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DR MAHATHIR RECALLS STUDENT DAYS

SINGAPORE, Nov 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recalled only joy, camaraderie and those who carried books for the women despite the ragging by senior students.

Dr Mahathir, from the second batch of post-war medical students in the former King Edward VII College of Medicine in Singapore, wrote a personal message in the souvenir programme to mark the 50th anniversary of his class of 1947 reunion.

He arrived here this morning, accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, for the reunion and boarded a ship in the afternoon for a cruise to Pangkor Island.

In his message, Dr Mahathir recollected his days as a student and the distinction kids who were expected to sail through.

"The majority, and that included me, were not so sure," he added.

"I had always felt doctors were very special people, geniuses who seem to know things beyond the comprehension of ordinary mortals. Could I ever be one of them?"

"Could I be one of those white coated demigods strolling along the hospital corridors with a stethoscope hanging around my neck and a coterie of pretty nurses trailing behind? It was an impossible dream."

He also wrote that "it is good to be together again".

"Sadly, not all of us will meet. Some have left us for good ... Parting is such sweet sorrow. But reunions are no less, especially after half a century." -- BERNAMA

THG ABG