

14/11/2000

PM wants reason why KL lost bid for Asiad 2006

Farush Khan in Doha

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed sadness over Malaysia's failure to win the bid to host the 2006 Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Speaking to Malaysian reporters on Sunday night, the Prime Minister asked the authorities concerned to find out the reasons.

Dr Mahathir's sadness was understandable as Kuala Lumpur, besides Hong Kong, had been one of the favourites.

Doha, which has a population of over 740,000, had beaten Hong Kong, New Delhi, apart from Kuala Lumpur, to win the bid as the host, thus bringing the world's second largest sports event to the Middle East for the first time in more than 30 years.

To prepare for the multi-sports event, which is held once in four years and involves more than 10,000 athletes, Qatar will spend US\$1 billion (RM3.8 billion).

Doha has also promised a US\$700 million luxury athlete's village made up of villas and a host of other perks for Asia's national Olympic committees. The rest will be for new sports facilities.

Qatar's capital city was chosen in a vote at the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) assembly in the South Korean city of Pusan, which will stage the 2002 Asian Games.

The OCA leaders said there had been a desire to bring the Games to the Gulf and Middle East region.

(END)