"The weather, rainy as in autumn and rather warm, will not diminish the pleasure and anticipation of the Estonian athletes for these Winter Olympic Games, which are about to begin," said President Ilves. Yesterday, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves participated in the official flag-raising ceremony in the Olympic Village, formally welcoming the participation of the Estonian delegation in the Olympic Games, which begin on Saturday.

National anthems were played at the ceremony, which was organised to honour the Estonian, Israeli, and Columbian delegations, and national flags were hoisted. "The weather, rainy as in autumn and rather warm, will not diminish the pleasure and anticipation of the Estonian athletes for these Winter Olympic Games, which are about to begin," said President Ilves.

The Head of State toured the village, reviewed the living conditions of the Estonian Olympic athletes, and dined in the athletes' diner.

President Ilves and Mrs. Evelin Ilves arrived in Vancouver on Wednesday to participate in the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games and to cheer on the Estonian cross-country skiers, biathletes, and skaters.

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