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DR M CONGRATULATES M'SIAN SQUAD's FOR FIRST TWO GOLDS

PUTRAJAYA, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad congratulated the national squad for winning two gold medals, one each in the equestrian individual endurance event and the men's artistic gymnastics at the 21st SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur today.

Dr Mahathir said he was overjoyed that Malaysia had won gold medals even before the games' official opening tonight.

He hoped the national contingent would strive hard to secure as many gold medals as possible until the close of the games on Sept 17.

"Excellent and congratulations to them. I am extra happy that we have scored victory before the opening ceremony," he told reporters after receiving his Thai counterpart Thaksin Shainawatra here shortly upon arrival for a one-day visit to Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir and Thaksin met for half-an-hour at the prime minister's official residence and discussed bilateral issues.

Onn Kwang Tung won Malaysia's first gold medal in the men's artistic gymnastics while Datuk Kamaruddin Abdul Ghani won the second one in the equestrian endurance individual event.

-- BERNAMA

ZAI NJ AFY RYN