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PM: Marriage is a sacred institution

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - There should be a sense of holiness in a marriage as it is a sacred institution, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Launching an exhibition on Persian marriage certificates at the Islamic Arts Museum, he said many no longer regarded marriage as sacred and hoped the exhibition would help change this perception.

He said there were also people who did not bother to get married.

"They just live together and have children," he said, adding that they would choose to get married later and invite their children to the wedding.

Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, later broke fast and performed terawih prayers with the guests.

Nearly 80 marriage certificates, which are on loan from the Iranian National Archive Organisation, and a personal collection of Dr H.Khoromi from Iran, are on display for the first time.

The certificates are from the Qajar period which was from the 18th to 19th century. The practice of transforming marriage certificates into works of art is an Iranian tradition and the certificates contain Quranic verses, wedding vows and gift details.

The exhibition ends on March 31. Tickets are priced at RM8 for adults, RM4 for students and senior citizens, and RM3 for school children. It is open from Tuesdays to Fridays from 10am to 6pm.

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