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# Dharmaraj believes qualification possible

**THE** Malaysian women's hockey team will begin their 'Mission Impossible' in the World League Round Two at the Tun Razak Stadium tomorrow.

For starters, the 21st ranked Malaysia must beat 16th ranked Ireland to top Group B to have an easier passage into the quarter-finals.

It's almost an impossible task, as Malaysia have yet to break free from Round Two but are looking forward to playing in the next round – the World League Semi-finals – by being among the top-two at the Tun Razak Stadium.

All eight teams qualify for the last-eight, but by finishing tops, Malaysia hope to be paired against the fourth placed team from Group A.

Yesterday, coach K. Dharmaraj named his 18 players, and 17 were from the team who played in the Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) in Singapore last year.

Youngster Nur Zafirah Aziz, who also played in the ACT, was the only player dropped and replaced by experienced Nurul Shafiqah whilst Farah Ayuni Yahya, who was voted best goalkeeper at the ACT, makes a return after missing out on the New Zealand Tour last month.

Malaysia's campaign will be captained by defender Siti Noor Amarina.

"After several weeks of intensive training, we have selected the best in the country. Most of these players have more than 50 international caps and have played in Japan, China, the Australian Hockey League, Asian Champions Trophy and the recent five-match Test series against New Zealand," said Dharmaraj.

"Our first target is to finish tops in our group in the preliminary round and move forward from there. We face a very strong opposition in Ireland but while we respect the other teams in our group, our main focus

will be on the Irish as they are ranked World No 16 and it is a must win match for us," he added.

The World League Round Two will also feature Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan and European sides Ireland, Wales and Italy.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC) president Datuk Seri Subahan Kamal thanked Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) for its contribution towards the success of the event.

TNB, represented by its general manager Datuk Omar Sidek, contributed RM100,000 while DG Securities gave RM30,000 towards the organisation of the World League.

**SQUAD – Goalkeepers:** Farah Ayuni Yahya, Mas Huzaimah; **Defenders:** Siti Noor Amarina, Juliani Din, Siti Shahida, Nurul Shafiqah, Raja Norsharina Raja; **Midfielders:** Fatin Shafika, Nuraini Rashid, Nor Hasliza Ali, Surizan Awang, Norazlin Sumantri; **Forwards:** Fazila Sylvester, Hanis Nadiah, Siti Rahmah, Nurul Nabihah, Wan Norfaiezah, Nuraslinda Said. **Jugjet Singh**



TNB general manager Datuk Omar Sidek (2nd left) presents a mock cheque to MHC president Datuk Seri Subahan Kamal for the Women World League Round 2.