

Women entrepreneurs honoured

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Tanuja Rahman Maya from Jessore emerged as the 'Best Women Entrepreneur of the Year' yesterday, for making a successful foray into the country's handicrafts market.

Maya, owner of Rong Handicrafts, has received the National SME Women Entrepreneur Award 2010 at a function at Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

SME Foundation organised the event, for the second time, to honour three women entrepreneurs.

Roksana Akter Shova from Dhaka has been awarded as the

'Creative Women Entrepreneur of the Year'. She works with Kashem Fiberglass Composite Industry.

Sylhet-based Women's Fashion World, owned by Shornolata Roy, has clinched the 'Best Enterprise of the Year' award for the best organisation operated by a woman.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed over the awards to the winners. Each winner has got Tk 1 lakh as prize money, and crest and certificate.

Muhith said although the participation of women in various sectors has increased, the country cannot claim that an equal participation has

been ensured.

"We have increased the participation of women in politics. We are much ahead of the US and UK in this regard. But we don't have achievement in every sector," he said.

"We have heard and also read in newspapers that some people have invested their SME loans in the stockmarket."

The market, which saw its steepest single day fall on Sunday, would have been stable if they used the loans in their own business, the minister said.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua, State Minister for Women and Child Affairs Shirin Sharmin

Chowdhury, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Representative Ian Crosby, SME Foundation Chairperson Aftab Ul Islam and Managing Director Syed Rezwanaul Kabir also spoke on the occasion.

A total of 129 applicants applied for the awards in three categories. In 2008, the foundation awarded eight women entrepreneurs.

The guests at the ceremony also called for more and easy access of credit for women entrepreneurs to exploit their potential and help them contribute to the economy.

"Globally, the SMEs, many of them owned by women, do not

have proper access to financial services. But we have seen that economically-empowered women can help their families and ensure education and good health of the families," said Ian Crosby.

Crosby also urged Bangladesh's financial institutions to look into the potential of lending to women entrepreneurs.

"Once the perception of the financial institutions changes, they will find women as loyal clients."

Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said the women entrepreneurs should be brought to mainstream by providing all facilities.



CONCORD City Group has recently agreed to supply its food products to the amusement parks of Concord Entertainment Company, a sister concern of Concord Group. Shahriar Kamal, deputy managing director of Concord Group, and Zafor Uddin Siddiqui, City Group Director for marketing and sales, signed the deal at a programme in Dhaka.

Seminar points to proper use of man-hours to raise productivity

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday laid importance on proper utilisation of man-hours for maintaining productivity in mills and factories as well as developing management skill.

They made the observation at a seminar on 'Effectiveness of Lean Manufacturing System and Labour Management' organised by Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association at a city hotel.

Mohammad Hatem and Sharafat Jamil, BKMEA vice presidents, and Dr Dietrich Stotz, also took part in the discussion, chaired by Habibur Rahman, first vice president of the knit sector trade body.

AH Aslam Sani, BKMEA's finance committee chairman, presented a power point presentation on various technical aspects of lean manufacturing system in the seminar.

There is no alternative to introducing lean manufacturing technology for increasing production

Bangladeshi RMG show in London on Feb 23

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A two-day show of Bangladeshi readymade garments will begin in London on February 23.

European buyers, retailers, wholesalers, fashion houses and leading brands will take part in the fair to be organised at Olympia 2 conference centre, the organisers said at a press conference at the Westin Dhaka yesterday.

Genx UK Ltd and Alliant will organise the fair styled Bangladesh Clothing Show.

Mahbubur Rahman, team leader of the fair, said the main objective of the exhibition is to promote the Bangladeshi RMG to the UK market.

Rahman expected around 60 Bangladeshi organisations to participate in the fair.

Representatives from different trade bodies were



Chief Executive Officer of Robi Michael Kuehner exchanges documents with his Eastern Bank counterpart Ali Reza Iftekhar after signing a deal in Dhaka yesterday. Selected Robi retailers or distributors will act as cash-out points for the bank to withdraw remittances in cash.

Stocks gain sharply

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka stocks gained sharply for a second straight day to recover from Sunday's record fall.

Benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSE General Index (DGEN), went up 209 points, or 2.63 percent to 8,168.

With yesterday's rise, the DGEN moved up over 500 points in the last couple of trading sessions, showing the market recovered 93 percent losses that it lost on the first trading day.

Market insiders said recommendations from a meeting of the market stakeholders helped restore investor optimism of a positive trend in the days ahead.

The meeting held on Monday asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to take long-term policies, instead of piecemeal measures.

"Apart from the regulator's Sunday's initiatives, the advice of long-term policies fuelled yesterday's market," said a stockbroker.

Following the biggest-ever fall of 551 points in the stockmarket's 55-year his-

tory, the SEC suspended net asset value-based calculation in providing share credit, increased margin loan ratio to 1:1.5 from 1:1, and abandoned any execution of a revised rule on member's margin.

The regulator also brought back Grameenphone and Marico Bangladesh shares to normal trading from spot market transaction.

On the trading floor yesterday, all the major sectors including telecom, banks and power companies rose.

Advancers beat losers 172 to 69, with three securities remaining unchanged on the prime bourse, which traded more than 9.56 crore shares and mutual fund units on a value of Tk 1,683 crore.

Chittagong stocks also marked a sharp rise, with the CSE Selective Categories Index increasing 532 points, or 3.6 percent to 15,282.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange traded more than 1.77 crore shares and mutual fund units worth Tk 204 crore.

Of the traded issues, 137 advanced and 46 declined, with four securities remaining unchanged on the port city bourse.

Italy keen on hiring more Bangladeshis: new envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Italy is keen to recruit more Bangladeshi manpower considering their law abiding character and hard working nature, the newly appointed Italian ambassador to Bangladesh said yesterday.

Giorgio Guglielmino said this while presenting his credentials to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban.

Mentioning that over one lakh Bangladeshis are presently working in Italy, the new Italian envoy said his government is satisfied with performances of the Bangladeshi workers in the European country.

He said the Bangladeshi community in Italy never goes for newspaper headlines and does not get involved in anti-social activities including human trafficking.

The ambassador said that Italy is also very keen to further expand its cooperation in Bangladesh's economic, trade

and commerce and cultural sectors.

President Zillur Rahman expressed his satisfaction over the excellent bilateral relations that exist between the two countries.

Apart from readymade garment, the President also urged, the Italian busi-



nessmen to import other items like ceramics, jute and jute goods, pharmaceuticals, leather and leather goods and handicrafts from Bangladesh.

He also urged the Italian entrepreneurs to invest in the potential sectors of Bangladesh, as an investment-friendly atmosphere is now prevailing in the country.



Bank Asia Director Anisur Rahman Sinha inaugurates the bank's 47th branch in Narayanganj yesterday. Managing Director Erfanuddin Ahmed was also present.



Samson H Chowdhury, chairman of MTB Group, opens the Baridhara branch of Mutual Trust Bank in Dhaka on Sunday. Anis A Khan, the bank's managing director, is also seen.



AMA Muhith, finance minister, handed an award of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh to Raihan Shamsi, deputy chief executive officer of Grameenphone, for the telecom operator's transparency in publishing financial statements and annual report for 2009, at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Sunday.

GP receives ICAB award

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mobile phone operator Grameenphone won a top award of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) for publishing transparent financial statements and annual report for 2009.

The award was given in the category of communication and IT sector, Grameenphone said in a statement yesterday.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed the award at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Sunday.

Raihan Shamsi, deputy chief executive officer and chief financial officer of Grameenphone, received the award.

Grameenphone also stood first-runner-up in the South Asian region on the same ground, announced by the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA).

Finance Minister of Nepal Surendra Pandey handed over the award at a SAFA ceremony in Kathmandu on December 12.

Grameenphone came to the stockmarket in November 2009 with the country's largest initial public offering. The company had around 110,000 shareholders in June 2010 when the annual report was published.