

06 AUG 2002

DR MAHATHIR BIDS FAREWELL TO AKAYEV

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made a farewell call to Republic Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev at a hotel, where he was staying during his two-day official visit here.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, spent about 40 minutes with Akayev and his wife, Mairam Akayeva.

The Kyrgyz President arrived here yesterday and prior to the state visit, he attended the Langkawi International Dialouge which was held from Aug 1 to 4.

This is Akayev's second visit to Malaysia, his first was in 1995.

During his stay, the Kyrgyz President held bilateral talks with Dr Mahathir and attended a delegation meeting, where the republic has seek Malaysia's support and assistance in initating a dialogue between Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to foster better understanding of Islam, next year.

Kyrgyz and Malaysia also signed an agreement on bilateral payment arrangements (BPA) between Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) and the Joint Stock Commercial Bank Kyrgyzstan and a memorandum of understanding on BPA between BNM and the National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic.

Also signed was a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the Statistics Department of Malaysia and the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Akayev and his delegation will depart for Bishkek tomorrow morning.

-- BERNAMA

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