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MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR BANGKOK TO ATTEND UNCTAD X

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Bangkok today to attend the 10th conference of Unctad, the United Nations agency for trade and development.

Dr Mahathir is accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

The prime minister will be the first key speaker at the conference tomorrow and his key-note address is expected to touch on globalisation, the financial system, free trade and development as well as other issues which affect Malaysia.

While there he will also attend an Asean-Japan summit and officially open the new Malaysian embassy complex in the Thai capital.

About 3,000 ministers, senior government officials, representatives of international agencies and non-governmental organisations will be attending the two-day Unctad X meeting, according to an earlier Unctad statement.

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar told reporters that Dr Mahathir will also attend the Asean-UN Summit between Asean heads of government and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and heads on UN agencies.

Syed Hamid said Malaysia would raise issues of development, trade, the financial system and globalisation at Unctad X.

The Asean-UN summit is expected to discuss the needs of the UN and Asean's role in the new millennium.

-- BERNAMA

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