



Akihito (right) holding discussions with Abdullah at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur. — Bernama picture

## PM has audience with Emperor

NST- 12/6/2006

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had an audience with Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko here yesterday morning.

The Prime Minister spent about 20 minutes with the royal couple who were here for a two-day visit as part of their tour of three South-east Asian nations to enhance ties.

They stopped in Singapore last Thursday before arriving in Ipoh on Saturday and continued their journey to Kuala Lumpur in the evening.

Their last visit to Malaysia was 15 years ago, and this is their second visit to Malaysia since Akihito ascended the throne in 1989.

The royal couple were sched-

uled to meet their subjects living in Malaysia before departing for Thailand yesterday afternoon to attend the 60th anniversary celebration of King Bhumibol Adulyadej's reign.

On Saturday, the Japanese royals spent half a day touring Perak before attending a banquet at Istana Negara. — Bernama