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DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 1, 2014, e-mail:business@thedailystar.net

COMMODITIES

TI to help ensure transparency in garment sector

Refayet Ullah Mirdha

STOCKS

DSEX

Transparency International will launch a tripartite panel within next year that will ensure accountability and transparency in the garment sector, said a senior official of its Bangladesh chapter.

"If everything goes right, we will be able to come up with the Garment Industries Transparency Initiative in Bangladesh and Myanmar by next year," said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh

"Before the programme kicks off formally, we will hold a regional conference early next year and an international one at the end of the year -- both in Dhaka," he said in an interview with The Daily Star.

The panel will comprise representatives from ministries concerned, the private sector and civil society, he said.

The labour and employment, and commerce ministries will represent the government, while TIB, the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Brac, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies and trade union leaders will come from the civil society. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association will lead the private sector in the tripartite body. READ MORE ON B3



Iftekharuzzaman

HOW WILL THE SCHEME HELP?

A tripartite panel will set benchmarks for the industry

It will monitor business practices of garment makers, retailers and other stakeholders

Manufacturers will be encouraged to disclose info on their activities

Compliant factories will get TI certificates that will brighten their image abroad

Move toward social business inevitable

CURRENCIES

SHANGHAI

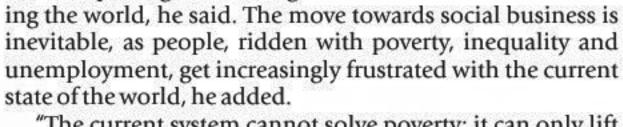
SINGAPORE

Yunus says as Global Social Business Summit ends

SUSHMITA S PREETHA, from Mexico City

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has urged businesses to wake up and take note that the current capitalist system, driven solely by profit, cannot survive in the long run.

Social business can provide an alternative paradigm for interpreting and chang-



"The current system cannot solve poverty; it can only lift people up one step, but that doesn't mean they will be equal citizens. Even heads of big businesses recognise the unsustainability of this system - that Plan A has failed - and that's why they are looking for a Plan B."

READ MORE ON B3

Telecoms regulator to sell additional airwave

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The telecom regulator plans to allocate unused spectrum in the 1,800 and 2,100 megahertz bands to existing mobile operators by March next year, which will help them deliver better voice and data services.

Bangladesh has 10.6 MHz unused or unsold bandwidth in the first band and 15 MHz bandwidth in the second, a BTRC official said yesterday.

The country crossed the 11 crore mobile subscriber mark, but the quality of services has dropped due to inadequate spectrum. The regulator had earlier planned to

release the 700 MHz band next year for 4G technology, but later backtracked as the environment was not yet ready for 4G.

Regulatory Commission and top officials of the mobile operators discussed the issue yesterday in a meeting.

telecom ministry next week for feedback,

especially the process of selling the spectrum and prices.

The operators have long been request-

Muhammad Yunus

Bangladesh Telecommunication

The regulator will send guidelines to the

ing the government for the 1,800 MHz band for 4G (long term evolution), which provides far greater data speed than 3G and is globally used for 2G, 3G and 4G technologies to provide both voice and data services, but the regulator will approve that only after selling the 700 MHz spectrum.

Bangladeshi mobile operators are allowed to use the allocated 1,800 MHz spectrum only for 2G services, while the 2,100 MHz band for 3G and 4G.

The government will soon decide on the process to allocate spectrum, BTRC Chairman Sunil Kanti Bose told reporters at a meeting last week.

Mahmud Hossain, chief regulatory affairs officer of Grameenphone, said the business environment for 700 MHz is not ready yet for Bangladesh.

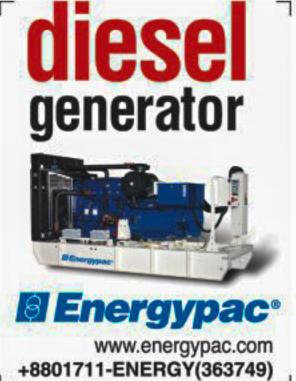
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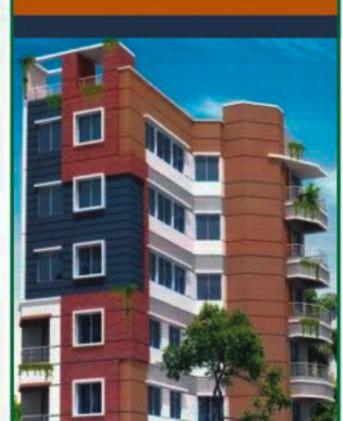
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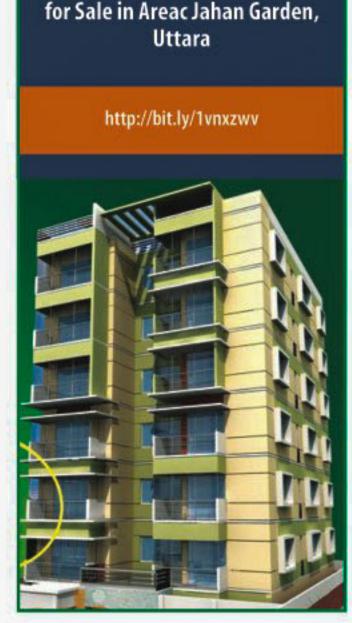




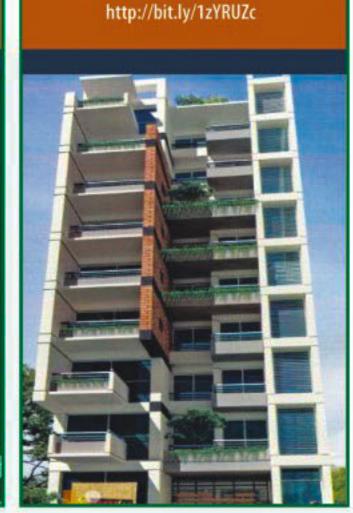
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