

Headline	ELECTRIFYING SEASON FOR TENAGA		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	11 Mar 2024	Language	English
Circulation	36,278	Readership	108,834
Section	Sport	Page No	37
ArticleSize	459 cm <sup>2</sup>	Journalist	Aftar Singh
PR Value	RM 47,286		



## HOCKEY

# ELECTRIFYING SEASON FOR TENAGA

Club power to first treble of Charity Shield, Malaysia Hockey League and TNB Cup

AFTAR SINGH  
nstsport@nst.com.my

**T**ENAGA Nasional celebrated a remarkable season by thwarting arch-rivals Terengganu to achieve their first treble.

Fuelled by 10 national players, the team clinched the Charity Shield, Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) and the TNB Cup.

While the MHL stands out as one of Asia's premier club competitions, there's room for improvement to elevate its status, bringing it on par with renowned European leagues.

The Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC) should aim to enhance the league's allure, attracting more sponsors and subsequently increasing prize money for podium finishers.

This season, the MHL champions received only RM50,000, and TNB Cup winners earned RM25,000.

In 2018, champions in both competitions received RM100,000, drawing 31 teams compared to this year's 21 teams.

The inclusion of China's Liaoning added valuable competition, especially in the women's league this year.

MHC should consider inviting more foreign teams, fostering competitiveness and appeal.

With no regular Asian-level club competitions in the continent, perhaps MHC could start something to promote hockey by invit-

## ROLL OF HONOUR

**Men's top scorer:** Azral Aizad Abu Kernal (Tenaga — 32 goals)  
**Most promising player:** Arif Syafie Ishak (Terengganu)  
**Best goalkeeper:** Hafizuddin Othman (Terengganu)  
**Fairplay:** Armed Forces

**Women's top scorer:** Wang Lihang (Liaoning — 18 goals)  
**Most promising player:** Zaty Alyani Zubir (Negri)  
**Best goalkeeper:** Farah Ayuni Yahya (Blue Warriors)  
**Fairplay:** KL City

## RESULTS

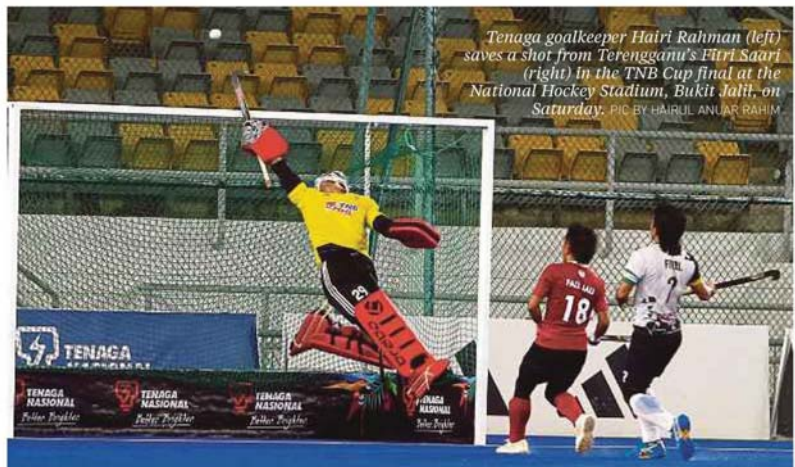
**TNB Cup final:** Tenaga 4-2 Terengganu  
**Third:** Maybank 1-1 UiTM (Maybank win 2-1 in a shootout)

**Vivian May Soars Cup final:** Liaoning 1-1 Malaysian University (Liaoning win 3-0 in a shootout)

**Third:** Blue Warriors 2-0 Negri Sembilan

ing clubs from South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Oman, Pakistan, India and even Singapore and Thailand to participate in the MHL.

Former FIH technical official



Tenaga goalkeeper Hairi Rahman (left) saves a shot from Terengganu's Fitri Saari (right) in the TNB Cup final at the National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil, on Saturday. PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

Jusvir Singh Dhaliwal proposed a two-division format for the men's competition due to numerous double-digit scores this year.

"Teams like Tenaga, Terengganu, Maybank, Nurinsafi, and UiTM should compete in the Premier Division, while TNB Thun-

derbolts, Armed Forces, Liaoning, JW Antsbees, KL City, and Young Elephants play in Division One," said Jusvir.

"For example, Antsbees were in the MHL to expose some of their young players."

"However, it turned out to be an

embarrassing experience for Antsbees, who conceded 85 goals and scored 17 times in 10 matches."

MHC should also make it compulsory for all states in the country to register at least one team in the MHL from next season to promote hockey.