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Prime news

THE Press sees a side of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the public does not
Syed Nadzri Syed Harun

Executive editor

IT was always a pleasure covering Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. He has been
He strikes a good rapport too with journalists regularly covering his function
As he sat down just before the start, Dr Mahathir looked hard at Jeffrey and s
At the end of his working visits overseas, Dr Mahathir would always casually a
In one of his trips earlier this year, he turned to a group of us and said: "A
Dr Mahathir is also famous for his sharp retorts. One of his quips I remember
"Whether I am happy or not Paul Keating has lost, to me both Howard and Keatin
Nuraina A. Samad

Political editor

HE gave me my first Page One byline in 1978. I was a rookie reporter just fres
I had no idea that his comments on the domestic oil supply would make the fron
At that time, reporters hardly carried tape recorders so I made sure I took ev
And, as they say, the rest was history - I went on to cover a lot of assignmen
The trouble with reporters is that they are rarely awed by anyone. But Dr Maha
The making of the Malaysian car, Look East Policy, Buy British Last and, of co
In no time, Dr Mahathir became bigger than life. Still, to the lot of us repor
And he never pandered to the foreign media. Not for him, that sense of servili
Of course, the time came when I "covered" him less and less, having assumed ot
So after a long time of not covering him, I went to Kuching just before the 19
At the Press conference he held just before he flew back to Kuala Lumpur, he l
I could only manage a smile and uttered something like: "Oh no, I'm here becau
One thing I know, and I am sure other reporters do too, is that the man is ind
I always enjoyed my "foreign Dr M assignments" because he never failed to meet
And after his heart operation, did we think that he would slow down? No, sir.
Saiful Azhar Abdullah

News editor

WHEN it comes to interviewing Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, reporters, somet
He might be approachable and friendly towards journalists but after more than
Understand the things which are dear to his heart. Showing that you are less a
When Dr Mahathir opened Perwaja's rolling mill in Gurun, Kedah, in 1993, he sp
And the reply we got from the Prime Minister was something the young reporter
Dr Mahathir then grumbled how journalists failed to appreciate the hard work o
We also learned to ask "PR questions" (soft questions) before going for the cr
When the Argentina peso crumbled in 1996, we waited for him at the Langkawi In
He took the questions in his stride until I told him that the foreign media ti
He slapped my wrist and snapped: "Do you believe the foreign media or your Pri
Zahari Zakaria

Head, photo department

DR MAHATHIR knows how to pose and smile in front of the camera. After 23 years
During one assignment, Dr Mahathir said: "There are only two professions that
Sharanjit Singh

Staff correspondent, Malacca

ASK any journalist and they will agree that it is easy to get a story, a good
One particular assignment comes to my mind in the course of covering Dr Mahath
Dr Mahathir had just returned to campaign in his constituency of Kubang Pasu a
Later, an impromptu Press conference was organised at the behest of reporters.
There was pin-drop silence in the room but to the amazement of all present, Dr
At the end of the session, Dr Mahathir again turned the tables on the journali

He then went on to initiate a countdown to three seconds before once again smiling. The foreign journalists left dazed and confused as they had expected a different reaction. However, for local journalists familiar with covering Dr Mahathir, the Prime Minister, this was a familiar sight.