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6-0! This is sick

Dan Guen Chin

MALAYSIA 0 INDONESIA 6

BRUNEI 3 CAMBODIA 3

NO, there is nothing wrong with your vision. It's a scoreline we did not expect but with the national soccer team, such results have become a norm.

Malaysian soccer's battered image plummeted further in Bandar Seri Begawan yesterday, with Indonesia plunging the knife into a wound already beyond salvation.

The national team were the first to arrive in Brunei for the Sea Games. They will also be the first to leave.

Coach Abdul Rahman Ibrahim's semifinal dream remained just that - an elusive dream.

So what's left for Malaysia's so-called Premier League stars? Perhaps we should take a cue from Egypt.

An agency report from Cairo yesterday said President Hosni Mubarak had ordered an urgent report into the defeat of Egypt's soccer team in the Confederations Cup in Mexico, saying those found responsible would be punished.

Mubarak asked Prime Minister Kamal al-Ganzuri for an 'urgent report' with 'all the details and reasons for the mediocre performance'.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed might not have the time for trivial matters such as this but if Malaysian soccer is to be saved, and saved fast, the Prime Minister should issue an executive order and dismantle the FA of Malaysia hierarchy.

Perhaps it's time for Malaysian soccer to start afresh with officials who care for the game, not those who are bankrupt of ideas and merely in the hot seat to enjoy the perks.

Sure, mathematically there is still a chance to sneak into the last four but realistically, it's wishful thinking.

Two matches, two defeats and no point to show in Group B. It's embarrassing.

After nine minutes yesterday, Malaysia were already two-down.

First, poor covering by keeper Azmin Azram Abdul Aziz allowed Hariyanto Pratseyo to stretch the net in the sixth.

Then striker Rocki Putiray glanced his header off a Pratseyo freekick.

It was downhill for Malaysia from then on. Yap Wai Loon was lost in the middle of the pitch; Khairul Anuar Baharom's marking was atrocious, while Azizul Kamaluddin spent long periods looking for the openings which never came.

Indonesia went from strength to strength and a quick double from striker Bambang Pamungkas in the 51st and 58th took the score to 4-0.

Instead of allowing Malaysia the benefit of a consolation goal, they stepped up the pace and added two more through Ali Suwan (82nd) and Rochi Putiray (84th).

"We were simply not competitive today. We didn't have what it takes to win matches at international level. Maybe we are only good for friendlies," said Abdul Rahman.

To rub home the ignominy, the sparse group of Indonesian supporters chanted: 'Malaysia balik kampung.'

Frustrated Malaysians back home might even join the chorus of derision.

(END)