

Suharto presents award to Mahathir

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JOHORE BAHRU, Fri. — President Suharto today presented the Bintang Mahaputra Adipurna to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a brief ceremony at the Istana Polo.

This was followed by an exchange of souvenirs between the two leaders at the same venue this morning.

The other VIPs in attendance were the President's wife, Ibu Tien, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, Foreign Minister Datuk Rais Yatim, Culture, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Indonesian Foreign Minister Prof Mochtar

Kusumaatmadja, Minister of State Sudharmono and Cabinet secretary Dr Moerdiono and other top Malaysian and Indonesian officials.

The Tengku Mahkota and his wife, Raja Zarith Sofia, also paid a farewell call on President Suharto and Dr Mahathir.

At 8.55am, the two leaders left Istana Bukit Serene for a farewell audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong.

After about 45 minutes, the Prime Minister escorted the President to the Causeway for the next leg of the Indonesian leader's visit — an official tour of Singa-

por. Malaysian police outriders sent off President Suharto right up to the Singapore/Malaysia border of the Johore Causeway where the Indonesian leader was met by 10 Singapore police outriders.

Bilateral

The Causeway from Johore Baru to Singapore was closed for half an hour from 9.30 to 10am to normal traffic during the ride by the President to Singapore.

About 200 cars were caught up in a temporary jam during the closure of part of the Causeway.

The President is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew rang-

ing from international to economic issues during his 24-hour visit to Singapore.

The Indonesian leader arrived yesterday at the Sultan Ismail international airport in Senal, 28km from here on an Indonesian Government F28 executive jet.

During his visit here he held a 90-minute eye to eye meeting with Dr Mahathir at Istana Stulang.

However, details of the private discussion were not available.

Apart from the two leaders' discussion, an Indonesian and Malaysian ministerial delegation led by both countries' Foreign Ministers were also meeting simultaneously at the same venue.