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CHE DAT

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ALOR SETAR, MAY 16 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AND HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, SPENT ABOUT 45 MINUTES AT THE PEKAN RABU HERE TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, OR +CHE DAT+ TO THE LOCAL RESIDENTS, WAS SEEN SPENDING MORE TIME CHATTING WITH HIS OLD FRIENDS THAN MAKING PURCHASES.

MEANWHILE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH WAS SEEN MAKING A FEW PURCHASES AT THE STALLS.

PEKAN RABU IS ONE PLACE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS UNLIKELY TO FORGET

-- IT WAS HERE THAT HE SOLD +GORENG PISANG+ BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

ONE OF HIS OLD FRIENDS THERE, ENCIK JOHARI MOHAMAD TAIB, OR +PAK JO+, WAS SEEN CONVERSING WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FOR ALMOST 10 MINUTES.

PAK JO TOLD BERNAMA THAT HE KNEW THE PRIME MINISTER WELL WHEN BOTH WERE DOING BUSINESS AT PEKAN RABU BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

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+THE OTHER FRIENDS AND I CALL HIM CHE DAT,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE CONTINUED THEIR SHOPPING AT THE KOMART SUPERMARKET AT THE TELUK WANJAH ROUNDABOUT.

THIS EVENING, TOGETHER WITH MENTERI BESAR DATUK PADUKA HAJI OSMAN AROFF, THEY WILL BREAK FAST AT THE MASJID KAMPUNG MALAU IN JITRA.

TOMORROW MORNING, HE WILL CHAIR THE KUBANG PASU BARISAN NASIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING AT HIS RESIDENCE IN TITI GAJAH.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE KEPALA BATAS AIRPORT THIS AFTERNOON BY DATUK PADUKA OSMAN, STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND BN LEADERS OF THE KUBANG PASU DIVISION. -- BERNAMA

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