

31 OCT 1996

NATIONAL TILAWAH AL-QURAN OPENS TONIGHT

IPOH, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Two qaris and one qariah read verses from the Al-Quran on the opening night of the 39th National Tilawah Al-Quran at Perak Stadium here, tonight.

The readers are Afifah Haji Bachok from the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Muhamad Akib Haji Mat Din from Negeri Sembilan, and Melaka qari Rashid Haji Kassim.

A total of 29 qaris and qariahs representing the states including two defending champions will be taking part in the five-day tilawah.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened the tilawah. Also present at the opening ceremony were Chief Secretary to the Government, Datuk Halim Ali, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman and Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib.

The tilawah is broadcast live on channel one of Television Malaysia and over Radio One. The direct telecast is being viewed by several other Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia.

As soon as Dr Mahathir ended his speech he pressed a button and simultaneously the stage which was designed to resemble a traditional Perak Malay house was bathed in coloured lights.

Nasyid groups from Sokolah Menengah Kebangsaan Agama Sultan Azlan Shah Bota, Maktab Perguruan Kinta, Ipoh and Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Kerian, Parit Buntar sang four nasyids at the opening. -- BERNAMA

LAT ARA AO