



Headline	KLHC on a signing spree		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times(www.nst.com.my)		
Date	16 Mar 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	500
Page No	3	Readership	5
Language	English	ArticleSize	0 cm²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,300
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 3,900

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[Link: http://c.moreover.com/click/here.pl?z8380630151&z=1600249637](http://c.moreover.com/click/here.pl?z8380630151&z=1600249637)

KUALA Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) yesterday confirmed that they had signed five Pakistani and one Australian players to boost their Malaysia Hockey League chances. The double champions, who started as Ernst and Young with foreign signings but then went local in 2005, were forced to look beyond Malaysian shores after six of their players left for Terengganu. "Terengganu's offer of at least RM7,000 per month (12-month contract) was simply too good to resist and I lost six players to them. That's why I had to secure foreign help to defend our titles," said KLHC team manager George Koshy, who is also the national team manager for the ongoing Azlan Shah Cup. The five Pakistani players are penalty corner flicker and skipper Mohammed Imran, Wassem Ahmad, Fareed Ahmad, Akhtar Ali and Umar Bhutta. The Australian is Tim Deavon. The MHL starts on March 22, and the early indications are that Tenaga Nasional and Terengganu will start as favourites. "I believe Tenaga Nasional are the best side this season, as not only have they retained all their players, but have also included good midfielders in Marhan Jalil and Ramadhan Rosli. "TNB are also an all-round side with a good goalkeeper in S. Kumar and I believe KLHC might just be fighting for the second spot this year," said Koshy. The other teams in the Premier Division are Maybank, Sapura, Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) and Nur Insafi. The seven teams in Division One are Tunku Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI), Bukit Jalil Sports School (BJSS), Uniten-KPT, UiTM, Sunday 2030, Ipoh City Council (MBI) and TNB-Thunderbolt.