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The operator makes its office energy-efficient

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Rise and fall of civilisations traced in wooden artefacts

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## IN DESPERATION

Mashrafe ready to put his career on the line to play WC

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# 9 cops die as truck rams van

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine police personnel were killed as a truck rammed their van on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Narsingdi yesterday.

The accident occurred around 10:45am leaving all the nine dead on the spot, and another injured.

The cops, who were from Belabo Police Station in Narsingdi, were on their way to Shibpur upazila to attend a briefing on the law and order ahead of tomorrow's municipal polls.

The truck driver managed to flee while police seized the vehicle.

The victims are officer-in-charge Faruk Ahmed Khan, 45, inspector (investigation) Ziaul Huq, 42, sub-inspector Kongkan Kumar Mondol, 42, and constables Bazlur

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A police van lies badly mangled after being hit by a speeding truck on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway in Narsingdi yesterday. The vehicle was carrying policemen to Shibpur in the district.

PHOTO: STAR



## Mercury to go up today

Another cold spell by month-end

STAR REPORT

Temperature will rise gradually from today taming the cold wave now sweeping the country but dense fog could continue disrupting communications for the next three-four days.

And the country is likely to experience another cold spell at the end of this month, Met office in Dhaka told The Daily Star last night.

The lowest temperature yesterday was 7.2 degrees Celsius in Jessore and the highest was 29.8 in Sandwip.

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## RUSH TO OMS CENTRES

# Pricier the rice, longer the queue

SOHEL PARVEZ

Holding her nine-month-old baby in one arm, Salma Khanam braved the chilly morning to buy subsidised rice at the open market sales (OMS) point at Rokeya Sarani in the capital's Mirpur area.

She had to wait more than four hours for her turn.

"I am here for the first time. I dared not come here carrying my baby. But I had to change my mind for the soaring prices of rice," said Salma, wife of a bus helper, who earns Tk 5,000 a month.

She said they have to pay a house rent of Tk 2,000 a month and spend nearly Tk

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PHOTO ON PAGE 19

# Move on to spot corrupt

Says chief justice about judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An initiative has been taken to identify the corrupt in the judiciary, said Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday.

Citing his recent move for a five-member committee comprised of senior judges of the High Court, the CJ said the sole purpose of the committee is to find corrupt people in the judiciary.

Following a survey report of Transparency International, Bangladesh that tagged the judiciary as the most corrupt service sector, the CJ on December 30 last year formed the committee to evaluate the survey report.

Yesterday's statement of the CJ has given a clear view on the motive behind forming the committee. The CJ was

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## Smoking damages gene in minutes

AFP, Washington

Those first few puffs on a cigarette can within minutes cause genetic damage linked to cancer, US scientists said in a study released yesterday.

In fact, researchers said the "effect is so fast that it's equivalent to injecting the substance directly into the bloodstream," in findings described as a "stark warning" to

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# School buses hit city roads

Govt hopes tailbacks to ease

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) yesterday launched a bus service for school going students from Pallabi to Azimpur to ease off traffic jam in the capital.

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## Hasina off to UAE

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for the United Arab Emirates this morning on a four-day official visit to attend the fourth World Future Energy Summit (WFES).

During the visit, the premier has no schedule for official talks with her UAE counterpart and other top government officials. But she will meet the crown prince of the UAE and some dignitaries among the participants on the sidelines of the summit.

According to the official sources, Sheikh Hasina will address the opening ceremony of the four-day energy summit from January 17 at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition

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## Captain Abdul Momen Chowdhury, Ex PSP (1915 - 1985)

of Bhadeswar Sylhet

Today the 16th of January he left for where he belonged. During his lifetime he touched many lives and everyone who came across him fondly remembers his warmth, love and generosity.

May "Allah" rest his soul in heaven, Ameen.

### Sons

Mokim Chowdhury  
Halim Chowdhury  
Selim Chowdhury  
Shaheen Chowdhury

### Daughters

Rebeka Habib  
Zarin Chowdhury  
Sharmeen Islam

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