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APEC-LEADERS SUMMIT
APEC LEADERS SUMMIT TO KICK OFF THIS AFTERNOON

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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- The Apec Economic Leaders Summit kicks off this afternoon at 3 pm when leaders congregate at the International Convention Centre to have a dialogue with members of the Apec Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

The leaders of 21 economies, including Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, are expected to discuss topics of globalisation and the need for regulations for financial architecture.

Oil-rich Brunei, the host of the Eighth Apec Summit, has set a summit theme "Delivering To the Community."

Dr Mahathir is expected to present views on globalisation on behalf of many developing economies.

The summit is also expected to address the concerns of many economies on globalisation.

The Brunei meeting has drawn US President Bill Clinton, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, Russian President Vladimir Putin and the President of Chile, Ricardo Lagos, among others.

Prior to the meeting of the leaders, Lagos and Putin are expected to speak at the second-day of the ABAC meeting themed, "Reflections on Globalisation's Challenges" while Clinton is scheduled to make a personal keynote address before lunch break.

This would be followed by a special keynote luncheon address by Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Tomorrow the leaders will assemble at the Jerudong Polo and Country Club for the Leaders Retreat and for the reading of the declaration at about 4 pm.

Meanwhile, Putin this morning had a bilateral meeting with Dr Mahathir while another bilateral meeting has been scheduled between Dr Mahathir and Jiang Zemin for tomorrow afternoon. -- BERNAMA

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