

PM receives medallion that was flown to space

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today presented with a pewter medallion that had been flown into space aboard the space shuttle *Discovery*.

The 150gm medallion, specially minted by Selangor Pewter, was presented by the shuttle's astronaut, Col James Buchli, at the Prime Minister's office here.

The Prime Minister later handed the medallion, which portrays the Malaysian National Science Centre, over to Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding.

Col Buchli had earlier presented Mr Law with a Malaysian flag that was sent into orbit aboard the same space shuttle. Both the medallion and flag will be displayed at the National Science Centre when it is completed in May 1993.

Speaking to reporters later, Col Buchli said during the one-hour meeting with Dr Mahathir, they discussed the United States' space programmes, the procedure for

selecting astronauts and the types of experiments and qualifications needed for those who are not astronauts to be sent into space.

Mr Law said the medallion would be exhibited at Muzium Negara before being sent to the National Science Centre for permanent display.

The \$46 million centre, the construction of which started last month, would among other things, house several exhibition galleries incorporating distinctive Malaysian characteristics.

"The ultimate goal of the centre is to encourage the new and succeeding generations of Malaysians to become high-calibre scientists and technologists as our most potent resource is Malaysia's determined and relentless march to join the ranks of the developed nations by 2020," Mr Law said.

He also said that the centre had been admitted as a member of the Association of Science-Technology Centres based in Washington.

— Bernama.