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DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR SHANGHAI TO ATTEND APEC SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Shanghai, China, tonight to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) heads of government forum.

The special aircraft carrying the prime minister left the Royal Malaysian Air Force station in Subang, near here, at 7pm.

He was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

He was sent off by several cabinet ministers.

Dr Mahathir will have a tight schedule including talks with major world leaders on the sidelines of the two-day meeting.

He is expected to have discussions with United States president George W. Bush, Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Dr Mahathir will also deliver a keynote address at the Apec chief executive officers summit. He will be among eight Apec leaders to address the three-day summit.

-- BERNAMA

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