

16 OCT 2002

Mahathir-Visit

DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR INDIA (With pix)

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Hyderabad today to begin his six-day visit to India, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister, accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, departed from the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base in Subang on a special aircraft at 1pm.

They were seen off by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and cabinet ministers.

In India, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to visit Hyderabad Information Technology Engineering Consultancy (HITEC City), which is often viewed as the future Silicon Valley of India.

Dr Mahathir will then head for New Delhi (Oct 17-18), where he is scheduled to meet Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in the Indian capital.

Dr Mahathir will visit Pakistan on Friday and Saturday and Saudi Arabia from Oct 19 to 21.

In Pakistan, the prime minister is scheduled to launch a Tenaga Nasional Bhd power station and witness the signing of two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between Malaysia and Pakistan.

He will also call on President Pervez Musharraf and attend a bilateral discussion.

In Saudi Arabia, Dr Mahathir will deliver a keynote address at a seminar on "The Future Vision of the Saudi Economy Till the Year 2020" in Riyadh.

He will also meet and hold a dialogue session with prominent corporate leaders at a function organised by the Saudi-Malaysia Business Council.

-- BERNAMA

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