

CNS3803

R GE 20-12 00226 EB729

eng

Mahathir-school

FRIENDS AND TEACHERS RELATE DR MAHATHIR'S SCHOOL LIFE

bm

ALOR SETAR, Dec 20 (Bernama) -- During recess, when the other students of Sekolah Rendah Seberang Perak were running around, the young Mahthir Mohamad and his brother, Mashahor, would only stand around holding on to the pillars.

"At home too they were not seen playing in the compound, they were not active," said teacher Haji Omar Mohamad in a talk on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's school life, here.

Haji Omar, who taught Dr Mahathir in Std One and Two, was among six former teachers and schoolmates invited to talk about the Dr Mahathir in the series sponsored by the National Archives in conjunction with the first anniversary of launching of the house where Dr Mahathir was born in Seberang Perak, here.

Haji Omar, who then lived next door to them, said he only taught the two brothers for two years because after that, their father, Mohamad Iskandar, sent them to the Government English School now known as Sultan Abdul Hamid College.

In Std Three, Dr Mahathir, his brother, and a cousin studied the Quran at home with Haji Zakaria Mohamad Noor, better known as Pak Long Ya, who taught them daily for two years. -- more

AMJ JK

▼20/12/17-03MST

CNS3811

R GE 20-12 00186 EB731

eng

Rptg inserting dropped word in para 1
Mahathir-school 2 Alor Setar

Dr Mahathir's English and Malay language teacher in Std Five, Haji Mohamad Zain Abdul Rashid, said Dr Mahathir was a shy kid who loved to sit in the corner of the class.

He recalled that the boy used to carry a bag filled with books which appeared too heavy for his small frame.

Haji Zain, who was selected Tokoh Guru 1982, said although quiet, Dr Mahathir was a brave boy and it was for his courage that he was now known.

Dr Mahathir's schoolmate at the Government English School, Haji Ahmad Ariffin, said Dr Mahathir, as a librarian tasked with buying the magazines for the students during the weekends, got to read them first and to learn the new English words.

This raised the ire of his friends but Dr Mahathir would tell them that he had to edit the magazines first because he did not want them to read unsuitable materials, Haji Ahmad said. -- more

AMJ JK

▼20/12/17-05MST

CNS3812

R GE 20-12 00149 EB732

eng

Mahathir-school 3 (last) Alor Setar

Haji Ahmad, who knew the prime minister since 1938, said Dr Mahathir's involvement in the literary field started when he was appointed chief editor of the school's magazine, Majalah Darul Aman.

He pursued this interest until he joined University Malaya in Singapore and had written features on the Malays in the Sunday Times.

Haji Ahmad said one of Dr Mahathir's traits was that he would criticise anyone irrespective of who that person was and he had even opposed the school principal, Kapt Morrison, in a debate.

The other two schoolmates who spoke were Haji Haji Osman Abu Bakar and Haji Mohamad Bahar Abdul Hamid.

Present were Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Abdul Raman Suliman and National Archives Director-General Datuk Zakiah Hanum Abdul Hamid. -- Bernama

AMJ JK

▼20/12/17-06MST