

25 AUG 1997

MAHATHIR FIRST COMMONER TO RECEIVE BRUNEI'S HIGHEST AWARD

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Visiting Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei today conferred Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad with the sultanate's highest award, "The Most Esteemed Family Order First Class".

The Sultan bestowed the honour, the "Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati Darjah Pertama (DK)", during Dr Mahathir's audience with him at his hotel suite here.

The award reflected Brunei's appreciation and recognition of Dr Mahathir's efforts in reinforcing ties between the sultanate and Malaysia to the excellent level now.

Dr Mahathir is the first commoner outside Brunei to receive the award normally conferred upon a few Malay rulers from Malaysia and other than members of the Brunei royalty.

The sultan's wives Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam, and wife of the prime minister Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were present. -- BERNAMA

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