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PM has good omen for debut

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had a good omen for his debut in Malaysia's first harness driving competition on Sunday when his teammate won the first portion of the Selangor Turf Club (STC) equestrian championships at Sungai Besi yesterday.

The Premier's teammate, STC's master ferrier Dennis Kennedy, took the reins yesterday to win the first portion, the dressage, by the least penalty of 45.06.

Mahathir is scheduled to take part in the third portion of the event, the marathon, at 7.0am on Sunday.

Second-placed Ron King made a penalty of 48.22 while Sea Games three-day eventing rider S. Lingesparan came third with 59.26.

The event involves riding a horse on some sort of locally-made chariot, decreasing the physical strain of being on horseback.

National Equine Council secretary Malik Jeremiah said this would allow more people to get involved in competitive horse-riding regardless of age.

Another national eventing rider, Husref Malik, took part in the D7 novice dressage event, and won with a score of 70.20 per cent. Up-and-coming rider Lea Tan came second with 62.40 per cent while James Ravindra, who is on the Games eventing reserve list, was third with 61.60.

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