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Mahathir-Horse

MAHATHIR'S INTEREST IN HORSE RIDING STARTED 12 YEARS AGO

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today his interest in horse riding started some 12 years ago.

He said he took up horse riding after being impressed by the grand look of the Pakistani mounted guard when he visited that country when Zia Ul-Haq was the president.

"I was thinking that if I'm riding one of the horses, I will look as grand as them ... forgetting that I do not have the size and height of those men," he said jokingly.

Dr Mahathir said he was prepared to buy two horses from Pakistan then but when Zia heard of the intention, he gave him two horses as a gift.

"Although I received the gift, I had to declare them to the government and gave the horses to the police force," he said when speaking at a Rakan Muda programme agreement signing between the Equestrian Association of Malaysia and Ibex Corporation Amalgamated Corporation Sdn Bhd at the Equestrian Country Club in Bukit Kiara here.

Dr Mahathir proved that it was never too old for anyone to take up horse riding as he himself started at the "right" age of 60.

He also gave some tips for newcomers in the equestrian sport.

"Newcomers have to fall three times to learn the skills of horse riding ... but to avoid all those unwanted falls ... you must purposely fall three times," he quipped amidst applause from the crowd. -- BERNAMA

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