

Business booms for beauty parlours ahead of Eid

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

In comparison to the capital, Chittagong was quite a 'conservative' city for many a year as far as the modern idea or trend of glamour, beauty and fashion were concerned. And nowadays, Chittagong is not much behind the capital in those terms.

A remarkable change has started, slowly but steadily, in recent years to grip the diffident Chittagong with the boom and popularity of beauty parlour. The country's commercial capital that once had only one parlour named Lucy about 30 years ago now has over 150 parlours and one can easily find one of them in every nook and corner in the city. Once a matter of individual's amateur hobby, beauty parlours have now turned to be a lucrative business especially prospective young women entrepreneurs' dream.

Following Lucy, established by former national cricketer Shafiqul Hoque Hira's wife Latifa Hoque Lucy at city's posh Mehdiabag area in late seventies, numerous beauty parlours have come up in the city to cater the beauty-needs of girls and women. The names like New Look at Chatterwari Road, Eves at Nasirabad Housing Society, Fair Touch at Mehdiabag, Touch & Glow at OR Nizam Road, Alviras Beauty Care at OR Nizam Road, Lee Beauty Parlour & Skin Care at VIP Tower, La Figurina at Mehdiabag, Roma Beauty Parlour at Jamal Khan Road and Bibiana

at Katalanj have become familiar to them.

With the boom of parlours, a stiff competition among them has also been surfaced to attract customers, and the parlour owners are in a frenzy to offer attractive discount or package in this regard.

The Eid or Puja festivity is known as the 'peak time' and the parlour owners quite naturally target these two largest religious festivals of the Muslim and Hindu community. As another Eid festivity is drawing nearer this year, the beauty parlours in Chittagong have already wore a festive look with extra polish of indoor and outdoor decoration. An unprecedented craze this time among the girls and women has also been seen. Although parlour business gets momentum one week before Eid day, many of the parlour houses are receiving advance booking in great number.

"We believe, alongside attractive offers, many parlours in the city have come up with newer ideas shunning the traditional trend of make-up or get-up. And newer styles in hair cutting, facial and make-up have been added to generate popularity among the customers," said Nigar Sultana Mukta, owner of New Look and a beauty expert.

Mukta, with training from Lakme Training Institute in Mumbai and Mogha International in Bangkok, opened her parlour with a band



A beauty parlour in the posh Chatterwari road area.

of skilled and highly trained beauticians who give emphasis on cleanness and better client services.

"Usually, most of my clients come to have hair cut, hair colour and different types of facial during Eid. This time, our special offers are aroma gold herbal facial, ginseng facial, and gold and diamond facial, and these are done with world famous brand products having no side effect on skin," Mukta

said, adding that her parlour charge Tk 120 to Tk 1,000 for different services with 10 per cent discount in rebonding and hair colour.

Alviras Beauty Care, however, offers service for both male and female. They charge Tk 4,000 to Tk 15,000 for straightening of hair, Tk 50 to Tk 350 for normal hair cutting, Tk 800 to Tk 1,200 for body massage, Tk 2,500 to Tk 3,000 for model make-up and Tk 800 to Tk 3,000 for party make-

up.

LD Liza, owner of Lee Beauty Parlour & Skin Care, said majority of her clients belong to young girls and young married women and they generally turn in after Ramadan 20 to do facial, bleach, clean-up, stylish hair cut and hair colour.

"This time, our special offers are spa facial, diamond facial and boy cut and the cost for these ranges from Tk 180 to Tk 1,200," she said.

IT tower to be set up in Ctg

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

The government has decided to construct an Information Technology (IT) Tower with necessary infrastructures and modern facilities to give the huge prospect of IT sector a material shape.

The tower will create scope for setting up software to produce computer software along-side providing IT-enabled service and e-commerce like hi-tech facilities, sources said.

It would help set up computer hardware industry to create a market of IT sector as well, they added.

Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman disclosed the decision to set up the IT tower after a follow-up meeting of development projects at the commerce ministry in the capital on September 17.

The decision was taken at the meeting of Council of Advisers at Chittagong Circuit House with Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed in the chair on August 13.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has already started preparing the Development Project Proposal (DPP) in this regard, sources said.

The government decided to construct the IT tower following the report of a six-member committee that carried out feasibility study and assessed different aspects, including site selection and budget for the project.

The committee was formed at a meeting on development programmes in Chittagong with Housing and Public Works Secretary ASM Rashidul Hye in the chair on June 8. CDA Chairman Shah Muhammad Akhteruddin was made convener of the committee and

Bangladesh Tele-Communication Limited (BTCL) General Manager KK Roy member secretary.

The committee submitted its report with a location map (schematic diagram) of three primarily possible sites for the IT tower on July 16.

The IT tower will help people reap the benefit of the submarine communication cable, develop human resources, create job opportunity and earn the government huge revenue from the potential IT sector.

It would also help set up IT software, IT software-enabled industry and IT hardware industry to produce and sell computer software, IT-enabled service as well as computer hardware, they said.

IT hardware industry would create scope for computer assembling and manufacture of computer monitors, printers, scanners, modems, switches, networking equipment, UPS, mobile sets, batteries, ATM machines LAN cables and spare parts to meet domestic demand saving foreign currency and earn revenue from their export as well, said the sources.

They said neighbouring India has raised its earning through IT software and service export to 70 billion US dollar in 2007-2008 from 31.4 billion US dollar of the previous fiscal year (2006-2007).

Akhteruddin said a 20 to 25-storey IT Tower will be constructed with all sorts of infrastructure and facilities.

The tower will be set up under public-private partnership. A rich call centre will be set up through outsourcing for the growth of IT software-enabled services like data processing and other technologies, he said.

"It would expedite various industrial units like garments

depending on this most modern technology and help advancement of trade and commerce through a network with the global market as well," said the CDA chairman while talking to this correspondent on Sunday.

The IT tower will also help further development of engineering and construction industries for planned urbanisation.

It would contribute to developing human resources and create jobs for around 20,000 people here," he added.

Sources said, the six-member committee selected 0.84 acres of land to the south-east as the best site for the IT Tower. The existing building of Stadium Shopping Complex could be remodelled and included into the structure for IT tower, the committee report said.

It also considered 50 kathas of land at the Ananya Residential Area, a CDA housing project, and 50 Katha of railway land to the east of Kadamtali Intersection as the two alternative sites for the tower, said the sources at CDA.

The committee considered the sites with priority since they were within 3km radius of the submarine cable connectivity Co-location centre at BTCL Nandan Kanan office, the sources added.

KK Roy said BTCL is ready to provide submarine cable connectivity required for setting up IT Tower here.

Using the existing metallic cable, BTCL can provide Submarine Cable Connectivity for dial-up or broadband internet speed ranging from 64 KBPS (kilobyte per second) to 115 MBPS (megabyte per second) at any place within 3km to 4km of the submarine cable terminal station at its Nandan Kanan telephone exchange building, he said.

the week that was

'Restore '72 constitution'

Leaders of Kuwais-Chandgaon Sarbojonin Sharadiya Durgotsab Uddipan Parishad '08 demanded restoration of the 1972 constitution for restoration to establish true

democracy in the country, says a press release.

Different governments made crime as they have penned through the original constitution and made amendments for their own sake and only to weaken the strength and appeal of the constitution, they said.

They said this at a meeting with Chittagong District Bar Association

President Advocate AKM Sirajul Islam Chowdhury at the latter's office on Thursday.

District Bar Association General Secretary Advocate Md Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, Library Secretary Advocate Touhidul Munir Chowdhury, Sanskritik Sangsad Chittagong President Dr SK Dev Sajal, Advocate Mainuddin Ahmed, Puja

Parishad President Subhash Chakrabarty, General Secretary Babla Mohajan, Chief Coordinator Dipankar Acharye and Anjan Dhar were present at the meeting.

Healthcare programme held

A daylong healthcare programme was held in the port city on Thursday to test eye and determine blood group of the distressed children.

Bright Bangladesh Forum (BBF), a non-government organisation (NGO), organised the programme at its Children Information Centre in association with Chittagong Lions and Leo Club.

Blood groups of a number of distressed children from different slums of West Bakalia were determined at the programme, says a press release.

Speakers at a discussion held on the occasion urged all to be conscious about their health in order to lead a sound life.

Each person should be aware of his blood group for the sake of himself and others, they said.

Leo Club adviser Arun Kumar Barua was the chief guest at the discussion with Suparna Barua in the chair.

Leo Club organisers Ziaul Kabir Sohel, Shahabuddin Saifu, Liton Jahangir, BBF executive chief Utpal Barua, BBF members Selim Mahmud and Jishu Kanungo also spoke at the discussion.

Call to stop import of adulterated milk powder

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) formed a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) in the port city on Saturday protesting import of adulterated and substandard milk powder by a section of importers posing serious health hazard to children.

CAB also arranged a rally during the human chain programme.

CAB Regional President SM Nazer Hossain, city unit President Afsar Khan, General Secretary Kazi Iqbal Bahar Sabery and female leader Jesmin Sultana Paru spoke at the



Visitors admire calligraphy works at an exhibition organised by Iranian Cultural Centre at Chittagong Press Club auditorium on Thursday.

STAR PHOTO

programme.

Speakers said despite the government ban on marketing of milk powder with some foreign brands and initiative to make laboratory tests of the products some unscrupulous traders continued to sell those items.

They urged the consumers to avoid using such milk powder.

They also urged the departments concerned like BSTI and Health Department to take action against a local firm for importing adulterated milk powder manufactured.

Later the participants destroyed some samples of several brands of milk powder.

Eight held with mobile sets

Police arrested eight members of a gang of mobile phone thieves and recovered ten cellphone sets from their possessions during a 24-hour drive until Thursday.

Sources said a police team led by Assistant Commissioner Ilutish of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Double Mooring Zone arrested the thieves from different areas under the city's Double Mooring and Pahartali police stations.

The arrestees are Arshad, Jamal, Nur Nabi, Jabhed, Rafiqul Islam, Alauddin, Shahin and Eskander.

Police recovered eight cellphone sets from them and some money from Eskander.

A case was filed with Double Mooring police station in this connection.

Discussion on law held

Speakers emphasised on increasing legal aid and supports from different non-government organisations for the distressed people specially the women.

They were addressing a discussion on law at the Southern University

auditorium on Thursday.

Chittagong Legal Aid Clinic, a free legal aid centre conducted by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), organised the discussion for the students of the university.

Pro-Vice Chancellor (VC) Dr Sharifuzzaman was the chief guest at the discussion with Coordinator of the clinic Md Mahiuddin Khaled in the chair.

Founder and Treasurer of the university Sarwar Jahan and Head of BBA department Prof Shaikatul Meher were special guests at the discussion.

Mahiuddin discussed on different aspects of law, activities of the clinic and the alternative arbitration systems like salish at the discussion.

Convocation of purbokone-Drishty School of Debate

The convocation of the Purbokone-Drishty School of Debate was held at

a restaurant in the port city on Friday.

City Editor of local daily Suprobat Bangladesh M Nasirul Haque, Sunshine Grammar School Principal Safia Gazi Rahman, teacher Jahanara Begum and story writer Zinnah Chowdhury attended the ceremony as the guests with Drishti Chief Adviser Farid Ahmed Chowdhury in the chair.

Speakers at the function said the debate practice of Drishti, a cultural and educational organisation in the port city, has passed its glorious 12 years.

They said it has been trying to develop quality of debaters of Chittagong.

Drishti President Masud Bakul, General Secretary Saif Chowdhury, Coordinator Adnan Mannan, Rashadul Amin Rashed and Kashshaful Haque Shehjada spoke at the convocation.

Later, the guests handed over certificates and prizes among the students of 4th batch of the school.



Thousands of people throng the city markets as Eid shopping gains momentum. The photo was taken from Sunmar Ocean City on Monday.

STAR PHOTO