

22 JUL 2002

Mahathir-Khatami

DR MAHATHIR CALLS ON IRANIAN PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on visiting Iranian President Seyed Mohammad Khatami at a hotel here.

Mohammad Khatami, who arrived here yesterday for a four-day official visit, is leading a 91-member delegation which includes five ministers and deputy ministers, senior government officials and media representatives.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali during the meeting which was also attended by the Iranian president's wife, Zohreh Sadeqi.

Also present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, his Iranian counterpart Dr Kamal Kharazzi, Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid who is the minister in attendance and senior foreign ministry officials of both countries.

Syed Hamid told reporters later that Dr Mahathir and Mohammad Khatami had discussed various bilateral issues in particular the Islamic world.

"They discussed ways to enhance bilateral ties that could benefit the Islamic world and how Islamic countries could work together to acquire knowledge," he said.

In this respect, he said both leaders agreed that there must be stability and economic progress in Islamic countries.

Syed Hamid said the discussion also touched on the issue of terrorism and the crisis in West Asia, involving the Palestinians.

Earlier, Mohammad Khatami was given an official welcome at the Parliament Square. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail and Dr Mahathir were present.

--BERNAMA

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