



Headline	Sapura and Tenaga hold advantage after narrow first-leg wins		
MediaTitle	The Star Online(www.thestar.com.my)		
Date	01 May 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	500
Page No	24	Readership	7
Language	English	ArticleSize	0 cm²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 275
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 825

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KUALA LUMPUR: The two TNB Cup quarter-final matches are finely poised after yesterdays first-leg ties at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil. Sapura and Tenaga Nasional hold the advantage, having edged Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) and Terengganu 3-2 respectively. Sapura can thank their Pakistani imports Muhammad Zubair and Khasif Ali for the slim win. First, it was Muhammad Zubair who put them ahead off their first penalty corner in the fourth minute. UniKL should have equalised in the 26th minute but were denied a clear penalty stroke by umpire P. Puvalaganin when a penalty corner drag flick by Mohd Noor Faez Ibrahim hit the foot of defender Megat Azrafiq Megat Termizi in front of the goalmouth. The umpire blew for another penalty corner, which Noor Faez failed to convert. Sapura, who finished fourth in the Premier Division, doubled the score in the 34th minute when Khasif sent a low flick past UniKL goalkeeper Shahrul Azaddin Auskarzie. Undaunted, UniKL reduced the deficit after the break, thanks to a penalty-corner goal by Noor Faez in the 50th minute. Khasif then socred his second and the teams third goal in the 59th minute off yet another penalty corner. Just when Sapura thought it was game over, Noor Faez struck again five minutes from time from another penalty corner. Sapura coach Tai Beng Hai was unhappy with his team for not finishing off UniKL. UniKL played well and took their chances but well be better prepared in the return leg, said Beng Hai. UniKL coach S. Arulselvaraj too was annoyed with his team for not putting their chances away. But it was a goodfight back and the players believed in themselves to keep this tie alive, said Arul. Theres still everything to play for on Friday ... we intend to tighten up our defence. In the other quarter-final, Mohd Amerullah Abdul Aziz scored from close range to give debutants Terengganu a shock lead in the 24th minute. But Tenaga, who won the TNB Cup in 2009, levelled the score 10 minutes later through forward Faizal Saaris penalty-corner flick. Tenaga came back after the breather refreshed and began to pile on the pressure on Terengganu. Their move paid off when Mohd Azammi Adabi scored from close range in the 47th minute. Faizal was on target again to score his second in the 60th minute to take his tally to 14 goals. But hardly a minute later, Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin narrowed the score with a field goal.