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Party time: Terengganu players celebrate after clinching the Premier Division title at the Kuala Terengganu Hockey Stadium yesterday.

— Bernama

We are the champs again

Terengganu bag third straight MHL crown

By S. RAMAGURU

KUALA LUMPUR: Terengganu showed they are still the kingpins in the local hockey scene as they snatched the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) Premier Division title for a third consecutive time.

Terengganu defeated Tenaga Nasional 3-1 in front of their home fans at the Kuala Terengganu Hockey Stadium.

Since 2014 they have won both the league and overall titles and they are now gunning for a third double. The east coast pocketed RM100,000 for their efforts.

Coach Sarjit Singh said despite a shaky season the players have delivered the goods. "It is our third title in a row and we cer-

"It is our third title in a row and we certainly do not intent to stop there," said Sarjit, who has handled the team since 2014.

"We were under a lot of pressure and the early goals helped us to settle down. Towards the end we were forced to defend the lead and was pushed to the brink but we held on," he added.

Terengganu knew that a defeat would put Sapura and KLHC back in the title picture. But their players made sure that there was no last minute hiccup. And yesterday, it was the local player who came good.

Fitri Saari scored the opening goal in the fifth minute off a penalty stroke. He made no mistake to beat goalkeeper S. Kumar.

Former national forward Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin extended their lead in the 18th minute for his eighth strike of the season.

Ismail Abu netted the third in the 32nd minute before Tenaga hit back through Mohamed Ramadan Rosli a minute later.

"Despite the scoreline, Tenaga played very well. They are young and I'm sure they will learn from this," added Sarjit.

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(Aggregate 4-4, UiTM won 3-2 after penalty shootout)

(Politeknik qualified 8-3 on aggregate)