

Celebrating Raya Haji at Malaysia Hall

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in London**

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OVER 300 Malaysians congregated at Malaysia Hall in the winter cold early yesterday morning to celebrate Hari Raya Haji with prayers.

Mostly students and government officers serving here, they began the day with prayers led by the Malaysia Hall *imam* Anwar Ahmad, who is the Malaysian Students Department education attache (religion).

They were joined by the Malacca Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin who is here

on vacation. Also present were Malaysian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Datuk Salim Hashim and MSD director Dr Kamaruddin Mohd Nor.

The visitors were later treated to a spread of Malaysian dishes at the Malaysia Hall canteen which, although already well-known to those visiting London, became famous when it almost lost its premises when the lease expired on the buildings in Bryanston Square.

It was a typical scene of Malaysian revelry, with guests making themselves comfortable sitting on the floor with their plates and cups.

In the afternoon, after the Friday prayers, meat was distributed to

the Malaysian community here.

In his brief sermon, Anwar said knowledge was a key to success, and people of knowledge were held in high esteem.

He said only the minority who were ignorant consider physical might as the best way to overcome oppression of Muslims, calling this *jihad* and causing Islam to be viewed negatively.

"Islam is a religion which emphasises learning," he said.

The High Commissioner will host a Hari Raya Haji open house today, to be attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.