

Mahathir meets with Jiang

STAR

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BOAO (China): Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad held a private discussion with Chinese President Jiang Zemin soon after arriving here from Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The two leaders met for about an hour at the Boao Gold Coast Hotspring, south of the Hainanese capital, Haikou.

An aide of the Prime Minister said the two leaders discussed various issues con-

cerning the two countries.

Dr Mahathir is here for the inaugural ceremony of the *Boao Forum for Asia*. He will deliver a keynote address.

Earlier yesterday, the *Boao Forum for Asia* (BFA) was formally established, three years after it was first mooted as "an Asian forum to discuss Asian concerns."

The forum, the brainchild of former Australian prime minister Bob Hawke, his Japanese

counterpart Morihiro Hosakawa and former Philippine president Fidel Ramos.

Hawke, Ramos, former Japanese prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, and vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and President of the Chinese Chambers of Enterprises Chen Jinhua were elected co-chairmen of the forum.

Tan Sri Ajit Singh was appointed as secretary-general.