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Forum-Mahathir

MAHATHIR ADDRESSING INAUGURAL BOAO FORUM FOR ASIA ON TUESDAY

By: Yong Soo Heong

BOAO (Hainan), Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad has been given the honour to deliver a keynote address at the launch of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) here on Tuesday.

The forum named after venue, a resort island in southern China, aims to seek new initiatives to strengthen the whole of Asia economically, organisers said.

Other leaders such as Chinese president Jiang Zemin and King Birendra of Nepal will also address the forum.

Former Japanese premier Yasuhiro Nakasone, former Australian premier Bob Hawke, former Philippine president Fidel V. Ramos and former Pakistani president Farooq Leghari are also attending.

Malaysia has three representatives in the BFA set up namely Human Rights Commission chairman Tan Sri Musa Hitam, former Asean secretary-general Tan Sri Ajit Singh and Datuk Dr Kamal Salih, chairman of Tenggara Capital Bhd.

Musa is a member of the Leaders' Council, an advisory group, while Ajit Singh will be formally appointed on Tuesday as BFA secretary-general.

Kamal, the former executive director of the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER), is Musa's representative in the BFA.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to arrive here with wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali tomorrow afternoon.

He will also hold bilateral talks with president Jiang in the evening.

-- BERNAMA

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