

Business

**BB allows
Non-resident
Foreign Currency
Deposit**

Bangladeshis staying abroad, foreigners and country's approved dealers can open Non-resident Foreign Currency Deposit (NFCD) account with the local banks, said a Bangladesh Bank press release Thursday, reports UNB.

Under the existing foreign currency rules, non-resident Bangladeshi citizens including those with dual citizenship as well as foreign citizens, companies or farms and approved dealers can deposit foreign currency in the NFCD account.

The interest bearing term deposit account can be opened with minimum 1,000 US dollar or 500 pound sterling for one month, three months, six months and one year. The interest will be tax free.

The other facilities: Rate of interest is one per cent higher than that of Euro currency deposit, the deposit along with interest accrued on it can be freely repatriated and one can have the account for five years even after returning home to permanently stay in the country.

Dhaka, Hague to hold annual talks from Feb 9

The annual consultations between Bangladesh and the Netherlands on bilateral development cooperation programme will be held on February 9, 10 and 11, reports UNB.

During the consultations the Netherlands is expected to grant 80 million guilder (168 crore taka) to Bangladesh for the on-going projects, especially in the water management sector, health, family planning, education, drinking water, ferries and crop diversification sectors.

The Netherlands delegation will be headed by G Th ER Arnold, Director, Development Cooperation Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hague, said a press release.

Dollar continues to gain in New York

NEW YORK, Feb 4: The US dollar surged ahead again Wednesday, gaining against all major currencies but the Japanese yen amid continued turmoil in European markets, according to AP.

Gold prices fell worldwide. On the New York Commodity Exchange, gold for current delivery settled at dls 329.30 a troy ounce, off 1.10 dollar from Tuesday. Republic National Bank said gold lost 1.05 dollar an ounce to a late bid price of 328.50 dollar.

Dealers were active in Europe, where a wave of concern rippled through trading floors as the Danish krone fell to its lowest allowable level in the European exchange rate mechanism. That prompted intervention by several central banks, including Germany's Bundesbank, to prop up the sagging currency.

Pressure on the European currencies has intensified since the weekend devaluation of the Irish pound, or punt. The nervousness increased ahead of Thursday's scheduled meeting of the Bundesbank's policy-making council.

In Tokyo, the dollar closed at 124.33 yen, down 0.65 yen from Tuesday's close. Later in London, the dollar fell to 124.30 yen. In New York the dollar settled at 124.38 yen, down from 124.65 yen on Tuesday.

In London, the British pound fell to 1.4350 dollar from 1.4465 dollar late Tuesday.

Bankers asked to help boost production in all fields

KUULNA, Feb 4: State Minister for Finance Mojibor Rahman today called upon the bank officials to further extend their contribution for boosting production in all fields in the country as well as ameliorating the condition of the masses, development of the country.

He underscored the need for immediate recovery of outstanding loans as per rule without delay and advised the bank officials to reinforce financial flow in the country.

Rahman further said that the bankers should play a leading role in improving the pecuniary condition of the tolling masses who comprised a large number in the society.

He urged the officials to render their services with dedication and sincerity with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in every field.

Later, while addressing the high officials of income tax at income tax commissioner's office, the state minister called upon them for strengthening their activities.

In the afternoon, the state minister witnessed the inter club sports competition of customs, excise and VAT at the divisional stadium and distributed prizes.

He was addressing the high officials of banks and financial institutions of Khulna region at Bangladesh Bank conference hall here.

Terming banks and financial institutions as they indispensable part for attaining

economic emancipation of the nation, Rahman said that the activities of such institutions should be expanded in an updated and innovative manner for expediting economic development in every field.

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