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Apec-Mahathir

TIGHT SCHEDULE AWAITS DR MAHATHIR IN SHANGHAI

By: Mohd Kamel Othman

SHANGHAI, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who arrives here early Saturday for the two-day Apec Economic Leaders' Meeting, will have a very tight schedule.

Dr Mahathir is expected to arrive at the Pudong International Airport here at 12.15 am.

While here, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral talks with several leaders which include US President George W.Bush, Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Dr Mahathir will also attend the Asean Leaders' informal lunch hosted by the Sultan of Brunei at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Out of the 10-member grouping, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia are the only Asean countries not in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum.

According to the programme released here, the Prime Minister will deliver a keynote address at the Apec CEO Summit 2001. He is among eight Apec leaders who will deliver speeches at the three-day summit which started today.

The others are Jiang Zemin, Bush, Putin, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, Mexican President Vicente Fox, Australian Prime Minister John Howard and Chief Executive of Hong Kong Tung Chee Hwa.

Apec, formed in 1989, groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Peru, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the US and Vietnam.

On Sunday, Dr Mahathir and other leaders will sign the Apec Scroll before proceeding for a retreat.

After the Reading of the Leaders Declaration, Dr Mahathir will depart for Dino Beach Waterpark at 5.10pm for a briefing by Golden Plus Holdings Berhad.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to give a media conference at 7.30pm before attending the opening ceremony of Kyros Kebab Restaurant owned by Gettmore Group Sdn Bhd.

On Monday morning, Dr Mahathir will leave for Qingdao province, situated north of Shanghai, for a one-day visit before leaving for South Korea the following day.

-- BERNAMA

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