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World Cup excitement at fever pitch

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RTM (TV1 and TV2)

* RTM was Malaysia's domestic/international host broadcaster for the 16th Commonwealth Games held in Kuala Lumpur from Sept 11 to 21. In keeping with this, the International Broadcast Centre or IBC was launched on Aug 24 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The RM65 million centre at Angkasapuri was the broadcast centre for teeming journalists from all Commonwealth countries, with its fully equipped TV and radio suites, editing rooms, workshop areas, telecommunication centre, video library, archives, meeting and seminar rooms and also information and service counter.

TV1 and TV2 carried good coverage of "live" events as well as daily highlights.

RTM should also be given a pat on the back for its extensive coverage of the World Cup '98 from June 10 until July 12 when both stations carried live matches, delayed telecasts, repeat matches as well as highlights.

Dr Mahathir's month-long nationwide tour in August was broadcast 'live' 14 times.

TV1 reduced its airtime from 6am to the wee hours of the morning previously to 7am until before midnight.

TV2 starts at 3pm now instead of 1pm and ends before midnight (except on Friday and Saturday when it ends before 2am)

As for new shows introduced this year, the most significant is the all-time favourite Teater P Ramlee (on Friday nights from September). This move is surely welcomed as it has been a long time since TV1 showed P. Ramlee's movies.

Over TV2, The X-Files fans were treated to the series fifth season beginning from August. The station's other new programmes were The Client in March, action drama The Adventures of Brisco County Jr (April) and Hiburan Bersama TV2 in August.