

AIFF to appoint 50 referees on contractual basis for Rs 80,000 per month

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Aiming to lift the standard of refereeing in the country, the All India Football Federation is set to appoint 50 referees on contractual basis and pay them a "significant" amount as monthly salary, in order to help them earn their livelihood from this alone.

AIFF President Kalyan Chabey said that the standard of refereeing can be improved if the Indian referees earn enough money to run their families and work full time on their profession. Foreign coaches of Indian Super League teams used to criticise Indian referees for their "errors".

"Every year, there is complaint about quality of refereeing in India, about refereeing error whether in the ISL or I-League or Santosh Trophy, which has affected the fortunes of the aggrieved team. But there is more to this

issue," Chabey told PTI on Tuesday.

"The remuneration of a referee per match is very low. In state leagues, a referee gets Rs 2500 to Rs 5000, and in national leagues from Rs 8000 to Rs 10,000. This comes to Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 3 lakh a year, which is insufficient for a referee to maintain his family by doing refereeing only."

"To address that, we have decided that 50 referees will be appointed and each of them will be given state government level salary of around Rs 50,000 to Rs 80,000 per month, which is fair enough for a referee to maintain his family."

He said only then the referees can focus solely on their jobs.

"So, we are giving contractual jobs to these 50 referees between 18 to 45 years of age. This is a policy decision we have made and the finer

details of how to appoint referees on contractual basis will be chalked out by the AIFF secretary.

"Also, we have the Chief Refereeing Officer (Trevor Kettle) who is well qualified and a hugely experienced man. He will work with the AIFF Referee Committee. They will make the criteria of the appointments.

"Then, any man and woman who has the requisite qualification or training can apply for the refereeing jobs."

Chabey said the AIFF has set aside a budget for the appointment of 50 referees but insisted that his organisation will go for quality rather than numbers.

"Ex-players can also try their luck as referees. They can continue to be a part of the game by refereeing in international matches, in Asian Games or Olympics or World Cup."

"We will encourage quality

referees and minimise these human errors in matches."

He said the AIFF will primarily focus on the refereeing standard of the national level leagues and tournaments but that should percolate down to the state and lower level.

"We are setting up refereeing academies and though our main focus is on the quality of refereeing in national level tournaments, surely it will have impact at the state level and quality will also be better there."

On Monday, Kettle proposed a five-year plan on several issues like transition to professional refereeing, state engagement in referee development, and introduction of technology in the Indian refereeing system.

The AIFF Referees Committee headed by former FIFA referee Michael Andrews has agreed in principle about the project and decided to review the existing policy and prepare a new one as per the requirements.

Lovlina, Shiva to lead India's gold medal charge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain and Shiva Thapa will spearhead the Indian challenge as 12 pugilists from the country aim to seal their berth in the Asian Boxing Championships finals in Amman, Jordan here from Wednesday.

The semi-final bouts for the women's category will begin on Wednesday and will be followed by the men's last-four contests on Thursday.

The Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina (75kg), who is contesting in this weight category at an international tournament for the first time, will take on Seong Suyeon of the Korea in her semi-final bout.

Alongside Lovlina, the 2022 world championships bronze medallist Parveen (63kg) will be up against Uranbileg Shinetsetseg of Mongolia

while competition debutant Preeti (57kg) will be involved in a tough match-up against the Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Irie Sena of Japan. The other four women in semi-final action will be Alfiya Pathan (81+kg), Saweety (81kg), Ankushita Boro (75kg), and Minakshi (52kg).

In the men's category, Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) who became the most decorated Asian champion after ensuring his sixth medal in the competition will face two-time Asian Championships medallist Bakhodur Usmonov of Tajikistan. Two-time Commonwealth bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) will go head to head against the 2021 world championships silver medallist Serik Temirzhanov of Kazakhstan.

The other three men in semi-final action will be

Narendra (92+kg), Sumit (75kg), and Govind Kumar Sahani (48kg).

Narendra (92+kg) dominated his way to the semis by comfortably defeating Iman Ramezandpourdelavar of Iran with a unanimous 5:0 verdict late on Monday night.

India's total medal count of 12 in this year's edition of the tournament is the third highest among all competing nations.

The women pugilists of the country have secured seven medals which ranks them second in the standings among all nations while the men's total tally of five medals places them joint third alongside Jordan and Mongolia in their respective rankings.

The final of the tournament for the women's category will take place on Friday and the men's final bouts will be conducted on Saturday.

Upgradation of seed multiplication farms our prime agenda: Director Agriculture Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: To take stock of post harvest management activities at Seed Multiplication Farms Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal on Tuesday visited SM Farms at Padampora & Alawpora. During the interaction with the officers and farm staff, the Director said that the Department is working on a plan to upgrade all seed multiplication farms of the Department on modern scientific lines.

He highlighted that a good quality seed is the foundation for the successful cultivation of a crop which finally leads to the socio-economic transformation of the farming community. Director Agriculture said that the Department is making all possible efforts to ensure the availability of high quality seeds produced from the departmental seed multiplication farms to the farmers well in time.

He reiterated the importance of introduction of real time technologies in the cultivation of paddy and other crops.

Chowdhary stressed upon the officers for ensuring quality planting material and creating an effective and sustainable system of supply of high quality seeds for the development of agriculture in the valley.

He impressed upon the officers associated with the farm to maximize the production and productivity of the farm so that more and more farmers could have access to the quality seeds of different crops at affordable prices.

During the visit, the director was accompanied by senior officers of the department.

DC Kupwara launches 'OOZKE' for establishment of maximum income generating units under PMEGP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray on Tuesday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review sponsoring of self employment schemes on Mission Mode basis in the district.

Addressing the meeting, the DDC said that employment generation is among the top priorities of the UT Government and the District Administration is committed to encourage the unemployed youth of the district to come forward and get benefited under the ambitious Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) by establishing income generating units.

The DDC passed on strict

directions to the officers of line departments and banks to streamline their modus operandi by encouraging maximum unemployed youth in the district to take benefit under the scheme. He directed the concerned officers to identify atleast 15 unemployed youth in each panchayat of the district for establishment of self employment generating units under PMEGP.

The DDC directed the officers to ensure maximum participation of PRIs including DDC Members, BDC Chairpersons and Sarpanches so as to get the desired result. He further directed the officers to work with added zeal and dedication for achievement of the target within 2 months.

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"We will encourage quality

Meanwhile, the DDC launched 'OOZKE', a mission for establishment of maximum income generating units under PMEGP in the district.

On the occasion, it was informed that the 'OOZKE' is aimed at to provide counseling to the unemployed youth regarding their area of interest in 85 different activities on a mission mode. Under the mission, the procedures and formalities of the banks have been simplified to encourage maximum youth to get their units time-ly established.

The meeting was attended by AC Panchayats, LDM Kupwara and officers from DIC, Employment, KVIB, NRLM besides District Heads of different banks.

BENGALURU: Former India captain Mithali Raj is keeping her options open for the women's IPL tournament slated next year -- player or mentor or even owning a team.

The BCCI recently announced that the inaugural women's IPL will take place in March next year before the men's tournament.

"I am keeping that role open, whether as a player or in a franchise in some way as a mentor," she told PTI in an interview on Tuesday.

"But right now, nothing is clear, there are five teams...how they are going

to do, whether it's a bidding or auction, so until there is some concrete information, I am keeping pretty much all things open," said Mithali, who retired from international cricket earlier this year.

Asked if owning a team is an option, she said, "Maybe, yes".

Mithali recently made her debut as a commentator and termed it an "interesting phase".

"I am watching cricket from a very different optics. I still do feel the nerves if it's a tight game. I still have to cross that barrier of not feeling those emotions of a player," the former India skipper, who

was here for an event, said.

"I am just testing the waters if I am apt for commentary. Maybe after a few months, I will see if I still have keenness to pursue it."

On attracting more young girls to take up cricket as a career, she said the first edition of the under-19 World Cup next year is a major step forward and termed it a big platform.

Asked what more needs to be done to further promote women's cricket after BCCI's announcement on equal match fees for its centrally-contracted female and male players,

she said nothing changes overnight and there's time for everything.

"Currently, one should appreciate the things that are improving and bolstering women's cricket higher, whether it's match fee, women's IPL and Women's Under-19 World Cup first edition next year," she said, adding that the good changes that have happened should be amplified a lot more.

"That will probably lead to further changes," she said.

Mithali said she is working on her autobiography and is looking at releasing it in the middle of next year.

Drug-peddler arrested, contraband recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Tuesday arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

As per the details, a party of Police Post Bus Stand Sopore under the supervision of SDPO Sopore during naka checking at Ahad Baba crossing intercepted a person in a suspicious manner. During checking, officers were able to recover 216 Spasmoproyvon Plus capsules from his possession. He has been identified as Umer Amin Banday, son of Muhammad Amin Banday resident of Gousia Colony, Noorbagh, Sopore. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody. Accordingly, FIR No. 252/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Sopore and investigation has been taken up.

12 bovines rescued; 5 smugglers arrested, 3 vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Continuing drive against bovine smuggling in District Reasi, teams of District Police Reasi under the supervision of Amit Gupta-Sr Superintendent of Police Reasi laid special Nakas, arrested 5 bovine smugglers and rescued 12 bovines from their possession.

Team of Police Post Dera Baba led by PSI Jarnail Singh foiled a bovine smuggling attempt in Chhapanoo area of District Reasi and arrested a smuggler namely Salman Khan, son of Zakir Ali, resident of Panjgiran Nagrota, Tehsil and District Jammu for smuggling two bovines in vehicle (JK02CV-1420). Bovines were rescued and vehicle got seized. FIR No. 273/2022 under sections 188 of IPC, 11 of PC Act was registered at Police Station Reasi.

In another incident, a team of Police Post Dera Baba apprehended one more bovine smuggler namely Mushtaq Ali, son of Mohd Shatto, resident of Krimchi, District Udhampur and rescued 2 bovines from their possession which they were transporting in a vehicle bearing registration number JK11A- 5485. FIR No. 274/2022 under sections 188 of IPC, 11 of PC Act stands registered at Police Station Reasi.

Team of Police Post Dera Baba led by PSI Jarnail Singh foiled a bovine smuggling attempt in Chhapanoo area of District Reasi and arrested a smuggler namely Salman Khan, son of Zakir Ali, resident of Panjgiran Nagrota, Tehsil and District Jammu for smuggling two bovines in vehicle (JK02CV-1420). Bovines were rescued and vehicle got seized.

Team of Police Station Pouri led by PSI Hiteshwar Singh intercepted one vehicle (JK02CP-6897) which was coming from Jammu towards Rajouri and rescued 4 bovines from one Talib Hussain, son of Mohd Musa, resident of Dhanwan Tehsil Aknoor, District Jammu. Accused was arrested on the spot and vehicle got seized. FIR No. 62/2022 under section 188 of IPC 11 (1)(A) was registered at Police Station Pouri. In one more incident on a specific information, a special Naka established at Mari area of Police Station Pouri by SHO Suman, intercepted and apprehended two persons namely Billo & Munir Hussain, both sons of Mohd Yousaif, resident of Jhandi Tehsil Tharakote District Reasi and rescued 4 bovines from their possession. Accused were arrested on the spot and investigation started. FIR No. 64/2022 under sections 188 of IPC 11 (1) (A) was registered at Police Station Pouri. Arrests were made by police teams under the supervision of Dyp Headquarters Iftekhar Ahmed & Surjeet Bhagat ASP Reasi.

Pertinently Reasi Police under supervision of Amit Gupta SSP Reasi has established zero tolerance towards bovine smuggling and is committed to eradicate menace of bovine smuggling from the District.

Three missing women found, reunited with families

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three different missing cases were solved by police on Tuesday by reuniting persons with their families.

As per details, a complaint was lodged at Police Station R S Pura by husband of a woman stating that the woman and his child went missing from their house. In this regard a missing report on November 7, 2022 was registered and investigation started. After this, a team of Police Station R S Pura under the supervision of SDPO R S Pura Surinder Singh led by SHO Police Station R S Pura Inpr Pawan Kumar, after putting in strenuous efforts and with the help of CCTV footages of the area finally traced both missing woman and child.

Similarly, another complaint was lodged at Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu by legal heirs of another woman stating that she went missing from her house. In this regard, a missing report on November 2, 2022 was registered and investigation started. After this, a team of Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu under the supervision of

4 vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a quest to stern menace of illegal mining, a multi-pronged strategy was devised by Jammu Police in which police teams of Police Stations Bishnah, Arnia and Gharota acted stringently on the specific inputs and raided at a location in their respective area and seized 4 vehicles involved in illegal mining. The seized vehicle include two tractor-trolleys i.e., one bearing Registration number JK02CD-2649 and another without registration number seized by Bishnah police; one tractor-trolley bearing Chassis No PXFOSA010433610 seized by Arnia police; a tractor-trolley bearing Registration No JK02AV-3217 seized by Gharota Police. DMO Jammu was also intimated about the same. The recoveries were made by SHO Bishnah Inpr Vikram Sharma, SHO Arnia Inpr Deepak Katoch and SHO Gharota Inpr Joginder Singh Chib in their respective jurisdictions.

Woman held with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: Police on Tuesday nabbed a woman drug-peddler and recovered 3 gm heroin from her possession.

As per details, during surprise Naka at Dhinday Khurd Bishnah, police apprehended one woman with heroin-like substance who was coming from Dhinday Khurd side and going towards Bishnah. Later during questioning, she disclosed her name as Neelam Devi, wife of Late Tarsem Lal, resident of Village Dhinday Khurd, Bishnah District, Jammu. During search, officials recovered 3 gm heroin like substance from woman and accordingly seized the same on spot. FIR No. 190/2022 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered in Police Station Bishnah.

Bus turns turtle near Handwara, 28 passengers injured

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: At least 28 persons suffered injuries after a passenger bus they were on board, met with an accident near Handwara of North Kashmir's Kupwara district this morning, officials said.

As per details, a bus (JK09-1239), on way from Kupwara to Srinagar, met with an accident near Watayin area, resulting in injuries to some 28 passengers. "The injured passengers were subsequently evacuated to District Hospital Handwara for treatment, from where five persons were referred to different hospitals for preferential treatment", the official said. Detailing further, the official said, Irshad Ahmad, son of Ghulam Qadir, resident of Tral & Mukhti Begum, wife of Ghulam Rasool Mir, resident of Vodhpura Handwara have been referred to Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla while as Parveena Begum, her minor child name Musaib Ahmad and Irshad Ahmad Bhat, son of Wali Mohammad Bhat of Chogal Handwara were referred to SMHS Hospital Srinagar for preferential treatment. Police has registered a case in this regard.

Suspicious death of youth working in crusher; family accused owner of hiding information

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A youth working in a stone crusher located in Khapur Pounichak, on outskirts of the city, died under suspicious circumstances. The family members of youth accused the stone crusher owner of hiding information about the accident and called death of the young man as murder.