

Australia retain SOJ crown, Malaysia finish fourth

By MOHD FARHAAN SHAH

JOHOR BARU: Australia easily retained the Under-21 Sultan of Johor Cup (SOJ) hockey title after beating Britain 2-0 in the final.

It took the Australians only five minutes at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium to open the scoring through a field goal by Joel Rintala.

Nathan Ephraums then doubled Australia's advantage in the 35th minute.

It was sweet revenge for Australia as they were beaten 4-2 by Britain in the six-team group stage.

In the third placing playoff, Junior World Cup champions India outclassed Malaysia 4-0.

Captain Vivek Prasad gave India the lead in the 11th minute and Vishal Antil made it 2-0 in the 15th minute.

Shilanand Lakra was on target in the 21st minute. Vishal then put his name on the score sheet again in

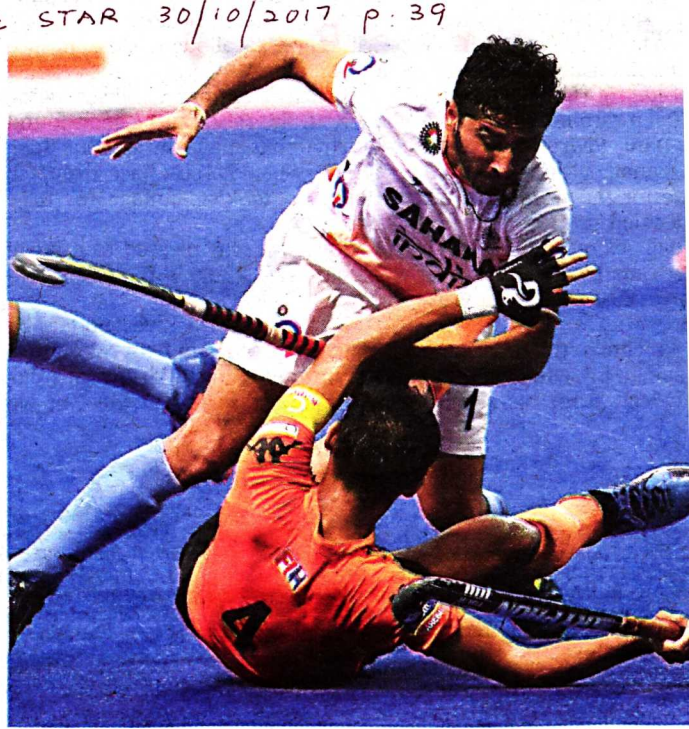
RESULTS		
THE SULTAN OF JOHOR CUP		
FINAL		
AUSTRALIA	2	BRITAIN 0
> THIRD PLACING PLAYOFF		
INDIA	4	MALAYSIA 0
> FIFTH PLACING PLAYOFF		
JAPAN	11	UNITED STATES 0

the 25th minute.

National junior head coach Wallace Tan said the two early goals made it difficult for Malaysia to make a comeback.

"We tried to fight back in the second half, but missed a number of chances," said Wallace.

Meanwhile, Japan thrashed debutants the United States 11-0 to finish fifth. The Americans set two dubious records — conceding 95 goals and failing to score even once.



Don't crush me: Malaysia's Aiman Nik Rosemi losing his balance after colliding with India's Mandeep Mor during the third-placing playoff in the Under-21 Sultan of Johor Cup in Johor Baru yesterday. — Bernama