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DR M ARRIVES IN PHNOM PENH FOR ASEAN SUMMIT

PHNOM PENH, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today for the 8th Asean Summit which begins at the Inter-Continental Hotel tomorrow.

He was met on arrival at the Pochentong International Airport by the Cambodian Minister in Charge of The Office of the Council of Ministers Sok An, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Malaysian embassy staff and Cambodian officials.

Dr Mahathir then toured the newly renovated airport which was privatised in 1995 to Malaysia's Muhibbah Engineering (M) Bhd and its French as well as Cambodian partners.

The consortium has been awarded a 25-year concession for the development and management of the airport operations. In 2000 it also took over the management of the Siem Reap Airport which leads to the famed Angkor Wat.

About RM323 million has been spent on the Pochentong airport which has a built-up area of 22,000 sq metres and a handling capacity of 1.8 million passengers a year.

Dr Mahathir was later brought to the Chak Angre district in the suburbs of Phnom Penh and opened a 35MW diesel power plant belonging to Cambodia Utilities Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of another Malaysian company, Leader Universal Holdings Bhd.

The prime minister will also attend a reception with the Malaysian community in Cambodia in conjunction with Deepavali celebrations.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to attend a working dinner of Asean leaders.

-- BERNAMA

MAM AFY YBY