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Football-Youth (Malaysia/Laos)

MALAYSIA CROSS FIRST HURDLE WITH 4-0 WIN OVER LAOS

JOHOR BAHRU, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia crossed their first hurdle with a convincing 4-0 win over Laos in the Asian Youth Under-19 Group 7 qualifying round football match at the Larkin Stadium here tonight.

The homesters displayed an impressive game especially in the second half when they scored three goals.

The first 45 minutes was an equally fought game but the Malaysians had the edge with some good and neat passes which penetrated the Laotians defence on several occasions.

However, the frontline combination of Akmal Rizal Ahmad Rakhli and Hairuddin Omar failed to score despite some clear chances in front of goal.

Laos also got their chances in the first 20 minutes through hard running Soubinh Keopphet and Kholadeth Phonphachanh but their shots either went straight to Malaysian keeper Kamarulzaman Hassan or went wide.

The much awaited goal came in the 35th minute. After dribbling past two defenders, Jaafar Salleh sent a cross to Akmal Rizal but in an attempt to clear the ball, Phonphachanh miskicked and the ball rolled into the net.

On resumption, Malaysia played more aggressively using their flanks to launch swift attacks and as a result they scored another goal in the 69th minute.

Moving from the backline, Faziallah Mamat found his way to the right flank before crossing for Hairuddin to slot home past the onrushing Somlith Pophannouvone.

Malaysia could have increased the lead a minute later but Akmal Rizal shot over the bar with only the keeper to beat.

However, Akmal Rizal made amends to his earlier mistake when he netted Malaysia's third goal in the 82nd minute off a corner and Mahathir Mohd Jamal made it 4-0 in injury time.

Malaysia's next game is on Monday against Singapore. The other game will be China against Laos.

MALAYSIA: Kamarulzaman Hassan, Faziallah Mamat, Mohd Nidzam Jamil, S.Jayaprakash, R.Nantha Kumar, Rafiz Abu Bakar (Mahathir Jamal), Mohd Shawal Johari (Mohamed Helmi, Akmal Rizal Ahmad Rakhli, Hairuddin Omar, Jaafar Salleh (Eddy Helmi Manan), Kamarulzaman Yub Abdul Majid.

LAOS: Somlith Pophannouvone, Maykhen Lorvanekham, Thanongsine Souryamath, Ananh Thepsouvanh, Souvanno Luang A Math (Santiphap Phokhasomboun), Vilasith Sunakeovongsa (Bouvong Vannabouathone), Soubinh Keopphet, Kholadeth Phonphachanh, Sittiphong Sayamongkhounh, Phonesavanh Phimmasean, Khamsavanh Khotsay (Khempheth Sengphanith).

-- BERNAMA

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