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Cultural accord signed as basis for annual day

A CULTURAL agreement was signed on Thursday by the Culture ministers from the D-8 countries to provide the framework to organise an annual cultural day in each of the countries.

The agreement called for the setting up of a joint committee to carry out cultural exchange programmes and other related activities.

The ministers agreed to increase cultural exchanges, to organise annual academic meetings where issues of socio-economic equality will be discussed and to protect cultural values.

One of the most important points of the declaration was the resolution on repeating culture and art festivals like the first one this year in Istanbul.

Fourteen Malaysian senior officials attended the fourth commission-level meeting which ended yesterday.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will arrive here from London tomorrow with Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali to attend the summit.

After the pre-council meeting, he is scheduled to call on Prof Dr Necmettin Erbakan at the hotel at 6pm (11pm Malaysia time) before receiving a courtesy call from the Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He will attend a state dinner hosted by the President Demirel for heads of governments and summit delegates at the Dolmabahce Palace Gardens or Beylerbeyi Palace.

Dr Mahathir will attend the summit meeting when the President is scheduled to give an opening speech.

A lunch will be hosted by Erbakan on board two cruise ships during a tour of the Bosphorus.

Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to witness the ground breaking ceremony of the Istanbul Metro City Project and the signing ceremony of the summit declaration.

He will call on Demirel on Sunday. On Monday he will call on Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Indonesia's President Suharto. Dr Mahathir is scheduled to depart on the same day for Beirut.

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