

18 AUG 1997

SHAHIDAN, KA TING LEAD NATIONAL DAY FLAG RUN

PADANG BESAR, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and Deputy Home Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting led some 2,000 runners in the National Day flag run which kicked off in this Malaysia-Thai border town here today.

They were accompanied by state executive councillors and heads of government departments and agencies in the three-kilometre run which started at the Padang Besar customs complex.

The runners would take turns to carry the flag for every kilometre. They are expected to arrive at the Perlis/Kedah border this afternoon to pass on the flag to 11 runners from Kedah.

Ong said the 4,600km run started simultaneously at three locations, one in Sabah and Sarawak, in Rantau Panjang, Kelantan for the east coast and here to portray the people's patriotism and love for the country.

He said some 50,000 people are expected to take part in the run which would end at Merdeka Square at 12 midnight on the eve of the National Day with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed receiving the flag from the last runner.

-- BERNAMA

AD HAR TS