

04 MAR 2003

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES IN DOHA FOR OIC MEETING

DOHA, March 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today for the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) emergency meeting to be held tomorrow.

The special aircraft carrying Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, landed at the Doha International Airport at about 5.15pm local time (10.15pm Malaysian time).

They were met on arrival at the airport by the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

Also on hand to greet them were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office and Wisma Putra.

The emergency meeting, to discuss the threat of a United States-led war on Iraq and the situation in Palestine, will be opened by the Emir, chairman of the 57-member OIC, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel here.

Dr Mahathir is slated to be the first leader to speak after OIC secretary-general Abdulouahed Belkazez addresses the meeting immediately after the Emir's opening speech.

The prime minister is expected to highlight the views expressed at an informal meeting of the OIC in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday, which also discussed the threat of war on Iraq and the situation in Palestine.

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AZZ MUN YBY