

Headline	Terengganu captain Fitri expects no Charity from powerful Tenaga in		
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## Terengganu captain Fitri expects no Charity from powerful Tenaga in Shield battle

By K.M. BOOPATHY

**PETALING JAYA:** Terengganu captain Fitri Saari admitted they have to start as the underdogs against Tenaga in the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) Charity Shield match at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil today.

Terengganu had South Korean penalty corner specialist Jang Jong-hyun (pic), Malaysian skipper Marhan Jalil and Speedy Tigers striker Shello Silverius when they swept the Charity Shield, MHL league title and TNB Cup last year.

However, the trio have shifted their allegiance to Tenaga this year while Terengganu were hoping to get the services of South Korean internationals Jung Man-jae and Yang Ji-hun but both players will not be available due to other commitments.

This leaves Terengganu without any foreign players for the first time, with Fitri and his brother Faizal leading the charge this year.

The Charity Shield match result also counts for the league race and Fitri said it will be a bonus if they can earn a draw or a win.

"We are banking on local flair this time and our team are not as strong as last year. We are the underdogs and Tenaga look very strong on paper for the Charity Shield and other titles," said Fitri.

"We also have eight players who were part of the men's Hockey5s World Cup and only had two days of full team training.

"We didn't have sufficient time to gel as a team and I believe this will be a disadvantage when we face Tenaga tomorrow (today). Tenaga had played two matches in the league but the Charity Shield is our first match.

"Despite the shortcomings, we will make the Charity Shield match an exciting affair and will also continue fighting in the league and try to win at least one title."

Tenaga, with a total of 13



internationals including Jung-hyun, opened their campaign against Maybank on Feb 2 and were lucky enough to escape with a 3-3 draw after trailing 0-3 in the first half.

Tenaga coach Norsauful Zaini, while looking to secure their first title of the season, will not take Terengganu for granted although their rivals are considerably weaker this year.

"We have many national players and

I hope to see them play better after the first two matches. We have to take Terengganu seriously as they have a lot of experienced players who have been playing as a team for some time," said Norsauful.

"We just don't want to focus on penalty corners alone as we have Jong-hyun but we have to take our goalscoring chances.

"Faizal and Fitri are seasoned campaigners and the Hockey5s players have also joined Terengganu with some momentum, so we don't want to take them lightly."

It will be interesting as to how Terengganu will try to contain Jong-hyun, who had scored more than 100 goals for the east coast side as he played five seasons for them.

Malaysia's first-choice goalkeeper Hafizuddin Othman has faced Jong-hyun many times in penalty corner set-pieces when the Speedy Tigers played against South Korea.

Hafizuddin's effectiveness in

### MALAYSIA HOCKEY LEAGUE

#### ■ TODAY'S FIXTURES

**Liaoning vs Nurinsafi (4pm)**  
(National Hockey Stadium, Pitch 2)

**Thunderbolts vs KL City (6pm)**  
(National Hockey Stadium, Pitch 1)

**Maybank vs Armed Forces (6pm)**  
(National Hockey Stadium, Pitch 2)

#### ■ CHARITY SHIELD

**Terengganu vs Tenaga Nasional (8pm)**  
(National Hockey Stadium, Pitch 1)

stopping Jong-hyun during penalty corners will also be crucial if Terengganu are to have any chances of winning the Charity Shield match.