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Calvin puts out Canada

MALAYSIA rose to the occasion to edge Canada 2-1 and qualify for the semifinals at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

They will meet India, who defeated New Zealand 3-1, in the second semifinal tomorrow (8.35). The first semifinal is between Australia, who demolished Wales 4-0 yesterday, and England (5.35).

Calvin Fernandez, playing in his 109th international, scored the winner with five minutes to go.

Nor Saiful hit the ball goalbound but Canadian goalkeeper Mike Mahood cleared the high ball which hit Chairil but the umpire played advantage.

Calvin reverse-scooped the ball into the net from close range for the winner.

The Canadians, who disputed the goal, turned out to be sore losers.

They went on the rampage after the match, breaking signages on the way to the dressing room, and tables in the dressing room.

Tournament director Peter Crane said they will lodge a police report. "We will send the bill to the Canadian Commonwealth Games Association after we have estimated the cost," he said.

"We do not see it as a minor incident. If we leave this unchecked it may occur again."

Malaysia took the lead in the 27th minute when Nor Saiful Zaini's thundering shot sounded the board from their second penalty corner.

Canada hit back almost immediately, launching attack after attack.

If not for the brilliant goalkeeping of Roslan Jamaluddin, Malaysia would have conceded a goal or two in first half.

But his superb form did not stop the Canadians, ranked eighth in the world compared to Malaysia's 11th, from equalising.

They won a penalty stroke in the 53rd minute after Nor Saiful had stick-checked a forward.

Peter Milkovich stepped forward and made no mistake from the spot.

And when Calvin hit the winner, the 15,000 fans who packed the 12,000 capacity stadium, among them Yang DiPertuan Agong Tuanku Jaafar, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Malaysian Hockey Federation president Sultan Azlan Shah, rose in unison to greet the goal.

Malaysian coach Paul Lissek said the team were the true stars of the match. "They played as a team and deserve the win," he said.

"The way the team played surprised me. They can play both good attacking and defensive game at the same time. The defence was especially great," he said.

MALAYSIA: Roslan Jamaluddin, Maninderjit Singh, S. Kuhan, Nor Azlan Bakar, Chairil Anwar Aziz, R. Shankar, M. Kaliswaran, Nor Saiful Zaini, K. Keevan Raj, Mirnawan Nawawi, Calvin Fernandez, Suhaimi Ibrahim, Chua Boon Huat, K. Logan Raj, Lam Mun Fatt, Nasihin Nubli.

CANADA: Mike Mahood, Ian Bird, Robin D'Abreo, Paul Wettlauper, David Yule, Ken Pereira, Peter Milkovich, Bindi Kullar, Rob Short, Ronnie Jagday, Rick Roberts, Tom Green, Brent Wilsmore, Scott Mosher, Ranjeev Deol, Hari Kant.

(END)