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Mahathir-fest

PRIME MINISTER LIGHTS UP MALAYSIAN CULTURAL FEST

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ALOR SETAR, Oct 8, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today lighted the cauldron at Stadium Darulaman here, marking the start of the 10th Malaysian Cultural Fest.

The torch used for the ceremony had been brought from Bukit China, Melaka. Some 2,200 runners had taken turn carrying the torch since it left Melaka on Sept 12.

Some 20,000 people attended the ceremony. Also present were wife of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Human Resource Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

Other dignitaries were Fest joint-chairman Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain, Kedah Chinese Assembly Hall President Senator Datuk William Chek Lin Kwai and his counterparts in other states.

The fest, organised by the Kedah Chinese Assembly Hall, will be held until Oct. 11.--more

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▼08/10/20-58MST

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R GE 08-10 00150 EG545

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Mahathir-fest 2 (last) Alor Setar

The ceremony was followed by cultural performances of the various communities which included the beating of the traditional drums.

There were also silat demonstrations by some 900 members of the Kedah Silat Association and Tai-Chi exercise by 1,300 members of the Malaysian Tai-Chi Association, apart from the lion and dragon dances.

Primary school children of various races gave their rendition of "Sejahtera Malaysia", "We are the World" and a Mandarin song, "Warisan Tanglung".

The Indian and Thai communities also presented their respective cultural dances.

Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff, who earlier officiated the fest, said the various cultures had existed to this day due to tolerance and respect of each other among the various communities.

"This is also the basis of unity among Malaysians," he said. --Bernama

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Mahathir-fest 3 (last) Alor Setar (re-opens item)

Dr Mahathir, Osman and their wives later attended a dinner at the Hotel Grand Continental here in conjunction with the fest.

Dr Mahathir, Dr Siti Hasmah and Osman then visited the exhibition stalls and watched a lion dance at the expo site.

They also watched a cultural procession of some 15,000 people from atop the Jalan Badlishah bridge here. -- Bernama

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