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THAKSIN RETURNS HOME AFTER BRIEF VISIT TO MALAYSIA

SEPANG, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra left for home tonight after a brief visit at the invitation of his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to witness the opening ceremony of the 21st SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur.

He left on a special aircraft from the KL International Airport here.

Thaksin, who arrived here this afternoon, was accompanied by Minister of Commerce Adisai Bodharamik and eight government officials.

He earlier had talks with Dr Mahathir. The two leaders discussed issues of common concern such as using the ringgit and baht, instead of the US dollar, for trade between the two countries.

They also discussed the RM3 billion joint gas pipeline project from the Chakerawala Gas field in the Gulf of Siam to Peninsular Malaysia between Petronas and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT).

Thaksin witnessed the opening ceremony of the SEA Games at the National Stadium before returning home.

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