

Turf repair puts a damper on tournament

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THE Pantai Hockey Stadium officials could not find a better time to line the stadium's turf which resulted in the Kuala Lumpur schools Under-15 boys hockey tournament to be moved to the adjoining Education Ministry Stadium, which was being utilised by another team.

The move resulted in the final match of the day between Bangsar Zone's SMK Bukit Bandaraya and Victoria Institution to be postponed for nearly two hours, and the teams were forced to play under the blazing sun when the pitch was finally available in the afternoon.

The pitch was being lined for the Kuala Lumpur Hockey League which starts on Sunday. However, the pitch was booked for the Bangsar Zone tourney two weeks ago.

The stadium officials could not be contacted for comment.

However, the first match played by teams looking to qualify for today's quarter-finals saw SMK Vivekananda beating SMK (B) Methodist 2-1 with the first field goal by Amirul Ashraf (14th), followed by team-mate Zulhelmi Ahmad (33rd) scoring just after the breather where teams played in two halves of 20 minute each.

Shawn Suresh Sundaramurthy scored SMK (B) Methodist's solitary goal in the 17th minute. SMK (B) Methodist also qualified for the last eight as they had beaten SMK Sungai Besi 1-0 on Tuesday. SMK Sri Hartamas beat SMK Bangsar 1-0, while Victoria Institution were beaten 1-0 by SMK Bukit Bandaraya.

SMK (B) Methodist and SMK Sungai Besi match, which was moved to the adjacent pitch, finished 1-1.

The semi-finals will also be played today.

TODAY - Q-finals: Royal Military College v Methodist Boys School; SMK Bandar Tasik Selatan v Victoria Institution; SMK Petaling v SMK Bukit Bandaraya; SMK Sri Hartamas v SMK Vivekananda (all matches at Pantai Hockey Stadium, first match starts at 8.0am).

(END) Source : New Straits Times