

PM pays respects at Warriors' Day ceremony

STAR - 1. AUG 2003

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad laid a wreath at the National Monument here today in conjunction with Warriors' Day in honour of the contributions and sacrifices of the servicemen who died in the line of duty.

Defence Forces Chief Jen Tan Sri Mohd Zahidi Zainuddin and Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Mohd Bakri Omar also laid wreaths at the brief ceremony yesterday.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Cabinet ministers and foreign diplomats based in Kuala Lumpur also attended the wreath-laying ceremony which started at 8.30am.

Former army chiefs and servicemen, who served during the Japanese Occupation in the early 1940s, also paid their respects to the fallen heroes.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by members of the Royal Malay Regiment.

Patriotic songs were aired and a poem entitled *Pahlawan* (Warrior) was

recited to commemorate the services and sacrifices of the country's national heroes who were killed in battle during World War II, the Emergency and in foreign soil while on tour of duty under United Nations peacekeeping missions.

In Ipoh, Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah, attended the state-level Warriors' Day ceremony at the state secretariat grounds.

More than 500 uniformed personnel from the army, Royal Malaysian Air Force, Royal Malaysian Navy, Royal Malaysia Police, Fire and Rescue Department, Malaysian Red Crescent Society and School Cadet Corps mounted a guard of honour led by Mejar Uzir Abdullah from the Second Regiment of the Royal Malay Regiment from Syed Putra Camp.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohd Tajol Rosh Ghazali and state executive councillors also attended the ceremony.

A poem was recited accompanied by the song *Pahlawan* Ku.