

25 AUG 2001

Mahathir-Flag

PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN IPOH

IPOH, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today to view the biggest Malaysian flag in the country, and possibly the world, and to attend a patriotic gathering of secondary school student leaders.

Accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, he was welcomed by Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali, state executive councillors and heads of department upon arrival on board a special aircraft at the airport here.

He then proceeded to Sekolah Tunku Abdul Rahman (STAR) where he viewed the biggest Jalur Gemilang in Malaysia, which is also believed to be the biggest in the world, and signed its entry into the Malaysia Book of Records.

The flag, sewn by students, teachers and the parent-teacher association of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Seri Ampang (SMKSA), was displayed at the STAR field.

He was greeted at the school by about 3,000 students of SMKSA, STAR and several other nearby schools.

The RM65,000 flag measures 108m by 159m and weighs nearly three tonnes. The world record for the biggest flag is 77m x 154m.

Later, the prime minister will attend a patriotic gathering of about 5,000 school prefects from all over the country at Stadium Indera Mulia where he will inspect a guard of honour mounted by student leaders and deliver a keynote address.

He will also view a solar-powered buggy invented by the students of Sekolah Menengah Teknik Ipoh and be treated to a presentation by 300 students and teachers for entry into the Malaysia Book of Records as the biggest symphony orchestra in the country.

-- BERNAMA

AR JK