

# Stop the bickering, PM tells athletes, officials

By WAN HAMIDIHAMID

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian sportsmen and officials involved in the Commonwealth Games have been told to stop politicking, with Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad saying that the matter was best left to politicians.

The Prime Minister said that with only 30 days left, they should instead prepare themselves physically and mentally to give their best to the country.

"The pride of the country is at stake. Don't let the country down by not putting in a maximum effort to win in the Games," he said at the handover of the *Jalur Gemilang* to the Malaysian contingent at the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

He also told athletes to heed their coaches as time did not permit for squabbles to interfere with preparations for the Games.

"Do not question anymore. This is not the time to pose questions. Whether a coach is good or not, that is not the question. They (the coaches) are all we've got.

"This is no time to sulk or feel frustrated for not getting the treatment one deserves."

The Prime Minister also reminded athletes to uphold the nation's image and not seek personal glory as a win would be a victory for the country.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysian sportsmen must also not be easily disheartened in comparing themselves with their competitors.

"As a Malaysian and the Prime Minister, I would like to see our country achieving success," he said.