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MAHATHIR-SRILANKA

MAHATHIR FOR TWO-DAY VISIT TO SRI LANKA

From Feizal Samath

COLOMBO, May 25 (Bernama) -- Former Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is due to arrive in Sri Lanka tomorrow on a busy two-day visit which includes a meeting with President Chandrika Kumaratunga and sharing his thoughts on how Malaysia prospered economically under his rule.

In a hectic schedule he will also be bestowed with the inaugural "Adam's Peak" award by Sri Lanka's Muslim Council for outstanding leadership to the global Muslim community.

Dr Mahathir is accompanied by his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and officials of the Perdana Leadership Foundation along with a business delegation.

Among the highlights of his visit is delivering the keynote address titled "Passion for Perfection" at the CIMA Global Leaders Summit 2005.

Former Pakistani test cricket captain Imran Khan is also addressing the same conference.

CIMA Sri Lanka is the Colombo branch of the UK-based Chartered Institute of Management Accountancy.

This is first visit to Sri Lanka by the architect of Malaysia's economic boom.

Dr Mahathir will be hosted by President Kumaratunga to dinner on May 26 soon after the CIMA event.

Earlier in the day he will be chief guest at a business forum organised by the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka under the patronage of Industries, Investment and Tourism Minister Anura Bandaranaike.

Dr Mahathir will also be the chief guest at the 10th year anniversary celebrations of MTN Networks Pvt Ltd (Dialog GSM), a fully owned subsidiary of Telekom Malaysia.

The Malaysian company's Sri Lanka subsidiary is changing its name to Dialog ahead of a planned public issue of shares on the Colombo stock market.

Dialog is Sri Lanka's biggest mobile phone operator with more than one million subscribers.

Dr Mahathir will be hosted by Sri Lanka's tiny Malay community on Friday morning. He will also give an exclusive interview to The Sunday Times business editor Feizal Samath, during which he will share his thoughts on the Malaysian success story, before departing in the afternoon.

-- BERNAMA

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