

# PM: We must make **STAR** 13 APR 2002 our own weapons

KOTA BARU: Malaysia now has the capability to manufacture its own small planes and light weapons like the Styer guns and bullets.

Currently, the country is upgrading its technological know-how to produce its own warships, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The country could now produce at least 1% of its domestic needs for weapons, the Prime Minister said.

He said Malaysia had recently bought two patrol ships from Germany and a new one would be built in the country under a technology transfer agreement.

"Bit by bit, we are improving our capabilities in this area so that we can be self-sufficient in our future weapons needs," he told reporters after meeting federal government civil servants at USM's Medical Faculty in Kubang Kerian.

Earlier during a dialogue with them, Dr Mahathir said not a single Muslim country could produce its own weapons

and this was the reason why the Muslims were oppressed with impunity by others.

"I believe this is also a reason why Israel is so arrogant, because it knows that the Muslims are weak," he said.

Dr Mahathir was conferred the Darjah Kerabat Yung Amat di-Hormati award by the Sultan of Kelantan at Istana Balai Besar yesterday.

The award was in conjunction with the Sultan's 52nd birthday, which was celebrated on March 30.

Dr Mahathir was on a one-day visit to the state.

In his speech, the Sultan thanked the Federal Government for giving Kelantan big allocations under the Eighth Malaysia Plan.

He was grateful that Kelantan and the country had remained peaceful and prosperous. "This peace and security did not come by accident, but through hard work (and) with the blessings of Allah."