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PM to `direct' scene

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The opening ceremony of the Kuala Lumpur World Film Festival (KLWFF), to be held at Dataran Merdeka here tomorrow, is expected to be a momentous occasion for the festival delegates and the public.

Among the highlights will be a glimpse of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a different role - "directing" a film scene.

National Film Development Corporation (Finas) director of development Zainol Abidin Abu Bakar hoped that the public would come out in full force to support the festival.

"The KLWFF is an opportunity for Malaysians to show to the world that we live in peace."

The festival, among others, will comprise traditional songs and dances choreographed by Pak Ngah.

Meanwhile, film stars expected to attend the festival include Indian actor Prashanth and Sri Lankan child actress Nithyavani Kadasami.

A total of 48 films from 38 countries have confirmed their participation as of today. Only one film from each country is allowed for participation in running for the three Perdana Awards and the four Jury Merit Awards with a total prize money of US\$57,000 (RM216,000).