

Winter clothes sales warm up at Ctg shops

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Tamanna Khan found it difficult to browse through warm clothes to pick the best match for her daughter as Zahur Hawkers' Market in the port city was packed with buyers.

"I came here to buy a sweater for my daughter and a cardigan for myself," said Tamanna, a resident of Lalkhan Bazar area. The market is known as a spot for low-priced, yet quality products.

Warm clothes buyers are pouring onto the market, as a cold wave has set in, said Jahangir Hossain, owner of Famous Tailors in the market. He sells blazers at his shop. "A blazer costs around Tk 1,700 to Tk 3,000."

With the number of buyers increasing, the shopkeepers are hiking the prices of warm clothes to make some quick bucks, alleged Imtiaz Uddin, a buyer. "I am a regular customer of this market. The prices were much lower 15 days ago when I last visited the market."

Sellers said they raised the prices as wholesale prices of clothes increased.

Abdur Rahman, a trader, said the prices of warm clothes have gone up in the wholesale market this year.

Hawkers mainly choose footpaths in New Market area, Kazir Dewry, Station Road and Agrabad area for selling warm clothes. Some makeshift shops have also mushroomed on the footpaths in Chawk



People check out warm clothes at a makeshift shop near Shaheed Minar Chattar in the port city yesterday.

STAR

Bazar and Jamal Khan area. Roadside shops draw hundreds of people from the low income group every day.

Shah Alam, a hawker in Jamal Khan area, said he had invested Tk 2.6 lakh for this winter season. "I bought 20 bundles of warm clothes worth Tk 13,000 each," he said, adding that each bundle contains 10

items, including woollen caps, scarves and gloves.

"I will be able to make a profit of Tk 5,000 from a bundle," Alam said, adding that it needs two to three days to sell a bundle.

Well-off buyers rush to New Market, Sanmar Ocean City, Mimi Super Market, Afmi Plaza, Aktaruzzaman Centre, Amin

Centre, Chittagong Shopping Complex, Reaz Uddin Bazar and Tamakumundi Lane.

Buyers are found in plenty at the showrooms of some branded fashion houses in these markets. Most customers gather around some known fashion houses, including Revlon, Cats Eye, Menz Club, Handi Bazar, Gentle Park and Shailpik.



UNILEVER

KSM Minhaj, director for brand building of Unilever Bangladesh, and Md Ashraf Hussain, president of Bangladesh Dental Society (BDS), ink a deal at Spectra Convention Centre in Dhaka yesterday. BDS will endorse Pepsodent toothpaste, tooth powder and toothbrush.

New top brass for leasing companies' assoc

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Asad Khan has recently been elected as the chairman of Bangladesh Leasing and Finance Companies Association (BLFCA) for 2011-12 and 2012-13 terms.

Khan is the managing director of Prime Finance and Investment Ltd, BLFCA said in a statement yesterday.

The association also elected a nine-member executive committee where Selim RF Hussain was elected as its vice chairman.

Hussain is the managing director of IDLC



Asad Khan



A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia, inaugurates the 61st branch of the bank on Sadar Road in Barisal town yesterday. M Irfan Syed, director; Md Mehmood Husain, president and managing director; and Mohammed Roshangir, deputy managing director, were also present.

BANK ASIA

Emirates announces airfare discounts

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Emirates yesterday announced its plan to give up to 25 percent discount on airfares to more than 100 cities, when booking from now until January 9.

The offer will be valid for all of its published First Class, Business Class and Economy Class fares departing between January 22 and June 30, 2012.

Customers will get the discount when travelling one way or round-trip to any destination on Emirates' extensive global network, the international airliner said in a statement.

Economy Class return fares, including all applicable taxes, start from \$1,065 for Europe, while \$1,350 and \$610 for North America and Middle East respectively.

"Whether your New Year's resolution is to spend more time with family and friends, visit a dream destination or follow your favourite sports team at a far-flung tournament," said Thierry Antinori, Emirates' executive vice president for passenger sales worldwide.

"Our global sale is designed to ensure that Emirates customers enjoy the perfect start to 2012."

"For the first time in Emirates' history, we are welcoming the New Year by offering unprecedented

Spend CSR money with plans to alleviate poverty

Analysts urge banks

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Banks' expenditure in welfare activities should be well-structured, as it can significantly contribute to poverty alleviation, speakers said at an event in Dhaka yesterday.

Bank should pursue structured procedures to carry out its corporate social responsibility (CSR) which can help the country achieve social growth and balanced development, they said.

The analysts made the call at the inaugural session of a training styled "CSR desk in-charge of banks" organised jointly by the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh Ltd (ABBL) and

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI).

The two-day programme was designed to orient the bankers to the concept of CSR and how it can be utilised as an alternative source for development fund.

The training will also cover conceptual and practical aspects of CSR with special focus on CSR in the banking sector.

CSR desk officers of all banks will be covered by the training in two batches where the first batch saw 17 participants from 17 banks.

ABBL Chairman Mohammed Nurul Amin called upon the representatives of the participating banks to develop their

own CSR strategy to help the country alleviate poverty.

He also stressed the need for building network with the local development organisations to identify the priorities and ensure best use of CSR money.

CSR activities accomplished by banks have demonstrated a significant rising trend over the last couple of years, Amin said.

Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, referred to the value of the money used by the corporate sector for welfare activities.

"CSR should not be a one-off show. It should have a sustainable and visible impact in the society," Rahman said.

India's Tata to replace starter on troubled Nano

AFP, New Delhi

India's Tata Motors offered Monday to replace the starter motor on all old Nano models, but said the move was not related to safety concerns surrounding the world's cheapest car.

The five-seater hatchback, which has suffered a series of fires since its launch in 2009, costs as little as 140,880 rupees (\$2,770) for the no-frills model.

A Tata Motors spokesman told AFP the company was offering the replacement starter motors for cars produced between July 2009 and October this year because "we have a new one and it further improves the car's performance". "There are no safety worries," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

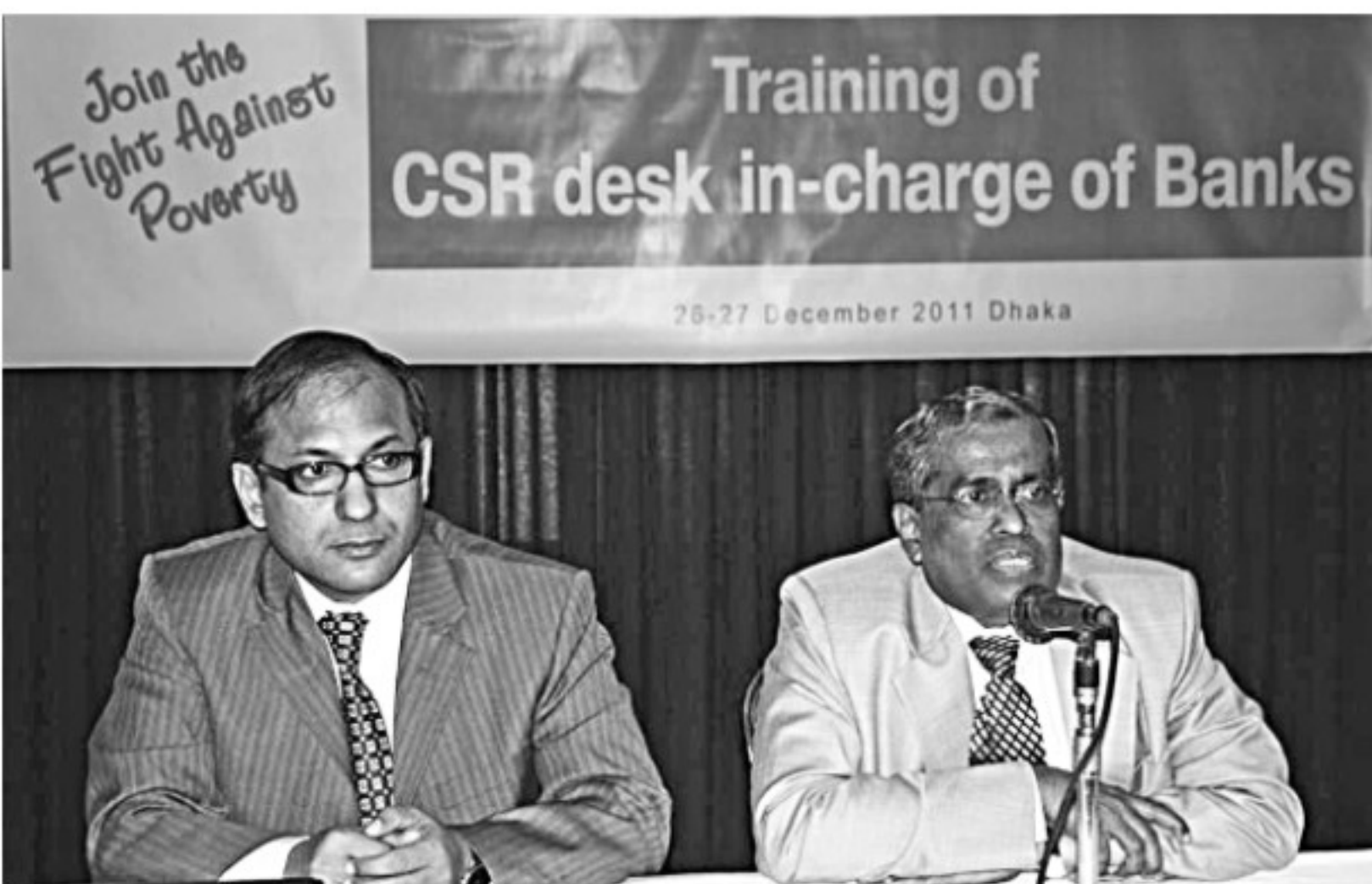
Tata introduced its new variant of the egg-shaped Nano in November to boost customer

appeal with a wider range of colours and more luxurious interiors along with better fuel efficiency and engine power.

The Nano's sales have largely disappointed amid concerns over the engine fires, production delays, and cut-throat competition in the small-car segment of India's vast vehicle market.

The carmaker has blamed the fires on "isolated" and "unrelated" reasons.

The Tata spokesman would not disclose the cost of the upgrade, but the Finance Chronicle newspaper said the company -- one of India's biggest business conglomerates -- would spend up to 1.1 billion rupees replacing the starter motors of 145,000 Nanos. Last November, Tata offered Nano owners the option of installing additional safety equipment, but said the move did not amount to a recall.



MRDI

Mohammed Nurul Amin, chairman of Association of Bankers, Bangladesh Ltd (ABBL), speaks at the inaugural session of a training styled "CSR desk in-charge of banks" in the capital recently. ABBL and Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) jointly organised the programme where Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, was also present.



DBBL

Md Sayedul Hasan, deputy managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank, opens the bank's 109th branch in Laxmipur yesterday.



CITY BANK

Meherun Haque, vice chairperson of City Bank, opens the 90th branch of the bank at Pallabi in Dhaka recently. K Mahmood Sattar, managing director, was also present.