

19 JUL 2000

Mahathir-visit

PM TO MEET SAGADEVAN'S FAMILY TOMORROW

IPOH, July 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali will meet the family of the late Special Branch sergeant R.Sagadevan at a resort in Kuala Kangsar tomorrow.

Sagadevan was one of the four people taken hostage by the Al-Ma'unah group who holed up in Bukit Janalek, Sauk after robbing two army camps in Gerik of a huge cache of weapons, early this month.

Two of the hostages, including Sagadevan, were killed by the group before they surrendered to the authorities.

A former hostage and also a police sergeant, Mohd Shah Ahmad will also be present at the meeting at the Perak River Safari Resort at about 4.30pm, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said here today.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the State Executive Council meeting, he said Dr Mahathir and his wife were expected to arrive at the Sultan Azlan Shah airport here at 3.45pm and would proceed directly to Kuala Kangsar.

Mohd Shah, 48, is the only survivor of the July 3 arms heist and hostage drama which ended with the surrender of the 27 members of the cult. He was freed on July 6.

Another hostage who was freed was Jaafar Putih, 51, a durian collector, but he died yesterday.

Sagadevan, who worked together with Mohd Shah with the Special Branch in Kuala Kangsar police district headquarters, was brutally killed together with Mathew anak Medan, a member of a special force unit based in Terendak Camp, Melaka.

In MELAKA, Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam said Dr Mahathir would pay a one-day working visit to the state on Aug 3

The Prime Minister would meet leaders of the state Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties at a hotel in Ayer Keroh here soon after arriving at 9.30am.

Mohd Ali said the Dr Mahathir would open the Selandar Food Production Park in Selangor, about 45km away, followed by a luncheon with the people and then back to Melaka to open the Melaka Umno headquarters building, Graha Umno in Jalan Munsyi Abdullah in the afternoon.

--BERNAMA

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