

21 AUG 2003

RAIS TO VISIT THREE OIC-MEMBER COUNTRIES AS PM'S SPECIAL ENVOY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim leaves tonight for three member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) as special envoy of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

His press secretary, Syed Imran Syed Ahmad Alsagoff, said that Rais is scheduled to call on United Arab Emirates head of state Zayid Sultan Al Nuhayyan in Abu Dhabi on Saturday, Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Salih in Sana'a on Monday and Iranian President Mohammad Khatami in Tehran on Wednesday to hand over a special message from the Prime Minister inviting them to attend the 10th OIC Summit in Putrajaya from Oct 11 to 18.

Malaysia is the first member country of the OIC in the Asia Pacific to be hosting the OIC Summit and to take over the chairmanship of the organisation.

The Summit, to be held in 51 days' time, will begin with the senior officials meeting on Oct 11, followed by the Foreign Ministers Meeting on Oct 13 and the Summit on Oct 16.

Dr Mahathir, who has just returned from Syria and Algeria, confirmed that Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and Syria President Bashar Al-Assad will be attending the Summit.

-- BERNAMA

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