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Fitri stars as Bukit Mertajam go on rampage

A HAT-TRICK by Mohd Fitri Abu Hassan helped defending champions Bukit Mertajam thrash Nibong Tebal 8-0 in the opening match of the Penang Schools under-15 soccer competition at the SMK Simpang Empat ground yesterday.

In the Bukit Mertajam glory, Mohd Fitri found the net in the 34th, 38th and 42nd minutes while Mahathir Mohammad scored in the 49th and 56th minutes with the other three goals coming from Haniffa Abdul Manaf (26th), Khairul Azri Jamal (32nd) and Mohd Wazir Che Ani (46th).

In the Under-18 match at the same venue, Bukit Mertajam, who are also the defending champions, thrashed Nibong Tebal 5-2 to record a double victory.

Two goals each from Khairul Hafiz Samad Hassan (14th and 60th) and Mohd Izzat Azmi (19th and 51st) and Nor Effendy Noordin in the 55th minute gave Bukit Mertajam an easy win.

Nibong Tebal's two goals were scored by Nareen and Kalaimani in the eighth and 57th minutes.

Meanwhile, in the Island zone competition, Kelawai whipped last year's runner-up Air Itam 6-1 at the SMK Raja Tun Uda school ground yesterday.

Kelawai's hero was Ahmad Nawawi who scored four goals in the 11th, 60th, 65th and 74th minutes of the match while Azrul Hisham and Mohamad Hafizan added the other two in the 63rd and 78th minutes respectively.

In another Under-18 match at the SM Teknik Tengku Abdul Rahman Putra ground, Balik Pulau defeated Jelutong 3-0.

Muhamad Mizam Omar Ali netted two goals (13th and 18 minutes) while Yuskhary Hussain scored the third in the 33rd minute for Balik Pulau's victory.