

Stubborn Thailand subdued

THE Malaysian women's hockey team had to wait until the 46th minute before they finally broke Thailand to win their seventh gold medal in the Sea Games.

Thailand, only ranked 31st in the world, defended well while 22 ranked Malaysia squandered many chances before Hanis Nadiah Onn's 46th minute field goal gave them their rhythm back.

And even before Thailand could settle down, and the Malaysian fans' celebration dies down, Nuraini Rashid made it 2-0 in the 47th minute.

Malaysian coach K. Dharmaraj

was a relieved man after his charges did not dissapoint him.

"Playing in a final, any final, is never easy and the underdogs normally play much higher than their ranking.

"I knew we had to get early goals to subdue Thailand, but it only came in

the 46th minute."

On his future plans for the Asia Cup in Kakamigahara, Japan, next?

"That's the most important tournament to plan for right now. As its a world cup qualifier and we don't want to squander this second chance to make it," said Dharmaraj.

Jugjet Singh



Malaysia women's hockey team with their gold medals yesterday.
 PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI