

Abdullah-Surayud talks start with round of golf

NST-12/2/2007

PHUKET: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his Thai counterpart Surayud Chulanont began their bilateral consultation with informal talks at this resort island yesterday.

Abdullah, who arrived here yesterday morning on a special aircraft for a three-day visit to Thailand, played a round of golf with Surayud at the Mission Hill Golf Course.

They were joined by Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, his Thai counterpart Nitya Pibulsongkram, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit and Malaysian Ambassador to Thailand Datuk Shaarani Ibrahim.

Surayud also hosted a dinner in honour of Abdullah here last night.

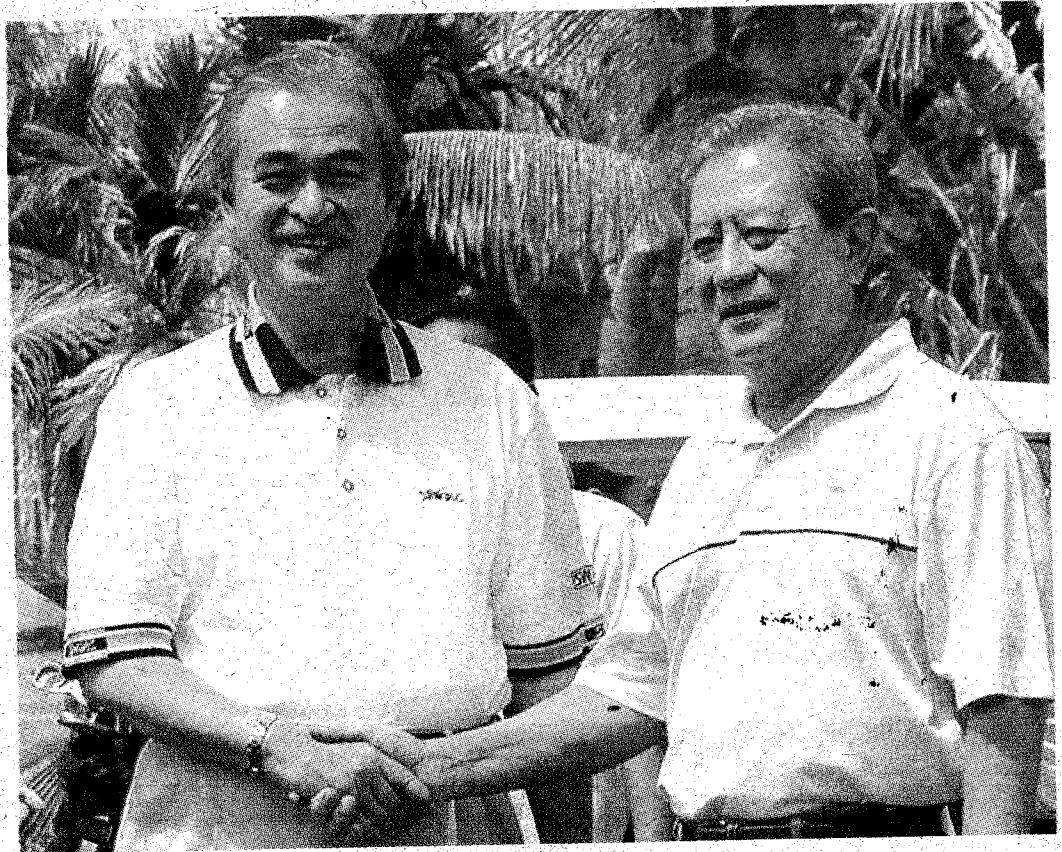
Both leaders will be meeting in Bangkok today for formal discussions.

They will be meeting at the Government House before attending a dinner hosted by Surayud.

Abdullah will also have an audience with King Bhumipol Adulyadej.

Thailand is seeking Malaysia's cooperation to end the unrest in the south which has occasionally strained diplomatic ties between the two neighbours as they usher in the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties.

Abdullah will leave for home tomorrow morning. — Bernama



Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont (right) greeting Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi prior to their golf game in Phuket. — AFP picture