

10 NOV 1999

Mahathir-Audience

DR MAHATHIR MEETS KING AMIDST SPECULATION OF SNAP ELECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today had an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong at Istana Negara here.

Dr Mahathir arrived at the Istana at 9am for a half-an-hour audience with the King, a palace official said.

News photographers at the palace gate later saw Dr Mahathir and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi leaving the palace grounds together in one limousine.

The official said Abdullah arrived earlier for a pre-Cabinet Meeting audience with the King at 8.30am.

After the audience, Dr Mahathir and Abdullah left for Putrajaya to attend the weekly Cabinet meeting.

The prime minister is also scheduled to meet menteri besar and chief ministers at Putrajaya at 12.30 pm today.

Speculation of a snap election being called anytime soon was fueled late yesterday when Dr Mahathir cancelled his scheduled trip to South Africa to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The prime minister customarily informs the King before announcing the dissolution of Parliament to pave the way for a general election.

-- BERNAMA

GM RYN