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Visit-Press

BANGLADESH PRESS HAILS DR MAHATHIR'S VISIT

From Shafiqul Bashir

DHAKA, Feb 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's just-concluded visit to Bangladesh has won praise from the local newspapers, which described it as having paved the way for greater cooperation between the two countries.

Major national dailies published editorials Tuesday saying the visit would strengthen bilateral relations between Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir paid a three-day official visit to Bangladesh which ended on Sunday.

The Daily Star, a leading English daily, said the visit had created new avenues for possible growth in bilateral relations.

In its editorial entitled "Towards Stronger Ties With Malaysia", the paper said Bangladesh's relation with Malaysia was important from many aspects, adding that "there is of course the affinity that grows out of being part of the exploited south."

It said the affinity was strengthened by the similarity of culture and religion. -- more

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It said many useful ideas had emerged during the visit and agreement was reached on some of them.

"What we have to do now is to build on them," it said, expressing the hope that Bangladesh would build on the initiatives that the visit has set in motion.

Dainik Bangla, a vernacular daily of Dhaka, in its "Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur Friendship" editorial, said the visit would remain a milestone in the history of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Stressing the need for rapid industrialisation in Bangladesh, it said "Malaysia can help us with meaningful cooperation in this regard."

The New Nation, another English daily, said the visit was a boost to friendship, pointing out that the economies of the two countries were complementary to some degree. -- more

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It said Bangladesh could export manpower to meet Malaysia's need while many commodities could be traded for their mutual benefits.

The Bangladesh Times, in its editorial entitled "Pledge To Enhance Cooperation", said the visit would expand the spheres of cooperation and open a new chapter in relations between Bangladesh and Malaysia.

"The geo-physical location, religious and cultural background and economic imperatives all dictate close cooperation between the two countries," it said.

The Telegraph, another national daily, in its editorial, mentioned Dr Mahathir's visit to the export-processing zone (EPZ) in Chittagong on Feb 14 and commented on the possibility of Malaysia investing in Bangladesh.

Vernacular daily Inqulab said Dr Mahathir's visit would help to initiate joint-venture projects and increase bilateral trade between the two countries. -- Bernama

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