

JCD, BCL distribute Tk 20 lakh as Eid tips to party activists

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Top leaders of two prime student organisations-Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL)- have distributed more than Tk 20 lakh as Eid Bakshish (tips) to party activists and workers ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Distribution of Eid tips has become a practice at Dhaka University (DU) and other educational institutions where the student politics exist.

The high commands of two top political parties-Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Awami League-have been donating a handsome amount of money as tips ahead of every Eid and Puja for last several years.

When I will meet you? This is a common question to top leaders of the JCD and BCL by their workers in last few days on the campus. The question is an indication that the workers are seeking bakshish from their seniors and this is the common campus scenario ahead of every Eid.

The party activists and workers

leave the dormitories after collecting Eid tips from their top leaders while the general students leave the hall immediately after the vacation.

Sources said the JCD, student wing of the ruling BNP, distributed more than Tk 15 lakh to their activists and workers at DU and some city units.

JCD leaders said most of the money has come from the party's high command.

JCD DU unit President and General Secretary have given Tk 10,000 as political bakshish to its workers in each hall. They have also given Tk one lakh to their loyalists, the sources added.

Besides, JCD leaders who were engaged in money making for the last several years in different ways including business and tender works have also donated at least Tk 2 lakh to their near and dear workers.

JCD leaders who are also aspirant for future top leadership have distributed a handsome amount of money, panjabis, pajamas, shirts, pants, shoes and other gifts to their

loyalists.

Meanwhile, top JCD leaders have presented gifts to some top persons of the high command to make them happy, JCD sources said, adding that no other student organisations including the BCL give such huge amount of money as Eid tips.

On the other hand, the BCL, student wing of the main opposition Awami League, has given around Tk 3 lakh to their activists and workers at DU and some city units.

BCL President and General Secretary have given Tk 2,000 to each hall unit, sources said, adding that they have also given about Tk 50,000 to their loyalists.

Both JCD and BCL leaders said a large amount of money was given to the workers this year to gear up factional fighting.

After the Eid, factional politics would be geared up in both the JCD and the BCL and for this leaders of different factions have given Eid gifts to their loyalists to stage show down on the campus.

JCD DU unit General Secretary

Saiful Islam Firoz, however, told The Daily Star that he was not aware of anything about Eid tips. He said someone might have given Bakshish (tips) due to personal relationship.

JCD General Secretary Shaiful Bari Babu told The Daily Star that they have no system for giving bakshish to their activists and workers. He denied giving any money as Eid Bakshish to their activists.

Wishing happy Eid Mubarak to their activists and workers, Babu also urged them to resist the oppositions engaged, what he said, in conspiracy against the country.

BCL President Liaqat Sikder also denied giving Eid bakshish to their workers and told The Daily Star that giving political 'bakshish' ahead of Eid is a bad culture.

Wishing happy Eid Mubarak to their activists and workers, Liaqat said

they have been asked to reveal the repression on their locals by the BNP-Jamaat alliance government and make the November 22 grand rally a success.

Hasina invited to Saarc summit

UNB, Dhaka

An invitation card addressed to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina to attend the inaugural and concluding sessions of the 13th Saarc Summit reached the Sudha Sadan, opposition leader's residence, yesterday.

Alauddin Ahmed Chowdhury, private secretary to the Leader of the Opposition, confirmed the receipt of the invitation card saying, "It is not a special invitation, rather a part of mass-invitation distributed among ministers and MPs by the Speaker's office."

"The Leader of the Opposition everyday receives innumerable cards from the Speaker's office on various occasions. This invitation to attend the Saarc summit also was mailed in a similar process," he added.

Tribute paid to Rezaul Karim

Qulkhwani today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday paid tribute to Ambassador MM Rezaul Karim, saying that he devoted his life to institutionalising democracy and promoting good governance.

An honest and sincere person, he had an illustrious career as a government official and diplomat, they said.

Karim, who was the Bangladeshi ambassador to Egypt, passed away in Cairo due to a cardiac arrest on October 29 at the age of 70.

The Council for National Agenda (CNA) organised the memorial meeting at Sundarban Hotel in the city where the participants discussed his life and works.

Chaired by former chief election commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, the discussion was addressed by former chief advisor of a caretaker government Justice Latifur Rahman, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Privatisation Commission Chairman Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, former advisor to a caretaker government Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Mainul Hossain Chowdhury, Barrister Mainul Hossain, University Grant Commission Chairman Dr Asaduzzaman, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor SMA Fayez, VC of Southeast University Prof Shamsheer Ali, former state minister Abul Hasan Chowdhury, former secretary Tobarraaq Hossain, former ambassador M Anwar Hossain, Masum Ahmed Chowdhury and CNA Treasurer Mahbubullah.

Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, poet Al Mahmud, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Mohammad Ibrahim, Brig. (Retd.) Shakhawat Hossain, Prof Monirul Haq, Prof Abu Ahmed, Ehsanul Kabir, Prof Samia Sultana, and Abul Kashem Haider were also present.

The discussion was followed by a doa mahfil, conducted by Pir Saheb of Narinda Syed Murad Ullah Ahmad.

Qulkhwani of Rezaul Karim will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque in the city after Asr prayers today.

Meanwhile, Australian high commissioner and other distinguished persons visited Karim's house at Gulshan yesterday and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Girl missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ujjala, a 15-year-old girl, has been missing from her cousin's house at Pisciculture Housing Society, Mohammadpur, in the city since October 28.

According to family sources, Ujjala left the house along with her belongings sometime between 6:00pm and 9:00pm when other members of the family were not at home.

The family members suspected that any individual or gang members deceived her with an ulterior motive.

Ujjala hails from Dapuria village under Muktagachha upazila in Mymensingh. She is four and a half feet and has a dark brown complexion.

Her cousin Advocate Dr Uttam Kumar Das has lodged a general diary with the Adabar Police Station.

Anybody knowing her whereabouts has been requested to inform Dr Uttam. His mobile phone numbers are 0171-854771 and 0152-601803.



Workers are busy decorating the National Eidgah in the city yesterday where the main Eid congregation will be held.

Mobile courts realise Tk 7 lakh in fines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 32 mobile courts led by magistrates yesterday realised about Tk 7 lakh in fine filing 222 cases for producing and selling unsafe foods as well as irregularities in public vehicles in the city.

A mobile court at Paltan area fined Rajarbagh Police Line Canteen Manager Babul Sarker Tk 1 lakh for selling stale foods.

Another mobile court at Tejgaon fined Western Kitchen Tk 50,000 for using stale meat and bread in preparing foods.

The court also fined Mondias Snacks at Farmgate Tk 15,000 for selling time-expired juice and light drinks.

The court also fined a confectionery and general store at Maniপুরpara Tk 7,000 for the same reason.

A mobile court at New Market area realised Tk 40,000 in fine from Brahmanbaria Ghee Dipo and Brahmanbaria Ghee Store for keeping ingredients openly in their shops.

Another court at Mirpur realised Tk 18,000 in fine from the chicken market for selling chicken in a very unhygienic environment and selling buffalo meat saying as beef.

The mobile court at Ramna area realised a total of Tk 40,000 in fine from

10 pharmacies for selling banned medicines.

The court also fined Super Bikrampur Sweetmeats Tk 50,000 for its unhygienic environment.

Another mobile court at Kotwali area fined two bakeries Tk 15,000 each for selling foods in an unhygienic condition.

The same court also fined four garments at Urdu Road Tk 25,000 for running their business without licence.

The mobile court at Uttara sentenced Abul Hossain of Hotel Paragon to three months imprisonment and seven others to 15 days imprisonment for carrying out anti-social activities in the hotel.

The mobile courts also fined 24 buses a total of Tk 12,000 for different irregularities.

Main Eid jamaat to be held at Nat'l Eidgah

BSS, Dhaka

All preparations have been made to hold congregations of Holy Eid-ul-Fitr in the city as elsewhere across the country.

The Eid will be celebrated on November 4 if the Shawal moon is sighted today, otherwise, it will be on November 5.

The main Eid congregation will be held at the National Eidgah on the premises of the High Court in the capital at 8:30am under the auspices of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

President Iajuddin Ahmed, ministers and political leaders will attend the Eid jamaat. In case of inclement weather, the main congregation will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at the same time.

There will be a special arrangement for women to say their prayers at the main congregation. The DCC has taken steps to supply water and set up mobile toilets for the devotees at the National Eidgah.

Besides, the DCC will organise 360 Eid jamaats at 90 wards in the city.

Five Eid congregations will be held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 7:30am, 8:30am, 9:30am, 10:30am and 11:15am.

Ctg Eid congregations

Cu Correspondent adds, over 150 congregations will be held in the port city of Chittagong on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Two major Eid congregations will take place on the Jamiatul Falah Mosque premises at 8:00am and MA Aziz Stadium at 8:30am under the management of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) and Chittagong Central Eid Jamaat Committee.

The second jamaat at Jamiatul Falah will be held at 9:00am.

The Eid congregations will also be held on the Hazrat Khawja Garib Ullah Shah (R) Mazar premises, Hazrat Sheikh Farid (R) Chashma Eidgah, Sugandha Jame Masjid, Pahartali Sardar Bahadur Nagar Eidgah premises, Terminal Bazar Sharaf Jame Masjid, Darul Ulum Alia Madrasa premises, Chandgao Residential Area "B" Block Central Masjid premises, Tigerpass Central Jame Masjid premises, Forest Research Institute Jame Masjid, Baitun Aziz Jame Masjid premises, Omar Gani MES College premises and Khalifa Patti Baitul Nur Jame Masjid premises at 8:00am.

The Eid Jamaat will be held at 8:30am at Parade Ground, Agrabad Jamboree Field, Port Stadium, Railway Polo Ground, Chittagong Medical College New Eidgah, Nasirabad Boys High School, Golam Rasul Wafk Estate Jame Masjid, Baitul Mamur Jame Masjid, Asadganj Jame Masjid, Chandanpura Masjid, Lalkhan Bazaar Madrasa, Mehediabag CDA Colony Juma Masjid, Railway Station Jame Masjid, East Nasirabad Jame Masjid, Boahadharhat WAPDA Colony Jame Masjid, Old Court Building Jame Masjid and Haji Saleh Zahur Jame Masjid.

Eid congregations will also be held at different grounds and mosques at all the 41 wards of the city corporation.

Congratulations



Ilma Nur Chowdhury, a student of the Institute of Business Administration, has been awarded the prestigious Jane M Klausman Scholarship Award by the Board of Zonta International, says a press release.

Every year, Zonta selects six final awardees for this award from all over the world and each winner receives a grant of US\$5,000.

Ilma Nur is the first Bangladeshi female student to receive the award. She was sponsored by the Zonta Club of Dhaka-III.

President, PM greet people

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted all on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

"I congratulate all on the occasion of the festival after month-long fasting and hope that the day will bring joy and welfare for all," President Iajuddin said in a message on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, the greatest festival of the Muslim Ummah.

He said appeal of the Eid festival is universal which brings all irrespective of the rich and the poor in a society to a close association after practicing month-long restraint and self-purification which are the teachings of the holy Ramadan.

"Although, Eid is the greatest religious festival of the Muslim Ummah, it also develops relation, peace and harmony among the members of all religions," he added.

The President also hoped that solidarity and equality, leaving all narrowness and personal and group interests, would be the key themes of the day which could make the significance of observing the fasting into meaningful.

"I congratulate the countrymen, and all the Muslim brothers and sisters of the Muslim world," Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said in a separate message.

She said the Eid festival comes after month-long fasting and its significance is different. "The message of equality, friendship and solidarity becomes prominent on this happy occasion," she said.

She called upon the people to take lessons of firm unity, peace and tranquility from this auspicious festive occasion.

Khaleda prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the country, and the Muslim Ummah. "Let the joy of the Eid spread all the homes and on every day of the year," she added.

Stand by flood, Monga-hit people ahead of Eid: Hasina

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the rich and well-to-do people to extend their helping hands for the poor, particularly the flood and Monga-affected people of the northern region, ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

"Following our tradition, the rich and affluent people would extend their hands of love and broadness to the poor, destitute and helpless people," Hasina expressed her hope in a message on the eve of holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

"The miseries of the people know no bound due to price hike of essentials. The people of flood and Monga-affected northern districts have been leading an inhuman life. We must not forget them," she added.

Greeting the countrymen on the auspicious occasion, Hasina also urged people to imbue themselves with equality, fraternity and harmony on the occasion of Eid.

She prayed to the almighty Allah so that everybody, irrespective of the rich and poor, can enjoy the pleasure of Eid forgetting discrimination.



With Eid only a day away, hundreds of home-bound people crowd around ticket counters at Gabtoli Bus Terminal yesterday to buy tickets.

FM urges Brunei to recruit more Bangladeshis

UNB, Dhaka

Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Mokti bin Daud, the outgoing High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Bangladesh, paid a farewell call on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office yesterday.

The Foreign Minister appreciated the positive approach shown by the High Commissioner during his tenure in Bangladesh.

He recalled the contribution made by the envoy towards better understanding among the people of the two countries and termed him a friend of the people of

Bangladesh. Morshed Khan also called Brunei Darussalam a brotherly country and good friend of Bangladesh. He called for more recruitment of Bangladeshi manpower to that country for mutual benefit of the two people.

He hoped that the existing excellent relation between the two countries would be maintained and cemented further in the coming days.

The outgoing envoy expressed gratitude to the foreign ministry and especially to the Foreign Minister for extending cooperation to him during his tenure here.

AL distributes clothes among freedom fighters

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Awami League yesterday distributed clothes as Eid gifts among the freedom fighters of Dhaka metropolitan city.

Awami League Joint Secretary Obaidul Kader on behalf of party president Sheikh Hasina distributed the clothes at its Dhanmandi office.

Kader told the freedom fighters that the countrymen are now in serious crisis and passing a bad time.

"People of northern areas are seriously hit by Monga. Thousands of people are passing their days unfed and half-fed. A number of people already died of hunger in the Monga-hit areas.

Obituary



Md Alek Hossain, an engineer of Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board (BTTB), died of lung complications at the Comfort Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 53, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried with due state honour at his family graveyard in Banasua, Comilla.

His qulkhwani will be held at his village Banasua after Asr prayer today.

Ziaul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



AM Ziaul Haque, former marketing manager of Jamuna Oil Company Ltd, died of cardiac arrest yesterday

afternoon at the age of 62.

He left behind wife, three sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 18.2 degree Celsius at Srirongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:06am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.5	21.3	67	59
Chittagong	32.5	21.8	75	59
Rajshahi	28.6	20.5	84	86
Khulna	30.2	22.0	76	82
Barisal	31.0	20.6	75	91
Sylhet	31.7	20.4	58	73
Cox's Bazar	31.4	23.5	80	81



Risking their lives, people cram into a launch yesterday to go to their village homes to celebrate Eid with their near and dear ones.