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PM TO VISIT KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND KAZAKHSTAN

KUALA LUMPUR, July 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will visit the Kyrgyz Republic from July 15 to 18 and Kazakhstan from July 18 to 20 to establish closer bilateral relations and promote trade and economic ties.

The visits to the Central Asian states are the first by a Malaysian Prime Minister, said a Wisma Putra statement today.

The visits are at the invitation of Kyrgyz Republic President Askar Akayev and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev who made official trips to Malaysia in July last year and May this year, respectively.

Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, and several Cabinet ministers and Menteris Besar.

The delegation will also include senators, members of Parliament, senior government officials, a large group of businessmen and a cultural troupe. -- BERNAMA

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