

Yunus Centre opens at Turkey's Okan University

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Turkey has launched "Muhammad Yunus International Centre for Microfinance and Social Business" at Okan University in Istanbul to provide a platform for addressing development challenges faced by Asia.

The centre, the first of its kind in the country, is expected to be a hub of research and practical applications as well as hands-on training for academics and researchers.

Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, President of Board of Trustees and Founder of Okan University Bekir Okan, Turkish Minister for European Union Affairs Egemen Bağış, representing the president of Turkey, and Minister for Family and Social Policies Affairs Fatma Sahin, representing the prime minister of Turkey, signed a charter to this effect on Thursday.

During the ceremony, Okan also announced that he would donate US\$2 million to take care of the initial costs of the centre, said Yunus Centre in Dhaka said in a statement yesterday.

Founded in 1999, Okan University is one of the modern universities of Turkey.



From left, Professor Aziz Akgul; founder of Okan University Bekir Okan; Turkey's Minister of Family and Social Policies Fatma Sahin; Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus; Rector of the university Professor Sule Kut; and Turkish Minister of European Union Affairs Egemen Bağış shake hands after a signing ceremony recently in Istanbul.

During the ceremony, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan sent a message to Prof Yunus offering him all the hospitalities to hold the 2012 Global Social Business Summit in Turkey.

After the ceremony, the microcredit pioneer addressed students, faculties, NGO leaders, and dignitaries and explained the potential of social business.

The Yunus Centre at Okan

University will provide an independent and open platform for addressing development challenges faced by poor people in Asia. The centre aims to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development by promoting, developing and implementing social business ideas and projects.

The centre will conduct applied research in social business and microfinance, and will engage in efforts to disseminate the research in the academic as well as practitioner communities, especially involving young students and people.

It will promote and disseminate Yunus' philosophy with a special focus on social business. Each year, the founder of Grameen Bank will give a lecture on social business at the centre.

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Ctg chamber wants changes in law to import inorganic salt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong Chamber chief yesterday urged the government to amend laws to let businessmen import inorganic salt.

The chamber asked the commerce ministry to amend the related statutory regulatory order (SRO) to save the industries that use inorganic salts as raw materials.

Murshed Murad, president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the import of refined or bolder or any other kind of salt is prohibited.

But recognised chemical producers are permitted to import the salt as per the Customs Act 1969, he said.

The salts are used as raw materials in many industries.

For lack of definite and clear explanation in the SRO, many consignments imported by these industries and commercial importers are now held up by the tariff authority, he said, hampering the production in these sectors.



Md Nurul Amin Faruque, director of Exim Bank, inaugurates the 62nd branch of the bank in Noakhali recently.



Taslim Ahmed, head of corporate communications and public relations of Citycell, attends a press meet to announce an exposition -- Digital ICT Fair-2011 -- in the capital yesterday. The eight-day show organised by Multiplan Computer City Centre in the city tomorrow.



Shaikh Abdul Aziz, managing director of Uttara Bank, inaugurates the new premises of the bank's Gaibandha branch recently.



Singer Runa Laila opens a showroom of Green Furniture on Awrangzab Road at Mohammadpur in Dhaka recently. Kawser Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of the company, was also present.

Huawei eyes business expansion in India

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Telecommunications equipment giant Huawei Technologies, said on Thursday that the company plans to expand its enterprise business in India and is in talks with the state governments of Gujarat and West Bengal in this regard.

The enterprise segment in India, according to Eric Yu, president of the enterprise business for Huawei, is pegged at around \$10 billion distributed among the top 10 enterprise players, which includes global players like IBM and Hewlett-Packard among others.

The market is growing at 15 percent. According to Yu, the space in India is poised for growth which will be driven by three verticals namely the big corporations, the small and medium enterprises and the government, all of which will contribute equally to the growth.

MGH Group sponsored BATEXPO

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MGH Group took part in the country's biggest exposition for apparel makers as the lead sponsor, the Group said in a statement recently.

The three-day event, BATEXPO 2011, was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital on December 10.

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- Engineering Category:** Singer Bangladesh (Listed) & BRB Cables (Non-listed)
- FMCG Category:** AMCL (Pran) (Listed) & Square consumer products Ltd (Non-listed);
- Leather Category:** Bata Shoes (Listed) & Leatherex Footwear Industries Limited (Non-listed);
- Steel Category:** BSRM Steels Limited (Listed) & RSRM (Non-listed);
- Textile Category:** Bextex Ltd. (Listed)
- Pharmaceuticals category:** Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (Listed) & Acme Group (Non-listed).

Dun & Bradstreet South Asia Middle East Limited (DNBSAME) initiated a series of corporate awards to recognize the corporate leaders of Bangladesh based on their performance and contribution to the economy. The program was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC)-Celebrity Hall, on Thursday the Nov 3, 2011. The chief guest of the ceremony was ornate by Honorable Industry Minister Mr. Dilip Borua and Honorable Commerce Minister Mr. Md. Faruk Khan MP., Mr. Rajesh Mirchandani, CEO DNBSAME, Mr. Saikat Poddar-Regional Director, Dun & Bradstreet- South Asia, Mr. Jerry Mobs, CEO, Qubee Bangladesh, and Mr. Waqar A Choudhury, MD & CEO, Green Delta LR Holdings Limited & other business dignitaries and distinguished guests. The event was sponsored by Qubee Bangladesh and Corporate Awards was sponsored by Green Delta LR Holdings Limited. On the occasion, the second (2010) edition of Dun & Bradstreet Bangladesh's Top 500 Companies Co-sponsored by BRAC Bank, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited, Summit Group and Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited was inaugurated.

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