

'Jabbar er Boli Khela' to be held on April 24-26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram City Corporation have decided to hold the 11th edition of popular wrestling competition "Jabbar er Boli Khela" from April 24 to 26 on the Kotwali to Andarkilla road in the port city.

CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Choudhury made the announcement in a press briefing yesterday. On April 13, the committee announced suspension of this year's event as the traditional site for arranging the competition, Laldighi playground, was being renovated.

Rezaul said, "The previous announcement disheartened people and they requested us not to suspend it. The competition will be held on the road in front of the Laldighi playground area."

The event remained suspended for two years due to the pandemic.

"Boli Khela" was introduced in the early 20th century by Abdul Jabbar Saodagar, a local trader. He wanted to cultivate a sport that would prepare youths to fight the British.

The traditional form of wrestling was named after Jabbar. The first competition was held in 1909.

PRAYER TIMING APRIL 17					
					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4-17	12-45	4-45	6-24	7-45	
JAMAT 4-27 1-15 5-00 6-34 8-15					
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					
SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING					
RAMADAN APRIL SEHRI IFTAR					
15	17			6:24	
16	18	4:11		6:25	
17	19	4:10		6:25	



The usual hustle and bustle surrounding the tourism industry in Cox's Bazar often sidelines a huge crisis: its struggles with waste management. The average amount of waste can weigh up to 130 tonnes during peak season. Amidst this alarming situation, UNDP's solid waste management project in Ukhia and Teknaf comes as a beacon of hope.



PHOTO: STAR

Teknaf, Ukhia show the way

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

For shopkeepers in Cox's Bazar's Ukhia, the day starts with rigorous cleaning. As part of the process, they put a pair of buckets -- one green and the other blue -- in front of their shops.

Later on the day, some three to four people in vests come to sweep the road, who collect the buckets and pour their content in separate chambers in a van.

One of them told this correspondent their job entails collecting waste from the shops and separating organic waste kept in green buckets from the rest kept in blue buckets.

After the collection and separation, garbage is taken to a facility -- where perishable waste is turned into compost, while the rest gets recycled or dumped into a sanitary landfill.

This solid waste management project comes as a beacon of hope at a time when Cox's Bazar, the country's largest tourist spot, is struggling with its waste management.

The project is implemented by UNDP with local partners Brac and Practical Action. It began in 2018 with finance from the Swedish government. It is being implemented with coordination from the UP chairperson, market committees, WATSAN committees and NGOs.



"The project has introduced basic waste collection systems in market areas and helped prevent littering in open spaces and drains," said Marta Kucharski Duran, project manager from UNDP's end in Cox's Bazar.

"The project aims to change people's perception towards waste. Waste is a resource that can generate incomes and job opportunities, and this is the idea we want to work on," she said.

Currently, waste is being collected from 5,390 shops of 14 marketplaces and 5,093 households in Ukhia and Teknaf under the project.

After segregating organic and recyclable waste, around 30 percent of the residual waste is disposed of at a landfill, maintaining hygiene concerns.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

The waste keeps piling up

Cox's Bazar struggles with garbage management

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Business and recreation go hand-in-hand in Cox's Bazar. But amidst all the usual frenzy, the tourist town fights a silent battle every day -- to make its waste management work.

In a recent visit to Bandarmokam in Cox's Bazar, also known as Kasturighat, where a landfill stands in the heart of the town, this correspondent saw a huge pile of solid waste collected from households, hotels and restaurants.

Two excavators were seen working to level the waste. There was smoke at the foot of the heap, burning the piled up garbage.

Plastic products for temporary use make up most of the heap, said Kabir Hossain, Cox's Bazar municipality's conservancy officer. This is concerning, as plastic is one of the most hazardous objects for the environment, particularly the ecosystem and biodiversity of Cox's Bazar.

"The compostable waste has melted and only plastic is left here. We level the landfill with the excavators to accommodate more waste," said Kabir.

The municipality collects 90 tonnes of waste on an average from the municipal area every day. The amount can go up to 130 tonnes during peak tourist season, he added.

However, they are not capable of handling all this waste due to lack of staffers and logistics.

The conservancy officer informed that waste collected from the municipality consists of 50 percent compostable and 30 percent plastic.

And as tourists keep pouring in, the waste keeps on piling every where -- the beach as well as roads and alleys, alleged locals.

They said the authorities must come up with a permanent solution to this problem, otherwise the beach town will soon be turned into just another "dirty old town".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Life has become harder for fishers in Savar, thanks to rampant pollution of rivers and canals in the area. There was a time when they could fish all year long, which has now come down to two months, as no aquatic animals can survive amid the polluted water.

PHOTO: STAR

A threat to livelihood

Rampant pollution of rivers, canals in Savar forcing fishers to change hereditary profession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Mahadev Rajbangshi (60) used to fish throughout the year in Bangshi river and used to make his living by selling fish.

However, now he only gets to fish for two months during the entire year. The reason is the dense pollution of the river by industrial liquid waste.

Thousands of fishermen in Savar are passing days in hardship, while the majority of them have already left their hereditary profession.

According to Savar Upazila Fisheries Office, there are more than 2,000 fishermen in Savar. There are three rivers and 18 government canals in the upazila, as per the information acquired from the UNO's office.

During a recent visit to Bangshi, Turag and Dhaleshwari rivers and many of the canals in Savar, this correspondent found none of them free from pollution.

Senior Fisheries Officer Kamrul Islam Sarkar also expressed concern over the pollution.

"During my visits, I found no difference between

river water and sewer water. No fish, as well as aquatic creatures, can survive in such polluted water. Two dolphins died and floated on the Turag two months ago. We suspect that they died in the contaminated water," said Kamrul.

"To reduce pollution, the authorities concerned, including the Department of Environment (DoE) must be vocal," he added.

Contacted, Zahirul Islam Talukder, Dhaka district deputy director of DoE, said they regularly inspect the factories and often impose fines on them for polluting the rivers and the canals.

Asked why the pollution continues despite regular monitoring, he said, "Apart from the tannery industry, there are about 120 dyeing factories and 60 washing factories in Savar. They are open 24 hours a day, while we can only monitor them for eight hours. We have a huge human resources crisis."

"Factory authorities run CETP (Common Effluent Treatment Plants) during our visit and stop running them afterwards, which leads to the pollution. We are working on this issue as well," he added.



Apart from the tannery industry, there are about 120 dyeing factories and 60 washing factories in Savar. They are open 24 hours a day, while we can only monitor them for eight hours. We have a severe human resources crisis.

Zahirul Islam Talukder
Deputy Director
of DoE, Dhaka
district

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Office of the Quality Assurance Manager
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Department of Fisheries, Dhaka.

Date: 13.04.2022

Invitation for Tender (Goods)

e-Tendering Notice No: 03/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Goods, details are given below.

Sl. #	Tender ID #	Package #	Name of works and location	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender Opening (date & time)
01.	686197, 33.02.0000.314.22.125.16-670	GRF 1	Procurement of Fish Estradiol ELISA kit and Oxolinic acid Elisa kit for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka	27-April-2022, 15:00	28-April-2022, 14:00	28-April-2022, 14:00
02.	686209, 33.02.0000.314.22.224.22-666	GRF 2	Procurement of Equipment and Spare parts for Rotary Evaporator and Fat Extractor for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka	27-April-2022, 15:00	28-April-2022, 14:00	28-April-2022, 14:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off line/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading

the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches up to 27-April-2022, 15:00. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd).

13.04.2022
(Md. Manik Mia)
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