admission tests at primary and secondary levels for the academic year 2005.

Some 38,218 students will compete for a total of 8,591 seats in 24 schools, sources said.

The Directorate of Secondary Education, which is coordinating the admission procedures at government schools on behalf of the education ministry, has grouped the city government schools into Ka, Kha and Ga.

Admission test for group 'Ka' was held yesterday and there were huge crowds as some of the best

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Killings in 'crossfire' breach constitution

Dr Kamal says lawlessness pervasive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday accused the government of flouting the constitution and the international human rights norms by allowing killings in 'crossfire'.

Addressing a press conference at the VIP Lounge of the Jatiya Press

Club, he said the word crossfire now should refer to 'inflicting capital punishment without trial'.

"The killings in crossfire are extra-judicial executions in flagrant violation of our constitution and the international human rights convention to which Bangladesh is a party," said Dr Kamal, also president of Gono Forum.

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Cold wave next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two cold waves are likely to blow over the country beginning at the second week of this month, according to a long-range January forecast by the met office.

A moderate to strong cold wave, which is likely to blow over the capital and northern regions, will bring night temperatures down to between four and eight degrees Celsius, paralysing life in those areas with shivering cold. The second wave will bring mild to moderate

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Car bomb kills 21 Iraqi guards

New al-Qaeda video shows shooting of 5 cops

REUTERS, Baghdad

A suicide car bomb hit a bus carrying Iraqi National Guards yesterday, killing 22 people in the deadliest attack of its kind in nearly four

months on Iraqis cooperating with US forces to secure a January 30 election.

Two bombers detonated their four-wheel-drive vehicle packed

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HC STAYS VACATING ORDER Injunction on RU mass appointment upheld

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the vacating order on a lower court injunction on the confirmation of last year's mass appointments at Rajshahi University (RU).

Staying the vacating order for six months, the bench of Justice Mohammad Abdul Aziz also issued a rule on the RU authorities to

explain why the order would not be set aside.

Yesterday's High Court order that followed a civil appeal filed by Abu Aslam, an advocate of Rajshahi Bar, upheld the injunction.

Abu Aslam first challenged the April 2004 appointments of 546 employees at RU with Senior Assistant Judge's Court, Rajshahi,

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SQ Chy invites Hasina to son's wedding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury yesterday met the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina to invite the latter to his son's wedding.

Chowdhury's spouse Farhat Qader Chowdhury accompanied him during the meeting, a rarity in Bangladesh politics where top leaders of rival parties seldom meet each other.

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ASIA TSUNAMI Aid operation gears up

AGENCIES

An unprecedented global aid operation gathered steam yesterday to save survivors of Asia's tsunamis as signs crept up of disease in the overflowing morgues after the disaster that claimed more than 127,000 lives.

Relief workers said they were

beginning to get through a logjam at wiped-out airstrips to reach a million needy people in the devastated Indonesian province of Aceh.

"Things are improving. The backlog is starting to clear," Michael Elmquist, the chief of the UN's Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Indonesia, told AFP.

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DEATHS ABROAD

Workers' families get compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday distributed a total of Tk 2.05 crore in compensation to the relatives of 15 expatriate Bangladeshis who died while working abroad, most of them in Middle Eastern countries.

Mohammad Quamrul Islam, the state minister for expatriate welfare and overseas employment, distributed a compensation cheque among the relatives at a simple function at the Bureau of Manpower Export and Training (BMET). The compensation money was paid for by the foreign employers of the expatriate workers.

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HC stays govt appointment of ACC secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed the government appointment of AMM Reza-e-Rabbi as secretary to Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The HC Division bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman also issued a rule on the government to reply in three weeks why Reza's appointment of December 22 will not be declared illegal.

On December 27, the vacation bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque

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Prayer Timing		
January 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation