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Apec-Putin

DR MAHATHIR TO HOLD TALKS WITH RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN

By: Mohd Nasir Yusof

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the two-day APEC summit beginning here on Nov 15.

Their meeting, scheduled for the evening of Nov 16, will be at Darul Taqwa Guesthouse in Jerudong where Dr Mahathir will reside during his stay here.

According to Malaysian officials, both leaders are expected to discuss matters of bilateral importance including trade and global issues.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive here on Tuesday for the summit to be chaired by Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam.

All leaders of the 21 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies are scheduled to arrive here on Nov 14.

Apart from the meeting with Putin, Dr Mahathir is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with several leaders of developing economies.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz will be here on Sunday for the 12th APEC Ministerial Meeting.

She will hold two press conferences for the Malaysian media on Sunday and Monday to highlight Malaysia's agenda for the meeting.

All the meetings will be at the newly-renovated B\$90 million International Convention Centre (ICC).

The centre, sprawls over 40,000 sq metres and has a hall that can accommodate 5,000 people.

Preparations for the ministerial meeting will be finalised at an informal senior officials' meeting (SOM), which would deliberate for two days from tomorrow. It will be the fourth and final SOM for APEC this year.

Malaysia's delegation to the APEC 2000 meeting comprises 27 officials as well as another 27 print and electronic media personnel.

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