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DATUK HAMIDIN AMIN
FAM VICE PRESIDENT

FOOTBALL | PETALING JAYA

All to lose for KL

FA face severe penalties if they quit M-League, says Hamidin

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ONCE high-flying Kuala Lumpur FA (KLFA) would face heavy penalties if they proceed with plans to quit the M-League.

FA of Malaysia (FAM) vice president Datuk Hamidin Amin said KL should consider the repercussions if they plan to leave amid allegations of match-fixing involving the team.

"It is not a situation where the team can just simply leave," said Hamidin, who is also competition committee chairman.

"Any team withdrawing from the league will be handed an automatic three-year suspension and a maximum fine of RM500,000.

Since KL are a Premier League team, they will also have to forfeit their deposit of RM100,000 paid earlier this season."

Hamidin said such a decision is final and no appeal will be entertained. If KLFA intend to rejoin the league after serving the suspension, they will need to fulfil several requirements, including enough money in their coffers.

"The committee will have the final whether they will be allowed to be reinstated to the league or not."

Players and the coaching staff, however, are free to join other teams.

Hamidin was responding to *The Malay Mail's* front page report "City shame" on KLFA's decision to pull

out from the league. Their sponsors, Klang-based Rising Sun Travel and Tours, sent the FA a letter on Monday to terminate their RM2 million contract, citing the team's poor performance.

The FA have not accepted the sponsors' explanation and would want to meet them before deciding the next course of action on Monday, when KLFA president Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz returns from London.

The team has been associated with bookies as fans had, during the KL-Sime Darby FC Premier League match at Cheras Stadium on May 17, placed banners that read: "Bookie Detected" and "Bookie 5 Fans 0". KL lost the match 5-0.

This caused an outcry among football fans and

prompted Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin to meet FAM, police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission at Bukit Jalil last week to discuss match-fixing in the M-League.

It is learnt the KL players have yet to receive their wages in full since April but have not lodged a report to the FA. There are claims they have been abused and threatened by certain quarters to keep mum.

KL saw success in the late 80s and early 90s, having won two league titles (1986, 1988), three Malaysia Cup titles (1987, 1988, 1989) and three FA Cups (1993, 1994, 1999). Among the stars that featured for the team were Fandi Ahmad, Razip Ismail and Serbegeth Singh.

FOOTBALL | KUALA LUMPUR

Time for a clean-up, say former players

FORMER KL players expressed their disappointment when told of the KLFA's intention of pulling out from the M-League.

Razip Ismail, who starred for the city side from 1979 to 1994, was saddened by the turn of events. He wondered what will happen to KL football if KLFA decide not to play in the league.

The KLFA League features three divisions with a total of 67 teams.

"What about the teams playing in the KLFA League? What about talents in KL?" asked Razip, who was part of KL's dream team that won three Malaysia Cup titles and two League titles.

"If KL pulls out, it will be a black day for KL football."

Razip, who coached KL from 2008 to 2012, however, said the team can still be saved.

"If they are serious in saving football, then there needs to be cleansing from within," he added, without elaborating further.

Mat Zan Mat Aris, who played and later coached the city side, was equally disappointed.

"Having being part of KLFA for many years, this is

shocking."

Another former player Serbegeth Singh said KL should have a better management strategy.

"Has there been a strategy in the first place? In football, one cannot make decisions as he or she goes along. It is a recipe for disaster," said Serbegeth, a former football pundit who is now Blackburn Rovers global adviser.

"My stint at KL was part of a strategy designed by (former KLFA president) Tan Sri Elyas Omar and (former coach) S. Subramaniam. Success is not incidental.

"It pains me to think that with a proven blueprint, KLFA have failed to progress. Go back to basics and reinvent the blueprint. The City must never die."

As for the alleged match-fixing, Serbegeth said it cannot be done with the government's help.

"Fifa frown upon government interference but they do not have the resources. FAM also do not have the resources and the expertise, only the police do.

"So FAM need to seek the assistance of the government in eradicating this menace," he said.

ATHLETICS | SEREMBAN HALF MARATHON | KUALA LUMPUR

Co-sponsors to give back to community

THE Seremban Half Marathon 2013 has attracted more sponsors for this year's edition.

The co-sponsors for the run are Kian JooCan Factory Berhad, Sini Huanan International Berhad, Royal Selangor International Sdn Bhd, Permais Sdn Bhd, Paragon West Sdn Bhd, Southern Lion In Bhd, Delfi Marketing Sdn Bhd, Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd and Orix Leasing Malaysia Berhad.

Orix Leasing Malaysian Berhad Senior General Manager Eric Wong Heng Yip said they are pleased to be a part of the event.

"It is time to give back to community," he said.

Permais public relation assistant manager Pangasasani Gowrisan said the Seremban Half Marathon has a long history of attract-



ALL FOR ONE: Co-sponsors with race patron Tunku Naquiyuddin Tunku Ja'afar (centre) yesterday — Pic: FIRDAUS LATIP

ing runners from all walks of life.

"We're confident that this year will be no different than

the previous editions. We are excited that Gatorade will be playing a major role in keeping all runners replenished

and refueled," she said.

The half marathon is scheduled to start at the NS field in Seremban on July 7.

FOOTBALL | FA CUP | KELANA JAYA

TMJ in trouble again?

JOHOR FA president Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim could be in hot water again for allegedly issuing a press statement regarding Darul Takzim's FA Cup semifinal return leg match against Pahang at National Stadium in Bukit Jalil tomorrow.

The Johor crown prince, had during a press conference at Istana Bukit Pelangi on Wednesday, called for the match to be played in an empty stadium hours after FA of Malaysia (FAM) competition committee chairman Datuk Hamidin Amin announced the decision on the rescheduled match on Wednesday.

"We do not have any proof. If we find that Tunku Ismail had made such a statement, we will then ask the disciplinary committee to investigate," said FAM assistant general secretary Datuk Ahmad Fuad Daud.

He added that Tunku Ismail cannot make any comments

related to football as he is still serving his six-month suspension handed by the committee for criticising FAM earlier.

Meanwhile, FAM will print 80,000 tickets for the FA Cup match tomorrow as 60,000 tickets have been allocated to Pahang FA.

"Pahang are still the home team despite the neutral ground. The rest of the 20,000 would be sold at Bukit Jalil (from noon today)."

However, Johor FA have made an official request for 40,000 tickets from Pahang FA as they anticipate a large number of Johor fans attending.

Cheras OCPD ACP Mohan Singh Tara Singh said there will be enough police personnel at the stadium during the match.

"We are not taking anything for granted but I can assure you that there will not be any problems," he said.

SQUASH | PETALING JAYA

Kedah girls going great guns

KEDAH'S S. Sivasangari is riding high after demolishing Ridhi Sampat of India 11-3, 11-5, 11-5 in the third round of the All Star Championship yesterday at the Astaka Squash Court here.

She will meet Hayley Ip Hoi Ning of Hong Kong, who defeated local player Wong Chung Chin 11-8, 11-5, 11-2 for a place in the quarterfinals.

"I will keep my momen-

tum going," said the Penang-born 14-year-old.

The Kedah squad have been a sensation as four of their players have made it to the quarterfinals.

Alor Star sisters, Aika,

Alfa and Aira Azman, will be playing in the Under-17, Under-15 and Under-11 quarterfinals respectively today and Najfah Hanif Hadi Abdul Razak will join Aika in the Under-17 quarters.