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Mahathir-talks

by Sukardi Abdul Ghany

JAKARTA, FEB 28. (Bernama) -- Senior officials from Malaysia arrived heretoday to prepare for Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's meeting with President Suharto tomorrow.

The officials, who arrived on board a Royal Malaysian Air Force F28 aircraft, included four Secretaries-general of various ministries, Armed Forces chief Jen. Tan Sri Hashim Mohammed Ali, Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Mohammad Noor and Director-General in the Prime Minister's Department, Tan Sri Ahmad Mohamad Yusuf.

The Secretaries-general were Datuk Ahmad Kamil Jaafar (Foreign Ministry), Datuk Zainol Mahmood (Home Affairs), Datuk Haji Shaharuddin Haji Haron (International Trade and Industry) and Tan Sri Wong Kam Choon (Primary Industries).

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is due to arrive here tomorrow morning for a scheduled +four-eyed+ meeting with President Suharto later in the afternoon under the framework of their annual consultative talks.

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

Arriving with the Prime Minister tomorrow are Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohammed Ali, Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar and the Malaysian Special Representative to the United Nations, Datuk Musa Hitam. -- more

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A senior official said Datuk Musa will accompany the Prime Minister to the International Conference on the Asean countries and the World Economy in Bali beginning Sunday.

The three-day conference, to be opened by President Suharto, will also be attended by Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Sultan Hassanah Bolkihah of Brunei and other foreign dignitaries. It is organised by the New York-based Asia Society.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir will leave for Bali on Saturday while Datuk Abu Hassan returns to Kuala Lumpur the same day, the official said.

Minister of Culture and Tourism Datuk Sabbarudin Chik is also scheduled to be in Bali on Sunday to attend the inauguration of a new five-star hotel on the renowned resort island by President Suharto.

A spokesman of Indonesia's Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), said Malaysian Education Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had also confirmed attendance to present a working paper at the Bali conference. -- more

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He is replacing Finance Minister Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin who was earlier scheduled to present a paper at the conference, the spokesman of the local organisers said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is to deliver a keynote address at a dinner on Monday before he leaves for Batam Island in Riau province on Tuesday morning.

Another delegation from Kuala Lumpur will join him for the visit. They include Datuk Abu Hassan, Datuk Paduka Daim and Johor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yasin.

Batam is the Indonesian part of the growth triangle which also includes Johor Baharu and Singapore. -- Bernama