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PAK LAH ARRIVES IN CAIRO FOR D8 SUMMIT

By: Abdul Muin Abdul Majid

CAIRO, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi arrived in Cairo today for the third summit of the heads of state and government of the Group of Eight developing countries (D8).

The first summit was held in Istanbul in 1997 while Dhaka hosted the second one two years ago.

The summit, which will be opened by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, will be held at the residential palace in Heliopolis here.

A Wisma Putra official said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad could not come to Cairo as he had to attend to domestic matters.

This evening, Abdullah is scheduled to meet with Malaysian students at Asrama Malaysia Abbasia here.

He is also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Mubarak and Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid.

He will be the guest-of-honour at a dinner to be hosted by Malaysian ambassador to Egypt Datuk Abu Bakar Daud at his residence tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

MAM NHA HS JK