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560 expected for Premier Cup

Rizalman Hammim

A TOTAL of 560 entries are expected in the Premier Cup equestrian competition at the Bukit Kiara Equestrian and Country Resort on July 11-14.

"The competition will involve riders of all levels, from the beginners to the advanced. Riders from Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore will also participate," said Abdul Razak Latiff, chairman of the organising committee.

The Premier Cup is held in honour of the birthday of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is an avid horse rider.

There will be three events in the competition, the dressage, show jumping and endurance race.

"In the dressage, we also have an Asian Games preliminary test which is a good preparation for riders going for the Games. So far, seven riders have confirmed their participation including Malaysia's Quzandria Nur.

"For the endurance event, we are expecting 20 riders to participate in the 40 km race. We are also trying to get the Prime Minister's confirmation of his participation in the endurance event," Abdul Razak said.

He said the level of judging in the competition will be high as two international judges, one each from Sweden and Australia, has been invited to judge the competition.

Meanwhile, show director Nina Melkonian said, she is happy that foreign riders are making a point to participate in the Premier Cup.