

27 DEC 1999

DR MAHATHIR VISITS PEKAN RABU

ALOR SETAR, Dec 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad took time off to do some shopping at Pekan Rabu, one of the must-visit landmarks in the state capital here.

Accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Kedah Menteri Besar Kedah Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain, he made the customary down-memory-lane trip during Ramadan.

Pekan Rabu's bazaars have always been nostalgic place for the prime minister as it was there that he and a few friends had done some petty trading and tested their business acumen before the outbreak of the Second World War.

During the 35 minutes he spent there today, Dr Mahathir bought a songkok and a pair of sandals from a store owned by Sardi Dahar and ordered 18 types of cookies and biscuits for Hari Raya from the Mak Chah shop.

He then proceeded to the Ramadan market at the Darul Aman Stadium courtyard and bought "nasi ulam" (salad-rice) and tampoi fruits.

The prime minister is scheduled to open a community development hall in Kampung Naga in Kepala Batas here at 6 pm today followed by a breaking of fast with the people.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a one-day working visit to Kedah, is scheduled to return to Kuala Lumpur at 9 tonight.

-- BERNAMA

MAN RYN