

King, PM attend special prayer for rain

KUALA LUMPUR: The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah yesterday joined a congregation of almost 1,000 people at Istana Negara's main surau here in performing *solat istisqa* (special prayer for rain) to ease the worsening haze that has affected several parts of the country.

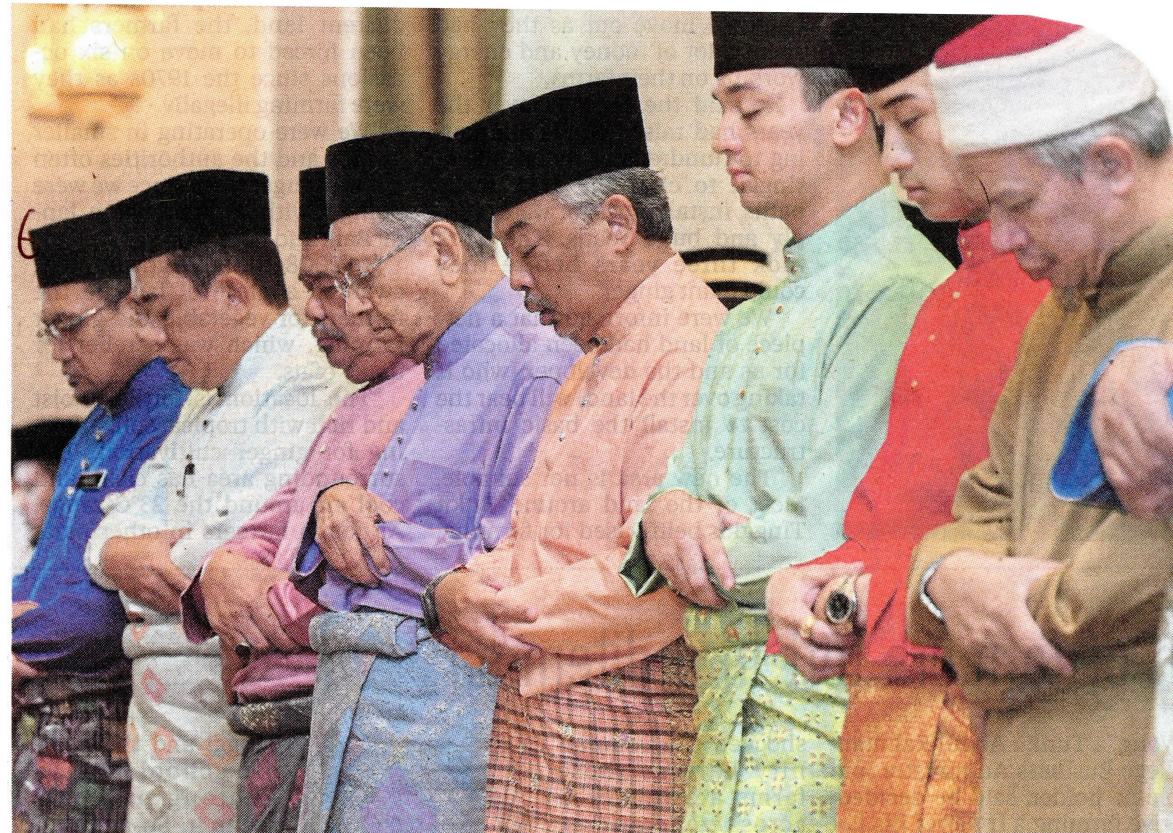
The special prayer, led by Federal Territories mufti Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri, was held after the Friday prayers.

Present were Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu, Armed Forces chief General Tan Sri Zulkifli Zainal Abidin and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador.

All mosques across the country have also been urged to hold the special prayer yesterday.

The forest fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan had caused trans-boundary haze and impacted the air quality and increased Air Pollutant Index (API) readings in several states in the peninsula as well as Sabah and Sarawak.

Earlier, Royal Malaysia Police



Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and dignitaries praying at the main surau of Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

Integrity and Standard Compliance Department assistant director (Religious) Assistant Commissioner Ghazali Daud read the special sermon in conjunction with the Warriors' Day celebration this month before leading the Friday prayer.

The Warriors' Day celebration, held annually on July 31, was first

rescheduled to make way for several events in conjunction with the installation ceremony of Al-Sultan Abdullah as Malaysia's 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong on July 30 and was postponed again due to the haze.

The king arrived at the surau at 1.10pm, accompanied by his two sons, Tengku Muhammad Iskan-

dar Ri'ayatuddin Shah and Tengku Ahmad Ismail Mu'adzam Shah.

The Friday prayer was aired live on RTM1. **Bernama**

Page 1 pic: Special prayers at Masjid Wilayah Persekutuan in Kuala Lumpur yesterday for an end to the haze.