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Mahathir-departure

MAHATHIR DEPARTS DHAKA AFTER SUCCESSFUL D-8 SUMMIT

By: Mikhail Raj Abdullah

DHAKA, March 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left here today for home after successful deliberations at the second summit of the group of eight Islamic developing countries (D-8).

He left aboard a special aircraft at 10.25 am local time.

He and wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah were seen off at the Zia International Airport by Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Dr Mahathir earlier inspected a guard of honour mounted by over 200 officers and men of the Bangladeshi's army, navy and air force.

Also present at the airport were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Datuk Zulkifli Ab Rahman.

Dr Mahathir has expressed satisfaction with the summit, saying the group would have to follow through on projects identified so as to make them workable and bring benefits to member countries.

Malaysia's major contribution to the D-8 adopted in the Dhaka Declaration was its promotion of Islamic insurance and reinsurance among member countries.

Besides Dr Mahathir and Hasina, other leaders who attended the meeting were Pakistani Prime Minister Nawar Sharif and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel.

Dr Mahathir also had bilateral meetings with Hasina as well as Iranian First Vice-President Dr Hassan Habibi on the sidelines of the summit which took place at the Sheraton Hotel here.

The third summit will be held in Cairo in 2001.

-- BERNAMA

MR RYN