

# PM takes fifth spot in harness driving race

SUN 27 AUG 2001

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun:** The marathon Harness Driving Competition today saw Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad taking fifth place among 10 participants.

Mahathir steered a cart drawn by a horse called Jake through a series of obstacle courses, which test a variety of skills of the driver.

The event was held in conjunction with the second premier STC Equestrian Championship 2001, which includes the Southeast Asia World Cup Show Jumping League competition.

Earlier, Mahathir launched the first Harness

Driving Centre in Malaysia at the STC Equestrian and Sports Centre, which he said is a healthy development in equestrian sport.

"I'm happy to see that the sport is catching on, compared to the past when people associated it with gambling rather than as a sporting activity," Mahathir said.

During the launch, his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali received a cheque for RM50,000 for Bakti from the centre chairman Tunku Datuk Seri Shahabuddin Tunku Besar Burhanuddin.

Tunku Shahabuddin said the idea of introducing harness driving as a recre-

ational activity came from Mahathir about a year ago.

"It is part of the centre's efforts in supporting, developing and advancing an equine industry which includes a wide range of activities, ranging from veterinary care, equine supplies, the management of competitive equestrian sports and riding schools," he said.

The centre is also involved in other activities, such as training the country's top riders and sponsoring the training of a paralympic equestrian team.

It will also host the Show Jumping and Dressage competition for the 21st Sea Games, from Sept 8-17.