

17 AUG 1997

Mahathir-Badminton

MAHATHIR CLOSES PREMIER CUP BADMINTON TOURNEY

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad closed the Premier Cup badminton championship at the indoor stadium of the Likas sports complex here this evening.

In his brief speech, he expressed the hope that the championship would forge closer ties among the participants from the various states taking part.

"I congratulate them for their enthusiasm to take part in the tournament," he said.

Teams from all states except Kelantan took part in the three-day event.

Reigning champion Badan Amal Isteri-Isteri Selangor (Balkis) retained their title defeating Bakti (charity and welfare body of wives of ministers and deputy ministers) 3-2 in the finals.

Perawanispa team from Pahang emerged third.

Dr Mahathir later gave away the prizes to winners.

The championship will be held in Pahang next year, Johor in 1999 and Kedah in the year 2000.

Present were Dr Mahathir's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who is also Bakti president, Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee and his wife Datin Stella Yong. -- BERNAMA

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