

23 SEP 2003

DR MAHATHIR HAS PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH SWEDISH KING

By: Jackson Sawatan

STOCKHOLM, Sept 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is on a three-day visit to Sweden, was today granted an audience with King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

Dr Mahathir was met on arrival at the Royal Palace here by First Marshal of the Court, Johan Fischerstorm. The private audience with the King lasted for about 30 minutes.

Dr Mahathir later introduced members of the Malaysian entourage to the King.

Ascending the throne on Sept 15, 1973, King Carl XVI Gustaf is the head of Sweden's constitutional monarchy.

The King had once visited the world-renowned Danum Valley, a tropical rainforest conservation area in Lahad Datu, in the east Malaysian state of Sabah in 1996.

The Royal Palace, built towards the end of 17th century, is the official residence of the King. It also houses the Treasury which displays the royal regalia, and the Gustav III's Museum of Antiquities.

-- BERNAMA

JS SR AO