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OIC-Sri Lanka

WICKREMESINGHE INVITED TO VISIT MALAYSIA AGAIN

COLOMBO, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has been invited by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to attend the 10th Organisation of Islamic Conference Summit to be held at Putrajaya from Oct 11 to 18.

A Government statement here today said Wickremesinghe had been invited to attend the opening and concluding sessions of the conference.

If the Sri Lankan leader accepts the invitation, which he is most likely to, it would be his second trip to Malaysia in over a month.

He visited Kuala Lumpur last month, also at Dr Mahathir's invitation.

That visit came on the heels of a successful Sri Lankan business and investment seminar in the Malaysian capital attended by three Ministers and a high-powered delegation.

The statement said the Malaysian leader in his invitation said he was looking forward to the visit of the Sri Lankan Premier to the conference which would provide an opportunity to further cement the good relations Sri Lanka maintained with Islamic countries as well as renewing the economic, social and cultural ties with them.

Malaysian companies are showing increasing interest in investing in Sri Lanka, particularly due to a 20-month long ceasefire and prospects of long-term peace on the strife-torn island.

Peace talks have stalled since April 2003 in a dispute over the creation of a Tamil rebel-run interim administration and are likely to get back on track later this month.

-- BERNAMA

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