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Mahathir-Bahrain (With pix)

BAHRAIN'S SPECIAL ENVOY TO MALAYSIA CALLS ON PM\

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 24 (Bernama) -- Bahrain's special envoy to Malaysia Shaikh Salman Al-Khalifah bin Al-Khalifa called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here today.

During the 40-minute meeting, Shaikh Salman extended the condolence of the Bahraini government on the death of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah on Wednesday.

The two leaders took the opportunity to talk about bilateral cooperation between the two nations and discussed ways to strengthen relations between Bahrain and Malaysia, the Foreign Ministry's Secretary for West Asia and North Africa Datuk Wan Yusof Embung told reporters after the meeting.

He said Dr Mahathir also promised the special envoy that the Malaysian government would assist the Bahraini government in the field of information technology, port development and establishment of an exhibition centre in the oil rich state.

"The special envoy also asked about Dr Mahathir's stand on terrorism and ways to overcome this global problem which has come to surface of late," he said.

Dr Mahathir, said Wan Yusof, also told Shaikh Salman that he would like to see the world Islamic community united to fight injustices against them.

"The Prime Minister also told him (Shaikh Salman) that he has written to US President George W.Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and French President Jacques Chirac informing them of Malaysia's stand on the fight against terrorism," he said.

Wan Yusof said both of them agreed that the fight against terrorism should begin by dealing with the root causes and not on an ad hoc basis.

Dr Mahathir told Shaikh Salman that the West had now opened their eyes to Islam and willing to listen to what Islamic nations had to say.

On the Palestine issue, the Prime Minister informed the special envoy that it had now become an important agenda of the West compared to a year ago when it was ignored.

-- BERNAMA

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