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Summit-Mahathir

MAHATHIR TO ATTEND ASEAN SUMMIT IN CAMBODIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will attend the Eighth Asean Summit in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh on Monday and Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said Dr Mahathir and the leaders of the other nine Asean countries would exchange views and review policies and development cooperation.

He said the summit would be followed by the Asean+3 meeting where the Asean leaders would be joined by their counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea.

This year's summit, held in Cambodia for the first time, will also see the inaugural Asean-India meeting, Syed Hamid told reporters after attending a conference for company secretaries.

"I believe India has got an important role in our desire to narrow the digital divide between the various countries within Asean because India has the expertise," said the minister, who accompanied Dr Mahathir on a visit to India two weeks ago.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Dr Mahathir would be accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali during his stay in Cambodia.

The Malaysian delegation would also include Syed Hamid and Deputy Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen.

The statement said that prior to the summit, Dr Mahathir would inaugurate a Malaysian owned power plant, Cambodia Utilities Private Limited. He is also scheduled to meet with Malaysian community living in the Indo-Chinese country.

At the Asean summit, the 10 leaders would also review the progress of various Asean initiatives such as Initiatives for Asean Intergration (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.

At the Asean+China Summit, the leaders are expected to sign the Framework Agreement on Asean-China Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with China, the statement said.

At the Asean+Japan Summit, Asean and the Japanese leaders are expected to sign a Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEP), which aims to further strengthen and deepen economic collaboration with Asean.

The statement said the Asean-India Summit would discuss and review the progress and explore new areas of Asean-India cooperation such as capacity building, biotechnology as well as trade and investment.

At the sidelines of the summit, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to meet and discuss bilateral and other international issues affecting the region with his counterparts.

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