

Dr Mahathir in south Nst - 5 JAN 2001 Myanmar after talks

YANGON, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today visited southern Myanmar as part of a six-day, work-cum-holiday visit officials said.

Yesterday, he held talks with members of the country's ruling military junta, they added.

Details of the hour-long meeting were officially unavailable.

However, according to Foreign Ministry sources topics included furthering economic co-operation and boosting trade.

The official Malaysian news agency Bernama had reported that the Prime Minister was scheduled to hold talks with General Than Shwe, chairman of Myanmar's

State Peace and Development Council.

Malaysia is the sixth largest investor in Myanmar with more than US\$594 million (RM2,257 million) committed to 26 projects over the past 10 years.

Dr Mahathir is currently touring a group of islands in the Andaman Sea just off the western Tenasserim coastal division.

According to business sources, he will be examining the feasibility of Malaysian entrepreneurs establishing edible-oil and rubber plantations in the area.

Dr Mahathir is accompanied by his wife and Foreign Ministry officials.

— AFP