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DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR DHAKA TO ATTEND D8 SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Dhaka today to attend the second summit of the group of eight developing countries (D8) scheduled for two days beginning tomorrow.

On hand to send off Dr Mahathir and his wife, Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang near here were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and several ministers.

The prime minister and other D8 leaders will be delivering country statements at the opening of the summit which will be held at the Winter Garden conference centre at the Sheraton Hotel, tomorrow.

On the second day of the summit, Dr Mahathir and other leaders will be retreating on a river cruise on board the "Mahsud", at Pagla Ghat.

While in Dhaka, Dr Mahathir will also join the Malaysian community at a dinner hosted by Malaysian High Commissioner Datuk Zulkifly Abdul Rahman.

The prime minister will also be laying a wreath at the Bangladesh Savar Smriti Shoudha national monument.

He is also scheduled to call on Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The prime minister is expected to take the opportunity to meet several leaders to express Malaysia's views on international issues including the current financial crisis being experienced by Asian countries including Malaysia.

Set up in 1997 at its first summit in Istanbul, the D8 comprises Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

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