

29 FEB 1996

DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR ASIA-EUROPE MEETING IN BANGKOK '''

LANGKAWI, Feb 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left here this afternoon for Bangkok to attend the two-day inaugural summit of Asian and European leaders beginning tomorrow.

Leaders from 10 Asian countries, including the seven Asean member countries, and 15 from European nations will be attending the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in the Thai capital.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff was among those who saw the couple off at the Langkawi International Airport.

Earlier today, Dr Mahathir flagged off the inaugural Le Tour de Langkawi cycle race which would take 138 participants from 18 countries around this legendary island and throughout all states in Peninsular Malaysia over the next 11 days. -- BERNAMA

MFJ AAM