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Mahathir-Arrival (Pix)

MAHATHIR ARRIVES HOME AFTER ATTENDING ASEM SUMMIT

SUBANG, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived home today after attending the fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem 4) in Copenhagen, Denmark, and making a private visit to Europe.

The executive jet carrying the prime minister and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, touched down at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base here at about 7.50am.

Among those present at the airport to welcome him were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khir Toyo and Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam.

A brief prayer was recited later in the VIP room to mark the safe return of the prime minister.

Among the achievements of Asem 4 was the pledge by the leaders in the Copenhagen Declaration on Cooperation Against International Terrorism whereby a comprehensive approach to combat the menace will include finding its root causes.

The two-day summit in the Danish capital ended last Tuesday.

Asem is an informal process involving 10 Asian countries and 15 European nations as well as the European Commission aimed at bringing the continents closer together in the political, socio-economic and cultural aspects.

It was first established with the summit in Bangkok in 1996, followed by biennial summits in London in 1998 and Seoul in 2000.

-- BERNAMA

MAM AFY JK