



Headline	Thriving on adversity		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	03 May 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Sports	Circulation	304,904
Page No	69	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	280 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	Aftar Singh	AdValue	RM 13,040
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 39,119



# Thriving on adversity

## Meor makes his mark with UniKL despite hardship at home

By AFTAR SINGH

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) midfielder Meor Muhamad Azuan Hasan (*pic*) does not come from a privileged background.

Last year, his father Hasan Yeop Hamzah, a pensioner, died after suffering a heart attack on the fifth day of Hari Raya.

The 19-year-old Kuala Kangsar-born player, who is pursuing a degree in sports science at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) in Shah Alam, didn't receive any scholarship for his studies.

His mother Azizah Hashim, who works as a cleaner, and his elder brother, who is an electrician, are the ones paying for his studies.

Meor, who is the second among five siblings, admitted that life has been tough for his mother, who not only has to work but also cook for his siblings.

"Although my mother gets my dad's pension, life is still tough for us as I have three younger brothers who are still studying," he said.

"I will start my first year second term studies next month ... and I still haven't received any study loans or scholarships."

Despite the hardship, Meor believes he has made the right decision by joining UniKL for the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) this season.

He signed a contract with UniKL in January and the club pay him a monthly allowance for playing in MHL. "Although I get a monthly allowance, life is still tough for me and my family. But, at least, it allows me to concentrate on the MHL," said Meor, who is also in the Project 2013 squad.

Meor, who went with the Project 2013 squad to Europe for a playing tour last year, believes UniKL have a good chance of getting the better of Sapura in the return leg of the quarter-finals today.

"We're just a goal behind (after losing 3-2) ... I'm confident we can beat them in the return-leg," said Meor.

"We're playing well as a team and even created more chances than Sapura in the first-leg ... we just couldn't score.

"We need to stay focused and hope our forwards will be more clinical in their finishing."

Both the UniKL goals in the first-leg were

scored by Mohd Noor Faez Ibrahim from penalty corners. He has scored 15 goals so far.

UniKL coach S. Arulsevaraj was full of praise for Meor.

"He has shown tremendous improvement and is a dedicated player ... he is playing better than some of the national midfielders.

"Meor is the backbone of the team ... I'm really impressed with his performance in the league," said Arul, who is also the national assistant coach.

UniKL have never reached the semi-finals since making their debut in 2010.



**QUARTER-FINALS  
RETURN LEG**

**TODAY**

\* First leg scores on the right

**PREMIER DIVISION**

**TERENGGANU vs TENAGA NASIONAL - 6pm (2-3)**  
**UNIKL vs SAPURA - 8pm (2-3)**  
 (Both matches at Pitch 2, National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil)

**DIVISION ONE**

**MBI vs UNITEN-KPT - 6pm (3-2)**  
**SSTMI vs SUNDAY 2030 - 8pm (2-5)**  
 (Both matches at Pitch 1, National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil)