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Maximum utilisation of Bukit Jalil Stadium

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THE fully covered RM73 million hockey stadium in Bukit Jalil, which can seat 12,000, will also serve as a venue for musical and cultural shows to ensure maximum utilisation.

Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said in Bukit Jalil yesterday that they were looking at some of the latest ways available to protect the artificial turf from damage.

"In Europe, especially in Holland, there is such a method. It allows multiple use of the stadium. Also it allows the optimum use of the stadium all year round," said Muhyiddin.

Muhyiddin was speaking after touring the RM700 million Bukit Jalil Sports Complex in Sungei Besi, the main venue for next year's Kuala Lumpur 1998 Commonwealth Games.

Muhyiddin said several changes need to be made to the hockey stadium which is handled by the Public Works Department (PWD), before it can be handed over to the Sports Ministry.

Situated close to the Shah Alam Expressway, Muhyiddin said, the PWD have been directed to make changes to the entry and exit points for the VIP gallery.

"On the whole, the Stadium is up to mark. We will take over on Jan 31.

"We will ask Malaysian Hockey Federation to test the facilities before the pre-World Cup in March."

Expressing his satisfaction on the overall progress of the complex, including the 100,000 capacity main stadium, Muhyiddin said organisers will have enough time to test and install equipment.

He said United Engineers Malaysia (UEM), the main contractors of the complex, are aware of the deadline and have promised to have everything in place.

"All venues here including the aquatics complex would be completed by the end of the year or several months ahead of schedule."

He said the Ministry would invite Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the complex next month to see the installation of the covered roof at the main stadium.

Muhyiddin said work at the Games Village and indoor stadium is progressing well while the construction of the squash complex had just started and is expected be ready in time for the Games.

Additional rooms will be included in the Games Village due to the inclusion of tenpin-bowling.

He said the Government will spend RM11 million on upgrading the Bandar Tun Razak cycling velodrome in Cheras and another RM17 million on upgrading the KLHA Hockey Stadium in Jalan Pantai.

In addition, another new hockey pitch will be constructed at the International Islamic University ground, also in Jalan Pantai.

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