

Depression in Bay causes drizzles
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital and some parts of the country yesterday experienced drizzles brought in by a depression formed in the southwest Bay of Bengal last week.

The depression that also caused a mild cold wave is however weakening now and likely to die soon clearing the clouds over the country, met office sources said.

The weathermen forecast that the cold wave may persist in the next three to four days.

They said the port city of Chittagong and its adjoining areas have been experiencing drizzles since Wednesday noon under the influence of the depression.

The sky was overcast and the sun remained invisible yesterday across the country.

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A Bangladesh Biman aircraft with its lights on prepares for take-off in a foggy afternoon yesterday at Zia International Airport.
 PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

9 journalists, BNP leaders get death threat
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Outlawed operatives in a letter threatened nine Jhenidah-based journalists, six ruling party leaders and officer-in-charge (OC) of Jhenidah Sadar Police Station with death by "brushfire" and bomb attacks.

On Wednesday evening, SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

US issues travel alert
 DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US Department of State has issued travel warnings to its citizens residing in or travelling to Bangladesh urging them to take extra care considering the security situation in the country.

Making the public announcement, SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Hasina hits out at PM over sedition threat
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Reacting to the prime minister's warning of sedition charges against her for 'creating anarchy', Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday lashed out at Khaleda Zia, branding her as a traitor for forming government with Jamaat-e-Islami that opposed the country's very independence.

"You protect and have made those people ministers, who collaborated with the occupation forces in 1971, killed our intellectuals, dishonour our national flag and national anthem. So, who is the traitor, you or I?" Hasina asked, pointing at Jamaat chief and cabinet member Motiur Rahman



Nizami.

"You talk of sedition charges, but you are a traitor yourself," she told the Rajshahi divisional rally of the 14-party opposition combine led by her party Awami League (AL). "You held anti-militancy meeting (Wednesday's Paltan meeting) but you protected militants by not speaking against them. Rather, you came down heavily on the opposition."

The AL chief told the huge rally held at the Madrasa Maidan that Jamaat is not a party that stands for 'Islam as preached by our prophet. They (Jamaat) project 'Islam of Maodudi' who opposed the independence of the then Pakistan and also of Bangladesh, she said.

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Polls on time under existing system
Declares PM at unofficial election rally in Jessore
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday unofficially kicked off election campaign for her party and reiterated that the next general elections will be held on time under the existing caretaker government system in accordance with the constitution.

Addressing a big public meeting

Ahmadiyyas appeal for govt protection
 Bigots to besiege Bakshibazar complex today
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahmadiyya community has appealed to the government to stop the zealots of Khatme Nabuwat Andolon Bangladesh (KNMB), which is scheduled to lay a siege today to the Ahmadiyya headquarters in the city's Bakshibazar, before they can do any harm.

The KNMB will hold a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mokarram

Warid Telecom becomes sixth mobile phone operator
 AFP, Dhaka

United Arab Emirates' Warid Telecom became the sixth operator in Bangladesh's booming mobile phone market after paying 50 million dollars to win a licence, an official said yesterday.

Warid Telecom, a venture of the Abu Dhabi Group of United Arab Emirates, beat its lone rival, Omnia of Jordan, to get the

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ICC REVIEW MEET ON WTO TALKS
United move must to salvage WTO losses
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's key export items may not get any duty- and quota-free market access to the developed economies, unless a government-private sector joint drive is immediately launched to gain the maximum possible benefits from the rest of the Doha Round negotiations, experts told a meeting yesterday.

A few speakers at the review

Saifur sees no harm in hunting guest birds
 UNB, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday dubbed the migratory birds "cause of havoc" as they invade wetlands, crowd out local species, gobble up crops and insects and then fly out of the country."

The finance minister launched his trade against the foreign birds as environmental issues cropped up while he was addressing the opening ceremony of an international plastic

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Unprecedented icy wave hits Bangladesh
 Special Correspondent:

While Bangladesh this year was experiencing its shortest winter in a decade due to global warming in all probability, meteorologists said, a sudden unexplained cold wave have started to rock the country. Some are linking it to the appearance of 7up Ice in Bangladesh.

A meteorologist at the country's Meteorological Department, said, "The meteorologists are analyzing the weather data to determine whether the short season was caused by global warming."

"But, we're baffled by the sudden chill that has showed up in mid December," the aforementioned meteorologist added.

Some of the meteorologists are attributing this cold wave to the appearance of 7up Ice in Bangladesh. Others are looking into the possibility that 7up Ice is connected to some greater global phenomenon. Unconfirmed sources informed that wherever in the globe 7up Ice has shown up it was accompanied by sudden cold fronts and significant drop in temperature.

But, whatever the reason is people have breathed a breath of relief to have their winter back, and, as some sources mention, preparations for a grand reception of 7up Ice is already underway.

Taking Advantage British long distance swimmer 22-year old Lewis Pugh has decided to

A new record for the coldest place on earth

The coldest place on earth used to be the Russian Antarctic Station Vostok set up as a part of Central Atlantic Storm Investigations (CASI), where the temperature went as low as -91° C (-132° F) in July 18, 1997, which is colder than

dry ice. Temperatures around the station set up as a part of Central Atlantic Storm Investigations (CASI) in the Antarctic the southern-most and coldest continent on earth registers regularly around -30° C to -60° C.

But, in December 2005, that record has been usurped from the Russians or the Antarctic, and Bangladesh has registered the ever lowest temperature on record. Shortly after the launch of 7up Ice in Bangladesh the temperature dropped below -95° C (-140.6° F). A Pan Bangladesh Cold Wave Investigations (PBCWI) station is being prepared to examine the phenomenon.

Thickest Ice
 The thickest ice-pack on earth in the past has been measured in Eastern Antarctic, 320 km inlands from the shore of

Wilkes Island. The ice there is 4.8 km (3 miles) thick. That is more than the height of Mount Everest. That may not be so impressive if we consider that, 90% of world's ice is stored in the Antarctic. What is much more impressive is the new record set in Bangladesh, where the Ashulia Lake, near Fantasy Kingdom has measured an ice covering 5 km (3.2 miles) thick.

NEW

স্বাস্থ্য!

Bangladesh to put forward an ice beauty

"Bangladesh is going to bring home the next Miss World crown" - confidently says a leading beautician. She was conveniently bolstered by the fact that Unnur Birna Vilhjalmsdottir, known internationally as the Ice Queen, from Iceland has won the crown in 2005. The current cold front in Bangladesh was behind her confidence, she admitted, and added, "We must make use of all our advantages." She also suggested that washing your face two times a day with iced cold water will stop it from aging fast, and rubbing ice on the skin actually kills of most bacteria hosted there.

Ice beyond Earth

Martian Correspondent:
 The European Space Agency released a rare photo of a Martian ice lake in the far northern reaches of the planet. Capping a swirl of dunes at the bottom of a 23-mile-wide (35-kilometer-wide) crater, the frozen-lake is thought to exist year-round. The modest temperature and pressure changes in this latitude would not be enough to allow the ice to melt or evaporate. NASA is looking into the possibilities of 7up Ice showing up on the Red Planet.