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Mahathir-talks (Incorporating story sent earlier)

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will meet President Suharto for annual talks in the Indonesian capital on Friday.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the talks would be a routine one to discuss bilateral matters.

The discussions would focus on bilateral relations and, possibly, international developments, he told reporters after officiating +Dokumenta+, an art exhibition to mark the opening of Artiquarium, at Wisma Loke here.

The Prime Minister said he would also meeting Singapore Prime Minister Encik Goh Chok Tong and other Asean leaders for informal talks in Bali.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and Encik Goh will be attending a seminar on the Asean countries and the world economy organised by the New York-based Asia Society in Bali beginning Sunday.

Also expected at the seminar, to be opened by President Suharto, is Sultan Hassanul Bolkiah of Brunei.

Another Asean leader who had earlier confirmed attendance was Gen Chatchai Choonhavan of Thailand who was ousted as Prime Minister in last Saturday's military coup and he is now unlikely to make the trip.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the three-day seminar on Monday before leaving for Batam Island the following day. -- more

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Mahathir-talks 2 Kuala Lumpur

In JAKARTA, an Indonesian state secretariat spokesman said today the four-eyed meeting between Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and President Suharto had been tentatively fixed to be held at the Presidential office in the afternoon after Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's arrival from Kuala Lumpur.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who will be accompanied by Foreign Minister, Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, will later attend a dinner at the State Palace, he added.

The two leaders last met in Kuala Lumpur last year during the G-15 meeting.

The spokesman said no agenda had been fixed for the meeting but bilateral, regional and international issues were likely to feature as in the previous meeting.

While the Prime Minister visits Batam, his wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah will return to Jakarta to lead the Association of wives of ministers and deputy ministers (BAKTI), which she heads, for a six-day visit beginning Wednesday.

The delegation will call on President Suharto and Ibu Tien at the Merdeka Palace on Thursday before meeting their Indonesian counterpart known as Ria Pembangunan.

They will also make a two-day trip to the central Java province of Jogjakarta to visit the ancient temple of Borobudur and have an audience with Sultan Hamengkubuwono IX, one of Indonesia's few surviving royalty.

The Bakti delegation will also distribute donations to orphanages before returning to Kuala Lumpur on March 11. -- Bernama

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