Headline Shafina goes on a goal spree

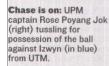
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## We are the champs: The UPM women's futsal side celebrating their victory.





## Shafina goes on a goal spree

## UPM futsal striker helps team emerge champions

By NG WEI LOON

OTSHOT striker Shafina Bazilah Shamsul was in top form to assist Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to emerge as champions in the opening leg of the Malaysian Universities Sports Council (MASUM) Games women's futsal competition at Universiti Malaya (UM) on Saturday.

The 23-year-old undergraduate in communication studies netted

12 goals at the five-day tourna-

She gave credit to her teammates for their exceptional support and assistance on the court to allow her to make the opportunities count.

"We formed the team last year and we only took part in one com-petition prior to this. We played well here because we executed the set pieces and shooting drills that we practised in training," she

In the final, UPM beat Universiti

Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) 2-1.

They were rewarded with two goals through Shafina and Wan Rezawana Wan Daud in the first half of 15-minute play.

At the end of the match, UPM

coach Norhafiszah Baba opted to substitute two key players - Nor Saliza A. Soobni and Shafina.

"We wanted to give both of them a breather because they played a very important role to control the pace in the match. In fact, Saliza was not at her best. She was carrying an injury and could not strike the ball hard," Norhafiszah said. And UTM took opportunity of

the change and replied in the clos-ing stage with Izwyn Zulkapri

slotting their consolation goal.
In their preliminary matches,
UPM topped the group with two convincing wins over UM and Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK).
They thumped both sides with

an identical 9-0 score to advance to the knockout stage.

"It was a good match against

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Top form: Shafina of UPM netted I2 goals over five matches.

UM because I chalked up five goals in the opening match," said Shafina, who was a former nation-

al volleyball player.
En route to the final, UPM defeated Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) 4-0 in the quarter-finals and edged Universiti Teknologi Mara (UTM) 3-1 in the comit finals.

siti Teknologi Mara (UITM) 3-1 in the semi-finals.
In addition, UPM goalkeeper Siti Zubaidah Che Hat also gave a respectable display standing in between the posts and conceded only two goals in five matches.
Meanwhile, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) forced the match down to the wire against UITM in the third-fourth playoff.
Following a goalless draw in regulatory time, UITM took the third spot with the solitary goal from Nazrah Alwi in the first half of five-minute extra time.

rom Nazran Alwi in the inst half of five-minute extra time. The inaugural women's futsal introduced at the MASUM Games drew a good turnout with 15 teams in the fray. Only Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) pulled out of the tourna-ment

Meanwhile, athletes from the

»We played well here because we executed the set pieces and shooting drills that we practised in training«

SHAFINA BAZILAH SHAMSUL

public universities nationwide also competed in nine other sports.-women's hockey, softball, handball, lawn bowl, silat, rowing, cricket, kayaking and bowling for the season's first MASUM Games.

The second and final MASUM Games.
The second and final MASUM
Games is scheduled at Universiti
Malaysia Sabah from May 21 to
28.



In control: Wan Rezawan (in red) of UPM shutting down a move from UTM (in blue) while UPM goalkeeper Siti Zubaidah (in yellow) looks on.