

Mahathir named Malacca's honoured citizen

MALACCA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was made Malacca's "most honoured citizen" yesterday for his role in helping the Historic City gain international recognition.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik presented the award, in the form of a medallion and gold chain, before the Prime Minister opened the municipal council's new headquarters *Graha Makmur* here.

Dr Mahathir jokingly said that when he was young he often felt jealous of his elder sisters when they received gold chains from their mother.

"At last I have my own gold chain," he quipped.

Among those who attended the ceremony was Mr A. Sijm, deputy mayor of Hoorn which is Malacca's twin city in the Netherlands.

Later, Dr Mahathir launched a book titled *Malacca — The Historic City of Malaysia*.

Earlier, Yang Di-Pertua Negri Tun Syed Ahmad Mahmud Shahabuddin launched Malacca's Historic City Day celebrations at a colourful traditional ceremony at Taman Sejarah here.

Hundreds of people, including many foreign tourists, turned up to see the show which marked the third anniversary of Malacca's Historic City status.

The show included a performance by *silat bunga* exponents, recital of patriotic poems, three songs from a choir and a tableau presentation of the legendary battle between Malacca's Malay warriors, Hang Tuah and Hang Jebat.