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Paying glowing tribute to the able architect of Malaysia's progress

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THE Tamil Nesan and Malaysia Nanban yesterday paid tribute to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad with their editorial pages largely dedicated to the man that generations of Malaysians know and respect.

Tamil Nesan provided extensive coverage to the lives and times of Dr Mahathir in its main pages, while Malaysia Nanban had a 16-page supplement much like that of the English and Malay Press. Both carried almost identical headlines - "Dr Mahathir retires today".

In its editorial, Tamil Nesan spoke elo-quently about "the father of modern Malaysia who had taken an agriculture-based nation and transformed it into a manufacturing hub".

Hailing him as the architect of Malaysia's progress, it said Malaysia's status today was through the efforts of Dr Mahathir.

What would have capped the newspapers' efforts would have been a personal account of the relationship between MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Dr Mahathir as both came to their current positions in 1981.

Nevertheless, the Tamil Nesan featured numerous articles on Dr Mahathir besides a pictorial tribute which included photographs of him in his childhood and youth. Malaysia Nanban's coverage of Dr Mahathir's career in words and pictures captured the high points of his days in office and private life.

The centrespread had colour pictures of Dr Mahathir with visiting heads of State and Government including one featuring him and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Topics covered included his youth, projects initiated by him that have turned the world's eyes towards Malaysia and his fearlessness in taking on adversaries.

Its editorial also spoke at length of his commitment towards making Malaysia a nation to be proud of. Malaysia Nanban urged Malaysians to ensure that they continued the principles outlined by Dr Mahathir.