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MAHATHIR-TOKYO
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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 17 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT DISMISSED PRESS REPORTS THAT HE WILL VISIT TOKYO NEXT MONTH TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS FACED BY MALAYSIA FOLLOWING THE RISE IN THE VALUE OF THE YEN.

+THE REPORTS ARE NOT TRUE,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CLOSING THE NATIONAL LEVEL POLICE QURAN READING COMPETITION HERE.

A SINGAPORE NEWSPAPER QUOTING SOURCES HERE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRIP TO TOKYO WAS TO DISCUSS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT THE DATE AND AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WERE STILL BEING WORKED OUT.

THE REPORT ALSO SAID THAT THE DISCUSSIONS APART FROM FOCUSING ON THE RISE IN THE VALUE OF THE YEN WOULD ALSO TOUCH ON THE ENTRY OF EXPORTS FROM THIRD WORLD NATIONS INTO THE JAPANESE MARKET AND A REQUEST FOR MORE JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN MALAYSIA. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-TOKYO 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ANSWERING A QUESTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE RECEIVED THE PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) APPLICATION TO JOIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL WHEN POLLING WAS IN PROGRESS FOR THE SABAH ELECTION.

PBS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN HAD SAID THAT THE PARTY HAD SUBMITTED THE APPLICATION PERSONALLY BEFORE THE ELECTION.

ON SPECULATION THAT TRANSPORT MINISTRY SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK ISHAK TADIN WILL BE APPOINTED THE NEW AUDITOR-GENERAL, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT DECIDED ON THIS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD A NUMBER OF NAMES IN MIND BUT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE.

THE APPOINTMENT NEEDED THE CONSENT OF THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG, HE SAID.

-- BERNAMA

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