

24/06/1997

Malaysia capable hosts, says Havelange

Azran Aziz

FIFA president Datuk Dr Joao Havelange has given Malaysia the thumb's up for their excellent organisation of the ongoing World Youth Cup Finals.

"This tournament has shown Malaysia's ability to handle world class sporting events," he told reporters after calling on FA of Malaysia president Sultan Ahmad Shah at the Istana Abu Bakar in Pekan yesterday.

"One can also be sure that the 1998 Commonwealth Games which will be held in Malaysia will be a success."

Havelange said there was a big interest in sports in this country and this was reflected by the various sporting facilities especially in the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex.

"The six venues of the World Youth Cup conforms with Fifa requirements and one cannot ask for more," he added.

He expressed his gratitude to the FAM and the people of Malaysia who had put a lot of work and efforts to make the championship a huge success.

"FAM has done an excellent job," he said, adding that Fifa officials and teams taking part in the tournament were also well-received by the hosts.

On the overall performance of the 24 participating teams, he said they were all technically good.

Meanwhile, Sultan Ahmad Shah thanked the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who gave his blessing and support for Malaysia to host the tournament.

He also thanked the Menteris Besar and Chief Minister of the various States who are hosting the group matches.

Also present were Asia Football Confederation secretary-general Datuk Peter Velappan, World Youth Cup Local Organising Committee chairman Tengku Abdullah and Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

(END)