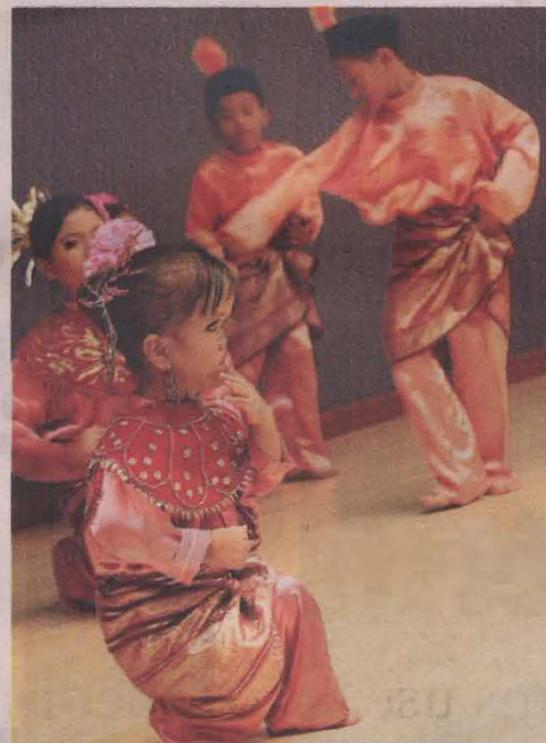




Singing in earnest: SK Damansara Jaya I student are performing the dikir barat.



Looking cute: SK Bukit Raya students looking splendid in their traditional costumes while performing a traditional Malay dance.

Music marathon by special kids

11-hour non-stop musical event earns entry in Malaysia Book of Records

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THE 1Malaysia Music Marathon, held for 11 hours non-stop on Nov 13, made it into the *Malaysia Book of Records*.

The event, organised by the Krista Group and the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) under

the Foreign Ministry, saw the participation of 20 private and government schools for special children.

The event which started at 9am and ended at 8pm was the largest musical performance by special children to-date.

Some of the schools and associations that took part in the event were Sekolah Kanak-Kanak Pekak

Selangor, the National Autism Society Malaysia, Krista Centre for Special Children, SMK Jalan Reko, Calvary Centre for Independent Living Skills, Malaysian Association for the Blind, Katsu Training & Development Centre and SK Bukit Raya.

Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris Pro Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Yahya

Ibrahim said the event was a platform for special and gifted children to showcase their talents, as it also served as an opportunity for them to perform in public.

It is also hoped the event will enlighten people who were unaware of the children's potential as they were as accomplished as others.

"It is not just about setting a new

national record but also to re-define traditional perceptions of what a special child is capable of," said Yahya.

Deputy Foreign Minister A. Kohilan Pillay launched the event. Also present were Krista Group chief operating officer Datuk R. Rajendran and IDFR director-general Datuk Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari.