

19 MAY 1999

Hamid-Indonesia

DR MAHATHIR AND HABIBIE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES AND ECONOMY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Indonesian President B.J. Habibie are expected to discuss bilateral issues and share experience in tackling the current economic slowdown when they meet in Batam island tomorrow.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today that among other things, the two leaders would discuss cooperation and how to further improve it and exchange experience in tackling various issues including the economic problems of both countries.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to meet Habibie in Nongsa, Batam island, tomorrow morning before starting a two-day official visit to Johor.

On his visit to Brunei which ended yesterday, Syed Hamid told reporters that among the things he discussed with his counterpart, Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, were ways to facilitate travel between the two countries.

He said travel between Brunei and Sabah and Sarawak was time-consuming and involved red tape like passport requirement and so forth.

Syed Hamid also said that the meeting of the Malaysia-Brunei Joint Commission which was to have been held last year would take place this year but the date had yet to be fixed.

"The commission will be at ministerial level. This is the best forum to resolve any problem," he said.

Syed Hamid, he discussed ways to strengthen Asean during his courtesy on Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah.

-- BERNAMA

AR JK