

# Singh to motivate dropouts to stay

## Swings deal with education officials



●Singh (right) with Musa

**T**he Leadership Character Development Institute, a Malaysian run non-governmental organisation, is working on a scheme to reduce the high rate of dropouts among school children here.

Its Director, M. Singh said 350,000 children dropped out before reaching grade five.

The dropout rate for grade one to five, he said in the region of 69%.

The main causes of drop out include poverty and lack of motivation.

Singh said some pupils

also did not attend classes regularly because they need to work to help the family income.

It also led them eventually dropping out.

The institute has branches in all provinces and cities,

where classes are provided in vocational skills, languages and motivation.

It has 1,200 full time trainees, who are provided tuition, board and lodging.

In addition, 3,000 others are day-time participants in courses.

The institute is run by 44 volunteers, including 11 foreigners.

Singh made these points while briefing the visiting Malaysian Minister of Education, Musa Mohamad who visited LCDI's main facility off Pochentong Boulevard last week.

Singh said talks have been held with officials of the education department for the project, details of which are being worked out.

## Education pact signed with Malaysia



■Cambodia and Malaysia signed an agreement for cooperation in the education sector.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Tol Lah and the visiting Malaysian Minister of Education, Musa Mohamad [right] inked the deal.

Under the agreement, there will be bilateral exchanges of personnel and material to promote higher standards of education in both countries.

Musa Mohamad, also met the Cabinet Minister, Sok An during the two-day visit.