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BIB Rama snatch Diamond 1 Cup

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BIB RAMA, who arrived at Padang Utara on Sunday evening determined to take home the Selangor Rugby Union Diamond 1 Cup, were jubilant at the final whistle of the match that was played in scorching heat. Their fellow finalists, Cobra Stings, showed their intent early in the game, drawing first blood by slotting in a 40-metre penalty. BIB, not prepared to be outdone, equalised in the same manner.

Twenty minutes later, BIB took the lead with a well-taken try close to the posts, easing the conversion to lead 10-3. Cobra Stings fought hard to get back but had to rely on another two penalties to reduce the deficit. It was definitely a close game, going into the break, with BIB leading 10-9. In the second half, Cobra Stings started to utilise the experience of their foreign players.

This paid dividends, with Stings being rewarded with a penalty and a goal to lead 19-10. BIB seemed to fade terribly in the heat. They did not help themselves much, with one of the players being sent to the sin bin for a misdemeanour. However, BIB pulled out a surprise in the last 10 minutes of the game to shock Stings, scoring two goals and a penalty. Stunned, Stings had no real reply to BIB's last-minute rampage and were still shell-shocked at the final whistle. BIB took the Cup with a 27-19 win.

Meanwhile, in the Bowl category, SMS Old Boys and DRB Storms fought it out on the same field the day before. Storms came prepared for the match and received some assistance from SMS Old Boys who gave away two courtesy tries. Storms started the match aggressively, with SMS having to fight their way out of their own half.

A 22-metre drop-out kick by Izwan Mohamad was charged down and scored in the far left corner. Just before halftime, Storms stretched their lead through a penalty to go into the break leading 8-0. The second half saw Storms continue to maintain their dominance, though SMS got back into the game with a few impressive counter-attacks. However, those rare efforts were snuffed out by the stout Storms defence that resulted in yet another unforced error by SMS which resulted in a try.

Storms stretched their lead to 18-5 with a penalty before SMS showed a few good passages of play. Unfortunately, most of the efforts came to nought due to poor ball-handling. SMS did manage to score a late consolation try to end the game 18-12 in favour of Storms.

The Diamond 1 Plate match was called off, with the match and Plate being awarded to RSC Dog, after RMR Warriors pulled out of the match. As for the Shield, the match will be played today at Batu Cantonment Camp between KPD Tigers and the Junior Royal Engineers. In the

Cup category of the Diamond 2 league, RSC Bulldog were crowned champions after UiTM Lions withdrew from the match, not being able to field a team due to their commitments in the university games in UUM Sintok.

The Diamond 2 Plate and Bowl matches were played on Sunday. VI Rangers fought all the way to the final whistle to beat MBSA 19-14 to take the plate, whilst MAS Cougar were beaten by Bintang RC 20-12 for the Bowl. In the Gold 1 Bowl final, Bangi Tractors came from 3-6 down at halftime to overcome SDAR Lions. Lions were unable to maintain their dominance in the match and Tractors, for all the endeavour, were rewarded with a try to win the match 10-6.

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