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DR MAHATHIR FLAGS OFF PROTON 300KM MERDEKA RACE

SEPANG, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad turned race car enthusiast as he flagged off the Proton International 300km Merdeka Race at the Sepang F1 Circuit here today.

The 72 participating cars set off on a blistering speed in the 55-lap race at the state-of-the-art facility which will be the venue of the Formula One (F1) Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix in October.

Joining Dr Mahathir at the race on a rather downcast day were thousands of spectators who were given a glimpse of what was in store for them during the prestigious F1.

In pole position was defending champion Keifli Othman of team Genesis World Racing. He was partnered by Zureen Zulkifli who drove their Proton Putra 1.8 in the second-half of the race.

Fresh from his solo odyssey around the globe aboard the yacht Jalur Gemilang, mariner Datuk Azhar Mansor also took part in his Putra.

The winner will drive away with the latest Proton model, the Satria GTi.

-- BERNAMA
MAM AHH RM