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Opening ceremony to showcase tradition, pageantry

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The opening ceremony of the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex tomorrow by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be filled with tradition and pageantry.

At 8pm, Dr Mahathir will board the Light Rail Transit at the Sultan Ismail station to Bukit Jalil station.

There, he will open the Sistem Transit Aliran Ringan, System 1 accompanied by Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and STAR chairman Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed.

The Prime Minister will then proceed to the Petronas "environmental-friendly cab" stand to launch a fleet of taxis. Dr Mahathir will take a taxi to the Bukit Jalil Stadium.

Over 100,000 people are expected to witness the colourful event which will kick off with national bowler Shalin Zulkifli presenting the torch to Dr Mahathir to light up a replica of the Commonwealth Games cauldron.

Dr Mahathir will name the seven stadiums which will be the venues for the Commonwealth Games - two in Bukit Kiara and five in Bukit Jalil.

There will be traditional dances, musical performances and fireworks with the event highlight being a rendition of the song Standing in the Eyes of the World dedicated to Dr Mahathir.

Only holders of free tickets issued by the Youth and Sports Ministry will be allowed to witness the opening ceremony. Free LRT rides for ticket holders will be from 3pm to 2am.

A carnival for the public will held around the stadium from 10am tomorrow with hot air balloon rides, kite flying, and go-karts.

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