

24 JUL 2002

Mahathir-Farewell

DR MAHATHIR BIDS FAREWELL TO PRESIDENT KHATAMI

KUALA LUMPUR, July 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made a farewell call on Iranian President Mohammad Khatami who ended his four-day visit here today.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, spent about 30 minutes with Khatami and his wife, Zohreh Sadeqi.

Khatami arrived here on Sunday for his first to Malaysia. He led a 91-member delegation which includes five ministers and deputy ministers, senior government officials and media representatives.

During his stay, the Iranian president held bilateral talks with Dr Mahathir and attended a delegation meeting where Malaysia and Iran discussed the possibility of combining the wealth of the Muslim countries to become a stronger force in the world economy.

Both leaders also discussed various bilateral issues, in particular the Islamic world, terrorism and the crisis in West Asia.

Iran and Malaysia also signed two bilateral agreements and four memorandums of understanding (MoUs).

The first agreement is an amendment to a 1992 agreement to avoid double taxation and to prevent fiscal evasion on income taxes while the second is for the promotion and mutual protection of investments.

The four MoUs cover cooperation in tourism, development in women and family, trade, and information and communication technology.

Khatami and his delegation left for home this afternoon.

-- BERNAMA

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