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Amirol wants to break international goal-scoring duck in Dhaka

By AFTAR SINGH

KUALA LUMPUR: Muhd Amirol Aideed Muhd Arshad is relieved to be back in the national hockey team.

The Kuala Lumpur player last played for Malaysia in the four-nation tournament in Melbourne in November last year.

And Amirol will be making his comeback in the Asia Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh from Oct 11-22.

The utility player was chosen because he is equally adept as a midfielder as well as a striker.

The 22-year-old Amirol is delighted to don the national jersey again.

"I have been training with the national team since the beginning of last year but only managed to feature in the four-nation tournament in Melbourne," said Amirol, who thanked national chief coach Stephen van Huizen for keeping faith in him.

"This is the second time I will be featuring for the national team after 11 months. I don't want to play just one tournament a year for Malaysia.

"I want to be a regular as my childhood dream is to represent the country in as many tournaments as possible," said Amirol, who played for Tunku Mahkota Ismail Sports School in the Malaysian Junior Hockey League five years ago.

Amirol, who now plays for Tenaga Nasional in the Malaysia Hockey League, was a member of the Malaysian team that won gold in indoor hockey at the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games in August.

And Amirol has a mission in Dhaka – to break his international goal-scoring duck.

"I failed to score in Melbourne. There will be seven matches in Dhaka and I hope to put my name on the scoring sheet," said Amirol.

Eight teams will compete in the Asia Cup and Malaysia will open their Group B campaign against China on Oct 12.

Their other matches are against defending champions South Korea on Oct 14 and Oman on Oct 16.

In Group A are runners-up India, Pakistan, Japan and Bangladesh.

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