

14/11/2003

Paragliders conquer straits

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Six Malaysians had their names listed in the Malaysia Book of Records today for being the first to cross the Straits of Malacca in motorised paragliders.

The six are International Islamic University (IIU) student Mahathir Mohd Nor, 24, IIU officer Mohamad Mos, 27, Malaysian Paramotor Association secretary Rohaizi Md Hussin, 33, Minggat Spencer, 45, William Wong, 49, and Kuching Paramotor Association member Chan Tai Long, 39.

The team members, led by Lt Kol (R) Basir Rahman, 53, paraglided a total of 33km from Kuah in Langkawi to Kuala Perlis on Sept 6 in 75 minutes.

Basir, however, failed to make it across the Straits when he ran out of fuel after flying to and fro between the members to keep them together and eventually had to land just off the mainland.

The six attributed their successful sea-crossing paragliding feat to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We took up his challenge and pushed ourselves to become high achievers," said Rohaizi.

Representing Malaysia Book of Records managing director Datuk Danny Ooi, MBR official Shazwan Zakariah presented the certificate to them in a simple ceremony at IIU today.

There was also a soft-launch of the university's Malaysia-Indonesia Paramotor Tour 2004, organised and launched by its Student Affairs and Development deputy rector Dr Mohd Daud Bakar.