

CNS5937

U GE 03-08 00211 KA005

see the

Mahathir-Brunei

M'SIA AND BRUNEI WILL NOT ALLOW DISPUTE TO IRRITATE RELATIONSHIP
from Ali Mamat

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Aug. 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Brunei will not allow minor disputes to become irritants in the relationship between the two countries, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today. Both countries did not believe in friction and whatever problems existed would be discussed in a friendly manner, he told a press conference at the end of his three-day visit to Brunei.

He said while there were overlapping claims by both countries over certain land and sea areas, there must be some basis for settlement.

He added: "And if we can agree on that basis, then we are well on the way to tackling the problem."

"But, whatever it is, even if it takes a long time, we are not going to allow this minor dispute to irritate our relationship. Despite having this border problem, we will continue to be very good friends."

Dr Mahathir said the existing boundaries were drawn during the British colonial era and both sides were of the opinion that there existed overlapping claims which needed to be rectified. -- more

AM LDB

▼03/08/17-24MST

CNS5942

U GE 03-08 00176 KA006

see the

Mahathir-Brunei 2 (last) Bandar Seri Begawan

During his meeting with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah yesterday, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in various fields, including education, religion and military.

"In the military sector, we have agreed to use whatever common facilities available and suitable to both countries," he said.

He said he was made to understand that Brunei was acquiring the British-made "Hawk" jet aircraft, the same as those being bought by Malaysia, thus raising the possibility of both countries using similar training and servicing facilities.

Dr Mahathir, who earlier in the day visited the unique water settlement of Kampung Ayer, near here, said Malaysia would adopt the concept of the village to promote tourism.

All the houses in the settlement which has a population of about 27,000 were built on stilts in the Brunei River.

It has been in existence since the 16th century and Portuguese circumnavigator Ferdinand Magellan had referred to it as a city. -- Bernama

AM LDB

▼03/08/17-26MST