

27 JUL 2003

Thaksin-Arrival

THAKSIN ARRIVES IN LANGKAWI FOR A TWO-DAY WORKING VISIT

KUAH (LANGKAWI), July 27 (Bernama) -- Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra arrived here this morning for a two-day working visit.

He was received on arrival at the Langkawi International Airport by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

Thaksin's visit is in conjunction with annual talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, aimed at fostering closer relations and cooperation between Thailand and Malaysia.

This will be the fourth meeting between the Thai premier and Dr Mahathir since the former assumed office in 1999.

During the four-eyed talks to be followed by a delegation meeting at a retreat in Teluk Datai about 45km from here this afternoon, the two leaders are expected to discuss, besides regional and international issues, on-going cooperation along the common border areas, border demarcation as well as trade and investment.

The gas pipeline project linking Thailand and Malaysia, which has been delayed due to protests in southern Thailand, is also expected to be discussed, officials said.

Thaksin and Dr Mahathir, prior to the talks, are expected to address and open a dialogue between the Thai and Malaysian private sectors at a hotel here this morning.

The Malaysia-Thailand Technology Business Partnership Dialogue is organised by the Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT).

The Thai premier is also scheduled to attend a dinner hosted by Dr Mahathir here tonight.

-- BERNAMA

TM ZS ZUL