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Mahathir-Arival

MAHATHIR ARRIVES IN MEDINA FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

By: Zulkefli Salleh

MEDINA, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today to begin a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

He was received by Medina Governor Prince Abdul Majeed Abdul Aziz on arrival at the Prince Mohammed Abdul Aziz Airport in a special aircraft.

Also on hand to welcome him were Commerce Minister Dr Osama Ibn Jaafar Fageeh, who is the minister in attendance, and the ambassador to Malaysia Mohammad Hassan Abdul Wali.

Dr Mahathir is accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, about half a dozen ministers and several businessmen.

Shortly after his arrival, the Prime Minister performed the Maghrib and Isyak prayers at the Al-Nabawi Mosque, a walking distance away from the hotel.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to be entertained to a dinner hosted by Prince Abdul Majeed at the Governor's Palace.

He is also expected to visit the tombs of Prophet Mohammad and his companions Caliph Abu Bakar As Sideeq and Caliph Omar Al-Khattab within the mosque.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir will visit the Maqam Albaquee, the tombs of the Prophets Companions, the Mosque of Quba and Qiblatain.

He is also scheduled to visit the Uhud Mountain, the battle ground between the Muslims and non-believers during the Prophet's time.

Dr Mahathir will also be meeting Malaysian students here tomorrow before he proceeds to Jeddah and Riyadh after Friday prayers at Al-Nabawi Mosque. -- BERNAMA

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