

PM celebrates with Malaysians in London

Nst 2 4 FEB 2002

From Carolyn Hong in London

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who arrived here for a working visit yesterday, celebrated Hari Raya Haji with Malaysians at an open house organised by the Malaysian High Commission.

Over 1,000 Malaysians of all races attended the open house hosted by high commissioner Datuk Salim Hashim at Malaysia House in Hampstead.

Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were

swamped by guests wanting to wish them *Selamat Hari Raya* and to take photographs with them.

They mingled with the guests, spending a few minutes with each group, especially the students, to talk about various issues.

The guests were treated to traditional Malay dishes laid out in a delicious spread under a canopy in the garden. The strong winds made it a very chilly afternoon. At one point, snow even fell briefly, the first time here this winter, causing many to joke that Dr Mahathir must have brought it with him from Antarctica.

Among the guests were Malacca

Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin, who is on vacation here, Datuk Seri Osu Sukam, Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir, businessman Syed Yusof Tun Syed Nasir and London-based fashion designer Justin Oh.

Dr Mahathir arrived early yesterday morning from Argentina where he was on holiday following his Antarctica trip from Feb 5-13. In Argentina, he met President Eduardo Duhalde.

He will meet Malaysian students at Imperial College today and British Prime Minister Tony Blair tomorrow. He leaves for home on Wednesday.