

**Highest
Thai
award
for
Dr M**

N.S.T. 24 AUG 1981

BANGKOK, Sun. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today conferred Thailand's highest civilian award, the Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant.

The award, granted by the King, was invested on him at a ceremony presided over by Thai Prime Minister Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda at Government House here this afternoon.

In conferring the award, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir was cited for his sacrifices and dedication to Malaysia and its people, his contributions to strengthening the economic position of Third World countries and the important role he has played in consolidating the ties of friendship, co-operation and understanding among members of the international community and between Malaysia and Thailand.

Earlier on arrival in the Thai capital, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was welcomed with a 19-gun salute which marked the start of the 20-minute ceremony led by Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda at the headquarters building of the Royal Thai Air Force at the International Airport here.