



A child seeks warmth in her mother's lap at a slum in the city, as the mild cold snap continued in the capital and elsewhere in the country yesterday. The mild cold wave is likely to continue for two to three more days.

Cold wave continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mist and fog across the country is predicted to remain unchanged for next two-three days and the present mild cold wave is also to continue, the Met Office forecasted.

Meanwhile, the difference between the maximum and minimum temperatures in the capital is also decreasing. The lowest temperature was 11 degrees Celsius and the highest 14.5 yesterday.

"If the difference between maximum and minimum temperatures increases and solar radiation comes out, city dwellers would feel comfortable," said Deputy Director of the Met Office Dr Samarendra Karmakar.

The lowest temperature of the country was recorded at Ishurdi at 6.9 degrees Celsius while the highest of 27.2 was at Teknaf.

The met office forecasted that the sky would remain cloudy with medium to deep mist occurring in the northern region of the country and the river basins. The mild cold wave that has been sweeping

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BDR, police on alert for crime comeback

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has put the para-military Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Armed Police Battalion and other law-enforcement agencies on a high alert across the country to curb any lawlessness following the withdrawal of the army.

Sources at the home ministry and police said the law-enforcement agencies would be relocated in strategic places. Besides, there is a plan to deploy an additional number of Armed Police Battalion in the capital and other sensitive areas of the country.

Police sources said currently there are four battalions of Armed Police in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the authorities have suggested to the home ministry to relocate at least two battalions in Dhaka.

The intelligence network in Dhaka, Chittagong and some other specific areas would also be enhanced. Officials said a decision

has also been taken to further enhance intelligence network of the armed forces.

Both the army intelligence and DGFI will assist the government by providing timely information related to crime, criminals and drugs. They said the government has ordered the troops and law enforcers to take instant action if any political activists or criminals try to break law.

The newly floated Rapid Action Team of police, which is expected to swing into action from the last week of this month, will be given special assignments. They said next batch of 150 members of police would soon be sent for para-commando training after the passing out of the first batch.

"We have decided to train up some 2,000 smart police personnel to make the Rapid Action Team an effective force. Gradually its territory would be all over the country."

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Gas gap keeps yawning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The gas supply crisis in and around the city showed no signs of improvement yesterday, affecting both domestic and bulk consumers.

Titas Gas Managing Director Abdul Baset said the supply situation is unlikely to improve throughout the winter.

A source in the Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL) said the problem would not have arisen had the Taka 500 crore Ashuganj-Eleenga 30 inch second pipeline project been implemented. This project - that seeks to increase gas flow to Dhaka and its adjacent areas - is stuck in Petrobangla for the last one year.

The gas crisis has affected indus

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HC verdicts on police promotion upheld

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on Sunday dismissed two leave petitions filed by the government challenging a High Court verdict.

The High Court upheld an Administrative Tribunal judgement that said promotion of 135 officiating assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) should take effect from 1998 instead of 1991, as the government had ordered.

The bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin, Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmed and Justice Fazlul Haq passed the order terming that promotion of 135 officiating ASPs "unlawful".

The Inspector General of Police (IGP) in 1998 promoted 135 Inspectors to the rank of ASP with

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Professor Jeffrey D Sachs (left) of Columbia University makes a point during his keynote speech at the roundtable on 'Achieving the Millennium Development Goals for Bangladesh' at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, chairman of the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, is on his left.

High population, politics pique country's growth

Sachs tells roundtable on millennium development goals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Jeffrey D Sachs of Columbia University has said Bangladesh needs to interconnect private sector development, investment in human capital, environment management and scientific advancement to achieve the millennium goals.

The country should explore "new competitive areas, including energy" and scale down dependence on readymade garment export, the world-renowned economist told a roundtable in the city yesterday.

The roundtable on "Achieving

the Millennium Development Goals for Bangladesh", organised by the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), was held at the Jatiya Press Club. BUP Chairman Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad presided over the roundtable.

In his keynote speech, Sachs identified rapid population growth, unplanned urbanisation and "political situation" as contributing to the country's economic fragility.

The special advisor to the UN secretary-general on millennium development goals and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University praised Bangladesh's success in economic growth, pri-

mary healthcare and education.

The country should think in terms of a multi-based growth plan, he said.

"RMG is an example of how to create jobs but it is not enough to sustain growth."

"Bangladesh has set good targets for development, but has little money to achieve those. What is missing is donors' money. They promise partnership in development, but do not fulfil the pledges."

He regretted that donor assistance in the development of

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Rejoinder

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) has contradicted a news item, titled 'Sarbaraha leader dies during army interrogation', published in The Daily Star on January 8.

In its rejoinder, the ISPR said the death of the Sarbaraha leader, Nasir Uddin, had no connection with army interrogation.

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Khaleda to urge Mahathir to lift manpower ban

RAFIQ HASAN

Manpower export to Malaysia could top the agenda when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia meets Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad on the sidelines of the February 24-25 Non-alignment Movement (NAM) summit in Kuala Lumpur.

The summit was scheduled for Dhaka but later shifted to Kuala Lumpur after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led coalition government declined to host it on grounds of financial constraints.

According to sources, Khaleda may request Mahathir for withdrawal of the ban on fresh recruitment from Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh delegation

Indemnity Ctg Bar to boycott court Jan 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Clg

The Chittagong District Bar Association (CDBA) will boycott all civil and criminal courts in the port city on January 16 protesting the cabinet's approval of the ordinance indemnifying army actions during the anti-crime drive.

The decision was taken at a general meeting of the CDBA held at its office yesterday afternoon.

Presided over by advocate Abu Mohammad Hashem, senior vice-president of CDBA, the meeting was addressed among others by General Secretary Mohammad Nazmul Ahsan Khan, Kamal Uddin, Sammoysri Barua, and AKM Sirajul Islam.

The speakers at the meeting criticised the government for approving the ordinance.

Terming the 'Joint Drive

Indemnity Ordinance -2003' anti-human, the lawyers noted that it would curb peoples' rights.

They demanded probe and trial of the custodial deaths of 50 people during the joint drive.

They also demanded exemplary punishment of those responsible for the torture and the killings.

Tigers fly off

SPORTS REPORTER

A 19-member Bangladesh World Cup cricket team left the Dhaka yesterday afternoon to participate in the World Cup tournament to be held in South Africa.

The squad will be heading for Namibia first for a two-week conditioning camp before embarking on the World Cup campaign.

During their stay in Namibian capital Windhoek, Bangladesh are scheduled to play five one-day matches against the home side who have also qualified for the World Cup final through the ICC Trophy championship in which they became runners up behind the Netherlands. The team will then leave for South Africa on January 31.

The roundtable on "Achieving

DU admission tests begin on January 17. It is customary of student bodies to bring out processions and hold rallies marking the occasion to woo students.

The former president claimed the ICS has officially requested the DU authorities to let them participate in meetings of the Paribesh Parishad, a forum of all student organisations active on Dhaka University campus.

Its immediate past president Nurul Islam Bulbul said they would start holding processions and rallies on the campus in favour of party programmes to strengthen the organisation's position.

In the past, members of the Paribesh Parishad did not allow the ICS to join the forum for what they said its pursuing communal politics and its role (then Islami Chhatra

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Shibir wants to spread wings over DU

STAR REPORT

Having established dominance in some major public universities and educational institutions across the country, Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) is now contemplating to expand their activities on the Dhaka University (DU) campus with more vigour.

Its immediate past president Nurul Islam Bulbul said they would start holding processions and rallies on the campus in favour of party programmes to strengthen the organisation's position.

The ICS insiders said its high-ups are considering holding a rally on January 17 to wish luck to the admission seekers to the university.

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SC stays HC order on Viqarunnisa

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for six weeks the execution of Sunday's High Court order asking the authorities concerned to reopen the Viqarunnisa University forthwith and create proper academic atmosphere on the campus.

Syed JR Modassir Hossain, Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division, passed the order upon a petition moved by Attorney General AF Hassan Arif for the government.

The private university within the Viqarunnisa School and College premises functioning since October 2001 was closed down following a government notification cancelling its registration on November 27 last.

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for six weeks the execution of Sunday's High Court order asking the authorities concerned to reopen the Viqarunnisa University forthwith and create proper academic atmosphere on the campus.

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