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DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR CAMBODIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Cambodia today to attend the 8th Asean Summit which begins in Phnom Penh tomorrow.

The prime minister departed from the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang, near here, on a special aircraft at 3pm.

He was seen off by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali.

The summit will be followed by the collective Asean+3 summit with China, Japan and South Korea as well as separate summits with each of these countries and India.

The Asean leaders are expected to discuss and exchange views and evaluate and review policies and development of the Asean cooperation since the 7th Asean Summit in November 2001.

They will also review the progress of various Asean initiatives such as the Initiative for Asean Integration (IAI), Road Map for Integration of Asean (RIA), the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA) as well as the current political, economic and security situation in the region.

Dr Mahathir is also expected to meet and discuss bilateral and other international issues affecting the region with his counterparts on the sidelines of the summit.

-- BERNAMA

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