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DR M HOPES JAPAN, OTHER G-7 NATIONS WILL DO MORE TO HELP ASIAN ECONOMIES

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today hoped that Japan and other Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries would do more to help Asian economies severely affected by the currency crisis.

However, he also said that he was not very hopeful about their possible actions.

Dr Mahathir was asked for his views on whether Japan and other G-7 nations should play a more active role in reviving battered Asian economies.

He had earlier officiated the MasterCentre at the Malaysian Technology Park in Bukit Jalil near here.

US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and his deputy, Lawrence Summers, had criticised Japan ahead of the G-7 finance ministers meeting in London last weekend for not doing enough to stimulate its own economy that might improve demand for Asian products.

However, Japanese officials said their government had not been sitting still on the matter and was preparing new aid for financially-troubled economies. -- BERNAMA

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