

14/04/1997

PM officiates opening of Malaysian GP

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad officiated the opening of the Malaysia Grand Prix, the start of this season's World Motorcycling Championship, at the Shah Alam track yesterday.

Dr Mahathir also stayed a while to watch a few laps of the first race, the 125cc competition.

He arrived 10.15am and was greeted at the track's pit-lane gate by Malaysia Airports Berhad chairman Tan Sri Basir Ismail, Automobile Association Malaysia chairman Tunku Mudzaffar Tunku Mustapha and Malaysia Airports managing director Datuk Khairuddin Ibrahim.

Dr Mahathir was then escorted to the podium in front of the grand stand, by uniformed personnel on horses and four policemen playing the bagpipe.

At the podium, Dr Mahathir pressed the button to officiate the annual event.

A colourful parade of cheerleaders, flag bearers, mardigras dancers and chingay performance then filled the track to entertain the spectators.

There was a light drizzle but that did not deter the Prime Minister from recording the opening ceremony on his digital video camera.

Also at the opening was Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

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