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DR MAHATHIR OPENS THIRD PACIFIC DIALOGUE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today opened the Third Pacific Dialogue, a forum to discuss political and economic cooperation, at the Istana Hotel here.

The two-day event is jointly organised by the Institute for Strategic and International Studies (Isis) Malaysia, Institute for Policy Research Malaysia and the United States' Asia Pacific Policy Centre.

Also present was Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Earlier, seven US Senators called on Dr Mahathir at the hotel. They are Sam Nunn, William Cohen, Christopher Bond, Susan Collins, Bill Frist, Slade Gorton and Fred Thompson.

The senators are among some 50 delegates from 12 countries attending the dialogue.

Anwar is leading the 11-member Malaysian delegation which includes Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamad, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Affifudin Haji Omar, Deputy Education Minister Dr Fong Chan Onn and Deputy Health Minister Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman. -- BERNAMA

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