

Headline	Underdogs with bite		
MediaTitle	Sunday Star		
Date	25 Feb 2024	Language	English
Circulation	175,986	Readership	527,958
Section	Sports	Page No	43
ArticleSize	547 cm <sup>2</sup>	Journalist	S. SAKTESH
PR Value	RM 82,584		



# Underdogs with bite

## Nurinsafi aim to bring their A game for chance to upset favourites Terengganu



By S. SAKTESH

**PETALING JAYA:** Could Nurinsafi dash Terengganu's title hopes? Playing their final Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) fixture today, Nurinsafi could hamper Terengganu's hopes to defend their league title.

The top four spots in the league are only separated by one point each, with Maybank on top with 23 points, followed by Terengganu (22), Nurinsafi (21), and Tenaga Nasional (20).

Terengganu have the chance to leap ahead of Maybank as they have played a game less, but their final fixture will be against the league leaders on .

Nurinsafi could crash Terengganu's party today, but captain Nur Rahull Hrsikesa Thaitchana Muruthi said they don't have a hand in the title fight.

"We are not going in intending to stop their title chances, but we will bring good hockey and maybe try to upset them. It will be a good match to play," said Rahull.

"We know Terengganu are considered one of the big teams, and even though they did not take any foreign players this year, they do have several senior and experienced players that I feel are better than some of the national players they

have," said Rahull.

Rahull heads into the clash coming off a stellar run in recent fixtures, scoring a hat-trick against Young Elephants on Friday, after a five-goal contribution during the team's 10-4 win against JM Antbees.

"There is no pressure for me, my team are playing well according to the structure provided by our coach Prem Kumar, and team manager S. Thaitchana Muruthi's game plan," he said.

"The goals I've been scoring is me doing my duty as a forward to score goals and help my team win. I hope to continue the momentum."

Meanwhile, Terengganu cap-



### TODAY'S FIXTURES

- A. FORCES vs T'BOLTS (5pm)**  
(Ministry of Education Stadium, KL)
- JM ANTBEES vs Y. ELEPHANTS (6pm)**  
(Bertam, Penang)
- LIAONING vs KL CITY (6pm)**  
(National Hockey Stadium, pitch 1)
- TENAGA vs UITM (6pm)**  
(National Hockey Stadium, pitch 2)
- NURINSAFI vs T'GANU (8pm)**  
(Bertam, Penang)

### STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MAYBANK	9	7	2	0	48	6	23
T'GANU	8	7	1	0	35	10	22
NURINSAFI	9	7	0	2	36	22	21
TENAGA	8	6	2	0	65	9	20
UITM	8	5	0	3	25	20	15
T'BOLTS	9	4	0	5	24	26	12
LIAONING	8	3	0	5	21	28	9
A. FORCES	9	2	0	7	16	48	6
KL CITY	8	1	1	6	15	43	4
Y. ELEPHANTS	8	1	0	7	10	38	3
JM ANTBEES	8	0	0	8	14	59	0

### Time to spoil the party:

Nur Rahull Hrsikesa Thaitchana Muruthi (left) says Nurinsafi do not have a hand in the title fight when they face Terengganu today.

tain Sukri Mutalib is well aware of what Nurinsafi can bring to the field, especially with the presence of Rahull, the Indian Railways players, and former international Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin Tengku Jalil.

"Besides Tenaga and Maybank, Nurinsafi are the most dangerous team in the league this year. It will be a tough match and we need to be smart," said Sukri.

"Rahull is on form and has been scoring many goals and the Indian Railways players have further strengthened the team.

"We need to be organised and take all our chances to beat them to get closer to the league title," said Sukri.