

26/08/1997

Mahathir bestowed Brunei's highest award

Kamarul Yunus

SULTAN Hassanal Bolkiah conferred yesterday Brunei's highest award, "The Most Esteemed Family Order First Class", to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Brunei Sultan, who is on a four-day official visit to Malaysia, bestowed the "Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati Darjah Pertama (DK)" at an audience granted to the Prime Minister in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The award to Dr Mahathir is the first ever presented to a non-member of the royal family.

It is in appreciation of Dr Mahathir's continuous efforts to strengthen closer relations and cooperation between both countries. The Sultan of Brunei had previously conferred such an award to several members of the Malaysian royal family.

Dr Mahathir had earlier received Sultan Hasanal Bolkiah upon his arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport at Subang yesterday.

The Sultan, who is accompanied by Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Pengiran isteri Hajah Mariam and other members of the royal family, was later accorded the official welcoming ceremony at Parliament Square.

Other members of the royal entourage include cabinet ministers, senior officials and a business delegation. The visit is at the invitation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar, to reciprocate the King's visit to Brunei in September last year.

Today, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, who is also Brunei's Prime Minister, will hold bilateral talks with Dr Mahathir.

During his four-day visit, he will deliver a keynote address to businessmen and entrepreneurs at a luncheon organised by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He will also speak on "Tomorrow's South-East Asia: A Bruneian Perspective" at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations in Petaling Jaya.

(END)