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Mahathir-Brunei

DR MAHATHIR HOLDS TALKS WITH SULTAN OF BRUNEI

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today held discussions with Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah on the financial and economic crisis in the region at the Shangri-La Hotel here.

Their talks which started at 11.30 am were expected to centre on the latest developments in the region's economies, especially in coordinating efforts to overcome the crisis.

Sultan Hassanal arrived here last night for an overnight working visit.

He was accompanied by his younger brother, Prince Jefri Bolkiah, who is the chairman of the Brunei Investment Agency, the Brunei government's investment arm, and secretaries-general Yahya Bakar (Finance Ministry), Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman (Prime Minister's Department) and Lim Jock Seng (Foreign Ministry).

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Thursday that the purpose of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's trip was to have discussions with Dr Mahathir "especially in the context of coordinating efforts to overcome the crisis."

The two leaders last met on Feb 18 when Dr Mahathir made an overnight trip to Bandar Seri Begawan.

Dr Mahathir said after that meeting that Brunei had agreed to the proposal to use regional currencies for trade among Asean member countries.

The proposal is being studied by several other Asean countries including Singapore.

Sultan Hassanal is scheduled to depart home after attending a luncheon hosted by Dr Mahathir at the hotel.--BERNAMA

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