

11 MAY 1999

IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT CALLS ON MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yaseen Ramadhan today called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here.

Iraqi Ambassador to Malaysia Adnan Malik Al-Ghazali and Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary for West Asia, Africa and Islamic Conference Datuk Deva Mohd Ridzam were also present during hour-long meeting.

Deva Mohd Ridzam told reporters later that Taha briefed Dr Mahathir on the latest situation in Iraq and how Iraqis were coping with the United Nations' economic sanction.

Iraq is trying to get the nine-year-old UN sanction lifted.

Both leaders also discussed bilateral cooperation, Deva Mohd Ridzam said.

Taha, who arrived here on Sunday, is on a four-day visit to strengthen bilateral ties with Malaysia.

He is the highest-ranking Iraqi leader to visit Malaysia since the two countries established diplomatic ties 35 years ago.

Taha is scheduled to leave for Hanoi tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

AFY RYN