

16 AUG 1996

BADMINTON CAN DRAW PEOPLE INTO SPORTS, SAYS PM

KUALA TERENGGANU, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- The popularity of badminton in the country can be an important factor in attracting participation in sports, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

This was in line with the objective of having sports for all, he said in his message in a souvenir programme for the three-day Piala Perdana badminton championship organised by the Welfare Body of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti) here.

He said as a multi-racial country Malaysia needed to maintain unity and goodwill among the people to ensure its continued progress and peace as it marched towards the year 2020.

"I am confident that sport can be an important platform for creating such an atmosphere," Dr Mahathir said.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad today opened the championship which features 13 teams. -- BERNAMA

IB YBY