



THE LONGEST ... SK Taman Muda pupils hold up the KUIM khat to be measured. — picture by RAJA SHAMSUL BAHREN

# 'Khat' makes the cut for Malaysia Book of Records

THE hard work that 30 students from Kolej Universiti Islam Malaysia (KUIM) had put in paid off when their entry was certified by the Malaysia Book of Records as the longest *khat* (Islamic calligraphy) writing in the country.

Malaysia Book of Records representative Jasni Ibrahim certified the length of the *khat* writing as 271.7m at the KUIM campus in Kuala Lumpur last Saturday.

"It will be included in the fourth edition of the *Malaysia Book of Records*," he said after the massive piece of canvas cloth was unfurled and measured.

Student Sharaliza Talim said special writing blocks were used to print the verses of the *Surah Yassin* on the canvas while the rest of the designs were done by hand." According to her, the

students worked on the project during the previous semester break.

KUIM board of directors chairman Tan Sri Dr Mohamad Yusof Noor was present to put the final touches to the project before it was held up by pupils of SK Taman Muda to be measured.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Mohamad Yusof said the Government had set up the university college to encourage students who wish to take up Islamic Studies to do so in Malaysia.

"These students often prefer to do their degrees in the Middle East.

"This does not mean we are stopping them from going overseas to take up Islamic Studies. We just want to ensure their degrees are completed at institutions recognised by the Government," he said.

He also said the permanent KUIM

campus was being built in Nilai.

"The new campus should be ready by the middle of 2004," he said, adding that the university was looking into setting up two new faculties, namely Science and Medicine.

There are currently four faculties: *Syariah dan Kehakiman, Pengajian Quran dan Sunnah, Dakwah dan Pengurusan Islam*, and *Ekonomi dan Muamalat* (Syariah and Jurisprudence, Quranic and Sunnah Studies, Islamic Mission and Management, and Economy and Muamalat).

Dr Mohamad Yusof said eventually 45% of the student population would comprise post-graduates.

"We started our post-graduate programme this year and seven students have registered so far," he said. — by

KAREN CHAPMAN