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### HOCKEY

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**TENAGA** Nasional, powered by a record 16 national players, will begin their hunt for a treble when the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) starts on Saturday.

TNB will face defending treble champions Terengganu Hockey Team (THT) in the season-opening Charity Shield at the Batu Buruk Hockey Stadium.

Coach Madzli Ikmar said the team are targeting the league title and the TNB Cup in addition to the Charity Shield.

"There should not be any excuses for the team not to win a treble," said Madzli.

"The players should go all out to clinch the treble."

TNB have further strengthened their squad by signing three national players from THT — Andywalfian Jeffrynus, Akhimullah Anuar Esook and Syarman Mat Tee.

They are also led by South Korean penalty-corner specialist Jang Jong Hyun, who scored 12 goals last season.

THT, led by 35-year-old national forward Faizal Saari, have

signed Indian player Dilraj Singh and South Africans Samkelo Mvimbi and Keenan Horne as cover.

Faizal was the league's top scorer last year with 23 goals.

THT assistant manager Wan Hazrul Wan Nawi said defending their titles will be a challenge given TNB's strengthened squad.

"We have hired three foreigners, and we hope to start the league on a positive note," said Hazrul.

The men's MHL features nine teams, including Maybank, TNB Thunderbolts, Young Elephants, Armed Forces, UiTM HA-KPT, Liaoning (China), and Territory Stingers (Australia).

Seven teams will compete in the women's league — Malaysian University, Negeri Sembilan, Terengganu, Perak, Mutiara-PKS Uniten, MSP Pahang and Territory Stingers.

Defending league and overall champions Blue Warriors will not feature in this year's competition.

**Aftar Singh**