

Red Bull X Fighters Jams at Galle Face today

FMX at its best

CHINTHANA WASALA

The world renowned freestyle motocross (FMX) riders will thrill the crowds at the Galle face Green, Colombo when the Red Bull X Fighters Jams 2011 gets underway at 3.00 p.m. today.

Following successful completion of events in South Africa, Turkey, Singapore, Bolivia and many more locations around the globe, the X-Fighters are set to perform in front of over 200,000 spectators who are expected to be there to witness the mesmerizing show.

The team performed here in November 2010 when the spectator count broke most records when over 200,000 fans gathered at the Galle Face Green, and getting a rare opportunity to witness some world class freestyle FMX riding.

The event will be a part of the world's number one freestyle motor cross series. The daredevil riders three out of four - who performed here last year, will be doing their acts once again. South African Nick De Wit, two Belgians Bjorn van den Broeck and Gilles Dejong along with Daniel Bodin of Sweden are ready to perform their best in Freestyle MX today. In fact, Broeck replaces his fellow countryman Jimmy Verburgh who is injured.

The organizers, Red Bull, are confident that there will be a big crowd at the Galle Face Green today for the show which will continue till about 7:00 p.m. This year, the organizers will charge a fee to minimize the congestion that occurred last year where they faced many tough situations in crowd control. Tickets, priced Rs. 100 and RS. 500 will be available at 60 gates at the Galle Face from 11:00 a.m. today.

Gilles Dejong

Gilles Dejong is probably the most famous motocross and Super moto rider in Belgium. In both disciplines he is riding the GP. Since 2005 he is doing Freestyle Motocross and joined the fmx4ever team of Jimmy Verburgh. In 2008 Gilles had his IFMXF track premier and collected points at the FIM Freestyle MX World Championship. At the 'Night of the jumps' Brasil he reached his first IFMXF final.

Date of Birth: October 23, 1984
Bike: KTM
Hobbies: Bmx, Party
FMX since: 2005



Pictures by MAHINDA VITHANACHCHI



Bjorn van den Broeck

Bjorn, best known as Broecky, is a guy that never pulls out of anything. He is one of the founders of team FMX4Ever. He has traveled the world with the Red Bull exhibition tour and with his character, he has gained great respect from all the riders. Broecky takes care of most of the logistics in FMX4Ever and manages the trucks to many of the locations. When he's around, a good going atmosphere.



Daniel Bodin

Daniel's main event was the FSX or the Freestyle Snowmobile Cross which is the wintry equivalent to FMX prior to his shift to the FMX and Daniel is like a Travis Pastrana on skids. He has been one of the main players on the Red Bull X Fighters Exhibition Tour which takes FMX to farflung places like Russia, India and Kazakhstan, and continues to push the boundaries no matter what the terrain.



Nick de Wit

Nick de Wit, who is regarded as Africa's best FMXRider, was the first step to the field of FMX in 2001. The 24 year old South African participated at European contests two years later. 2004 was his international break through. He ended up on number five at the IFMXF World Cup in Dresden and was placed fourth at the IFMXF World Cup in Namibia. In 2005 Nick integrated Back-flips in his runs and had good results at most of the 'Night of the jumps'. Nick performs at a number of pre-Red Bull X-Fighters exhibitions around the world. He has his own FMX training park in Muldersdrift. Joburg and is part of the Ride Authority.

