

UKM start with a bang

Clubside open their accounts in FAM Cup with four-goal blitz over helpless KDMM

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UKM began their campaign in the FAM Cup competition on a bright note when they defeated KDMM 4-0 in a Group A match at the UKM Sports Complex in Bangi.

Heavy rain which started just before kick-off did not dampen the spirits of the UKM players. They adapted well to the wet pitch and dominated the match from the start.

After several failed attempts, UKM took the lead in the 21st minute when Mohamad Nurzaidi scored from close range.

With a one goal lead, UKM played with confidence with Muhammad Hasrul Nurkholis making it 2-0 with a powerful header from a corner.

KDMM, despite being down by two goals, tried their best to score but found UKM goalkeeper Mohammad Khairi Hassan a stumbling block with his fine anticipations.

In the 37th minute, UKM were up 3-0 when midfielder Helmi Hariri Ibrahim scored from outside the box.

UKM, with a comfortable 3-0 lead, returned stronger in the second half.

Striker Muhammad Nurzaidi scored his second goal and UKM's fourth with a stinging shot from almost 20 metres.

Despite the comfortable win, UKM coach Sulaiman Hussin was not too happy with his players' performance.

"Being the first match, the players failed to click as a team. Of course the four goals are encouraging.

"But as a team, the players need to be more organised. We hope to see them give a much improved display in our next matches," said Sulaiman.

In another Group A match, Shahzan Muda scored a 2-0 win over Kuala Lumpur City Hall while MPKB-BRI-UBES beat Hanelang 3-0. MOF also started their campaign in the competition on a winning note with a 2-1 win over Felcra.

In Group B, debutants Kuching FA edged Malaysian Malays while SAMB FC were held to a 1-1 draw by Terengganu City FC. Sime Darby, relegated from the Premier League, were impressive in their opening match as they trounced Malaysian Prisons 4-0.

Meanwhile, Sungai Ara FC have withdrawn from the FAM Cup competition.

The FAM Cup competition has 15 teams, divided into two groups involved in the home and away league format.

After the completion of the preliminary rounds, the top four teams from each group, will qualify for the home and away quarter-finals and semi-finals. The final will also be played over two legs.



Wan Mohammad Faiz (second from left) outjumping the KDMM players. — Photos: ROHAIZAT MD DARUS/The Star

The champions will receive RM200,000 and the runners-up RM100,000. The champions and runners-up will gain promotion to the Premier League in 2018.

RESULTS

Group A: Shahzan Muda bt KL City Hall 2-0; MPKB-BRI-UBES bt Hanelang 3-0; UKM FC bt KDMM 4-0; MOF bt Felcra 2-1.

Group B: Kuching FA bt Malaysian Malays 2-1; SAMB FC drew Terengganu City FC 1-1; Sime Darby bt Malaysian Prisons 4-0.

FIXTURES

Sunday (kick off 4.45pm unless stated)

Group A: KL City Hall vs Hanelang (UM Sports Arena, KL - 8.45pm); KDMM vs Felcra (Keningau Mini Sports Complex - 8.15pm); MPKB-BRI-UBES vs UKM (Sultan Muhammad IV Stadium, Kota Baru - 8.45pm); MOF vs Shahzan Muda - Inспен Sports Complex, Bangi - 8.45pm).

Group B: Malaysian Malays vs SAMB FC (Melawati Stadium, Kuala Selangor); Terengganu City vs Petaling Jaya Rangers (Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah Stadium, Kuala Terengganu - 8.45pm); Sime Darby vs Kuching FA (Bukit Jelutong, Shah Alam)



Muhammad Hasrul (right) clearing the ball away from KDMM's Rickson Tabias.



A UKM player (in red) in a tussle with an opponent for the ball.