



PRESS RELEASE



Football Final | 5th Meghalaya Games 2024



Tura, January 19: Defying all odds, the dark horse Ri Bhoi District bagged Gold Medals for both U18 Men's and Women's Football in the 5th Meghalaya Games held at the P.A Sangma Football Stadium, Tura.



In the most exciting match, which kept every spectator on the edge of their seat, was the final showdown between Ri Bhoi boys and the boys of West Jaiñtia District. This match was undoubtedly one of the most memorable ones that the P.A Sangma Stadium has ever hosted since its inauguration.

Despite witnessing numerous chances from both sides, none could score in normal time, leading the match into extra time. It was only during the dying minutes of the second half of extra time, that a goal from Riskhem Syiem helped Ri Bhoi secure their Gold Medal.

The West Jaiñtia Hills boys, although giving their all, had to settle for a Silver Medal, recognizing that in football one team emerges victorious while the other experiences defeat.



The East Khasi Boys secured their Bronze Medal for the third-place match against the host West Garo Hills with a 3-1 victory. Freddy Jyrwa of East Khasi Hills, who has scored four goals in the tournament, earned him the Top Scorer Award. Kitboklang Buam of West Jaiñtia, displaying excellence at the goal post, won the Best Goalkeeper Award, while West Jaiñtia's Tirot Kyndait was honored with the 'Best Player of the Tournament' Award.



Turning to U18 Girls' Football, the Ri Bhoi girls showcased exceptional performance, securing the Gold medal with a victory against the favoured East Khasi Hills team. With the match ending in a 0 – 0 draw, the thrilling girls' final went into a nail-biting penalty shootout. However, Ri Bhoi goalkeeper Nibari Maring had a few tricks under her sleeves, saving two penalties, resulting in a 3-2 win in the penalty shootout.



Maring, the hero of the match, earned her the Best Goalkeeper of the tournament award. Meanwhile, with 15 goals in the tournament, East Khasi Hills' Inrilaidor Khongthaw clinched the Top Scorer and Player of the Tournament Awards.