

# We are a very fortunate people, says Prime Minister

KODIANG (Kedah), Thurs. — Malaysians are a lucky lot because they are safe from human-inflicted sufferings and natural catastrophes, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said in some countries, people killed each other over differences of opinions or beliefs while some died from natural disasters.

"In our country, we are very safe. We do not find soldiers patrolling the streets like in some countries.

"We also do not have to

fear typhoons or earthquakes and we can go about with our lives easily," he said at the laying of foundation stone for a new market in Padang Sera here today.

The Prime Minister, citing the earthquake in Kobe, Japan, said the country although very rich was suffering from a natural disaster.

The RM400,000 market, expected to be ready before year end, will replace the temporary wet market.

On the new market, Dr Mahathir said it would provide a proper trading area for traders.

"The market may just be the starting point for bigger things for Padang Sera residents.

"In future, we can expect a major shopping complex for the residents," he said.

Also present at the ceremony were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Deputy Minister Datuk Kadir Sheikh Fadzir and several State Executive Councillors.

Later, Dr Mahathir visited the Kubang Pasu Umno headquarters in Jitra.