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THAI PREMIER ARRIVES FOR RAYA OPEN HOUSE

ALOR STAR, Dec 21 (Bernama) -- Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra arrived at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport at Kepala Batas, near here to attend the national-level Aidilfitri Open House at the Bandar Darulaman water theme park, near here today.

The Royal Thai Air Force aircraft carrying Thaksin and his delegation comprising cabinet ministers landed at 6.20pm.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir were on hand to welcome the Thai delegation.

Agriculture Minister Datuk Effendi Norwawi, who is minister-in-attendance, was also present.

Thaksin is among the special guests attending the Malaysian Open House which will also be graced by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong, the Sultan and Sultanah of Kedah, as well as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and members of the cabinet.

The Malaysian Open House in conjunction with the Aidilfitri is the second such function to be held and guests will be entertained by local and Thai artistes. More than 200,000 people are expected to attend the open house.

There will be a fireworks display to end the function at midnight.

-- BERNAMA

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