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Mahathir-Thailand

MAHATHIR HAS 2-HOUR MEETING WITH CHUAN LEEKPAI

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight held talks in Bangkok with Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai on the financial and economic situation in this region.

According to Foreign Ministry Under Secretary for Southeast Asia and the South Pacific Mohd Arshad M.Hussein who is with the Prime Minister in Bangkok, the four-eyed meeting which began at 5.30pm local time took place at the Thai Prime Minister's Office and lasted more than two hours.

"Dr Mahathir also wanted to see for himself the real economic situation in Thailand," he told Bernama by phone.

They also discussed the proposed use of local currencies in intra Asean Trade.

After the talks Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah attended a banquet hosted by the Thai Prime Minister.

Tomorrow before leaving for Manila Dr Mahathir will visit the Malaysian Embassy and host a Hari Raya open house for the Malaysian community in Bangkok.

In Manila Dr Mahathir will hold talks with President Fidel Ramos at the Malacanang Palace.

The talks will focus on the use of Asean currencies to settle intra-regional import-export trade payments and to lessen dependence on the US dollar which had been blamed for Asia's currency meltdown.

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