

Dr Mahathir and Goh hold bilateral talks

By Ravi Nambiar

SINGAPORE, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Singapore counterpart, Goh Chok Tong, held talks on various bilateral and multi-lateral matters today.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a two-

day private visit here, met Goh when he made a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at the Istana this morning.

Also present was High Commissioner Datuk Emam Manan and Singapore Foreign Ministry permanent secretary Kishore Mahubani.

After the hour-long meeting, the two leaders adjourned for lunch at the famous Raffles Hotel here, where they were also joined by their wives and several senior Singapore Cabinet ministers.

They included Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister

Dr Tony Tan, Foreign Minister Professor S. Jayakumar and Information Minister Brigadier General (retired) George Yeo.

Approached by reporters after lunch, Dr Mahathir said he and

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Singapore keen to develop KTM land

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Goh discussed several bilateral and multi-lateral issues.

Asked to elaborate, he said the talks, among others, centred on Johor's water supply agreement with Singapore and plans by the republic to redevelop 32ha of prime land in Tanjung Pagar belonging to KTM Berhad.

Singapore has been buying untreated water from Malaysia at three sen per 4,540 litres under the Johor Water Supply Agreement signed in 1962.

But the agreement allows for a revision of the sale

price after 20 years and this is now being negotiated.

Singapore is also negotiating with Malaysia on the redevelopment of the KTM land in Tanjung Pagar. The republic wants KTM to shift its existing station there to Bukit Timah, which is nearer the Woodlands immigration check point.

But Malaysia has made it clear that it will not vacate the land as there is no provision for this in the 1990 agreement signed between the two countries. Singapore, however, is still keen to acquire and redevelop the property.

Asked if any settlements were reached during his

talks with Goh, Dr Mahathir said they had merely discussed the issues and would "get our officials to work out the details".

On regional matters, he said they also discussed about Asean in general and the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), which is aimed at bringing together East Asian nations so that they could consult each other on trade and economic matters.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here yesterday, is accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah and their two young children, Mazura and Mazahar.

Last night he was the

guest-of-honor at the Singapore Medical Alumni Association's 72nd reunion dinner at Westin Stamford Hotel here.

The association comprises ex-members of the King Edwards VII College of Medicine and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya and Singapore.

The Prime Minister and his family today visited the Singapore Museum, the Singapore Science Centre, which is hosting an exhibition on dinosaurs and the Suntec City Convention and Exhibition Complex.

They left for Langkawi this evening.