

■ By Michael Sun



A TOTAL of 10,386 graduates received their scrolls in three convocations at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) this year.

"Each year, UPM holds 15 sessions to confer academic scrolls," said Chek Zan Kasah UPM senior deputy registrar.

"Over three days commencing on a Saturday for each of the convocations, five ceremonial sessions of three-hour durations each were conducted," she added.

In July, 4,092 graduates received their scrolls in the second convocation.

In the third convocation last month, 3,138 graduates received their scrolls.

Razik Hussein Mohamed Ganny, who graduated with a Bachelor of Computer Science with a major in software engineering, received the highest award: Chancellor's Gold Award.

This was followed by Muhamad Nor Asnawi Saaman, a Bachelor of Accountancy graduate, and Ang Ley Poh, a Bachelor of Science graduate with a major in biotechnology, who were awarded the Anugerah Pelajaran DiRaja.

Four key officials preside over convocation ceremonies. They are UPM chancel-

lor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah of Selangor, pro-chancellors Tan Sri Thong Yaw Hong and Tan Sri Dr Nayan Ariffin and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Muhamad Zohadie Bardaie.

"More women than men graduate," Chek Zan added.

"This proportion is a ratio of 60 women to 40 men. However, more men than women graduate in the engineering vocations," she said. The proportion for graduates in science and technology as compared with graduates in the social sciences was also 60 to 40, she said.

There is also a growing trend among working students to choose long-distance learning at UPM. "In 2004 there were 1,162 graduates in the long-distance programme and of this number 1,142 graduated in September," she added.

They had undertaken first-degree programmes in

# Working students prefer long-distance learning



**ROYAL TOUCH:** Sultan Sharafuddin with UPM's top graduates.

Linguistics, Arts, Communication, Science and Education majoring in counselling.

For part-time executive

programmes, 52 graduates were from the Faculty of Modern Languages while 252 graduated from the Faculty of Economics.

For the year as a whole, 97 graduates received their Doctor of Philosophy and 1,272 master's degrees. Also, 7,826 including those

in the long-distance and executive programmes obtained their first-degrees and 1,191 received diplomas at UPM convocations.