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Mahathir-Singapore
SINGAPORE PM MEETS MAHATHIR

SEPANG, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Singapore counterpart, Goh Chok Tong, met today on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, less than a week after Goh said that the republic wanted to put its ties with Malaysia back on keel.

Goh, who arrived here today, met Dr Mahathir at the Bilik Bunga Raya VVIP room at the KL International Airport here.

After their meeting, the two leaders are expected to adjourn to the Pan Pacific Hotel next to the airport for lunch.

The last time the two leaders met was at the joint opening of the second Malaysia-Singapore crossing, in April this year.

Ties between Malaysia and Singapore have been strained in recent months over several issues including the location of Malaysia's rail, immigration and customs facilities at the Tanjong Pagar railway station, the request for more water supply from Malaysia and the status of pension savings of Peninsular Malaysians working in Singapore.

Malaysia was given an extension of another one-and-a-half months to present its legal argument to maintain its rail, immigration and customs facilities at Tanjong Pagar after asking Singapore for more time following the expiry of the deadline on Oct 31.

Goh was quoted as saying in Singapore last Sunday that Singapore wanted good relations with Malaysia and that it was not in the interest of either country to have poor relations.

The Singapore leader was commenting on the recent statement by Dr Mahathir that Malaysia-Singapore ties had taken a turn for the better.

Goh, who will be meeting Dr Mahathir again at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting in Kuala Lumpur this month, said he sensed that both sides wanted to get back on keel.

He also agreed with Dr Mahathir that they both had a sound relationship.

-- BERNAMA
ES RM