

Semis line-up drawn in Reasi District Volleyball Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: Semifinals position has been cleared with Arnas Volleyball Club, Bakal Volleyball Club, Mamma Volleyball Club Judda and Sajroo Volleyball Club entering the last four stages in the Reasi District Volleyball Championship being organized by Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with J&K Sports Council and district administration at General Zorawar Singh Stadium Reasi, here on Sunday.

A total of 11 teams from far flung areas of district Reasi namely Sajroo, Bhomag, Arnas, Kanjali, Judda, Bakal, Dharmari etc are in the fray to clinch the championship.

Iftkhar Ahmed Qureshi, Additional SP Reasi was the Chief Guest on the occasion, who inaugurated the cham-



Participating team posing with chief guest, Iftkhar Ahmed Qureshi, Additional SP Reasi and VAJK office bearers while volleyball match in progress at Reasi.

pionship. He appreciated the efforts of Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir for promoting the game in the remote areas.

Chief Guest hailed the initiative of the organizers in channelising the energies of youth in National recon-

struction and shun the drug addiction among youth. Qureshi exhorted the youth of the district to avail the benefits of various schemes for their overall development and adopt sports as a tool of their brilliant carrier in future. He also recalled the

contribution of outstanding volleyball players of J&K UT such as Saqlain Tariq and Mammat Choudhary for bringing laurels at national as well as international levels in sports arena of volleyball.

Yash Paul, stalwart of vol-

leyball, who represented J&K number of times in national volleyball championships, was Guest of Honour on the occasion and coordinated for the conduct of championship.

The Chief Guest was honoured with memento by

Kuldeep Magotra, Chief Executive Officer VAJK, along with other office view-ers namely V.K Magotra General Secretary and Akbar Ali Secretary.

V.K Magotra gave an account of Volleyball Association of J&K with

special reference to various activities being carried out by the association under various initiatives by the government for promotion of sports.

In all, eight matches were played on first day where player thrilled the audience

with display of latest skill of games. The matches were officiated by Manjyot Singh, Jamrot and Karan Rajput.

Today's results: Mamma Club beat Talwara Club by 2-1 (23-25, 25-20, 15-9); Kalika Club beat Judda Club by 2-0 (25-20, 25-16); Bakal Club beat Kangali Club by 2-1 (12-25, 25-26, 15-18); Sajroo Club beat Salal Club by 2-0 (25-20, 25-23); Arnas Club beat Vijaypur Club by 2-0 (25-19, 25-15); Bhamag Club beat Kamaldanga Club by 2-0 (25-22, 25-21); Bakal Club beat Kalika Club by 2-1 (21-25, 25-22,19-17); Mamma Club beat Bhamag Club by 2-0 (25-21, 25-13).

Semifinals between Arnas Volleyball Club and Bakal Volleyball Club besides Mamma Volleyball Club Judda and Sajroo Volleyball Club followed by final shall be played tomorrow.

Humanity Public School celebrates Mahashivratri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: The festival of Mahashivratri, a famous Hindu festival celebrated each year in reverence of Lord Shiva, was celebrated with full devotion and sanctity in Humanity Public School, Bassi Kalan, Bari Brahmana.

The festival celebrated in veneration of Lord Shiva commenced with Shiv Aarti by Principal of the school, Gaurav Charak, Vice Principal, Anku Charak, along with the Incharges of different wing-Akashdeep Raina (Senior Incharge), Parsidh Singh (Incharge, Hr. Sec. Wing), Namrata Sharma (Incharge Sr. Wing), Vandana Sharma (Incharge, Primary Wing), Er. VarinderKumar (IT Incharge), Meenu Khajuria (Activity Incharge),



Humanity Public School students and faculty at Maha Shivratri celebration.

Mahan Singh (Sports Incharge) and Shivani Sharma (Co-ordinator Pre-Primary Wing).

This was followed by topics and rhymes. Simar, Sania and Gurpreet from class 6th presented their topics and rhymes were recited by Bhagya Lakshmi, Divyanshi, Jeevika, Himanshi, Dhruv and Manjot from class 3rd and Samika

from class 5th. Mukund of class 4th and Ridhi of class 3rd were dressed up as Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

Powers and role of Lord Shiva in the natural cycle were highlighted through a theatrical dance performance by the students of class 7th under the guidance of dance teacher Taruna.

Girls of class 6th, 7th and

8th sang captivating hymns under the guidance of music teachers Rajan Kumar and Kumar Abhilash. Suman (PRT Teacher) also delivered her speech sharing the impor-

tant of Mahashivratri.

Principal, Gaurav Charak said that there is a reason why Shiva is called the supreme deity. He also applauded the efforts of the students and teachers in making the assembly so engrossing. The presenter of the programme was Khushboo of class 9th.

Anku Charak said that Mahashivratri is not only a festival but also a symbol of unwavering faith in religion in every countryman. This inculcates a sense of theism in students and develops faith, devotion and spirituality towards God.

Udhampur DM-XI triumphs over CAPF XI in thrilling Cricket match

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: The teams of Udhampur DM-XI and CAPF XI clashed in an enthralling cricket match held here today.

Udhampur DM-XI, after winning the toss, opted to bat first. Ashwani opened the innings with a commendable 45 runs, featuring two towering sixes and four well-timed fours. Following the suit, Vikram contributed 28 runs, adorned with five boundaries, while Rajinder Digras explosive 51 off just 31 balls shifted the momentum with his thumping six sixes.

Sachin's steady 45 off 34 balls bolstered the team's total to a competitive 190, setting the target for Army Cdr-XI.

Facing the challenge, Army Cdr-XI fell short, managing only 149 runs. Pant led the resistance with a valiant 56 off 46 balls, supported by Arminder and Branda, who scored 24 and 23 runs respectively.

The bowling prowess of Sachin, Vikram, and Sahil Verma, each claiming two wickets, restricted the opposition. Rajinder Digras exceptional performance earned him the well-deserved title of Man of the Match.

Under the guidance and captainship of Rafiq Jaral, SDM Ramnagar, the entire DM-XI team showcased commendable skills and teamwork throughout the competition.



Chief guest presenting trophy to a winner player.

Women badminton, TT tournament 2024 held at Srinagar



Winner players posing for a photograph with dignitaries and officials.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: HQ 31 Sub Area of Chinar Corps organised women Badminton and Table Tennis Tournament at Srinagar to celebrate International Women's Day. This event was aimed at promoting sports amongst women and also to encourage young girls from remote areas of Kashmir to explore and participate in sports.

The event was organized from 09 to 10 March at SKISC, Srinagar with finals held on Sunday. A total of 70 young exuberant women participated

in Badminton and 30 women in Table Tennis tournament. In Badminton Competition Senior group, Azra, in Junior group Bushra and in Sub Junior group Miasha won the competition in their respective categories. In Table Tennis Inam Qadri and Xernain Rouf won in Senior and Junior categories respectively. The prize distribution was done by GOC HQ 31 Sub Area in the presence of senior officials of Army and J&K Sports Council. The participants appreciated the initiative by Army.

KNIT organises week-long Teachers' Orientation Programme



KNIT, Bharat Nagar faculty and management members at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Kotwal National Institute of Teaching (KNIT), Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo Jammu organized a workshop from March 4 to 9, 2024 for all the faculty members from different streams of Science, Commerce and Humanities.

The programme initiated

with a seminar with the theme 'One Teacher One Idea' on the current topics like NEP, Classroom Management, Internal Assessment, Practical exams etc.

The week-long orientation Programme offered an opportunity to the teachers to enhance pedagogical knowledge and discover

more effective and efficient teaching strategies in their respective subjects.

The entire programme was guided and chaired by Director Prof. J.L Kotwal and Principal Bimal Blaria. They emphasized the significance of teachers' roles in shaping the knowledge, personality and character of the students.

Mahashivratri Mahotsav draws thousands of devotees showcasing rich pilgrimage tourism of Jammu region

Four-day event concluded with Dangal at Peer Kho Temple

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Mahashivratri Mahotsav, organized by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu in collaboration with JKAACL and District Administrations of Jammu, Samba, and Reasi, witnessed an unprecedented number of visitors, underscoring the cultural and religious significance of the region.



Comm Secy GAD, Sanjeev Verma posing with wrestlers and officials at Peer Kho Temple.

which saw participants coming not just from J&K but even from neighbouring states. Dangal provided the visitors with a refreshing entertainment opportunity amidst the devotional environment, adding to the overall experience of the visitors while at the same time providing the local wrestlers an opportunity to showcase their talent.

On the concluding day of the Mohatsav at Peer Kho, Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, J&K, was the Chief Guest of the event. Also present on the occasion were Sunaina Sharma

Mehta, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, and Shoket Hayat Mattoo, Deputy Director Tourism, Jammu.

Peer Rajinder Nath, Mahant, Peer Kho Temple Jammu and noted personalities Baba Balak Nath along with Shashi Khajuria, were also present on the occasion.

They played instrumental roles in contributing to the successful organization of the event.

Meanwhile, in Ransoo town of District Reasi, mesmerizing Shiv Bharat and Shiv Vivah ceremonies and devotional performances captivated thousands of

pilgrims. The three-day event culminated with a grand Dangal, attracting pilgrims from far and wide to the holy shrine of Shivkhori.

Similar celebrations took place in Jammu and Samba districts at the Panchvaktar Mahadev Temple and Purmandal, respectively, showcasing the rich tapestry of Dogra culture through vibrant cultural performances and religious ceremonies.

The Mahashivratri Mahotsav not only served as a testament to the enduring faith of devotees but also highlighted the potential of pilgrimage tourism in Jammu. As pilgrims and visitors converged to celebrate this auspicious occasion, they were treated to an immersive experience that celebrated the spirit of devotion and community.

The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, extends its gratitude to all participants, organizers and volunteers for their unwavering support in making the Mahashivratri Mahotsav a resounding success.

Pavinder of UP lifts Shiv Khori Dangal title

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: Wrestler Pavinder of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh lifted the 26th Shiv Khori Kesari Dangal Title outplaying Deepak Kakran of Guru Hanuman Akhara in Delhi at Ransoo, the base cap of holy shrine in district Reasi on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

Dangal was organised by J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association in support with J&K Tourism Department, District Administration Reasi, Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board (SSKSB) and Shiv Khori Dangal Committee.

The title winner UP wrestler, Pavinder presented with a cash prize of Rs 13,000 while Deepak received Rs 12,000. The second main bout won by Asman of Mathura in UP beating Surjeet Singh of J&K Police. In third main bout, Balkar Singh of Jammu defeated Happy of Jalandhar in Punjab.

Former Minister, Ajay Nanda was the Chief Guest while former Joint Secretary of J&K State Sports Council, Shiv Kumar Sharma presided. The ADDC Reasi, SS Samlyal, Chief Education Officer Reasi, Mushtaq Ahmed, Sanjay Sahani of



Former Minister, Ajay Nanda with winner wrestler and other dignitaries.

Delhi, DySP Neeraj Kadyar, DySP, Vishal Sharma were the Guests of Honour.

The whole event took place under the 26th supervision of president J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, Shiv Kumar Sharma, DDC member, Kewal Krishan Sharma and Sarpanch Bhagwan Singh.

Later, Shiv Kumar Sharma thanked Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai for a grant of Rs. 1,00,000 for the event. The event was also supported by Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Paul Mahajan by contributing Rs. 50,000 from Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board. Sanjay Sahni of Delhi contributed Rs. 25,000 for the Dangal.

In total, 60 bouts played during the day-long dangal involving local wrestlers and others from neighbouring states of UP, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab.

Members and technical officials who helped for conduct of this Dangal included DDC Member Kewal Krishan Sharma (president), former Sarpanch Bhagwan Singh, Pawan Kholi, Sanjay Sahni, Shamsheer Singh, Kapoor Singh, Rattan Singh, Sansar Shah, Sohan Singh, Parmain Singh, Om Parkash Verma, Lochan Singh, Raj Singh, Chain Singh, Kartar Singh (Retd. Headmaster), Rashpaul Singh Shah, Dr. Chaman Lal Sharma and Romesh Chander Kholi (Bittu).

Prog on 'Promotion of Medicinal, Aromatic plants' begins

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal on Sunday Inaugurated a capacity building programme on 'Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic plants' under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme at Sub-division Chadoora, Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, director Agriculture enumerated the initiatives by the department for the promotion of Medicinal & Aromatic plants on commercial basis in the region. He said that the department has already brought new areas and lands under the cultivation of Medicinal & Aromatic plants on a commercial basis.

Under HADP the cultivation has been extended, introduced to all the districts of Kashmir division, he added.

Chowdhury said that there is a vast potential for the promotion of these plants in the region. He said that the department has not only provided planting material to the concerned farmers but is working in close coordination with the farmers and offering them the technical guidance during their crop cultivation activities.