

19 OCT 2003

DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR BANGKOK TO ATTEND APEC LEADERS' SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Bangkok today to attend the 11th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Leaders' Summit.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, and his delegation departed from the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) station in Subang near here.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and several cabinet ministers were present to send them off at the RMAF station.

Thailand, as chair of Apec 2003, is said to have planned a special tribute for Dr Mahathir who is attending the Apec function for the last time before he steps down at the end of the month.

Heads and representatives of the 21 Apec member countries will attend the two-day summit beginning tomorrow, themed "A World of Differences: Partnership for the Future".

-- BERNAMA

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