

25 MAR 1996

MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR NEW ZEALAND VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, March 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for New Zealand today for a four-day visit aimed at further strengthening good relations between the two countries.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were seen off at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and a host of Cabinet members.

Among those accompanying Dr Mahathir on his trip are International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad.

He is scheduled to hold talks with his New Zealand counterpart Jim Bolger in Wellington and attend a function organised by the New Zealand-Malaysia Business Council in Auckland.

Dr Mahathir is also expected to inaugurate the Chair in Malay Studies at Victoria University and launch the New Zealand-Asia Institute at Auckland University. -- BERNAMA

MAM LDB