



Students of Home Economics College yesterday stage a sit-in on the road in front of the college in the city for three hours protesting hike in their admission fees. (Story on Page 16)

Dutch support in water management reiterated

UNB, Dhaka

The Netherlands yesterday reiterated its willingness to assist Bangladesh in strengthening its water management.

The Dutch assurance came when the Netherlands Ambassador Bea ten Tusscher met with Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen at his office yesterday.

The Netherlands has ongoing commitments of about \$200 million dollars for water management projects in the country, all of which are grant funds.

The Dutch envoy said good water management is essential for the security of the people of Bangladesh as it provides protection against floods and cyclones, as well as food security.

She said the rivers and the coastal zone have to be managed adequately by strong, modern and well-managed institutions.

The minister and the envoy focused on the urgent need to strengthen the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and the Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO).

Ambassador Tusscher offered the minister assistance in creating new land through an innovative concept, Building with Nature, which is successfully applied by the best water engineers in the Netherlands.

She suggested that all political parties work together to create a 25-year "Delta Plan" with long-term investments to adapt to the effects of climate change in Bangladesh.

The Netherlands has contributed close to

\$1 billion in development cooperation programmes in Bangladesh over 35 years. The water sector has been the prime focus of the Dutch from the start.

Presently, annual disbursements to the water sector total around \$20 million. The Dutch support programme focuses on people's participation in water management and on integrated coastal zone management.

On climate change, the Ambassador said climate change is particularly important for the water sector of Bangladesh. It puts increasing pressure on Bangladesh's water infrastructure.

She said climate change will require new approaches and stronger institutions for water management.

She said in the Netherlands the climate change policies now acknowledge that the forces of nature should not be fought. Instead, nature is made to work for the benefit of the people in creating new land.

"We call it 'Building with Nature' and it is cheaper and it protects the environment better," the envoy said, adding that the Netherlands has offered Bangladesh a chance to work together and apply the 'Building with Nature' concept to coastal and river management in Bangladesh.

Citing example, she said by effectively harnessing the sediments transported by Bangladesh's main rivers, the country can artificially raise the level of the land along the coast or create natural coastal defenses and Bangladesh can outpace the effects of sea-level rise.

By-elections acceptable

Says EWG report

METRO DESK

The Election Working Group (EWG) in a statement yesterday said that despite some isolated incidents at some centres, the parliamentary by-elections on April 2 were conducted in a manner consistent with international standards of freedom, fairness and security.

EWG deployed a total of 488 stationary observers at 247 centres of the six constituencies where by-elections were held.

Ninety-nine percent of the EWG observers reported that no major irregularities took place in the polling centres, says a press release.

However, EWG observed that the voter turnout was low and there were illegal campaigning outside the polling stations at some locations.

The statement added that EWG men were injured in clashes between rival political parties that were attempting to influence voters and polling in the vicinity of MR High School centre of Nepalali union in Bogra-7 constituency.

Besides, at six polling centres of Kishoreganj-6 constituency, the presence of unauthorised persons without proper election official, party agent or observer accreditation was observed.

The EWG appreciates the high level of coordination between the local administration and the BEC during the by-elections and believes that such coordination effectively contributed to reduced electoral irregularities.

EWG hopes that continued coordinated efforts of all stakeholders, especially the administration and the BEC, will continue to contribute to strengthening democracy and democratic practices in Bangladesh.

Chinese team due April 8

METRO DESK

An eight-member high-level Chinese delegation from the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) led by Feng Zuoku, vice-president of the CPAFFC, will pay a good will visit to Bangladesh from April 8-10 at the invitation of Bangladesh China People's Friendship Association, says a press release.

DMC to reopen this week

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday said Dhaka Medical College (DMC), which was closed last week following clashes on the campus, would reopen this week.

"We hope that the college will be reopened by this week," he told reporters after a preparatory meeting for the service week to be observed from tomorrow aiming at increasing health care services of the country.

Earlier on March 31, the authorities closed the college for an indefinite period following violent clashes between two rival groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) that left one of its top leaders killed and several others injured.

The minister said three committees have been formed comprising local elected

representatives that will work to better manage hospitals throughout the country and ensure quality of service at public hospitals.

"I will go to Dhaka Medical College and sit there on April 7 onwards to help uplift the quality of service rendered there," he added.

Ruhul Haque said any irregularity from any hospitals would be dealt with as per rules and regulations.

A proposal was made in the meeting to increase user fees at different government hospitals, but it was not discussed.

"We have cancelled the discussion on user fees as we did not take any decision in principle about the fees," the minister said, adding that as it is an important matter, any decision on it will have to be taken discussing with top levels of the government.

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Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, a reputed and leading joint-venture private commercial Bank is looking for competent and experienced professionals for the following positions:

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 - Minimum 10 (ten) years experience of which at least 03 (three) years exposure as Head of concerned Division in any Private Commercial Bank.
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 - Age should not exceed 50 years.

02) Head of Internal Control & Compliance Division:

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- b) Experience/ Requirements:
 - Minimum 7 (seven) years banking experience in reputed Private Commercial Bank of which at least 02 (two) years as Deputy Branch Manager/ Sub-manager/ 2nd man of the branch.
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 - Must be capable to work in a computerized environment.
 - Must be willing to work in any branch of the bank including rural branches.
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Eligible and interested candidates are requested to apply online alongwith a recent scanned photograph and Master degree certificate to www.dbbi.com.bd latest by **April 30, 2009**. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview. No direct application will be accepted.



PIONEER INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

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Head Office: Jiban Bima Bhaban (6th Floor), 10 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

The Board of Directors of Pioneer Insurance Company Ltd. in their 142 Meeting held on April 05, 2009 recommended 20% Cash Dividend for the year ended December 31, 2008, subject to approval of the shareholders in the 13 Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 11.00 A.M., at National Shooting Auditorium, Gulshan - 1, Dhaka 1212.

The "Record Date" has been fixed on Tuesday, April 21, 2009. Shareholders whose names are found recorded in the share register on the "Record Date" shall be entitled to receive dividend.

Pioneer Insurance Company Limited earned
Tk 66.55 Crore Premium in 2008.

By order of the Board of Directors
S.M. Mizanur Rahman
Company Secretary

Date: April 05, 2009

The Daily Star
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Dhaka PWD Division-2, Dhaka
Phone-9556184 Fax-02-9556184
দরপত্র বাতিল বিজ্ঞপ্তি
Name of work: Construction of VIP Area (Bed room & Office block) of Ganabhaban at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
Tender No: DD-2/299 of 2008-2009, dated-22/03/2009
Due to unavoidable circumstances the abovementioned tender is hereby cancelled.
Abdul Kader Chowdhury
Executive Engineer
Dhaka PWD Division-2, Dhaka
GD-1816

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