

14/07/2001

Land and air carnival to send expedition off

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - A land and air carnival will held at the TUDM base in Sungai Besi from 9am tomorrow in conjunction with the send-off for the Asean Voyage of Friendship expedition.

It will include activities like street soccer, skateboarding, auditions for TV3's Sinaran Rakan Muda programme, go-karting and remote controlled air shows.

The carnival is open to the public free of charge.

In the Asean Voyage of Friendship expedition, 16 pilots from the Rakan Muda programme, accompanied by three professional pilots, will be flown to nine Asean countries to hand over invitations to their respective leaders or representatives to attend the SEA games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

The expedition is divided into two sections - the south covering Brunei, Singapore, Philippines and Indonesia and the north covering Vietnam, Cambodia Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.

The Rakan Muda pilots will be flown to their respective destinations by two experimental Rakan Muda planes - the Zodiac CH 601 HD-9M ERM - which will be accompanied by other aeroplanes.

Abdul Latif Endot, the senior confidential secretary to Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishamuddin Hussein, has flown the experimental aeroplane earlier from Kuching to Tioman with the SEA games torch on board.

It was the first Malaysian experimental plane to be flown across the South China Sea.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will send off these goodwill ambassadors on their way at the Sungai Besi TUDM base at 3pm tomorrow.

He will later be joined by Hishamuddin, Ambassadors and High Commissioners from Asean countries and heads of higher learning institutions to complete the first portion of the "Longest Banner in the World" - an advertising campaign initiated by Malaysia to beat the current world record (10.15km) held by India. The Asean attempt is 15km.

Each Asean country will be allotted a one-kilometer advertising space while the rest will be given to sponsors of the Asean Voyage of Friendship project.

The rest of the advertising space will be sold to corporate organisations to finance the Asean Voyage of Friendship project.

(END)