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Mahathir-G15

PRIME MINISTER OBSERVES PREPARATIONS AT G15 SUMMIT VENUE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today toured the newly-opened Palace of the Golden Horses here, venue of the seventh Group of 15 summit which will begin on Nov 3.

He was briefed on the preparations for the conference by Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Abdul Kadir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir later inspected facilities provided by the hotel which took 22 months to complete, in time for the conference, to be attended by heads of governments of the G-15 member countries.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir witnessed the signing of two contracts to upgrade the capabilities of the MiG-29 aircraft used by the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF), after he visited the TechXchange Fair at the Mines International Exhibition Centre.

The first contract is between the Malaysian government and Aerospace Technology Systems Corp Sdn Bhd (ATSC) and the second is between the ATSC and the Moscow Aircraft Production Organisation "MiG" (MAPO MiG) and the State Corporation Rosvoorouzhenie.

The modification work prescribed under the contract would be undertaken by ATSC at its aircraft maintenance complex in Kuantan in collaboration with MAPO MiG, the aircraft manufacturer, and Rosvoorouzhenie.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Russian ambassador to Malaysia, Vitalay Vorobyev. The modification works entail the incorporation of aerial refueling capabilities and the enhancement of various systems.

Defence Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Azizan Hussein signed on behalf of the Malaysian government, while MAPO MiG was represented by its deputy director-general, Trifinov Victor Petrovich, and Skoibeda Vassili Vladimir-orich signed for Rosvoorouzhenie.

The signing of the two contracts marked an important milestone in the development of technological and trade relationships between Malaysia and Russia.

The ATSC was formed in 1995 as a result of a memorandum of understanding signed between the Malaysian government, MAPO MiG and Rosvoorouzhenie on June 7, 1994. The company is majority-owned by the Ministry of Finance Incorporated and was formed to provide total system support for the RMAF MiG-29 aircraft and related systems and equipment. --
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