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Commonwealth-flag

DR MAHATHIR HANDS OVER FLAG ON JULY 28

KUALA LUMPUR, May 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to hand over the national flag to the Malaysian contingent for the 16th Commonwealth Games here on July 28.

Dr Mahathir would hand over the flag during his first encounter with the Malaysian athletes assembled for the first phase centralised camp at the Universiti Tenaga Nasional in Bangi, near here.

Malaysian chef-de-mission for the Games, Datuk Khalid Yunus revealed this to reporters after visiting the women's hockey team and rhythmic gymnasts in training at the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex, here today.

He said the first phase of centralised camp would be held for all athletes irrespective of events from July 27 to 31 followed by the final phase from Aug 20 till the Games proper on Sept 11.

He said the centralised camp was to build the contingent's spirit prior to a major games.

Except for those athletes or teams taking part in competitions during the duration of the camp, the attendance for others is compulsory.

He said Malaysia would field about 270 athletes for the Commonwealth Games here from Sept 11 to 21.

On the women's hockey, he said the team hopes to finish among the best eight teams and would play a series of friendlies against Singapore and Zimbabwe at the Stadium Tun Razak, here next month and in July.

He also said the team would visit Perth, Australia from July 11 to 25 to play some friendlies there.

On the gymnasts, Datuk Khalid, who is Deputy Education Minister and a vice-president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM), said the six members in the team would also compete in a championship in Canada in July.

-- BERNAMA

DC AO