

'Men nabbed for T'ganu football riot on drugs'

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Police have detained 25 Terengganu fans for rioting at the Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Stadium after the FA Cup second leg semifinal between Terengganu and Lions XII from Singapore.

Kuala Terengganu police chief ACP Idris Abd Rafar said 23 of the offenders, aged between 16 and 36, were remanded for three and four days while two more were being investigated for drug offences.

The 25 were detained after the match for rioting, including setting an ambulance on fire and breaking the windscreen of buses and damaging property at the Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Stadium.

Idris said the Federal Reserve Unit (FRU) had to be brought in to control the crowd and to avoid further damage.

"Of the total, 22 will be remanded for four days, one for three days and two were released on police bail since they are investigated for testing positive for drugs (Methamphetamine).

"Four police personnel injured in the riot are receiving treatment at the Sultanah Nur Zahirah Hospital (HSNZ) here," he told reporters, today.

He said a St John ambulance was set on fire, a police vehicle (Land Rover) damaged and the windscreen of two buses were broken while four reports have been received claiming damages to their vehicles.

The fans starting rioting after referee Mohd Amirul Izwan Yaacob denied Terengganu's fourth goal scored by Ahmad Nordin Alias in the 89th minute, for offside when Terengganu were leading Lions XII from Singapore 3-2.

The goal would have earned Terengganu a spot in the FA Cup final but the referee's decision to deny the goal and sack Terengganu's Brazilian import for disputing the decision, angered the crowd.

Meanwhile, the referee's decision was also questioned by Terengganu head coach Abdul Rahman Ibrahim because the referee did not consult his assistant before ruling out the goal.

"I will leave it to the team management to decide on submitting a protest. Normally we are given 72 hours to submit any protest. I also cannot understand why the linesman raised his flag," he said.

"I am however, happy with the commitment of the players who staged a tremendous fight

back to win at home after suffering a 1-2 loss in Singapore," he said.

- Bernama

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