

যুক্তরাজ্য থেকে মুহুর্তেই টাকা পাঠান

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WTO director general due today



Pascal Lamy

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Pascal Lamy, director-general of World Trade Organisation, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today on a two-day visit to discuss trade-related issues, Commerce Minister GM Quader said yesterday.

Lamy will also visit Chittagong, besides holding meetings with the commerce, foreign and finance ministers.

Lamy's visit to Bangladesh is important as the country is largely dependent on WTO policies for overseas trade, Quader said.

Invited by the commerce ministry, Lamy also visited Bangladesh a few months ago.

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Ministry advises PM to sign TICFA

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The commerce ministry has advised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to sign TICFA with the US to strengthen trade ties and ensure the continuation of GSP for Bangladesh.

The ministry sent a summary of the impact of TICFA to Hasina on January 9. The final draft of the agreement is now on Hasina's table for her approval.

But the signing of the agreement does not guarantee the continuation of the generalised system of preference (GSP) for Bangladesh, the ministry said in the summary.

The ministry sent the first TICFA draft to Hasina in April last year ahead of the visit of the outgoing US Secretary of States Hillary Clinton to Bangladesh in May.

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Primary work of nuke power plant to begin in Sept

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will start civil construction work on the Rooppur nuclear power plant in Pabna by September this year, Science and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman said yesterday.

The main construction work will begin in 2015, with power generation expected to start from 2020, he said.

"The IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] will oversee the safety measures at each level of installation. And Russia has assured us of ensuring safety of the project," said Osman.

The minister spoke at a discussion organised by Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh at the auditorium of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.



Yeafesh Osman

During Prime Minister's Moscow visit early this month, Bangladesh and Russia inked an agreement to finance the preparatory works for setting up a 2,000 megawatt nuclear power plant, he said.

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Govt shelves rice export plan amid rising prices

SOHEL PARVEZ

The government has shelved its plan to allow export of rice in the face of rising prices of the staple food, according to food ministry officials.

Big millers and traders also went for huge purchases to build stocks amid a speculation of late harvest and reduced production in the next season.

The prices of fine rice rose 5.81 percent to Tk 43-48 each kilogram in the last one month. Coarse rice prices advanced 5.17 percent to Tk 29-32 per kg, according to Department of Agricultural Marketing.

Wholesale rice prices also increased in the same period.

"We are observing the market price. Let's wait for the market to become stable," Food Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque told The Daily Star by phone.

He said Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to natural disaster. A sudden natural calamity may affect production and cause the prices to go up.

Insiders said the food ministry proposed allowing rice export on a limited scale to bring buoyancy in the rice market so that farmers get better prices.

But the ministry took a go-slow stance on the proposal after the prices started to rise, ending a bear run of more than one year.

"It will not be wise to allow exports until prices become stable," said Ahmed Hossain, director general of Directorate General of Food.

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BB announces monetary policy today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank will announce the monetary policy for January-June today, aiming mainly to contain inflation and achieve inclusive growth.

BB Governor Atiur Rahman is going to announce the policy after discussion with professionals groups, including economists and former finance advisers and central bank governors, the central bank said in a statement yesterday. The monetary policy for the first half of the current fiscal year was announced in July.

In its quarterly economic update, the central bank forecast the GDP growth for the current fiscal year to be ranging from 6.1 percent to 6.4 percent.

The government set a real GDP growth target of 7.2 percent for fiscal 2013. But in view of the ongoing global economic slowdown, there are significant risks to Bangladesh's export and remittance growth, and to economic growth.

Don't pay bribe to taxmen: NBR boss

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

NBR chairman yesterday called upon businesspeople not to pay bribe to tax officials to get their files cleared.

"Don't pay anywhere. I guarantee that your files will not get stuck," said Md Ghulam Hussain at a discussion at the SME Foundation office in Dhaka.

Small and medium entrepreneurs took part in the programme.

The National Board of Revenue boss requested the businesses to inform him if any tax official demands bribe. "I will take action against them," he said.

Hussain said NBR officials are blamed for corruption but they alone are not responsible. "We should note that businessmen also offer bribe," he said.

Citing illegal import of luxury cars

such as Mercedes-Benz and BMW in the past, he said the NBR is looking into the unlawful imports of these vehicles.

The NBR chief also asked entrepreneurs to pay taxes regularly, saying the revenue authority fell short by Tk 3,000 crore of its collection target in the first half of the current fiscal year.

Revenue collection grew 14.46 percent to Tk 44,771 crore in the July-December period from Tk 39,115 crore in the same period a year ago, according to the NBR.

Hussain said NBR is working to ease the tax payment processes to reduce the hassles of the taxpayers.

At the discussion, participants urged the revenue authority to give tax incentive to the SMEs to encourage their growth.

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মুহুর্তে!

রাষ্ট্রীয় নিরাপত্তায় ঝুঁকিমুক্ত বিনিয়োগ ও আকর্ষণীয় মুনাফা নিয়ে আপনার পাশে জাতীয় সঞ্চয় স্কীম

পরিবার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী), মুনাফার হার ১৩.৪৫%
 একলক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি মাসে নীট মুনাফা ১,০৭০ টাকা।

- ❖ ১৮ (আঠার) ও তদূর্ধ্ব বয়সের যে কোন বাংলাদেশী মহিলা
- ❖ যেকোন বাংলাদেশী শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী (পুরুষ ও মহিলা) এবং
- ❖ ৬৫ (পঁয়ষট্টি) ও তদূর্ধ্ব বয়সের বয়োজ্যেষ্ঠ যে কোন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক (পুরুষ ও মহিলা) নির্ধারিত ফরমে এই সঞ্চয়পত্র ক্রয়ের আবেদন করতে পারবে।

পেনশনার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী), মুনাফার হার ১৩.১৯%
 এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা ৩,১৪৫ টাকা

৫-বছর মেয়াদী বাংলাদেশ সঞ্চয়পত্র, মুনাফার হার ১৩.১৯%
 এক লক্ষ টাকায় মেয়াদান্তে (৫-বছর) নীট মুনাফা ৬২,৯০০ টাকা।

৩-মাস অন্তর মুনাফাভিত্তিক সঞ্চয়পত্র (৩-বছর মেয়াদী), মুনাফার হার ১২.৫৯%
 একলক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা ৩,০০০ টাকা।

আপনাদের সেবায়: জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর, অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়

প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা ০১৭১২১৪০৭৫০; ০১৭১৪০২৮৬৯৪	কাঁটাবন ০১৭১৬৫০৬২১২	শ্যামলী ০১৭১৮১৮৯৩৮১	সদরঘাট (বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক) ০১৯১২৮৩১৬১৮
মতিঝিল ০১৮১৭০০৫৮২৭	মিরপুর ০১৭১৮০৬৭৩৪৫	চাষাঢ়া, নারায়নগঞ্জ ০১৭১৮৫৩২৮৯৩	আহ্লাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম ০১৯১৮৭০৬৩২১

আহ্বানী বিনিয়োগকারীগণ নিকটস্থ সঞ্চয় অফিস/ডাকঘর/ব্যাংক থেকে সঞ্চয়পত্র ক্রয় এবং যেকোন তথ্যের জন্য যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন

যদি আয় হয় দশ ব্যয় করবো নয়; তবেই হাতের এক হবে সঞ্চয়।