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Sports-Sepak takraw

PAHANG TO HOST PERILLY'S WORLD CUP SEPAK TAKRAW CHAMPIONSHIP

KUALA LUMPUR, March 4 (Bernama) -- Sepak takraw fans can look forward to seeing "super powers" in the world of sepak takraw in action as the Perilly's World Cup Sepak Takraw championship kicks-off in Kuantan from 24 to 26 of this month.

The championship, under the patronage of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will be known as Piala Perdana and to date, 16 regus from 15 countries have confirmed their participation.

Top in the list are Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Laos, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Canada, China, South Korea, India, Australia, United States and host Malaysia who will put up two regus in the tourney to be divided into four groups.

At a news conference here today, president of the Malaysian Sepaktakraw Association (PSM), Datuk Saidin Thamby said: "A total of RM95,000 is up for grabs with the champion team taking home RM15,000 plus the coveted Perilly's World Cup 2000 trophy".

The runners-up will get RM12,000 while the two losing semifinalists will each received RM8,000, said Saidin.

The event, which is one of the four international competitions endorsed by the International Sepak Takraw Federation (Istaf), is the only tournament which offers prize money.

"No one will go home empty-handed as the losing quarterfinalists can look forward to receiving RM6,000 each while the third and fourth in the group will take home RM4,000 and RM3,000 respectively," said Saidin.

According to Saidin, the association estimated a sum of RM650,000 to organise the event which included airfare, accomodation and food for the participating teams.

"We are providing accomodation and food for the participating teams plus a 50 per cent support on the airfare. The move is to ensure that all the teams come for the tournament," he said.

"We are also looking into the possibility of sponsoring teams who are in tight financial problem but are keen to participate in the tourney," he added.

To ensure the smooth running of the event, PSM had secured sponsorship from their long-time partner, Perilly's, which is the main sponsor and others who come in as co-sponsors including Minolta, Stanz, TM Touch, Malaysia Airlines, Perodua and Bleu.

In fact, the revival of the World Cup is a boost to the sports in its bid to make an impact at the Olympic Games.

The last time it was held was in 1994. Due to financial problems and the lack of sponsors, it had to be taken off the PSM calender of events and this time PSM planned to hold it every two years, Saidin said.

--BERNAMA

AHA AO