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Three wins on the trot, but there's a spot of bother for Terengganu

The Star, Malaysia



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PETALING JAYA: Terengganu are on a hot streak after chalking up their third straight win in the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) with a 3-1 victory over UITM at the Batu Buruk Hockey Stadium in Kuala Terengganu yesterday.

Batu Buruk Hockey Stadium in Kuala Terengganu yesterday. But not all's good for the players. While they savour the three wins on the trot, there's a spot of bother which they can't ignore. And that is the stat that they have failed to keep a clean sheet in all the games.

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The east coast outfit's two other wins came in the Charity Shield on

Jan 4, when they edged Tenaga Nasional 2-1 in what was also a league fixture. They also defeated Maybank by the same score on Jan

Terengganu captain Fitri Saari said that while it's good that the players are concerned about con-ceding goals despite winning, he has reminded them that it is never easy to keep a clean sheet in hock-

ey matches.
"In hockey, it's hard not to concede goals, unlike football. Hockey is so fast-paced and the spaces are much tighter," said the 31-year-old

"But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try hard to keep a clean sheet. We did that against UITM, but their penalty corner execution was very good."

Defender Arif Syafie Ishak got the ball rolling for Terengganu when he buried a penalty corner in the 18th minute.

The second goal came in the third quarter when striker Akimullah Anuar Esook showed off his predatory skills with a field goal in the 32nd minute.

Fitri then added the third when

he finished off a set-piece from a penalty corner in the 36th minute. Just when Terengganu thought they could hold on to a clean sheet, UITM defender Idris Samad stepped up to execute a penalty corner in the 51st minute.

Fitri said it felt good to get back on the scoresheet and he had a special someone to thank for that. "I'm the one who usually finish-

es off set-pieces from penalty cor-

"But this time, it was Peja (Faizal), my brother who made the final pass for me to score."

MALAYSIA HOCKEY LEAGUE RESULT

TERENGGANU 3 UITM TOMORROW'S FIXTURES

TERENGGANU vs TNB-T'BOLTS (Batu Buruk Stadium, Kuala Terengganu, 4pm)

MAYBANK vs NUR INSAFI (National Hockey Stadium 1, 5pm)

TENAGA vs LIAONING ional Hockey Stadium 2, 6pm)