

28 AUG 2003

Merdeka-Eve

KL TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO GLITZY METROPOLIS ON AUG 30

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Kuala Lumpur comes alive this weekend as the country's rich and diverse cultural heritage is showcased during the "Ambang Merdeka" celebrations from 5pm to midnight on Aug 30, the eve of the 46th National Day.

Organised by the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry, this annual celebration brings the best of Malaysia to the fore for visitors and locals alike.

KL City Hall will switch on the decorative lights on 100 buildings in the city at 7pm, enhancing its image as the city of lights.

Meanwhile 18-year-old Jayabarathi Letchemanah will attempt to pull a 4.8 tonne TD2000 vehicle with her hair in Jalan Raja, opposite the Merdeka Square, Tourism Malaysia said in a statement.

Jayabarathi, daughter of Malaysian strongman R.Letchemanah, aims to carve a record in the Malaysia Book of Records.

From 9pm onwards there will be the beating of drums and traditional cultural dances of the various communities. Local artistes including Datuk Sharifah Aini, Too Phat, Fauziah Ahmad Daud and Rem will entertain the crowd.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood will grace the events at the Merdeka Square.

A total of 460 students will take part in a 20-minute harmonica concert in honour of the Prime Minister.

Some 100 holders of various records including English Channel conqueror Datuk Malik Mydin and singer Siti Nurhaliza will then be presented to the Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir and Abdullah will then lead Malaysians in counting the seconds to midnight and then to shouts of "Merdeka" seven times. The NegaraKu will then be sung.

The Kuala Lumpur night sky will be lighted up by an hour-long dazzling display of fireworks from about midnight from Padang Merbok.

-- BERNAMA
SAH AHH AAM