

Six more social business plans approved

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Six social business plans were approved for funding at the 107th Social Business Design Lab organised by the Yunus Centre at the Grameen Bank auditorium in Dhaka on Saturday.

Four of the plans were Nobin Udyokta businesses, which were presented by young entrepreneurs coming from Grameen Bank borrowers' families, and the rest were guest projects.

The four plans are: Jannat Fabrics producing ladies clothing by Shilpy Akter, Parul Beauty Parlor providing skin care by Parul Akter, Mahamuda ladies corner selling cosmetics and boutiques, Nayan Departmental Store selling grocery items and a wide range of consumer goods.

One of the guest projects were on social business on sustainable coastal housing in Guatemala by Julio Linares from Guatemala.

The last project titled Photopreneurs was presented by Prito Reza and Shazeeb M Khairul Islam, which aims at creating photo entrepreneurs to combat unemployment.

Around 150 participants and observers, from national and international organisations with diverse background, attended the programme, including a large number of international participants, Yunus Centre said in a statement yesterday.

The Design Lab was chaired by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus. He opened the lab with welcoming remarks to the audience, including those tuning in via live stream.

Yunus explained the process of the lab, to review and assess social business plans of entrepreneurs.



YUNUS CENTRE

Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus poses with four young entrepreneurs, who are the children of Grameen Bank borrowers, at the 107th Social Business Design Lab at Grameen Bank auditorium in Dhaka on Saturday.

He reported that to date since January 2013, a total of 1,553 projects have been presented in the last 107 Design Labs of which 1,528 projects were approved for investment, and most of these are already in operation.

All details related to marketing and sustainability of the plans were also presented. There were several rounds of discussions on how

each social business could be improved and strengthened during the main session as well as in breakout sessions. The projects will be reviewed in the upcoming labs, and through regular reports on Social Business Pedia.

The Nobel laureate also invited the participants to join the next Social Business Design Lab to be held on September 17.

DBCCI to explore trade, investment opportunities in Benelux region

UNB, Dhaka

A 14-member business delegation of Dutch-Bangla Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DBCCI) will visit the Benelux region—Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg—from September 6-12 to explore fresh trade and investment opportunities for Bangladesh.

M Hassan Khaled, president of the chamber and the leader of the delegation, made the announcement at a press meet at the building of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), in Dhaka on Saturday.

Abdul Matlub Ahmad, FBCCI president; Shaheer Taha, chairman of the standing committee on trade fair and events at DBCCI, and Altaf Hossain Biswas, secretary general, were also present.

The DBCCI is organising the trade mission in collaboration with Bangladesh embassies in the Netherlands and Belgium, and Bangladesh Business Chamber of Commerce and Industry Luxembourg. "Our aim is to promote Bangladeshi products and services to Benelux region, especially in the Netherlands and attract Dutch and European investors in Bangladesh," Taha said.

DBCCI president Khaled said they will also discuss the preparations on a single-country trade fair to be held in the Netherlands in April next year.

He said the delegation will arrange business to business matchmaking event in three countries. The business networking event will be held in the Hague of the Netherlands, Antwerp of Belgium and Luxembourg.

The business delegation will have to work to bring the investors in Bangladesh, FBCCI chief Ahmad said. "We shouldn't look back, we need to look forward. The coming years are ours years."

He also urged the DBCCI leaders to explain the foreign investors about the importance of joint ventures in Bangladesh. He hoped that the DBCCI will work actively to channel business-oriented activities towards development and prosperity.

Later, Khaled announced that they would celebrate the 15th anniversary of the chamber on December 5.

Suzuki Motor says it will buy back VW stake as court settles feud

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan's Suzuki Motor Corp said on Sunday it will buy back the 19.9 percent stake it sold to Volkswagen AG after an international arbitration court settled a dispute between the automakers over their failed partnership.

Suzuki filed for international arbitration in November 2011, after Volkswagen refused to sell back the shares in Suzuki it acquired in January 2010 for 1.7 billion euros (\$1.90 billion).

The Japanese carmaker said the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce partially upheld the German company's counterclaims of breach of contract and that any damages would be settled later.

Suzuki said it foresees no impact from the settlement on its full-year earnings.

"It used to feel as if a small bone were stuck in my throat... I feel so refreshed now," Suzuki Chairman and Chief Executive Osamu Suzuki said at a press conference following the company's announcement of the settlement.

Apparel prospects to stay strong

FROM PAGE B1

"Sixty-two percent of our respondents said they intended to increase their sourcing value from Bangladesh over the next five years."

Among top 10 sourcing destinations, Vietnam is in the second position as 33 percent respondents chose this country while, India, Myanmar and Turkey are in the third position as 30 percent respondents chose them as sourcing destination.

Twenty-three percent respondents chose China, 13 percent Ethiopia, 10 percent Indonesia, while 5 percent CPOs chose Egypt, Sri Lanka and Tunisia as the top 10 sourcing destinations.

"We must note that even these three top countries' combined export is only one-third of the dollar value coming from China currently. China remains the undisputed giant of garment exports, with eight times the dollar volume of exports than the number two Asian apparel sourcing country, Bangladesh."

Vietnam and India are tied for the third place, each exporting garments worth around \$17 billion.

Despite high growth over recent years neither country poses a threat to China's dominance at the moment, as all are facing their individual challenges in terms of political stability, garment industry structure, or competitiveness.

Only over the longer term is

China's manufacturing base expected to weaken due to macro-employment trends.

A recent report by the McKinsey Global Institute forecasts China's labour pool could shrink by one-fifth over the next 50 years.

But any trend that is expected to play out over 50 years is only just beginning to be visible in the distance, in 2015, the report said.

However, nearly three-quarters of the respondents said they expect to decrease their allocation to Chinese firms over the next five years, although export statistics do not reflect the statements of the CPOs.

Additionally, China is turning more and more of its apparel production capacity toward its own domestic market, serving its growing middle class.

"Though Chinese production of apparel has fallen since 2010, we believe the dominance of the global apparel-sourcing market, the mix change toward Chinese consumers, and the substantial size of its growing middle class, will keep China the apparel production powerhouse for the foreseeable future."

The survey found that many of China's garment makers are now looking to open facilities in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar, as well as in other promising countries.

The report said the African coun-

tries are attractive candidates to be the next China. Although African countries are not ready currently to take substantial volumes, analysis of population trends can point to potential contenders over the longer term.

Population trends point toward sub-Saharan Africa, as it is expected to enjoy the most energetic growth in working-age population anywhere over the next 20 years. By 2035, the working population in the region is expected to pull even with China today, the report said.

"While this is encouraging, we believe that sub-Saharan Africa must be understood at a granular level because the degree of each country's development and potential for garment exports differs."

When the CPOs were asked to assess the prospects for the importance of sub-Saharan Africa over the near term, they said they would be sourcing a greater share of their overall portfolio from the region in 2020 than they are in 2015.

Granted, the dollar volume exported to western markets at the moment is small, but if those figures are borne out, the sub-Saharan share could grow exponentially in the next five years.

Thirty-three US buyers noted the rising importance of sub-Saharan Africa for their own sourcing strategies, while only 11 percent of European CPOs agreed with the

rise of African countries as sourcing destination.

Of the 28 CPOs already involved in sourcing from sub-Saharan countries, a bit more than half deal directly with local suppliers. Not quite 15 percent source via Asian suppliers' headquarters, and 32 percent source via agents.

The global export data from the World Trade Organisation shows the export value of clothing from the continent as a whole stood at \$9.9 billion in 2013, but the majority of those exports came from the countries in North Africa, such as Morocco and Tunisia, rather than the sub-Saharan nations.

"If we examine the top-ten garment-exporting nations in sub-Saharan Africa, we see they collectively amount to only a 0.55 percent share of global apparel exports," McKinsey said.

However, many governments in the region are using legislation and incentives to leverage the textile and apparel industries as tools for the broader industrialisation and economic development for some of the least-developed countries in Africa.

Bangladesh will face further challenge in global apparel trade, particularly in the US, for the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) as 39 Africa countries have been enjoying duty benefit under the agreement.



BDDBL

Md Yeasin Ali, chairman of Bangladesh Development Bank, and Md Zillur Rahman, managing director, attend a two-day half-yearly business review meeting of the bank at its head office in Dhaka on Friday.



FSIBL

Syed Waseque Md Ali, managing director of First Security Islami Bank, inaugurates the relocated premises of the bank's Biswaroad branch at Tropical Saleh Tower on Atish Dipankar Road in Shobuj Bagh, Dhaka yesterday.

BB governor hires adviser

FROM PAGE B1

Prior to joining the IMF, he worked as an actuary for a global reinsurance company for four years, as a research economist for the Central Bank of Turkey and as a visiting scholar at the US Federal Reserve Bank, according to the statement.

He has also taught at the Royal School of Administration in Cambodia, the University of Minnesota, and at the South East Asian Central Banks Research and Training Centre.

Tarana goes tough on lobbyists

FROM PAGE B1

The executives had earlier worked for Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission or Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd and later resigned to join the telecom companies, Tarana said.

"They seek extra benefits for their firms using their personal links with their former colleagues, which also affects our work environment," she told The Daily Star by phone.

Some of the officials might have given special benefits to the private telecom operators during their tenure as government employees, she said.

Tarana said they are looking for legal ways so government officials cannot join private telecom companies immediately after their retirement.

Jute farmers get better prices

FROM PAGE B1

Global demand for jute yarn and jute goods has remained sluggish. One of the main reasons for low export performance is unrest in the Middle East, a major destination for locally produced jute and jute goods, according to operators.

The BJA chairman demanded the government restrict the export of jute for the time being, to ensure domestic availability of the natural fibre.

Exporters shipped 10 lakh bales of raw jute in fiscal 2014-15, up from 9.84 lakh bales in the previous year. Exports of jute goods rose to 8.18 lakh tonnes in fiscal 2014-15 from 8.08 lakh tonnes a year ago, according to the Department of Jute.

Bangladesh fetched earnings worth \$868 million from jute and jute goods exports in fiscal 2014-15, which is 5.34 percent higher than in the previous year.



STANDARD BANK

Md Zahedul Hoque, a director of Standard Bank, and Md Nazmus Salehin, managing director, attend the launch of the bank's Banti Bazar Branch in Narayanganj.

LIST OF AD CAMPAIGNS							
CATEGORY	GRAND PRIX	GOLD	SILVER	CATEGORY	GRAND PRIX	GOLD	SILVER
Art Direction	Belissimo Facebook Post Collage Bitopi Leo Burnett	Comoyo Launch Bitopi Leo Burnett		Direction For TVC	GP Online School Half Stop Down	Coca Cola FIFA World cup Campaign Applebox Films GP 5 Koti Half Stop Down	Banglalink Selfie Applebox Films
Print	HMBR Impossipuzzle Grey Advertising	Mother's Day ADCOMM Vaseline Crack Men ADCOMM CLEAR Coming Back ADCOMM Godrej Hit Bitopi Leo Burnett	Shwapno Real Shwapno Creative Team	TVC	GP 5 Koti Grey Advertising	GP online School Grey Advertising Meril Splash - Fresh is Beautiful Sun Communications	Close-up Kachhe Ashar Golpo 2014 ADCOMM
Jingle	ICC Char Chhokka Hoi Hoi Grey Advertising	GP 5 Koti Grey Advertising	LUX Channel i Super Star 2014 Asiatic Marketing Communications	Media	The Re-launch of Lux Asiatic MCL & Mindshare	Mukti Campaign Maxus Bangladesh	
Copy Writing	CLEAR Coming Back ADCOMM	Belissimo Facebook Post Collage Bitopi Leo Burnett	Fair & Lovely Foundation ADCOMM	Mobile Marketing	Fair & Lovely MAX-Wakeup Missed Call Asiatic Mindshare	Lumia 530 Cookie Jar	
Campaign for Women	Fair & Lovely Foundation ADCOMM	Rise Up for Women Asiatic Marketing Communications	Meril Splash - Fresh is Beautiful Sun Communications	Trade/POP	Robi myNet ADCOMM		
RDC	Recharge for Jersey and Football ADCOMM	CP - 20 taka Chicken Ball Grey Advertising Lifebuoy Winter ADCOMM	Clear Sports ADCOMM	Video For Web	Dekhyae Dao Strategick Digital	SAMSUNG S-DUESed Analyzen	Banglalink - Detective Rana Magnito Digital
Outdoor	AP Honey-Bee Board Grey Advertising	Rise Up for Women Asiatic Marketing Communications	I am Made in Bangladesh Bitopi Leo Burnett	Social Media Campaign	ICC Char Chhokka Hoi Hoi Grey Advertising	Close-up Kachhe Ashar Golpo 2014 Analyzen Grameenphone-Hand Delivering Your Emotions Magnito Digital Piprabidya Facebook Contest Melonades	Airtel Buzz Movie Contest Cookie Jar
Packaging	Bloop Grey Advertising	Belissimo Bunch Bitopi Leo Burnett		Integrated Digital Campaign	ICC Char Chhokka Hoi Hoi Melonades	Lumia 730 World's Largest Selfie Cookie Jar	Belissimo ice cream Bitopi Leo Burnett
Rural Marketing	Jotnei Rotno Asiatic Exp	Television - e Krishi Shafollo Windmill Advertising		Integrated Campaign	ICC World T20 Bangladesh 2014 Grey Advertising	LUX Channel i Super Star 2014 Asiatic Marketing Communications	Airtel Network Campaign Asiatic Marketing Communications Close-up Kachhe Ashar Golpo 2014 ADCOMM
Social Campaign	Shikha Media Dark Campaign Asiatic Exp	Anti-Urinal Grey Advertising					
Activation	LUX Channel i Super Star 2014 Asiatic Marketing Communications	Lifebuoy School of 5 Asiatic Exp Regain-The Hair Give Back Grey Advertising	Growth Monitoring and Promotion Campaign ZANALIA Bangladesh				