

18 OCT 2001

BUDGET: DR MAHATHIR OVERSEES LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight went to the Finance Ministry to oversee last minute preparations for tomorrow's tabling of the Budget 2002 in Parliament.

Accompanied by two deputy finance ministers Datuk Dr Shafie Salleh and Datuk Chan Kong Choy, Dr Mahathir visited the printing and speech drafting sections of the ministry.

Dr Mahathir's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, Finance Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Hashim Ismail and ministry's secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Samsuddin Hitam were also present.

The Prime Minister arrived at 9pm and stayed for about an hour.

A ministry staff said 1,700 copies of the budget had been printed for distribution tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir will table the budget at 4pm.

-- BERNAMA

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