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APEC-NEWS-BILATERALS

DR MAHATHIR HAS TIGHT SCHEDULE HOLDING BILATERALS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has a tight schedule today and tomorrow, holding bilateral meetings with a host of world leaders on the sidelines of the Apec Summit.

Among them are Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Australian Prime Minister John Howard and President B.J. Habibie of Indonesia, according to the meeting schedules issued by the Apec secretariat.

Dr Mahathir is the Chair of this year's Apec summit, the sixth of the informal meetings held annually.

Today, Dr Mahathir started the bilaterals by meeting South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung at the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel, the venue of the Apec meetings.

They discussed matters of mutual interest during the 30-minute meeting.

Thereafter, Dr Mahathir met his Singapore counterpart Goh Chok Tong. This will be followed by a meeting with Dr Chiang Pin-Kung, who is representing Chinese Taipei President Lee Ting Hui at the two-day summit.

Others on the list are Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir will meet Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, Chilean President Eduardo Frei and New Zealand Prime premier Jenny Shipley, the only woman leader attending the summit.

Dr Mahathir will also meet Habibie and Jiang tomorrow and hold consultations with leaders of Asean countries.

-- BERNAMA

MR TS