

05 JUN 2002

Mahathir-Rome

DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR ROME

SUBANG, June 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left here tonight for a three-day working visit to Rome, en route to Switzerland and Luxembourg.

Dr Mahathir is accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

The Prime Minister departed from the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base in Subang at 10.30pm and was seen off by his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and several cabinet ministers.

Dr Mahathir's visit to Switzerland is from Sunday to Tuesday and he will be in Luxembourg from June 11 to 13.

In the Vatican City, Dr Mahathir would be meeting Pope John Paul II and other members of the government of the Holy See.

In their first ever meeting, the Prime Minister and the Pope are expected to discuss terrorism, the Palestine-Israel conflict and the inter-cultural dialogue between Islam and Christianity.

While in Rome, Dr Mahathir would visit the Islamic Cultural Centre, also known as the Rome Mosque, where he would perform Friday prayers.

During his visit to Switzerland, Dr Mahathir would be in Berne where he is scheduled to have a meeting with President of the Swiss Federation Kaspar Villiger, followed by a bilateral delegation meeting.

The Prime Minister would also visit the Sauber Petronas facility in Hinwill.

-- BERNAMA

MUN AZH AO