



Star Chittagong

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 30, 2003

Boli Khela- A tie between present & past



Wrestlers fight on "sand-mat" at Laldighi Maidan.

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD
 Jobberer Boli Khela, wrestling cum Baishakhi Mela (fair), was held here on April 24 and 25 to sway the Chittagong people with a characteristic sports event and remind them of a rich cultural heritage once again.

Merchant Abdul Jabber Sawdagor of Andorkilla Badorpati Road of the city introduced the wrestling as a part of tradition of Chittagong people in 1909 (Bengali year 1316). The aim was to inspire and organise the youths for anti-British movement.

Since then the descendants of Abdul Jabber in cooperation with the local people have been organising the wrestling under the title "Abdul Jabber Memorial Wrestling Competition" at Laldighi Maidan every year. A two-day fair full of pomp and grandeur known as "Baishakhi Mela" is held centring the wrestling.

Like other occasions, the fair sat on a place stretching some two-km surrounding the wrestling venue extending upto the Badarpati and Andorkilla Bakshirhut intersection. It also extended further into the nearby Loyal Road and KC Dey Road.

The two-day fair continued for four days as the sellers and vendors from different parts of the region opened their shops on April 23 -- one day before the formal opening of the fair -- to wind up on April 27.

As per tradition the wrestling was held at the historic Laldighi Maidan (ground) venue in the city on April 25.

Marma Singha Tripura, 25, a constable of Rajarbagh Police Lines in Dhaka, clinched the champion's title of this year.

Marma, a dark horse in the event from Khagrachhari, became champion defeating defending joint-champion Didarul Alam, 25, in an exciting final bout.

The young wrestler took only seven minutes to overpower his mighty rival Didar of Ramu upazila in Cox's Bazar.

The appearance of the two rivals of strong physique and power roused a hope of tough fight but the final bout failed to produce the expected excitement. The crowd protested and booed as Didar was not allowed a few minutes' rest after a 30-minute first challenge bout where he defeated challenger Abul Kalam.

Being a wrestler Marma also could understand the tiredness of his opponent Didar and requested the organisers for a few minutes' rest for the defending champion before the final bout. But they ignored it to mar the attraction of the competition.

Didar became joint-champion with Md. Siddiq of Teknaf after a superb and long fight last year. He defeated former titlist Siddiq in a competition at Uttar (north) Dhemsha under Satkania upazila in Chittagong on April 23. Siddiq Boli (wrestler) sustained muscle injuries in the fight and stayed out of the ring at Laldighi on April 25.

Marma also became champion in the wrestling at Rangamati on the occasion of New Year's festival only few days back. Yet a strong

and confident Marma did not hesitate to fight in the general bout to qualify for the final bout though there was scope for going to the final directly throwing a challenge to the defending champion.

As many as 52 wrestlers took part in the competition. Of them, 25 were regular bouts while two were challenge bouts to determine the champion.

Bolis gather here spontaneously more to sense and put up the tradition and glory of the past rather than consider their personal gains. There were supporters from different quarters for smooth holding of the occasion that makes the people of Chittagong, particularly the elderly ones, to dive and bathe in a history of unique tradition and 'nostalgia'.

But the poor management not only marred the attraction of the wrestling but also generated resentment among the wrestlers and spectators.

Wrestler Jainal Abedin Sikder of Fatikchhari Upazila got his right arm displaced while fighting a bout in the second round after winning the first round bout. The poor wrestler stood in the ring raising his displaced arm helplessly for quite some time. But the pitiable scene failed to draw attention of the organisers.

Later, at the request of the audience Jainal was taken to the medical camp at the venue. But only some ointment on the displaced arm and advice to go to hospital were given on his own, nothing else.

Only two little wrestlers Md. Manik and Sumon Sheel, both very thin and rather weak, were there in the whole competition though there were a lot of such kids to join such competition. As such, the process or system for entering names for the wrestling also raised questions among the public.

Food minister Abdullah Al Noman gave away prizes among the winners. He gave award money of Tk. 10,000 to the champion and Tk.5000 to the runner-up from his personal fund.

Baxmirhut Youngmen's Club awarded Tk. 5000 to the champion, Star Cement authority gave Tk. 3000 for the champion and Tk. 2000 for the runner-up.

Besides, 24 winners of the first round got Tk. 100 each.

Noman also announced Tk.50 thousand from his own fund to give gold medals to ten best wrestlers for next year.

He urged the organisers to continue the 94-year old competition at the same venue and gave assurance of all support in this regard.

The makeshift shops in the fair were arrayed with a great variety of household items, handicrafts, nice toys and showpieces and pottery.

The fair virtually emerged as a tryst of buyers and sellers where every commodity of the daily life was available.

Mosquito menace in city

NURUL ALAM
 The mosquito menace gripped the port city causing immense sufferings to its residents.

A large number of breeding centres for mosquitoes have been created in the stagnant water in the drains following frequent showers for the past few weeks.

The used containers of soft drinks littering the city get rainwater to stagnate and are therefore 'ideal' breeding centres for aedes mosquito.

Consequently, it raises fears of outbreak of dengue and other malarial diseases among the city residents.

Meanwhile, the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) started anti-mosquito drive, a 'crash

programme' on Friday in a limited scale to combat the menace.

A CCC official on condition of anonymity said it is not possible to cover the whole city for spraying larvicides as there is shortage of fund. All the wards would be brought under the programme in phases, he added.

The CCC embarked on the crash programme to eradicate mosquito in 10 out of 41 wards. This crash programme was taken at a meeting of the city corporation authorities at its office recently.

During the crash programme larvicide is being sprayed but not the adulticides used for eradicating the adult mosquitoes, CCC sources said. Larvicide is being sprayed in the drains and other breeding centres to

contain the menace.

As adulticide, a stronger insecticide, was not available, it could not be used during the crash programme this time, sources said. "It is costlier, we don't have funds," a CCC official said.

The residents say that they can not evade mosquito bites whether at home or office or any other place of the city.

Students were facing mosquito attacks not only in their residences at the time of reading at night but also in schools and coaching centres at daytime.

Such a menace forced the residents, who could afford, to buy insecticides or coils to keep mosquito away. The slum dwellers are the worst sufferers, sources said.

Meanwhile, the dengue surveillance committee of CCC also reportedly remained in hibernation as it was yet to get activated for undertaking awareness programmes, sources said.

In most of the occasions earlier, the anti-mosquito campaign and awareness programmes were taken after the wide outbreak of dengue and other malarial diseases in the city.

Series of seminars and symposiums were organised by different socio-cultural organisations in the city to create awareness among the people at that time.

But programmes are hardly taken in advance to create awareness about dengue and malarial diseases.

Navigation-where intelligence counts

CAPT HABIBUR RAHMAN
 All living creatures travelling from one place to another need to navigate.

Navigation on land, river and great lake requires acquaintance with the features present around us. To navigate over sea and air requires education, practice, skill and experience. Air navigation is quick and land based stations direct air pilots in most of the cases.

In the oceans, navigators themselves find their way. In circumstances when navigators get lost in the mid-ocean due to bad weather they have to continue with uncertainty till they have an usable feature like a landmark, an island or a celestial body to observe.

Today's navigational instruments like Global Positioning System (GPS), Differential Global Positioning

System (DGPS) are modern aids for the navigators. Navigation in the ocean requires skillful and precise work because of the numerous perils of the sea which necessitates a continuous monitoring of the progress of the voyage on the intended course lines as laid down on a chart. Navigational charts cover all -- the oceans, seas, bays and entrance to ports.

The GPS and DGPS equipment instantly indicates the position of a ship in the middle of the ocean and does not require much expertise to use them. All that a navigator is required to do is to switch on the instrument and read the position displayed on it. So to reach from "A" to "B" across the globe, now it requires only to lay courses and maintain the ship's position on course. However, to maintain a ship's position on the desired course line it is necessary to

steer a correct course, and a compass with precision is needed for that. As all compasses inherit some errors, navigators are required to check the compass errors frequently.

In spite of having all the modern equipment around us, compass errors are still checked by observations of the celestial bodies like sun, moon, planets and stars. Among the various modern equipment this ancient instrument, 'the compass', is still considered as indispensable at sea.

God has subjected sea to us. Ships carry 80 percent of the world's commodities and the facility will expand with the modernisation of ships. Shipping of the future will be much faster and safer spanning boundless oceans, but precise navigation will always be a demand of this industry for safe and speedy operation.

With the advancement of science and technology, efforts are underway to equip ships with engines that require no man to operate. No matter where the technology takes us on an unmanned bridge but a ship without navigator is yet unthinkable. Man-made machinery may malfunction but still ships will sail and navigators will have to find position in the vast ocean with the help of a sextant and heavenly bodies.

As in the ancient time the words "master and his ship" were inseparable, so in the future these words will remain together no matter where science leads us to. A ship without a master is like a lady without a husband and that is possibly why a ship is called "she". Expeditions of the seas started with the 'he and she' and will probably end so.

the week that was

CMCH to be expanded
 Minister for Health and Family Welfare Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain said measures would be taken soon for expanding Chittagong Medical College Hospital and upgrading Chittagong General Hospital to a 250-bed full-fledged hospital.

He said this while he was speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of Bangladesh Medical Association, Chittagong unit, at Chittagong Club here on April 25.

The health minister said the government has taken programmes to ensure better health care and qualitative improvement in health service.

As a part of the programmes, appointment of 600 physicians was under process while advertisement was made for 1133 more physicians in the 24th BCS, he added.

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman and State Minister for Civil Aviation and

Tourism Mir Md Nasiruddin were the special guests at the ceremony.

Seminar on Ctg development
 A seminar titled, "Development of Chittagong; Commercial Capital Perspective: Legal constraint and proposals to overcome" was held here on Saturday.

Forum for Planned Chittagong (FPC), a volunteering organisation of professionals and elite of the city, organised the seminar at Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong centre.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) president Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury attended the seminar as the chief guest with FPC president renowned scientist Jamal Nazrul Islam in the chair.

CCI President stressed for strengthening the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) with more power and bringing in dynamism in its

function.

He assured of all out support from Chittagong chamber in this respect. The chamber president also emphasised on coordination among development authorities of CDA, Chittagong City Corporation, WASA and other utility services for development of the commercial capital.

Architect planner Zarina Hossain presented the key-note paper at the seminar where QS Touhid, CDA assistant chief planner Shahenur Islam, Razuk superintendent engineer Md. Emdadul Islam, Architect Jalal Ahmed of Institute of Architecture, Engineer Mohsin Bhuiyan and Prof Shafiq Hyder Chowdhury also spoke.

Lease agreement signed
 A private firm M/S N.B. Enterprise got a 2-year lease of the management and on-board service of Inter-city train Subarna Express on Dhaka-Chittagong

route.

The lease agreement between Bangladesh Railway (East) and NB Enterprise was signed at Central Railway Building (CRB) here on Tuesday effective from April 29.

Chief Traffic Manager (CTM) Aftabuddin Ahmad signed the agreement on behalf of Bangladesh Railway while Noman Hossain Dulal for NB Enterprise.

Workshop on vegetable dying
 A 3-day training workshop on vegetable jointly organised by Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF), ILO, area office, Dhaka and Chittagong Women's Entrepreneurs (WE) was held at WE seminar hall at Agrabad on Sunday.

The inaugural function of the workshop was held at Hotel Agrabad. BEF Vice-president Rokeya Quader while making address of welcome said such training would play a significant

role in the flourishing of trade and commerce by the women entrepreneurs.

ILO, Area Office in Dhaka, director Gopal Bhattacharya in his speech said the empowerment of women depended on their economic emancipation. Keeping this in mind ILO was working to make the women folk self-reliant through such training workshops.

WE, Chittagong president Monowara Hakim Ali thanked DEF and ILO for extending hands for organising the workshop and called for more such programmes in future.

Vegetable dying expert Rubi Gaznabi put up importance and functions of herbal dye of vegetable dying at the workshop.

Face challenge of free economy
 Eleven-point proposal including development of backward-linkage industries and approval for setting up bonded

warehouse under private initiative was made at a seminar here on Sunday to face the challenges of free market economy.

Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Chittagong organised the seminar at the Chittagong regional office of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), at Agrabad.

While addressing the seminar as the chief guest, EPB Director General (garments) GKM Toufiq Hasan said there was immense possibility of finding export market for Bangladeshi Ready-made Garments (RMG) in the world.

He underscored the need for setting up of a central bonded warehouse for survival of Bangladeshi RMG sector in the competition worldwide.

He also felt the necessity for setting up a foreign trade institute.

BGMEA first vice-president SM Nurul Haq made the 11-point proposal in the seminar while addressing as the special guest. EPB, Chittagong director Quazi Mahubur Rahman made the address of welcome.

FCSOA council held
 The biennial council 2003-05 of Federation of Chittagong Shop Owners Association (FCSOA) was held on Sunday with a call for creation of congenial atmosphere for trade and commerce here to help establish Chittagong a commerce capital in true sense.

A 30-member executive committee of the Federation was announced at the second session. Alhaj Salah Uddin of Chittagong Electronics Traders Samity and Md. Abul Kasem of Mimi Super Market Traders' Samity were elected president and general secretary of the FCSOA respectively. The council was held at the Chittagong District Council auditorium.

The business community leaders said businessmen become financially losers due to smuggling, extortion and criminal activities. At the same time the businessmen of the port city were losing their tradition for lack of proper

coordination and patronisation of the government, they added.

Leaders from as many as 52 business organisations participated in the council with the FCSOA founding president Alhaj Salahuddin in the chair.

HWF concerned
 Hill Women's Federation (HWF), a women's organisation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, expressed concern over rape of Jumma (tribal) girls and demanded punishment to the culprits after proper investigation.

The HWF leaders on Sunday said, three adolescent tribal girls were raped in separate incidents at Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban on January 19, April 24 and October 5 last year.

They called upon the hill people to remain alert against such incidents reportedly by outsiders and urged the government for strict measures against to stop such incidents, says a press release signed by Aunatikka Chakma.