

08 SEP 1997

Mahathir-Mongolia

MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR MONGOLIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Ulan Bator today for a four-day official visit to Mongolia to be followed by a three-day trip to the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Prime Minister's visits to the two countries were to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance economic cooperation.

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

The prime minister's entourage includes Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik, Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Chong Kah Kiat and Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Abu Zahar Isnin.

The 66-member business delegation is led by Malaysia Mining Corporation Berhad chief executive Tan Sri Ibrahim Menudin.

Among those present at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang to see off Dr Mahathir were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail.

In Mongolia, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to hold talks with his counterpart M.Enkhsaikhan and also witness the signing of bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU).

With a population of nearly 2.5 million, Mongolia's economy is mainly on food processing, textile, chemical and cement.

Dr Mahathir is expected to return home on Sept 14. -- BERNAMA
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