

Najib Receives Calls From World Leaders During Iftar
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who attended an Iftar function with bloggers and online media practitioners, only managed to eat a date before he received calls from world leaders regarding the Malaysia Airlines (MAS) MH17 tragedy.

When the call for Maghrib prayers resounded at the Al-Muhammadi Mosque in Angkasapuri, the prime minister received a call from United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Najib was seen talking for more than 10 minutes over the phone on the incident before performing his prayers at the mosque.

Upon completing Maghrib prayers, Najib received a call from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Najib was scheduled to deliver a special message on MH17 on RTM1 at 8.10pm, but postponed it until 11pm following the phone calls.

The prime minister, who arrived about 10 minutes before breaking fast, was welcomed by Communications and Multimedia Ministry staff, led by its minister, Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek. Also present was Bernama editor-in-chief Datuk Zulkefli Salleh.

MH17 with 283 passengers and 15 crew members onboard was on its way from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur when it crashed in Ukraine near the Russian border.

Earlier today, the prime minister said that Ukraine authorities believed the aircraft was shot down.

The aircraft departed from Amsterdam at 12.15pm (Amsterdam time) on Thursday and was expected to arrive at KLIA at 6.10am (Malaysian time) on Friday.

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