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Winter feed: A woman stores straw to protect her cattle during cold weather in Lạng Sơn Province. —

**HÀ NỘI** —People in the northern mountains shivered yesterday as temperature dropped to freezing point - and snow is likely to blanket Sa Pa Township this morning.

On Lạng Sơn Province's Mẫu Sơn Mountain, the thermometer yesterday dropped to minus 0.3 degrees Celsius

“Yesterday was the coldest day since the beginning of winter,” Lê Thanh Hò i, deputy director of the National Centre for Hydro-meteorological Forecasting said.

Data from the centre showed by 6am yesterday morning, the temperature fell to 3.2 degrees in Vĩnh Phúc Province’s Tam Đ o District; 3.4 degrees Celsius in Hà Giang Province’s Đ ng Văn District; 4.2 degrees Celsius in Lào Cai Province’s Sa Pa District; and 4.8 degrees Celsius in Sơn La Province’s Mộc Châu District.

The centre warned that extreme cold weather was predicted to last until Saturday . It said the temperatures would be 8-11 degrees in delta localities, 5-8 degrees in mountainous provinces and 3 degrees in high mountains. Hò i added that the M u Sơn area was in the centre of the cold spell.

L u Minh Hò i, director of Lào Cai Province’s Centre for Hydro-meteorological Forecasting, said snow was expected to fall on Fansipan Mountain and nearby Sa Pa Town early today.

Hà Nội is also experiencing the coldest weather since the beginning of winter with temperatures of 8-11 degrees predicted until Saturday.

Officials in Lạng Sơn Province yesterday allowed students to take a day off from school due to the extreme weather.

The provincial People’s Committee ordered relevant agencies to assist local breeders to keep their cows and buffaloes warm. The measures include providing shelters and deep straw and even lighting fires to keep the animals warm.

The provincial agriculture sector dispatched teams to villages to help local farmers protect their crop from the cold.

In Lào Cai Province, chairman of the provincial People’s Committee, Đ ng Xuân Phong, sent an

urgent message to all units to help minimise damage to animals and crops.

Phong told the chairmen of People’s Committees to delay all non-urgent meetings to focus on helping residents.

The Hà Nội’s Education and Training Department yesterday said that parents should allow their children to take a day off from primary school if the forecast was for temperatures below 10 degrees. If temperatures fell lower than 7 degrees, secondary school students should stay home..

Local schools were told to contact parents to inform them about extreme cold days. — **VNS**



Staying warm: A woman in North-eastern Quảng Ninh Province lights a fire to keep her cows warm.—



Sheltering: A woman sits in a truck’s trunk yesterday in Hà Nội. — VNA/VNS Photo Thành Đạt



Freezing: A woman in Hà Nội covers up to beat the drizzle and cold yesterday. — VNA/VNS Photo Thành Đạt

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