

10 FEB 1998

Hariri-Departure

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR HOME

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri left here today after a two-day visit to further enhance bilateral ties between Lebanon and Malaysia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang near here to bid him farewell.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir called on him at the hotel where he resided during his stay here.

Hariri and his eight-member delegation including Minister of State for Financial Affairs Fouad Saniora departed on a special aircraft at 4pm.

This morning, Hariri visited the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida) and the world's tallest building, the Petronas twin tower.

The Lebanese leader also presented a talk at a luncheon organised by the Association of Banks Malaysia.

Yesterday, Hariri held discussions with Dr Mahathir and had an audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar at Istana Negara.

In conjunction with the visit, he and Dr Mahathir signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of information and broadcasting.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz is scheduled to visit Lebanon this month to further upgrade trade relations between the two countries.

The volume of trade between the two countries totalled US\$20.1 million last year.

Hariri's visit was at the invitation of Dr Mahathir. It was his second visit in three years.

Dr Mahathir visited Beirut in June last year. -- BERNAMA

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