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APEC:ARRIVAL

APEC: MAHATHIR ARRIVES IN BRUNEI FOR APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS SUMMIT

By: Mohd Nasir Yusof

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was accorded a red carpet welcome upon his arrival here today to attend the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) 2000.

He was greeted at the Brunei International Airport by Brunei's Communications Minister Pehin Datuk Zakaria Sulaiman.

Dr Mahathir who is accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, left in a motorcade for his official residence, Darul Taqwa, in Jerudong.

The Prime Minister will join other leaders and officials from 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum at the Summit to be official opened by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei at the sprawling International Convention Centre (ICC) tomorrow.

Apart from attending the Summit, Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with several leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Jiang Ze Min of China.

Meanwhile, other leaders of APEC economies have also started arriving here today including those from New Zealand, Singapore, Mexico, Thailand, Chile, Australia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, China, United States, Japan and Russia.

Others like Philippine President Joseph Estrada are expected to arrive tomorrow.

Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Taiwan Leader Representative Perng Fui-Nan arrived here last night for the Summit. --

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